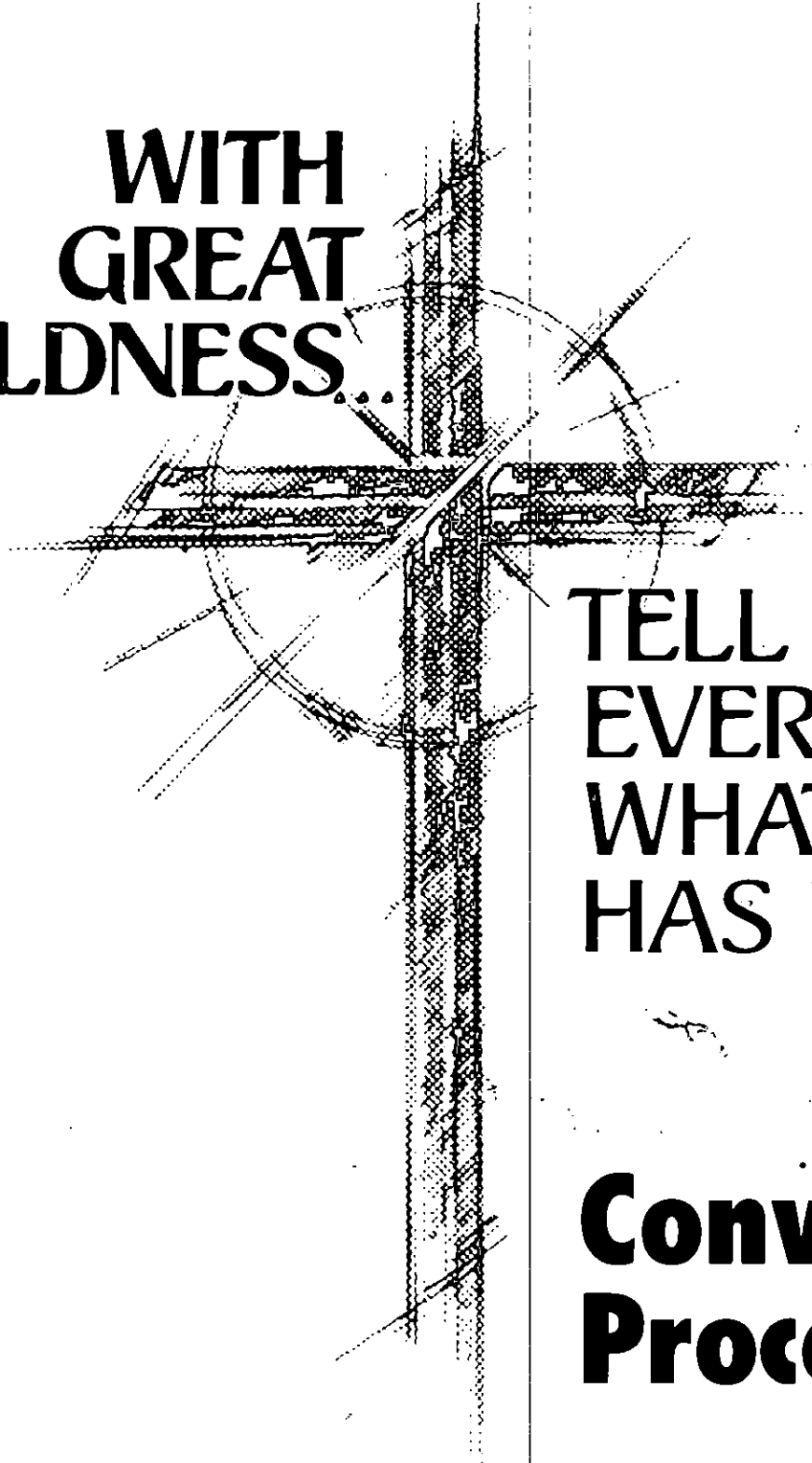


**WITH
GREAT
BOLDNESS...**

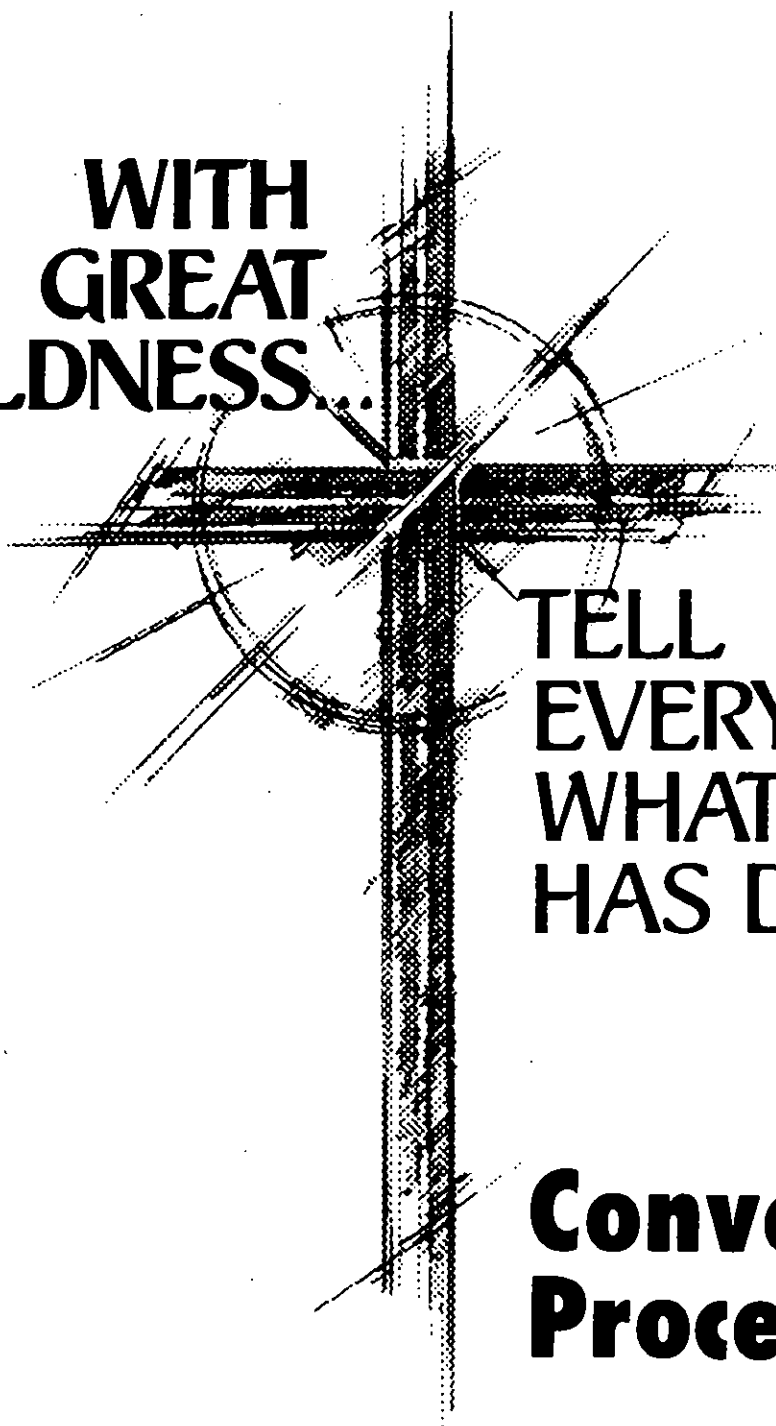


**TELL
EVERYONE
WHAT HE
HAS DONE!**

Convention Proceedings

**58th Regular Convention
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
Pittsburgh, PA July 10–17, 1992**

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PREFACE

With Great Boldness . . . Tell Everyone What *HE* Has Done

Behind any theme which has permeated conventions of the Synod, and even before such themes were designated, there has been the driving and empowering force of the Gospel—the Good News that “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” It resounds through such themes as “Alive in Christ” (1986), “Him We Proclaim” (1983), “Forward in Remembrance” (1981), “God Opens Doors . . .” (1979), etc. God’s love and our response to it are inseparable. Anyone who, by the power of the Holy Spirit, has come to know and understand and believe that glorious message is left with no other choice but to share it.

For many, the words from the post-Communion collect, “Tell everyone what He has done,” which constituted the theme for the 1989 convention, express that relation between God, His people, and their lives of service so well that they should not be lost but should be a theme upon which to build. The urgency of the task becomes more focused the nearer we are to the end of another century of grace. So it was only natural that the words *With Great Boldness* were added to the 1989 theme so that the members of the Synod were urged *With Great Boldness . . . Tell Everyone What HE Has Done*.

That thought was captured in the *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties*, which was adopted with its 15 goals reflected in resolutions proposed by almost every floor committee. The proposals for restructuring into a Mission and Ministry Council, clarifying relationships between individual corporate units, the establishment of a Concordia University System, the adoption of new approaches for conflict resolution, and many other actions were not considered to be ends in themselves but were ultimately to assist the Synod, its members, and the members of its member congregations to *With Great Boldness . . . Tell Everyone What HE Has Done*.

Some people assume that the convention is only “the principal legislative assembly, which amends the Constitution and Bylaws, considers and takes action on reports and overtures, and handles appropriate appeals.” However, the Bylaw regarding the convention also states, “The national convention of the Synod shall afford an opportunity for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information.”

During the convention, delegates were nurtured in the Word as they once again were privileged to participate in small-group Bible study using newly developed LifeLight materials and having discussions summarized and focused in devotional thoughts shared by Dr. Arnold Kuntz. Perhaps the two most inspiring events—inspiration being one of the purposes of synodical conventions—were the opening Communion service and the inspiring Sunday morning mission celebration.

Obviously, there were many other elements of celebra-

tion, daily worship with special prayers for “all sorts and conditions of men” led by convention chaplain, Dr. Wilbert Sohns, fellowship as delegates mingled in formal and informal special events, and, of course, the communication of information.

All of these purposes of the convention could not have been achieved without the cooperation and assistance of many individuals and groups. Included among them are the local convention committee, those responsible for the daily production of *Today’s Business*, Dr. D. Ray Halm, assistant secretary, whose use of computer equipment continues to make the minutes quickly available and provides for the more efficient consideration of proposed amendments as well as other matters, Forrest “Woody” Lange and Lynne Neuman for convention and meeting planning, the hard-working floor committees and many, 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 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 1992 convention witnessed many things. A change in some structures, a change in the presidency, a change in the system of higher education, some major changes, some minor movements. Through it all, however, we are reminded of those well-known words of the hymn, “Change and decay in all around I see. O Thou who changest not, abide with me.” May our gracious Lord Jesus Christ be present with each member of our beloved Synod with His Word and with His unchanging power and promise so that we will *With Great Boldness . . . Tell Everyone What HE Has Done*.

OFFICERS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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

First Vice-President

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Second Vice-President

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Ms. Lynne Neuman, *Assistant Convention Manager*

Dr. James Brauer, *Worship*

Rev. Paul Devantier, *Public Relations*

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Pearl Houghton

Linh Milfelt

Fern Ruth

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Judi Winker

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A. Voting Pastors

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12. Mehring, John; 3 Smith Ln.; Stony Brook, NY 11790

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D. Advisory Teachers

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Roemke, Thomas; Albany, NY
Schulz, Paul; East Patchogue, NY

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18. Popielarz, John; 5136 Hazel Ave.; Fair Oaks, CA 95628

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D. Advisory Teachers

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Schinnerer, Mary; San Jose, CA
Visser, Jean; Citrus Heights, CA

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Hinz, Timothy; Boca Raton, FL

D. Advisory Teachers

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Lawson, Herman E.; Coconut Creek, FL
Raschke, Leonard; Lakeland, FL

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15. Poindexter, Joyce; 3552 N. Oxford; Indianapolis, IN 46218
16. Wini, Eugene; 11670 S. 340 E.; Elizabethtown, IN 47232
17. Goecker, Norman; R. 3; Seymour, IN 47274
18. Rahe, John; 204 Hillview Dr.; Aurora, IN 47001
19. Crommons, John; 2011 Cumago Rd.; Louisville, KY 40207
20. Gruenwald, Mark; 7517 Adams Ave.; Evansville, IN 47715
21. Reitmeyer, Elmer; 2714 Ramey Dr.; Vincennes, IN 47591
22. Jenkins, Ron; 9007 Arthur Coffman Rd.; Greenville, IN 47124

C. Advisory Pastors

Kolb, John; Indianapolis, IN
Steinbronn, Anthony; Kendallville, IN

D. Advisory Teachers

Felts, Florian; La Porte, IN
Holste, Bob; Evansville, IN
Kemel, Barbara; Denham, IN
Richert, Fay; New Haven, IN
Schaeckel, Norbert; Decatur, IN

Iowa District East

A. Voting Pastors

1. Jabs, Frederick K.; 311 Third Ave.; P.O. Box 203; Atkins, IA 52206
2. Pfluger, Ronald M.; 175 Thompson Dr. SE; Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
3. Holm, Michael H.; 651 Fourth Ave. S.; Clinton, IA 52732
4. Orwald, David R.; 3106 Dundee Ln.; Bettendorf, IA 52722
5. Glawatz, Dale F.; R.R. 2, Box 130; Monticello, IA 52310
6. Wernecke, John W.; P.O. Box 27; Alden, IA 50006
7. Pierson, Richard A.; 207 Second Ave., SW; State Center, IA 50247
8. Smith, Lawrence J.; 1912 Ave. G; Fort Madison, IA 52627
9. Pfeil, Robert; 105 W. Sixth St.; P.O. Box 255; Riceville, IA 50466
10. Wegener, Thomas C.; 3310 Westridge Dr.; Waterloo, IA 50701
11. Genter, Lee H.; R.R. 1, Box 142A; Fayette, IA 52142
12. Rueger, Matthew W.; P.O. Box 167; Millersburg, IA 52308

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Severson, Gene; 1901 11th Ave.; Belle Plaine, IA 52208
2. Mayer, Dale; 30 Greenview Circle; West Branch, IA 52358
3. Kruckenberg, Merlon; Box 296; Lowden, IA 52255
4. Jordan, Marland; 505 E. Fifth; Tipton, IA 52772
5. Eichhorst, Ryland; 2605 Autumn Dr.; Dubuque, IA 52001
6. Lavrenz, Raymond; 209 W. Walnut; Hubbard, IA 50122
7. Trost, Edgar; 700 E. 15th St. N.; Newton, IA 50208
8. Grunder, Marilyn; R. #2; Wilson, IA 52778
9. Troge, Eugene; 1210 Oak St.; Osage, IA 50461
10. Roehr, Jack Jr.; 207 Reber; Waterloo, IA 50701
11. Bauer, Roger; 806 Juhl Ave.; Waverly, IA 50677
12. Hiaricha, Gary; 202 W. South St.; Marengo, IA 52301

C. Advisory Pastor

Mease, Rocky W.; Dubuque, IA

D. Advisory Teacher

Wolter, La June K.; Homestead, IA

Iowa District West

A. Voting Pastors

1. Pritchard, Donald F.; Rt. 2, Adair, IA 50002
2. Zimmermann, Timothy J.; 712 So. Locust; Jefferson, IA 50129
3. Adair, Clifford; R.R. 3, Box 53; Coon Rapids, IA 50058
4. Rendro, David; 316 Walnut; Aurelia, IA 51005
5. Boone, David; 550 Harrison; Council Bluffs, IA 51503
6. Bloch, Philip E.; 14 Northwood; Denison, IA 51442
7. Linderman, Bruce; 318 SE Wanda Dr.; Ankeny, IA 50021
8. Osslund, Richard; 110 Lynn Ave.; Ames, IA 50010
9. Conley, Jerry; 810 Inman St.; Mallard, IA 50562
10. Buchhop, Mark; 905 Beach St.; Webster City, IA 50595
11. Bohm, Dan; P.O. Box 280; Pomeroy, IA 50575
12. Boykin, Michael C.; Rt. 2, Box 99; Hinton, IA 51024
13. Bode, Edgar; P.O. Box 139; Ute, IA 51060
14. Pulse, Jeffrey H.; Box 98; Burt, IA 50522
15. Trueblood, Robert; P.O. Box 56; Ocheyedan, IA 51354
16. Rusert, Nathan J.; 306 Duasas St.; Schaller, IA 51053
17. Sieversing, Paul G.; 4904 Sunnyside Dr.; Sioux City, IA 51106
18. Meyer, Glenn; 800 North Sumner; Creston, IA 50801
19. Lampe, Kendall M.; Rt. 1, Box 63; Clarinda, IA 51632
20. Bohren, Dennis; 823 1st Ave. SW; Spencer, IA 51301
21. Bruer, Bob; 309 S. Howard, Box 393; Newell, IA 50568

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Walker, Delmer; 209 Stuart; Adair, IA 50002
2. Mochler, Gary A.; R.R. 2, Box 169; Boone, IA 50036
3. Mohr, Russell; R.R.; Manning, IA 51455

4. Straub, Kenneth; R.R. 1; Paullina, IA 51046
5. Johnson, Howard; R.R. 1, Box 336; Crescent, IA 51526
6. Greder, Vernon; R.R. 2; Dow City, IA 51528
7. Selby, Dave; 136 Marlow Pkwy.; Des Moines, IA 50320
8. Shaltian, Dennis; 609 NW School St.; Ankeny, IA 50021
9. Struckee, Victor; 3408 20th St.; Pexton, IA 50559
10. Kraayenbrink, Timothy; 1912 North 30th Ct.; Fort Dodge, IA 50501
11. Hoyer, Robert; R.R. 1, Box 158; Humboldt, IA 50548
12. Ropke, Gregg; R.R. 2; Kingsley, IA 51028
13. Peterson, Orville; R.R. 1, Box 86; Danbury, IA 51019
14. Lieb, Duane; 2706 60th Ave.; Lone Rock, IA 50559
15. Mann, Eugene; 1108 N. Elm; LaVerne, MN 56156
16. Glasnapp, Roger; R.R.; Lytton, IA 50561
17. Peters, Walt; 4406 Wellington Ave.; Sioux City, IA 51106
18. Monke, Earl; 100 South Hayes; Mt. Airy, IA 50854
19. Baier, Jon; 1208 S. Maple; Shenandoah, IA 51601
20. Schouten, Don; 314 N. 12th; Estherville, IA 51334
21. Fett, Don; 615 Buena Vista; Alta, IA 51002

C. Advisory Pastor

Lichtman, Edmund W.; Storm Lake, IA

D. Advisory Teacher

Lampe, Viola; Clarinda, IA

Kansas District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Trenchel, Arnold; Route 1, Box 27; Easton, KS 66020
2. Burrow, Gaylen; 12900 Kansas Ave.; Bonner Springs, KS 66012
3. Trost, Edward W.; 11216 W. 106th St.; Overland Park, KS 66214
4. Graves, Richard; 1025 Wilson; Burlington, KS 66839
5. Totaky, David; Rt. 1, Box 21; Hepler, KS 66746
6. Miller, Donald; 3128 Lance Ct.; Lawrence, KS 66049
7. Bohm, Dale; Rt. 1, Box 73; Bremen, KS 66412
8. Kellogg, Chris; P.O. Box 365; Alma, KS 66401
9. Woelzlein, Allen; Rt. 3, Box 31; Herington, KS 67449
10. Gioe, Ronald; 721 Westhaven, P.O. Box 885; Newton, KS 67114
11. Hathaway, Roderick A.; 1302 E. 7th Ave.; Winfield, KS 67156
12. Williams, Donn P.; Rt. 1, Box 104; Canton, KS 67428
13. Karch, John D.; Rt. 1, Box 116; Ellsworth, KS 67439
14. Niemann, Henry W.; 523 Welton St.; Pratt, KS 67124
15. Bruenger, Alvin J.; 214 E. Seventh; Oakley, KS 67748
16. Pera, Gerhard; 307 Park Ln., Apt. 1D; Scott City, KS 67871

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Kohlmeier, Marvin; 801 S. 11th; Sabetha, KS 66534
2. Frese, Jerry; 11135 Hubbard; Kansas City, KS 66109
3. Turner, Jack; 1105 Palmer Ln.; Olathe, KS 66061
4. Haas, Marvin; 2208 W. 23rd Ave.; Emporia, KS 66801
5. Seyfert, Richard; Rt. 1, Box 395; Cheyopa, KS 67336
6. Zima, Janet; 5808 SW 26th St.; Topeka, KS 66614
7. Duensing, Elmer; 1301 Park Pl.; Marysville, KS 66508
8. Zimmerman, Vic; Rt. 2, Box 51; Alta Vista, KS 66834
9. Kohls, Don; 426 W. Oak St.; Junction City, KS 66441
10. Scherer, Dick; 7715 Paget; Wichita, KS 67206
11. Fontaine, William; Rt. 3, Box 213; Arkansas City, KS 67005
12. Cunningham, C. G.; 338 Sunset Dr.; Salina, KS 67401
13. Walter, Lester; Rt. 1, Box 1E; Sylvan Grove, KS 67481
14. Lenkner, Walter; Rt. 1, Box 118; Medicine Lodge, KS 67104
15. Lindsok, Bruce; 760 Ln.; Colby, KS 67701
16. Neff, Don; Rt. 1, Box 4; Lakin, KS 67860

C. Advisory Pastor

Polley, Victor M.; Leavenworth, KS

D. Advisory Teachers

Lovig, Dean S.; Paola, KS

Michigan District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Haenfling, James; P.O. Box 542; Gaylord, MI 49735
2. Ruediger, Paul G.; 7134 Church Highway; Rogers City, MI 49779
3. Lunneberg, Allen; 2413 Smiley Way; Jackson, MI 49203
4. Harting, Robert A.; 9953 Ridge Highway; Britton, MI 49229
5. Krueger, Dale B.; 3706 Barrington Dr.; Kalamazoo, MI 49007
6. Locsel, Andrew E.; 1704 Amelith Rd.; Bay City, MI 48706
7. Cordes, Darowin E.; 601 Harvard Ave.; Manistee, MI 49660
8. Maier, David P. E.; 1515 West Holmes Rd.; Lansing, MI 48910
9. Huber, David G.; 821 S. Inkster Rd.; Inkster, MI 48141
10. Chadwick, Robert L.; 11475 Outer Dr. East; Detroit, MI 48224
11. Grimm, Gerald E.; 22483 Nevada; East Detroit, MI 48021
12. Zyskowski, Stanley J.; 32837 Heartstone; Farmington Hills, MI 48334
13. Zeile, Richard A.; 3164 Gilbert; Detroit, MI 48210
14. Snyder, Walter W.; 2217 Maplewood; Flint, MI 48506
15. Lett, Randy; 9095 Chesterfield; Swartz Creek, MI 48473
16. Wilber, James G.; G-2061 W. Maple Rd.; Flint, MI 48507
17. Brazinsky, Thomas R.; 210 E. Main; Rockford, MI 49341
18. Krause, Fred C.; 1459 Tamarack NW; Grand Rapids, MI 49504

19. Bell, Monte C.: 924 Greenwood; Middletown, MI 49333
20. Werth, Luther A.: 35698 Vargo; Livonia, MI 48152
21. Nier, Edwin J.: 31246 Cyril Ave.; Fraser, MI 48026
22. Martin, David: 43137 Lira; Sterling Heights, MI 48313
23. Mann, Robert: 3034 E. Village Ln.; Port Huron, MI 48060
24. Steinborn, Robert C.: 23820 Roxana; East Detroit, MI 48021
25. Preus, Peter: 172 Railway; Box 14; Sanford, MI 48637
26. De Merin, Carl F. Jr.: 7114 Edinberg; Lambertville, MI 48144
27. Walter, James Carl: 1407 S. Wain St.; White Cloud, MI 49349
28. Shelton, Glenn: 17887 Cherokee Dr.; Spring Lake, MI 49456
29. Scherbarth, Ray E.: 541 Manitou N.; Birmingham, MI 48017
30. Theiss, Steven C.: 2336 Arizona Ct.; Rochester Hills, MI 48309
31. Graft, William C.: 3533 S. Elder; Orchard Lake, MI 48324
32. Ahlschwede, Dale C.: 10155 W. Tuscola; Frankenmuth, MI 48734
33. Lambert, Eric A.: 3827 Lamson St.; Saginaw, MI 48601
34. Kostinen, Leo E.: 1310 Sycamore; Niles, MI 49120
35. Niemann, Stephen J.: Rt. 2 Donks Rd.; Box 468; Union City, MI 49094
36. Johnson, Scott D.: 1787 Main St.; Fairgrove, MI 48733
37. Eschebach, Michael A.: 78 Flynn St.; Sandusky, MI 48471
38. Dengler, Donald C.: 3235 Clendenen Rd.; Box 527; Gladwin, MI 48624
39. Krueger, Walter D.: 7730 Briarlane, Rt. 2, Box 217; Bellaire, MI 49615
40. Geischen, Charles A.: 1414 Arnold Ct.; Traverse City, MI 49684
41. Tuggle, Todd M.: 28255 Riverbridge; Romulus, MI 48174

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Schaedig, Ivan: 1060 Hilton Dr.; Alpena, MI 49707
2. Brietzke, Robert: 6789 40 Mile Pk. Rd.; Rogers City, MI 49779
3. Labitzky, Kenneth: 19 Princess Dr.; Manitou Beach, MI 49253
4. Dils, Jeffery S.: 210 Harrison St.; Chelsea, MI 48118
5. Reck, Robert F.: 37250 40th St.; Paw Paw, MI 49079
6. Pickering, Roger: 5580 Gaertner Ct.; Bay City, MI 48706
7. Cathcart, Ben: 4070 Benson Rd.; Cadillac, MI 49601
8. Bennett, Donald W.: 1314 Shavey Rd.; De Witt, MI 48820
9. Banks, Martin C.: 36730 Thibault Ct.; Wayne, MI 48184
10. McQuerry, Charles: 11333 Outer Dr. East; Detroit, MI 48224
11. Hillenbrand, Nancy: 114 W. Grisdale; Detroit, MI 48203
12. Turner, James: 1941 Orleans 641; Detroit, MI 48207
13. Pivitt, Richard A.: 3375 Logan; Detroit, MI 48209
14. Neumeyer, Walter: 5164 Pine Cone Dr.; Lapeer, MI 48446
15. Nutzman, John: 11878 Park Ln.; Mt. Morris, MI 48458
16. Smith, Royal: 11372 N. Millford Rd.; Holly, MI 48442
17. Jacobsen, Gary: 4263 Miriam; Belding, MI 48809
18. Krueger, Richard Carl: 3149 Juniper NE C-2; Grand Rapids, MI 49505
19. Carlson, Kenneth L.: 3773 Algonac Dr.; Grandville, MI 49418
20. Castle, Richard: 37950 Grandland; Livonia, MI 48150
21. Bogozzi, Wallace: 20114 South River Hill Dr.; Mount Clemens, MI 48043
22. Jayroe, Robert: 139 S. Wilson; Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
23. Jaques, James: 28080 Cotton Rd.; Mt. Clemens, MI 48315
24. Geddes, Hal: 29401 Jefferson Ave.; St. Clair Shores, MI 48081
25. King, Luther: 10875 Carter Rd.; Freeland, MI 48623
26. Kregel, Dale A.: 3720 Blue Bush Rd.; Rt. 2; Monroe, MI 48161
27. Eastman, James: 8921 Dacey St.; Montague, MI 49437
28. Ritter, Gordon: 17263 Buchanan; Grand Haven, MI 49417
29. De Neen, Roger: 618 S. Rembrandt; Royal Oak, MI 48067
30. Sternemann, Michael: 4015 Janet Ct.; Waterford, MI 48329
31. Williams, Bill: 3278 Winterberry; Orchard Lake, MI 48324
32. Schnell, Ronald: 8046 W. Sanilac Rd.; Vassar, MI 48768
33. Mossner, Eugene D.: 5320 Nottingham Dr. N.; Saginaw, MI 48603
34. Totzke, Joyce: 936 Wadena; St. Joseph, MI 49085
35. Mestle, Mike: 63530 Zable Shores Rd.; Sturgis, MI 49091
36. Rievert, Darrell: 50 E. Bay St.; Sebewaing, MI 48759
37. Thoms, Albert: 3080 North Lake Shore; Port Hope, MI 48468
38. Stoner, Jack: 125 Ct. St., Box 248; Standish, MI 48658
39. Atkinson, Patsy: 10319 Twin Lake Rd.; Mancelona, MI 49659
40. Gibson, Richard: 760 N. Eagle Highway; Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
41. Burks, William: 2087 Heatherhill Rd.; Trenton, MI 48183

C. Advisory Pastors

Hecken, Jakob K.; Ann Arbor, MI
Sprick, Donovan J.; Flint, MI

D. Advisory Teachers

Alexander, Howard; Detroit, MI
Aufdenberg, Erwin J.; Mt. Clemens, MI
Buchinger, Daniel C.; Port Hope, MI
Davis, Terry M.; Mt. Clemens, MI
Krepsky, Richard D.; Inkster, MI
Krupski, James F.; Rochester Hills, MI
Laabs, Jonathan C.; Frankenmuth, MI
Matzke, Mark E.; St. Joseph, MI
Miller, Herman F.; St. Clair Shores, MI
Newman, Kimberly A.; Mt. Clemens, MI
Opel, Edgar L.; Bay City, MI
Schultz, Lloyd N.; Detroit, MI

Schultz, Patricia A.; Detroit, MI
Thomas, Jean G.; Hemlock, MI
Trough, David J.; Big Rapids, MI

Mid-South District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Otto, Daniel D.: 404 Fieldcrest Dr.; Nashville, TN 37211
2. Schoolcraft, Roger: 2533 Lancer; Fayetteville, AR 72703
3. Francis, Robert; Rt. 3, Box 479-1; Alma, AR 72921
4. Evers, James P.: 106 Beachwood Ct.; Oak Ridge, TN 37830
5. Shewmaker, Russell L.: 1802 Bernard St.; Jonesboro, AR 72401
7. Toopes, Andrew W.: 7153 Davidwood; Benton, AR 72015
8. Mayerhoff, Paul D.: 1 Hogan Dr.; Mammelle, AR 72113
9. Halamka, Ronald P.: 1073 Estate Dr.; Memphis, TN 38119
12. Mabry, Randy A.: Rt. 1, Box 246A; Brinkley, AR 72021

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Castle, John: 3503 Meadowood Dr.; Murfreesboro, TN 37129
2. Billingsley, Gene: 15537 S. Ark. Hwy 265; West Fork, AR 72774
3. Steely, David: P.O. Box 915; Clarksville, AR 72830
4. Hartsell, Lester: 819 W. Maple; Johnson City, TN 37604
5. Otto, Bob: 2762 Apache Way; Bowling Green, KY 42104
7. Sletch, Marvin: 3 Abala Ln.; Hot Springs, AR 71909
8. Knight, Felix: 4 Connell Dr.; Little Rock, AR 72205
9. DeLinger, Hubert: 245 West Cherry Circle; Memphis, TN 38117
12. Avery, George: 2406 Meadowood Trail; Pine Bluff, AR 71602

C. Advisory Pastor

Stephens, Jeffrey; Cordova, TN

D. Advisory Teacher

Trah, Richard; Memphis, TN

Minnesota North District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Rothchild, Daryl: 118 Belleville Ct.; Thief River Falls, MN 56701
2. Bode, David: 3370 Riverside Dr. NE; Bemidji, MN 56601
3. Robstzen, David: 210 Ct. St.; Park Rapids, MN 56470
4. Abrahams, Dan: 1100 Lake Ave.; Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
5. Benson, Burt: 110 S. Walker, P.O. Box J; New York Mills, MN 56567
6. Fish, Robin D.: HC 61, Box 17B; Deerwood, MN 56444
7. Stulenberger, Bradley R.: P.O. Box 606, 516 Fourth St. SE.; Deer River, MN 56636
8. Dimst, Andrew: 314 N. 43rd Ave. W.; Duluth, MN 55807
9. Gehrke, Robert J.: 313 Clark St.; Mora, MN 55051
10. Dagel, Michael: 274 Elm Dr.; Foley, MN 56329
11. Lobitz, Marilyn C.: Rt. 1, Box 125; St. Francis, MN 55070
12. Baneck, James A.: Box 307; Kimball, MN 55353-0307
13. Compton, Darrel: R. 1, Box 138 A; Garfield, MN 56332
14. Whybrew, Kees: 314 W. Cavour; Fergus Falls, MN 56337
15. Grein, John O.: 501 Berkey Ave.; P.O. Box 126; Swanville, MN 56382
16. Vrudny, Matthew: 18 3rd Ave. NE, Box 479; Elbow Lake, MN 56531
17. Hopkins, Kenneth Jr.; Route 1, Box 29; Holloway, MN 56249
18. Cook, Richard: 1309 SW 7th St.; Willmar, MN 56201

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Bell, Dean; Rt. 1, Box 217; Hendrum, MN 56560
2. Sundborn, Leroy; Rt. 2, Box 207; Clearbrook, MN 56634
3. Johnson, Vernon; Menasha, MN 56464
4. Clemenson, Richard; P.O. Box 68; Callaway, MN 56521
5. Amundson, Bill; Rt. 1, Box 29; Bertha, MN 56437
6. Hall, Jeffrey; Rt. 1, Box 184; Aitkin, MN 56431
7. Benzing, Bill: 421 9th Ave. NE; Grand Rapids, MN 55744
8. Kaiser, Charles: 105 Outer Dr.; Silver Bay, MN 55614
9. Broman, Judy: 910 4th Ave. W.; Pine City, MN 55063
10. Zastrow, Marvin: 514 3rd St. SE; Little Falls, MN 56345
11. Paulson, Leonard: 335 2nd Ave. SW; Milaca, MN 56353
12. Betts, John L.: 3179 181st St.; Clearwater, MN 55320
13. LaMacck, Earl: 1314 Ash St.; Alexandria, MN 56308
14. Meiske, Darrel; R.R. 4, Box 112; Moorhead, MN 56560
15. Kolstad, Gordon L.; R.R. 2, Box 220; Long Prairie, MN 56347
16. Bakdy, Kenneth: 1308 4th Ave.; Wheaton, MN 56296
17. Koecikertiz, William; R.R. 2, Box 15; Appleton, MN 56208
18. Holzheimer, Robert: 714 Wilkins St.; Montevideo, MN 56265

C. Advisory Pastor

Blomquist, Emanuel; Willmar, MN

D. Advisory Teacher

Souza, William Jr.; Sauk Rapids, MN

Minnesota South District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Galschutt, Gary C.: 1351 78th Circle NE; Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
2. Siedenber, Dan L.: 723 Lafond Ave.; St. Paul, MN 55104
3. Ellwein, Maurice D.: 13931 21st St. N.; Stillwater, MN 55082

4. Matasovsky, Daniel V.: 7060 Babcock Trail E; Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
5. Briel, Steven C.: 9145 Co. Rd.; Maple Grove, MN 55369
6. Wippich, De Lloyd D.: 4057 Quail Ave. N; Robbinsdale, MN 55422
7. Westergren, Kevin T.: 1536 E. 66th; Richfield, MN 55423
8. Sier, Donald L.: 20200 Farilawn Ave.; Prior Lake, MN 55372
9. Krienke, Howard A.: 15302 Boulder Creek Dr.; Minnetonka, MN 55345
10. Meier, Peter A.: 218 2nd St NW, Box 88; Mayer, MN 55360
11. Storm, Harold A.; R.R. 1, Box 31; Gaylord, MN 55334
12. Cloeter, Daniel M.: 901 Hwy 15 S # 301; Hutchinson, MN 55350
13. Bugbee, Robert: P.O. Box 101; Albertville, MN 55301
14. Meyr, Victor H.; R.R. 4, Box 86; Red Wing, MN 55066
15. King, Bruce F.; Box 197; Stockton, MN 55988
16. Jaeger, Clark A.: 128 Filmore St. SE; Chatfield, MN 55923
17. Harter, Jeffrey M.: 10500 215th St. W.; Morristown, MN 55052
18. Luther, John W.; R.R. 1, Box 33; Waltham, MN 55982
19. Boehme, Armand J.: 705 17th Ave. NE; Waseca, MN 56093
20. Wolter, Derek M.; P.O. Box 427; Elmore, MN 56027
21. Thompson, Marc: P.O. Box 590 Rapidan Town; Mankato, MN 56001
22. Giff, Larry A.; R.R. 1, Box 241; Ormsby, MN 56162
23. Zacharias, Eric L.; P.O. Box 127; Dunnell, MN 56127
24. Mickelson, Thomas L.: 1112 Seventh Ave. SW; Pipestone, MN 56164
25. Yungmann, Ronald R.; R.R. 3, Box 113; Lakefield, MN 56150
26. Burnmeister, Robert J.: 209 W. Central St.; Springfield, MN 56087

B. Voting Laypersons

1. King, Roger Jr.: 11969 Utah Ave. N; Champlin, MN 55316
2. Finegan, Edgar Jr.: 1867 N. Simpson St.; St. Paul, MN 55113
3. Fisher, Dick: 6887 Romeo Rd.; Woodbury, MN 55125
4. Graham, James: 1955 Oakdale Ave., Apt. 128; West St. Paul, MN 55118
5. Preus, Christian: 16205 5th Ave. N; Plymouth, MN 55447
6. Hartley, Wayne: 6044 Thomas Ave. S; Minneapolis, MN 55410
7. Horn, Jane: 7221 Pillsbury Ave. S; Richfield, MN 55423
8. Deutschmann, Charles: 1002 E. 156th St.; Burnsville, MN 55337
9. Moe, Gary: 114 Peninsula Rd.; Plymouth, MN 55441
10. Schoenewind, Donald: 11585 110th St.; Cologne, MN 55322
11. Lhotka, Patricia: 132 First Ave. NW; Plato, MN 55370
12. Stresman, Leroy: 9325 Unit Ave.; Stewart, MN 55385
13. Neumann, Herald; R.R. 1 Box 290 N; Annandale, MN 55302
14. Kautsen, Roger: 1628 Siewert St.; Red Wing, MN 55066
15. Richter, Erwin: 690 Williams; Lewiston, MN 55952
16. Rosin, George: 108 NE Fifth Ave.; Stewartville, MN 55976
17. Schoenfeld, Clifford; R.R. 1, Box 198; Medford, MN 55049
18. Rector, Warren: 1906 4th Ave. NE; Austin, MN 55912
19. Olson, Barry: 600 4th Ave. SE; Waseca, MN 56093
20. Arndt, Kevin: 453 First Ave. NW; Wanebago, MN 56098
21. Albrecht, Erwin: 804 S. Franklin; New Ulm, MN 56073
22. Becker, Marvin; R.R. 1, Box 65; St. James, MN 56081
23. Hall, Robert: 616 Tilden; Fairmont, MN 56031
24. Keers, Jack: 704 4th St. SE; Pipestone, MN 56164
25. Jensen, Jim: 3326 Norwood Ave.; Slayton, MN 56172
26. Pohlman, Geraldine; R.R. 1 Box 160; Lakefield, MN 56150

C. Advisory Pastors

Franzmeier, Wilbur C.; West St. Paul, MN
Strohschein, Marcus; Annandale, MN

D. Advisory Teachers

Berg, Gerald; Fairmont, MN
Fabry, Timothy; Fairmont, MN
Fehl, Stephen G.; Richfield, MN
Giesseimann, Darryl; New Germany, MN
Spitzack, James; Richfield, MN

Missouri District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Kassulke, Willard; Box 66; Altenburg, MO 63732
2. Sippy, Jeffrey: 1561 Briarcliff; Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
3. Hoffstetter, Gary: 526 Meadowbrook Dr.; Moberly, MO 63270
4. Dorow, William Jr.; 720 S. Allen St.; Centralia, MO 65240
5. Umbach, Walter O.; 313 W. Third St.; Blackburn, MO 65321
6. Emmrich, David: 315 Goodrich Dr.; Warrensburg, MO 64093
7. Wesermann, Timothy P.; 2139 So. Oaks Dr.; Barnhart, MO 63012
8. Crockett, Dell; R.R. 2, Box 331; Jackson, MO 63755
9. Hoyer, Martin: 803 Swifts Hwy.; Jefferson City, MO 65109
10. Koenig, Clifford: 12011 E. 55th Terr.; Kansas City, MO 64133
11. Preisinger, Paul W.; Rt. 1, Box 156B; Excelsior Springs, MO 64024
12. Engler, Albert: 7220 Baltimore; Kansas City, MO 64114
13. Wenger, Mark P.; 706 S. Main; Vandalia, MO 63382
14. Kerner, David; Rt. 4 Box 28; Salem, MO 65560
15. Reinke, Calvin: 3948 Sunnervue Dr.; St. Charles, MO 63304

16. Langhoff, Donald; 950 S. Highway 47, P.O. Box 282; Warren, MO 63383
17. Weinhold, Terry; R.R. 3, Box 431; St. Joseph, MO 64505
18. Stehr, William J.; 7357 Cornell; St. Louis, MO 63130
19. Spomer, Charles W.; 513 Coachlight Ln.; Hazelwood, MO 63042
20. Dubberke, Edwin; 5825 Holly Hills; St. Louis, MO 63109
21. Smith, Gregory; 5614 Hillridge Ct.; St. Louis, MO 63128
22. Rogers, James C.; 522 Ballwood; Ballwin, MO 63021
23. Kiehl, Paul; 11035 Petram Dr.; St. Louis, MO 63136
24. Bischoff, William; 12026 Avery Ln.; Bridgeton, MO 63044
25. Albert, Steven; 2250 Ferncliff; Kirkwood, MO 63122
26. Beyer, Jonathan M.; 609 E. Bodine; Clinton, MO 64735
27. Schaefer, Henry; 215 N. Main St.; Freistatt, MO 63654
28. Reeder, Thomas N.; 908 West Spruce; Houston, MO 65483
29. Schneider, Robert W.; P.O. Box 196; Rosebud, MO 63091

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Hecht, Robert; Altenburg, MO 63732
2. Fritzler, Steven K.; 1617 Bel Air; Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
3. Leimkuehler, Duane; 307 North Small; Brunswick, MO 65236
4. Eggers, Homer; 500 Fairview Rd.; Columbia, MO 65203
5. Borgman, Ralph; Rt. 2, Slater, MO 65349
6. Rinke, Markus; R.R. 3, Box 234; Concordia, MO 64020
7. Jackson, Barney; 513 So. 5th St.; Festus, MO 63028
8. Little, William R.; P.O. Box 224; Van Buren, MO 63965
9. Scheiter, Gene; Rt. 2, Box 656-A; Camdenton, MO 65020
10. Burke, Frank; 216 W. 20th Terr.; Oak Grove, MO 64075
11. Ketselsca, Lee; 5607 Woodhaven Ln.; Kansas City, MO 64152
12. Schlesselman, Leo; 13613 Belmead; Grandview, MO 64030
13. Pfanz, Norman; Rt. 2, Palmyra, MO 63461
14. Altheide, Richard; 1407 Highland Dr.; Rolla, MO 65401
15. Baer, Bill; 2217 Campus Dr.; St. Charles, MO 63301
16. Borchardt, Scott; 1307 West Boone St.; Troy, MO 63379
17. Voltmer, Wayne; Rt. 1, Box 71; Bigelow, MO 64425
18. Jordan, Stanley; 9256 Sundown Dr., # 1E; St. Louis, MO 63120
19. Benz, Emil; 5234 Fairview; St. Louis, MO 63139
20. Zabel, Les; 4108 Tesson St.; St. Louis, MO 63123
21. Brickler, John; 4633 Grand Castle; St. Louis, MO 63128
22. Guchert, Alex; 12732 Honeygrove Ct.; St. Louis, MO 63146
23. Fehl, Scott; 1011 Theobald St.; St. Louis, MO 63147
24. Wuensch, Martin; 3205 Bristolhall Dr.; Bridgeton, MO 63044
25. Cranor, Walter; 8855 Hemingway; Crestwood, MO 63126
26. Biewagen, Max; HCR 69, Box 469; Sunrise Beach, MO 65079
27. Dieckhoff, Paul; Rt. 1, Box 2460; Diamond, MO 64840
28. Lehmberg, Roger; P.O. Box 101; Kimberling City, MO 65686
29. Koch, Mark; Rt. 2, Box 180; New Haven, MO 63068

C. Advisory Pastors

- Beins, Paul; St. Louis, MO
 Bush, Julius; Kirkwood, MO
 Kolb, Erwin; St. Louis, MO
 Malone, C. Robert; Kansas City, MO

D. Advisory Teachers

- Christian, Davis; Crestwood, MO
 Eckhoff, Martha; St. Louis, MO
 Lipke, Al; Jackson, MO
 Meyr, Del; Jackson, MO
 Meyr, Dorothy; Jackson, MO
 Nummela, Thomas; St. Louis, MO
 Nelson, George; Joplin, MO
 Palisch, Theodore; St. Louis, MO
 Paul, Warren; St. Louis, MO

Montana District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Brandt, Christopher; Box 126; Bridger, MT 59014
2. Schiefelbein, Herbert A.; Box 869; Seeley Lake, MT 59868
3. Stenzel, Kent C.; 214 Lincoln Ave. S.; Sidney, MT 59270
4. Bren, Donald J.; 1104 W. Main; Lewistown, MT 59457
5. Reed, Kenneth W.; 221 S. Montana; Butte, MT 59701
6. Schreibeis, Howard D.; 1017 Montana Ave.; Libby, MT 59923

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Kober, Ted; 3601 Rosebud Dr.; Billings, MT 59102
2. Stensrud, Bel; 4710 Rattlesnake Dr.; Missoula, MT 59802
3. Shrupp, Larry; 728 Olive, Box 188; Colstrip, MT 59323
4. Yocum, Ralph; 3320 11th Ave. S. # 2; Great Falls, MT 59405
5. Livingood, Louise; Box 718; Three Forks, MT 59752
6. Anderson, Mike; 2410 Mission Trail Rd.; Kalispell, MT 59901

D. Advisory Teacher

- Branten, Rebecca; Kalispell, MT

Nebraska District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Lange, Jonathan G.; Box 308; Spencer, NE 68777
2. Fandrey, James E.; 1807 Washing St.; Beatrice, NE 68310
3. Rick, Bradley P.; Rt. 1, Box 113; Columbus, NE 68601
4. Suggin, Richard D.; P.O. Box 160; Davenport, NE 68335

5. Snow, Richard L.; 1114 23rd St.; Auburn, NE 68305
6. Ritter, Daniel R.; 2026 Lincoln St.; Blair, NE 68008
7. Reehl, John D.; 1623 W. Anna; Grand Island, NE 68801
8. Knox, Michael R.; P.O. Box 146; Campbell, NE 68932
9. Schmidt, Edward H.; 411 12th St.; Franklin, NE 68939
10. Maas, Duane N.; 211 E. 7th; Lexington, NE 68850
11. Hoyer, Joel; 100 S. Fourth St.; P.O. Box 220; Eagle, NE 68347
12. Lemmermann, Walter; Box 64; Curtis, NE 69025
13. Horkey, Charles; P.O. Box 269, 501 S. Oak St.; Tilden, NE 68781
14. Jank, Roland A. Jr.; 6928 Florence Blvd.; Omaha, NE 68112
15. Greunke, Martin; 906 Chisholm Trail; Papillion, NE 68046
16. Huber, Terrell; Rt. 1, Box 55; Creighton, NE 68729
17. Pool, Terry; 7407 S. 128th St.; Omaha, NE 68138
18. Hein, Gregg; 630 Park Ave., Box 90; Milford, NE 68405
19. Schut, Bruce; R.R. 2, Box 28; Wakefield, NE 68784
20. Wright, James; Route 1, Box 148; Beemer, NE 68716
21. Arndt, Richard; 2202 Westridge; Ogallala, NE 69153
22. Scherneck, Robert; 215 W. 9th St.; York, NE 68467

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Vogelsang, Brian; Rt. 1, Box 43; Ainsworth, NE 69210
2. Holtmeier, Glennis; Rt. 1, Tobias, NE 68454
3. Niedfeldt, Kenneth; 3630 Lakeview Ln.; Columbus, NE 68601
4. Vortman, Gerald; 132 Lawrence; Hebron, NE 68370
5. Rathe, Ron; 172 N. 8th St.; Tecumseh, NE 68450
6. Kerschinske, Clarence; 916 William Ave.; Fremont, NE 68025
7. Rosenkoetter, Eugene; Rt. 4, Box 4; Grand Island, NE 68801
8. Heckenlively, Joe; 409 Smith Ave., P.O. Box 243; Kenesaw, NE 68956
9. Achterberg, Al; 301 West 11 St.; Holdrege, NE 68949
10. Finch, Robert; HC 84, Box 53; Lexington, NE 68850
11. Dohbertine, David; 1644 Nemaha; Lincoln, NE 68502
12. Carlson, Robert; Rt. 3; McCook, NE 69001
13. Unverfehrt, William; 306 Willow; Norfolk, NE 68701
14. Mann, Fred; 14460 Patrick Ave.; Omaha, NE 68164
15. Weihe, Robert; 7808 N. 101st Plaza # 50; Omaha, NE 68122
16. Von Seggern, Burnell; Rt. 2, Box 23; Orchard, NE 68764
17. Durbin, Doug; 1108 N. 121st St.; Omaha, NE 68154
18. Weber, Mark; 1290 5th; David City, NE 68632
19. Mann, Fred; Rt. 1; Wayne, NE 68787
20. Broekmeier, Gerhard; 454 S. Bruner; West Point, NE 68788
21. Stiffing, Ron; Rt. 2, Box 182; Ogallala, NE 69153
22. Renken, Harold; 5 Belmont Dr.; York, NE 68467

C. Advisory Pastor

- Saxe, Steven; Omaha, NE

D. Advisory Teachers

- Bade, William; York, NE
 Mannigel, David; Seward, NE
 Mauch, Jeannine; Plainview, NE

New England District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Bartell, Steven D.; 4 Elm St.; Exeter, NH 03833
2. Hohe, John W.; 3 Standish Way; Canton, MA 02021
3. Bucher, Richard; 125 Chase St.; Clinton, MA 01511
4. Schweiner, Paul J.; 110 High St.; Ashaway, RI 02804
5. Knapp, Timothy D.; 220 Madison Ave.; Holyoke, MA 01040
6. Schuett, Scott R.; 361 Beaumont Highway; Lebanon, CT 06249
7. Kiesel, Martin E.; 172 Grandview Rd.; Southbury, CT 06488
8. Skov, Richard H.; 176 Four Mile River Rd.; Old Lyme, CT 06371
9. Schipal, Robert F.; 14 White Swan Dr.; New Milford, CT 06776

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Hergert, David; 111 Sheffield Rd.; Waltham, MA 02154
2. Eisner, Ronald; Back Bay P.O. Box 1405; Boston, MA 02117
3. Guymon, Michael; RD 2, Box 1900; Fairfax, VT 05454
4. Rumba, George; 15 Godfrey Rd.; Mashpee, MA 02649
5. Sienkiewicz, Donald; 81 Beveridge Blvd.; Westfield, MA 01085
6. Thompson, George; 21 Shagbark Rd.; Glastonbury, CT 06033
7. Raddatz, Robert W.; 22 Bethridge Rd.; Bethany, CT 06525
8. Reck, Ron; 1 Norman Dr.; Gales Ferry, CT 06335
9. Rogge, Donald; 2 Old Hayrake Rd.; Danbury, CT 06811

C. Advisory Pastor

- Tennine, Norman L.; Dorset, VT

D. Advisory Teacher

- Albert, Wayne; Holyoke, MA

New Jersey District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Holsten, Robert; 417 High St.; Closter, NJ 07624
2. Kroll, Paul; 3 Berkely Terr.; Livingston, NJ 07039

3. Palkewick, Robert; 32 Richard St.; North Haledon, NJ 07080
4. Warther, John; 71 Hillside Rd.; Elizabeth, NJ 07208
5. Vogt, Stephen; R.R. 1, Box 525; Wheatstown Rd.; Hamburg, NJ 07419
6. Schrank, Jeffery; 2750 Princeton Pike; Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
7. Haupt, Kenneth; 295 Summerhill Rd.; East Brunswick, NJ 08816

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Riech, Elmer; 712 Coles St.; Maywood, NJ 07607
2. Layer, John; 129 Longboat Ave.; Beachwood, NJ 07722
3. Eppler, Arthur; 191 Elmwood Dr.; Clifton, NJ 07013
4. Dombro, Gretchen; 621 Townsend Pl.; North Plainfield, NJ 07063
5. Nimmernann, Karl; 12 North Star Dr.; Morristown, NJ 07960
6. Clement, Glenn; 306 Monroe Ave.; Carney's Point, NJ 08069
7. Dain, Lawrence A.; 7 Lowell St.; Iselin, NJ 08830

C. Advisory Pastor

- Hausmann, William; Gilbert, PA

D. Advisory Teacher

- Meyers, Dennis; Newsum, NJ

North Dakota District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Rothchild, Dean F.; 715 7th St.; Bottineau, ND 58318
2. Longshore, Rex; 2020 8th Ave. N.; Grand Forks, ND 58203
3. Wagner, David; 3720 S. 15th St.; Fargo, ND 58104
4. Gauger, Reuel; Box 674; Cooperstown, ND 58425
5. Hill, John; P.O. Box 95; Forbes, ND 58439
6. Buss, Gary; 803 Forest St.; Lisbon, ND 58054
7. Herr, Calvin; P.O. Box 107; Anamoose, ND 58710
8. Maris, Thomas R.; 1982 N. 20th St.; Bismarck, ND 58501

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Hall, Myrlin; R.R. 1, Box 27; Newburg, ND 58762
2. Weislaeder, Roger; RR; Drayton, ND 58225
3. Ahlschweide, Clyde; R.R. 1, Box 39; Grandin, ND 58038
4. Gots, Jerry; 1085 North 2nd St.; Carrington, ND 58421
5. Brandenburg, Don; RR 1, Box 83; Edgeley, ND 58433
6. Worl, Robert; R.R. 1, Box 119; Hankinson, ND 58041
7. Schell, Duane; 2619 1st Ave SW; Minot, ND 58701
8. Hintz, Ray; P.O. Box 959; Watford City, ND 58854

C. Advisory Pastor

- Reimnitz, Alwin; Bismarck, ND

North Wisconsin District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Fajen, John H.; P.O. Box 161; Glidden, WI 54527
2. Viergutz, William H.; P.O. Box 140; Covington, WI 49919
3. Fink, Robin O.; P.O. Box 106; Webster, WI 54893
4. Phavola, Daniel E.; P.O. Box 158; Butterus, WI 54514
5. Huasickler, Paul C.; 555 M 73; Iron River, WI 49935
6. Doan, Daniel H.; P.O. Box 7; Irma, WI 54442
7. Meyer, Gerald; W 5338 Clark Ln.; Pickert, WI 54465
8. Lamoni, Bruce B.; 715 N. Court; Menomonie, WI 54751
9. Sundell, Dennis; 118 E. Grand Avenue; Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
10. Neumann, M. G.; 303 N. Second St.; Colby, WI 54421
11. Connor, Raymond R.; 3601 Swan Ave.; Wausau, WI 54401
12. Shinko, Martin E.; P.O. Box 208; Birmahood, WI 54414
13. Zimmermann, Fred T.; 325 S. Andrews St.; Shawano, WI 54166
14. Thur, Melvin E.; 214 N. Burk St.; Box 247; Suring, WI 54174
15. Azzam, Timothy P.; R.R. 2, Box 182; Fall Creek, WI 54742
16. Schenck, John W.; 1011 N. Peach Ave.; Marshfield, WI 54449
17. Barnes, Bob A.; 5292 Forest Circle S.; Stevens Point, WI 54481
18. Camann, Francis E.; E. 7995 Highway 22; Bear Creek, WI 54922
19. Oldenborg, Donald R.; 1096 Morris Ave.; Green Bay, WI 54304
20. Lewis, Mark J.; 608 Third Ave.; Durand, WI 54736

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Sakalos, P. Don; 312 E. Lead; Bessemer, WI 49911
2. Jesula, Paul; 1495 Glenwood Lane; Ishpeming, MI 49849
3. Krenzke, Ted; 1536 19th Ave.; Rice Lake, WI 54868
4. Newman, Roger; P.O. Box 63; Gilman, WI 54433
5. Goetsch, Milton; 9525 Country Club Rd.; Minocqua, WI 54548
6. Kretschmar, Oscar; N. 1398 Hwy. 51; Merrill, WI 54452
7. Nielsen, Jeffrey; 222 Gruber St.; Antigo, WI 54409
8. Schroeder, Alvin; 3052 150th Ave.; Glenwood City, WI 54013
9. Sell, Donald E.; W. 2315 Silver Springs Dr.; Eau Claire, WI 54701
10. Nixdorf, Walter W.; R.R. 1, Box 164; Dorchester, WI 54425
11. Wanish, Stephanie J.; 6104 N. Hwy. 52; Wausau, WI 54401
12. Gehrt, Robert L.; P.O. Box 55; Embarrass, WI 54933
13. Raddatz, Rich; Rt. 4, Box 220; Shawano, WI 54166
14. Westerfeld, Ernest; Box 356; Zachow, WI 54182

15. Kuehn, Milton; Box 137; Fall Creek, WI 54742
16. Federswitz, Harry; 9761 S. Washington; Marshfield, WI 54449
17. Oilschlager, Ellsworth; 3441 W. 13; Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
18. Hanson, Donald L.; 7625 Swamp Rd.; Manawa, WI 54949
19. Zastrow, Miles; 7463 Mile Rd.; Forestville, WI 54213
20. Mueller, Kenneth; 7851 Mueller Rd.; Fall Creek, WI 54742

C. Advisory Pastor

Cizek, C.J.; Schofield, WI

D. Advisory TeachersBublitz, Donald R.; Shawano, WI
Nehring, Charles G.; Green Bay, WI**Northern Illinois District****A. Voting Pastors**

1. Olsen, Steven; 2632 N. California; Chicago, IL 60647
2. Jones, E. Lee III; 5207 Galitz St.; Skokie, IL 60077
3. Schoenfuhs, Walter Jr.; 7901 W. Seminole; Chicago, IL 60631
4. Shumate, John; 10182 Baintow; Waukegan, IL 60087
5. Bounman, James; 1326 Margret St.; Des Plaines, IL 60018
6. Bassett, Carl; 190 Oakwood Dr.; Wood Dale, IL 60191
7. Niemann, Thomas; 715 Wright Ave.; Elgin, IL 60120
8. Buss, Allen R.; 255 Tollview Terr.; Gilbert, IL 60136
9. Borhart, Glen; 110 South St.; Marengo, IL 60152
10. Galup, Roger; 2640 Oak St.; River Grove, IL 60171
11. Noland, Martin; 1100 SE Ave.; Oak Park, IL 60304
12. Schwartz, Paul; 305 Lemont St.; Lemont, IL 60439
13. Ilen, James; 47 N. Elizabeth St.; Lombard, IL 60148
14. Geschke, Edward; 23556 W. Fern St.; Plainfield, IL 60544
15. Rische, Scott; 916 S. 6th Ave.; St. Charles, IL 60174
16. Krause, Kenneth; 1903 Springbrook Ave.; Rockford, IL 61107
17. Leiste, Robert; 1016 Ann Ave.; Dixon, IL 61021
18. Belisle, Russell; 6232 S. Eberhart Ave.; Chicago, IL 60637
19. Teske, Steven; 10310 S. Ave. H; Chicago, IL 60617
20. Albrecht, Luther; 4317 S. Mozart; Chicago, IL 60632
21. Jospait, John; 8320 Sunset Ridge Ct.; Orland Park, IL 60462
22. Hoffman, Wayne; 19136 Sherman St.; Lansing, IL 60438
23. Troester, Matthew; 6201 Vollmer Rd.; Matteson, IL 60443
24. Marinek, Robert; 422 Liberty St.; Marseilles, IL 61341
25. Larson, Mark; 716 Indiana Ave.; Beecher, IL 60401
26. Botjen, Dean; 419 N. 4th; Waukegan, IL 60090

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Hoffmann, Robert; 2847 N. Avery; Chicago, IL 60618
2. Soderholm, Paul; 1929 W. Grace; Chicago, IL 60614
3. Rensoer, Erich; 16 N. Elmore; Park Ridge, IL 60068
4. Jahn, Paul; 381 S. St. Mary's Rd.; Libertyville, IL 60048
5. Umbach, Richard; 2806 N. Harvard; Arlington Heights, IL 60004
6. Hansing, Roland; 1146 Indian Dr.; Elgin, IL 60120
7. Menshing, Karen; 2 Summit; East Dundee, IL 60118
8. Lichner, Sandra; 1037 N. 9th St.; Rochelle, IL 61068
9. Glawe, Richard; 405 North Hill Rd.; McHenry, IL 60050
10. Abbe, Linda; 915 N. Fourth Ave.; Maywood, IL 60153
11. Hanneberg, Richard; 219 Woodland Rd.; Highland Park, IL 60035
12. Mueller, George; 3113 Meyers Rd.; Oakbrook, IL 60521
13. Gramit, Edward; 132 N. Grant Dr.; Addison, IL 60101
14. Teske, Hilbert; OS239 Park St.; Winfield, IL 60190
15. Voss, Randy; 18 Beau Meade; Oswego, IL 60543
16. Enge, Guenther; 3914 Cernerville Rd.; Rockford, IL 61102
17. Elders, Gary; 311 N. Chicago; Freeport, IL 61032
18. Sturges, Levi; 9756 S. Union; Chicago, IL 60628
19. Hoyer, David; 437 Saginaw Ave.; Calumet City, IL 60409
20. Krueger, LeRoy; 3802 W. 46th St.; Chicago, IL 60632
21. Hodgeman, Roy; 11200 S. Campbell Ave.; Chicago, IL 60655
22. Bruer, Ralph; 1312 Campbell Ave.; Chicago Heights, IL 60411
23. Klain, Irene; 4104 W. Sunset Rd.; Matteson, IL 60443
24. Erb, Ken; 2607 Fairway Dr.; Joliet, IL 60435
25. Herz, Clarence; 209 S. Hickory; Manteno, IL 60950
26. Heinrichs, Eldor; Rt. 2, Box 71; Milford, IL 60953

C. Advisory PastorsCollins, Robert H.; Harvey, IL
Meggers, David L.; Rockford, IL**D. Advisory Teachers**Elser, James L.; Barrington, IL
Grebasch, Douglas H.; Wigan, IL
Kuker, Gerald W.; Countryside, IL
Latzke, Laura L.; Melrose Park, IL
Liese, Lloyd D.; Woodridge, IL
Niss, Muriel D.; Dundee, IL
Oesterreich, Allan C.; Evergreen Park, IL
Olsen, Brenda; Chicago, IL
Pralle, Ruth D.; Chicago Ridge, IL
Seever, Gerald A.; Arlington Heights, IL
Weiss, Robert P.; Chicago, IL**Northwest District****A. Voting Pastors**

1. Wehrspann, Dan; 2488 W. Lorraine; Roseburg, OR 97470
2. Norris, Thomas; 47716 W. 2nd St.; Box 674; Oakridge, OR 97436

3. Russert, Arlyn; 875 NW Lawnridge; Albany, OR 97321
4. Hues, Ronald; 15533 Marquum Road; Mt. Angel, OR 97362
5. Locke, Lawrence; 2810 W. 10th; The Dalles, OR 97058
6. Baade, Gene; 1380 Jenne Ave. NW; Portland, OR 97229
7. Carstensen, David; 19805 NE Holladay; Portland, OR 97230
8. Bohlen, Daniel; 2327 17th Ave.; Forest Grove, OR 97116
9. Schoenborn, Thomas; 209 Cherry Ave.; Meridian, ID 83642
10. Vedder, Lawrence; 1339 Evergreen; Twin Falls, ID 83301
11. Kolasch, Bruce; 887 Lott Rd.; Pocatello, ID 83201
12. Mistrick, Wallace; 7809 Tieton; Yakima, WA 98908
13. Meyer, Laurence; 520 Thayer Dr.; Richland, WA 99352
14. Luinstra, Robert; N. 7523 Cedar Rd.; Spokane, WA 99208
15. Hemenway, William; 3715 21st Pl.; Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
16. Shimkus, William; 560 Crawford; Wenatchee, WA 98801
17. Hayhurst, Mark; 809 Addison; Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
18. Martin, Daniel; 2340 Samara Place; Port Angeles, WA 98362
19. Ludwig, William; 6547 46th Ave. NE; Seattle, WA 98115
20. Walta, Arnold; 23810 112th Ave. SE; Kent, WA 98031
21. Iben, Douglas; 5223 37th Ave. SW; Seattle, WA 98126
22. Trier, Orlando; 1319 S. 359th St.; Federal Way, WA 98003
23. Kauth, Roland; 2112 McCullum Ave.; Fairbanks, AK 99701

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Hanson, Ronald O.; 1405 Ranch Rd.; Reedsport, OR 97467
2. Gurney, G. William; 3465 High St.; Eugene, OR 97405
3. Elser, David; 31277 Waterloo Rd.; Lebanon, OR 97355
4. Schurz, Paul; 4721 Dalke Ct. NE; Salem, OR 97305
5. Merrill, Ted; 18015 Davis; Sandy, OR 97055
6. Harris, James; 18898 S. Central Point; Oregon City, OR 97045
7. Dawn, Marvin; 304 Fredericksburg Way; Vancouver, WA 98664
8. Huffman, Shirley; 809 NE Jackson School Rd.; Hillsboro, OR 97124
9. Miller, Leo; 585 E. 10th N.; Mt. Home, ID 83647
10. Suchan, George; Rt. 2, Box 360; Rupert, ID 83350
11. Schilling, David A.; 861 Linden Dr.; Idaho Falls, ID 83401
12. Jacobson, Keith; 7610 W. Nob Hill Blvd. 45; Yakima, WA 98908
13. Sappington, James; 1816-A W. 21st Ave.; Kennewick, WA 99337
14. Clemens, Wayne; W. 1321 Montgomery; Spokane, WA 99205
15. Brieke, Ronald; 1155 N. Haney Rd.; Rathdrum, ID 83858
16. Yost, Charles; P.O. Box 3570; Republic, WA 99166
17. Beckmeyer, Ted; 4523 Tom Marks Rd.; Snohomish, WA 98290
18. Botz, James; 535 NW Holmberg St.; Bremerton, WA 98310
19. Ebert, Melvin; 16031-75th Pl. W.; Edmonds, WA 98028
20. Kinnunen, Jackie; 13722 SE 200th St.; Kent, WA 98042
21. Schroeder, Fred; 12540 84th Ave. S.; Seattle, WA 98178
22. Steele, Joe; 4920 S D St.; Tacoma, WA 98408
23. Swamer, Dennis; 298 Rogers Rd.; Kenai, AK 99611

C. Advisory PastorsBaumann, Martin; Spokane, WA
Hain, Hugo; Lincoln City, OR**D. Advisory Teachers**Einspahr, Kirk; Corvallis, OR
Halstead, Gail; Corvallis, OR
Tagge, Nancy; Seattle, WA**Ohio District****A. Voting Pastors**

1. Roth, Michael; P.O. 17396 Schumm Rd.; Willshire, OH 45898
2. Reiltsch, Theodore; 421 N. Wilhelm; Holgate, OH 43527
3. Baumann, Paul; 1850 Jermain; Toledo, OH 43606
4. Riley, Douglas; P.O. Box 386, 10827 N. Main St.; Mantua, OH 44255
5. Zacharias, Edward H. P.; 4569 W. 156th St.; Cleveland, OH 44135
6. Hofener, Robert; 4410 Stary Dr.; Parma, OH 44134
7. Mueller, Raymond; 2193 Atkins Ave.; Lakewood, OH 44107
8. Decker, Wayne; 2225 Garden Dr.; Avon, OH 44011
9. Mitchell, John; 11607 Riverwood Dr.; Chardon, OH 44024
10. Heino, Donald; 11917 Bean Rd.; Chardon, OH 44024
11. Mueller, Ronald; 7413 Kenneway; W. Chester, OH 45069
12. Reetz, Peter; 6950 Tanya Terr.; Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
13. Dubisar, Douglas; 3043 Washington Blvd.; Huntingdon, WV 25705
14. Rembold, Manfred; 1220 S. Maple Ave.; Fairborn, OH 45324
15. Oliver, Harold; 6967 Moorfield Dr.; Cincinnati, OH 45230

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Ezzler, Lloyd; 3342 Tully-Harrison Rd.; Convoy, OH 45832
2. Bernath, Eugene; 8641 Co. Rd. 18; Wauseon, OH 43567
3. Kieseweter, Helen; 706 Hampton Ave.; Toledo, OH 43609
4. Sink, Ann; 2510 McQuiston Ave.; Youngstown, OH 44505
5. Rathje, Arnold; 1223 Brainerd Rd.; Lyndhurst, OH 44124
6. Anderson, Jon; 10603 Biddulph Rd.; Brooklyn, OH 44144
7. Puls, Karl; 17603 Lakewood Hts. Blvd.; Lakewood, OH 44107
8. Eiboe, John; 172 W. Martin St.; Amherst, OH 44001
9. Funk, Phyllis; 1222 Summit Dr.; Mayfield Heights, OH 44124
10. Wilms, Dave; 2650 Brown Rd.; Ashtabula, OH 44004

11. Dawson, Gregory; 660 Marcia Ave.; Hamilton, OH 45013
12. Dellinger, John; 1752 Lombard Rd.; Plain City, OH 43064
13. Alt, Charles; 133 Scenic Hills; Parkersburg, WV 26101
14. Horn, James; 325 East Edgewood; Sidney, OH 45363
15. Brandt, Chuck; 1341 Broadway; Cincinnati, OH 45210

C. Advisory Pastor

Weber, Paul A.; Napoleon, OH

D. Advisory TeachersPool, Jeffrey M.; Hamilton, OH
Schulze, Robert J.; Strongsville, OH**Oklahoma District****A. Voting Pastors**

1. Poole, Donnie L.; 501 Skyview Dr.; Watonga, OK 73772
2. Newman, Mark; Third & Maple; Alva, OK 73717
3. Nehrenz, David R.; 603 S. Classen; Norman, OK 73071
4. Riemer, Carlton L.; 504 S. Knoblock; Stillwater, OK 74074
5. Christiansen, Joel T.; 3700 SE Woodland Rd.; Bartlesville, OK 74006
6. Schultz, Myles R.; 1310 E. 6th; Okmulgee, OK 74447
7. Gerner, Leroy A.; 7701 W. Brinson Rd.; Oklahoma City, OK 73132

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Koch, Donnie; 205 NE 20th St.; Guymon, OK 73942
2. Faulkner, Rex L.; R.R. 1 Box 357; Enid, OK 73703
3. Boelke, Ronald; Rt. 2 Box 27; Lone Wolf, OK 73655
4. Kahle, Victor L.; 125 E. Hill Ave.; Blackwell, OK 74631
5. Krause, Ed; Box 219; Fairland, OK 74343
6. Williams, Art; 7235 S. Third St.; Muskogee, OK 74401
7. Roggow, Brent; 7204 S. Douglas Ave.; Oklahoma City, OK 73139

C. Advisory Pastor

Klawitter, Harold J.; Tulsa, OK

D. Advisory Teacher

Scharze, Paul; Ponca City, OK

Pacific Southwest District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Schmidt, James A.; 3721 Modoc Rd.; Santa Barbara, CA 93105
2. Barth, Gregory; 3274 Hereford; Gimi Valley, CA 93063
3. Sauer, John A.; 6952 Van Nuys Blvd.; Van Nuys, CA 91405
4. Albrecht, Ardon; 1730 Wilshire Blvd.; Santa Monica, CA 90403
5. Schepman, Timothy W.; 1611 E. Sycamore Ave. # 1; Se-gundo, CA 90245
6. Freitag, Alfred J.; 987 S. Gramercy Pl.; Los Angeles, CA 90019
7. Brunold, William L.; 8709 Daines Dr.; San Gabriel, CA 91776
8. Rosenau, Graeme M.; 14717 Fairville Dr.; La Mirada, CA 90638
9. Hoffschneider, Dale W.; 6053 Clarkson Ave.; Maywood, CA 90270
10. Kusel, Ronald J.; 946 Linden; Long Beach, CA 90813
11. Skov, Stephen; 331 Tocino Dr.; Duarte, CA 91010
12. Johnstone, Douglas V.; 13082 Bowen St.; Garden Grove, CA 92643
13. Dannenberg, Richard A.; 205 N. Pageant; Anaheim, CA 92805
14. Wynken, Kenneth M.; 20081 N. New Britain Ln.; Huntington Beach, CA 92646
15. Scharlemann, John P.; 126 W. Olive St.; Redlands, CA 92373
16. Boheim, Keith; 14816 Peyton Dr.; Chino Hills, CA 91709
17. Siebrass, Lowell L.; 5545 Alessandro Blvd.; Riverside, CA 92506
18. Nielsen, Richard J.; 56260 Long Way, P.O. Box 390668; Anza, CA 92539
19. DeYoung, John E.; 5502 W. Ave. L-8; Quartz Hill, CA 93536
20. Kolkman, Allen P.; 4510 N. River Rd.; Oceanside, CA 92056
21. Kappler, Steve A.; 1370 Euclid Ave.; San Diego, CA 92105
22. Widman, Richard; 3993 Park Blvd.; San Diego, CA 92103
23. Hoernann, Gerald L.; 581 W. Seville Lane; Blythe, CA 92225
24. Holstein, Robert W.; 9527 W. Mendota; Peoria, AZ 85382
25. Saint Pierre, Rupert A.; 13131 Spanish Garden Dr.; Sun City West, AZ 85375
26. Brockmann, James E.; 2662 E. Kenwood St.; Mesa, AZ 85213
27. Pardieck, David C.; 1035 E. Guadalupe Rd.; Tempe, AZ 85283
28. Zimbrick, Edward C.; 5954 Blue Hill; Las Vegas, NV 89115

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Andrews, Renee; 1621 Calzada Ave.; Santa Ynez, CA 93460
2. Blankenburg, David J.; 27166 Langside Ave.; Canyon Country, CA 91351
3. Luening, Martin; 7600 McGroarty St.; Tujunga, CA 91042
4. Dundore, Charles; 1245 Las Pulgas Rd.; Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
5. Meyer, Roger; 17602 Cranbrook Ave.; Torrance, CA 90504
6. Cole, Dinah; 3906 Buckingham Rd.; Los Angeles, CA 90008

7. Janetzke, Marvin: 621 Mercedes Ave.; Pasadena, CA 91107
8. Chapman, Edward: 1640 Elmsford Ave.; La Habra, CA 90631
9. Guirado, Ilcana: 3707 Hill St.; Huntington Park, CA 90255
10. Randel, Jack C.: 17819 San Gabriel Ave.; Cypress, CA 90701
11. Dudley, David: 747 Cordelia; Glendora, CA 91740
12. Bosch, Randy: 6437 E. Yosemite Ave.; Orange, CA 92667
13. Rammelsberg, Marvin F.: 900 S. Walnut St.; Anaheim, CA 92802
14. Steinfeld, Tom: 2182 Raleigh Ave.; Costa Mesa, CA 92627
15. Koenig, Charles: 1222 5th St.; Yucca, CA 92399
16. Swick, Ed: 4125 Maria Ct.; Chino, CA 91710
17. Clark, Marguerite: 11181 Bonnie View Dr.; Moreno Valley, CA 92555
18. Holt, Timothy: 3598 Escoba Dr.; Palm Springs, CA 92264
19. Edsen, Jerry: 20167 Ranchias Rd.; Apple Valley, CA 92307
20. Hayes, Steven: 1040 La Solana; Fallbrook, CA 92028
21. Fleishman, Earl: 368 Anita, Space #32; Chula Vista, CA 91911
22. May, Einer: 14280 Poway Rd.; Poway, CA 92064
23. Zinn, Diane: 2331 Elm Ave.; El Centro, CA 92243
24. Beyer, Lucille: 5012 W. Christy Dr.; Glendale, AZ 85304
25. Beck, Nelson: 11486 Turquoise Circle; Dewey, AZ 86327
26. Starkjohann, Robert J.: 2946 E. Gable Cir.; Mesa, AZ 85204
27. Moyer, June: 8338 E. Hubbell; Scottsdale, AZ 85257
28. Schwanebeck, Randy: 2321 McCulloch Blvd.; Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

C. Advisory Pastors
Bussert, Walter E.: Cathedral City, CA
Lautenschlager, Adam D.: Santa Maria, AZ
Reimnitz, Elmer: Palmdale, CA

D. Advisory Teachers

Ahlswede, Gordon: Ontario, CA
Gugel, Robert: Mission Viejo, CA
Henley, Douglas: Lakewood, CA
Henkel, Joe: Lancaster, CA
Klatt, Richard: Yorba Linda, CA
Klinkenberg, Kay: Yorba Linda, CA
Lebrecht, Larry: Brea, CA
Olson, David: Fontana, CA
Schulteis, Donald: LaVerne, CA
Sneve, Isabel: Costa Mesa, CA

Rocky Mountain District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Thur, Gary: Rt. 1, Memorial Dr.; Lamar, CO 81052
2. Heine, William C.: Box 353; Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
3. Radeke, Norman L.: 10675 N. Washington St.; Northglenn, CO 80233
4. Fricke, Gary H.: P.O. Box 635; Bailey, CO 80421
5. Schuelin, Virgil L.: 13859 Valley Hi Ct.; Parker, CO 80134
6. Voigt, Arnold J.: 1701 W. Caley Ave.; Littleton, CO 80120
7. Johnson, Lohm M.: 725 Fairhurst; Sterling, CO 80751
8. Schlecht, Glen: 1101 Hilltop Dr.; Loveland, CO 80537
9. Graff, Paul L.: 749 Wade Rd.; Longmont, CO 80503
10. Shearier, Jeffrey E.: 6217 Heath Way; El Paso, TX 79912
11. Preus, Daniel: 7922 Horizon Dr.; Colorado Springs, CO 80920
12. Maas, Ed: P.O. Box 297; Edgewood, NM 87015
13. Schrank, Robert J.: 1109 Chevy Chase Dr.; Salt Lake City, UT 84117
14. Anderson, Allen D.: 0084 Rd. 135; Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Huffman, Edson: 1185 Kit Carson Trail; Texas Creek, CO 81250
2. Maynard, John: 324 Park Lane; Moab, UT 84532
3. Timmerman, Kenneth: 254 S. 21st Ave.; Brighton, CO 80601
4. Schukdt, Ron: 8785 W. Roxbury Dr.; Littleton, CO 80123
5. Rolan, Richard: 1481 P. Bates Pkwy.; Englewood, CO 80110
6. Hodel, Ron: 5260 Ridge Trail; Littleton, CO 80123
7. Stoner, Dale: 601 S. Elm; Yuma, CO 80759
8. Foster, William P.: P.O. Box 627; Wellington, CO 80549
9. Stratton, Cliff: 1341 W. 144th Ave.; Broomfield, CO 80020
10. Kunkel, Oscar: P.O. Box 757; Roswell, NM 88202
11. Schaefer, Harvey: 518 Marquette Dr.; Security, CO 80911
12. Roberts, Dale: 241 Hyde Park Estates; Santa Fe, NM 87501
13. Gohlghorst, George: 722 Northeast Dr.; Salt Lake City, UT 84103
14. Jetley, Vern: P.O. Box 1034; Montrose, CO 81401

C. Advisory Pastor

Groerich, James G.; Denver, CO

D. Advisory Teachers

Eickmann, Nathan; Littleton, CO
Zimmerman, Lester; Midvale, UT

SELC District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Hoyer, Paul: 178 Washington Ave.; Lake Mary, FL 32746
2. Telloni, John: 8155 Walter St.; NW; Massillon, OH 44646
3. Krueger, Carl Jr.: 4035 E. Monkwitz Ave.; Cudahy, WI 53110

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Wetzel, James: R.D. 2, Box 430; Ashland, PA 17921
2. Dolak, Martha: 105 McWilliams Dr.; Natrona Heights, PA 15065
3. Bajus, Ann: 4825 N. Ridgewood Ave.; Norridge, IL 60656

C. Advisory Pastor

Bajus, Luther J.; Norridge, IL

South Dakota District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Doremus, Dwaine D.: Box 16; Andover, SD 57422
2. Johnson, Larry G.: Box 46; Waubay, SD 57273
3. Krueger, Paul A.: Box 465; Onida, SD 57564
4. Trask, Michael A.: 221 E. 1st St.; Redfield, SD 57469
5. Branstetter, Terrill F.: 621 Ninth Ave.; Brookings, SD 57006
6. McManus, Dennis J.: Box 964; Philip, SD 57567
7. Zeller, Thomas A.: HCR 75; Norris, SD 57360
8. Keuch, James R.: R.R. 1, Box 81; Emery, SD 57332
9. Gies, Clark H.: 201 High Ave.; NW Box 506; Wagner, SD 57380
10. Dawson, John K.: 4400 E. Ninth St.; Sioux Falls, SD 57103

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Schuelke, Robert: Rt. 2, Box 177; Groton, SD 57445
2. Schuenefeld, Lloyd: Rt. 2, Box 96; Altamont, SD 57226
3. Wulf, Jerald: 1714 E. Erskine; Pierre, SD 57501
4. Scheibe, Donald: 731 14th St. SW; Huron, SD 57350
5. Hueners, Curtis: R.R. 1, Box 8; Winfred, SD 57076
6. Sieg, Gaylan: 246 South 22nd, P.O. Box 565; Hot Springs, SD 57477
7. Monson, Wayne: HCR 7, Box 30; Reliance, SD 57569
8. Geidel, Herbert: R.R. 2; Parkson, SD 57366
9. Wudel, Louis: 603 E. 19th St.; Yankton, SD 57078
10. Ellis, David: R.R. 2, Box 84; Bridgewater, SD 57319

C. Advisory Pastor

Brooks, Dana A.; Huron, SD

D. Advisory Teacher

Lafrentz, Terry R.; Sioux Falls, SD

South Wisconsin District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Richter, George J. Jr.: 3023 Delaware Ave.; Milwaukee, WI 53207
2. Mueller, Mark A.: 14845 Janice Ct.; New Berlin, WI 53151
3. Benson, Robert Lee: 1616 Stardust Dr.; Waukesha, WI 53186
4. Pfleger, James: 3920 Glen Echo Dr.; Brookfield, WI 53005
5. Struve, John W. M.: 3030 Fairwood Ct.; Wauwatosa, WI 53222
6. Mumm, David P.: 420 Donald; Mayville, WI 53050
7. Markworth, Richard: 8965 N. 86 St.; Milwaukee, WI 53224
8. Brandt, Charles: W60 N710 Jefferson Ave.; Cedarburg, WI 53012
9. Zick, Robert: 134 Edmaro St.; Fredonia, WI 53021
10. Hartman, James: 2215 N. 34th St.; Sheboygan, WI 53083
11. Bergelin, Darrel: W2780 Hwy 32, Rt. 1; Howards Grove, WI 53083
12. Novotney, Robert: 417 Manhattan St.; Chilton, WI 53014
13. Prewitt, Jeffery: 1285 Cooke Rd.; Neenah, WI 54956
14. Eckardt, Burnell F. Jr.: 175 W. Liberty; Berlin, WI 54923
15. Krebs, John: 198 N. Pierce, P.O. Box 207; Adams, WI 53910
16. Cumming, James T.: 2147 Hoeschler Dr.; La Crosse, WI 54601
17. Timler, Theo W.: 815 W. WI; Portage, WI 53901
18. Karius, Dennis: 210 High St.; Box 308; Clinton, WI 53525
19. Fenton, John: P.O. Box 497; Hanover, WI 53542
20. Luchterhand, Karl: 3350 Lathrop Ave.; Racine, WI 53405
21. Davis, Clark: 2727 North St.; East Troy, WI 53120
22. Schaefer, Richard: 215 N. Elias St.; Wales, WI 53183
23. Schwandt, Richard: 318 E. Water St.; Watertown, WI 53094

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Finn, Debbie: 4221 S. 3 St.; Milwaukee, WI 53207
2. Wolter, Donald: 9406 W. Oklahoma Ave.; West Allis, WI 53227
3. Yarbrough, Mildred: 3276 N. 5 St.; Milwaukee, WI 53212
4. Baer, Ron: 414 Mandan Dr.; Waukesha, WI 53188
5. Mueller, Gary: 2241 N. 66 St.; Wauwatosa, WI 53213
6. Peachey, Robert: 605 Beckman St.; Waupun, WI 53983
7. Stark, William: 5722 N. 57 St.; Milwaukee, WI 53218
8. Luisier, Irvin: 764 S. Main St.; Saukville, WI 53080
9. Gersmehl, George H.: N1504 Hwy 28; Adell, WI 53001
10. Buss, Myron: 824 Linden Rd.; Kohler, WI 53044
11. Gregurich, Robert: 1816 Markham St.; Manitowoc, WI 54220
12. Anderson, Allen: P.O. Box 58; Plymouth, WI 53073
13. Gauger, Vernon: 31 Lake St.; Oshkosh, WI 54901
14. Rueger, Walter: 122 Stanton St.; Ripon, WI 54971
15. Bratz, Sandra: 2821 Hwy 2; Adams, WI 53910
16. Rose, Melvin: S6292 Hwy 154; Hillpoint, WI 53937
17. Hackbarth, Oscar: 934 Jerico Ln.; Sun Prairie, WI 53590
18. Weiss, Walter: 1929 Cleveland; Beloit, WI 53511
19. Radtke, Robert: 151 Forest Park Blvd.; Janesville, WI 53545
20. Buchrens, Robert: 3116-97th; Sturtevant, WI 53177
21. Hulke, Ron: 2026 22nd Ave.; Kenosha, WI 53140
22. Techtman, William: 600A Lisbon Rd.; Oconomowoc, WI 53066

23. Siedschlag, Virginia M.: 713 Territorial Rd.; Box 220; Clyman, WI 53016

C. Advisory Pastor

Barth, Karl L.; Elm Grove, WI

D. Advisory Teachers

Amling, Albert J. III; Milwaukee, WI
Bangert, David J.; Muskego, WI
Haas, Walter D.; Milwaukee, WI
Hackbarth, Richard O. E.; Mayville, WI
Henning, James C.; Oshkosh, WI
Sochowski, Mark; Milwaukee, WI

Southeastern District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Thress, Edwin: 787 Hemlock St.; Salisbury, MD 21801
2. Schwab, Guenter: 6754 Glenkirk; Glendale, Baltimore, MD 21239
3. Schnepf, Kenneth E.: 6209 McClean Blvd.; Baltimore, MD 21214
4. Walters, Thomas A.: 15 Proctor Ave.; Glen Burnie, MD 21061
5. Lee, R. Keith: 4213 Vermont; Baltimore, MD 21229
6. Foelber, J. Thomas: R.R. 1, Box 1155; Needmore, PA 17238
7. Birner, Edward: 13-N Ridge Rd.; Greenbelt, MD 20770
8. Gaines, Lloyd D.: 1308 Vermont Ave. NW; Washington, DC 20005
9. Luesch, Keith W.: 3397 Flint Hill Pl.; Woodbridge, VA 22192
10. Dom, Hilbert H.: 4608 Riderwood Way; Chestern, VA 23831
11. Abram, Mark: 1172 Franklin Turnpike; Danville, VA 24540
12. Outram, Daniel H.: 5309 Chatham Lake Dr.; Virginia Beach, VA 23464
13. Bingenheimer, Michael: 702 Lee Dr.; Havelock, NC 28532
14. Bachman, Karl D.: 813 Willowbar Tr.; High Point, NC 27262
15. Poole, John: 359 Cozart Ct.; Concord, NC 28025
16. Radlatz, Mark: P.O. Box 187, Main Street; Catawba, NC 28609
17. Rueter, Gary: 1090 20th Ave. Dr. NW; Hickory, NC 28601
18. Voges, Carl A.: 9508 Martindale Rd.; Columbia, SC 29223

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Anderson, Lloyd: 208 Waldo Dr.; Chestertown, MD 21620
2. Bitely, Rod: 2535 Windsor Rd.; Baltimore, MD 21234
3. Schroeder, Leo W.: 6512 Langdale Rd.; Baltimore, MD 21237
4. Hansen, Lewis P.: 300 S. Carolina Ave.; Pasadena, MD 21122
5. Asendorf, Stephen: 10005 Carrigan Dr.; Ellicott City, MD 21043
6. Krueke, Connie: 12709 Deep Spring Dr.; Potomac, MD 20854
7. Snyder-Nielsen, Carol Ann: 11320 Cherry Hill Rd., # 202; Beltsville, MD 20705
8. Callaway, William: 301 Pine Rd.; Fort Washington, MD 20744
9. Pousardien, Steve: 9688 Copeland Dr.; Manassas, VA 22110
10. Blanke, Robert: 4222 Croatan Rd.; Richmond, VA 23235
11. Kupke, Carol: R.R. 2, Box 16; Keswick, VA 22947
12. Hesse, Gerald: 1516 Baycliff Ln.; Virginia Beach, VA 23454
13. Mattox, Mickey: 2937 Chapel Hill Rd.; Durham, NC 27707
14. Roberts, Don: 631 Chester Rd.; Winston Salem, NC 27104
15. Kalnik, Eleanor: 3201 Wamath Dr.; Charlotte, NC 28210
16. Eckard, Brent: 313 W. 13th St.; Newton, NC 28658
17. Bumgarner, Lynne: R.R. 11, Box 178; Hickory, NC 28601
18. Prevallat, David: 114 Circle Slope Dr.; Simpsonville, SC 29681

C. Advisory Pastors

Denninger, John; Springfield, VA
Nieting, Mark; Hyattsville, MD

D. Advisory Teachers

Feldscher, James; York, PA
Schaefer, Carol B.; Millersville, MD

Southern District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Erl, James: 1625 Annette; New Orleans, LA 70116
2. Kruger, David F.: 816 Fairfax Dr.; Gretna, LA 70056
3. Young, Victor: 1916 Bullard Ave.; Metairie, LA 70003
4. Becker, Steven: P.O. Box 281; Clinton, LA 70722
5. Toocre, Wesley M.: 4175 Lakeshore Dr.; Shreveport, LA 71109
6. Scheyder, Paul: 1912 Linda Ave.; Sulphur, LA 70663
7. Kreienstein, Richard: Rt. 3, Box 478; Sakillo, MS 38866
8. Ansoore, Bernard H.: 2000 Joseph Circle; Hunsville, AL 35811
9. Kuehert, J. Mark: 1601 Forest Ridge Rd.; Birmingham, AL 35226
10. Rupp, Robert G.: 312 E. Winthrop Ave.; Warrington, FL 32507
11. Tews, Thomas A.: 6417 Stonemil Run; Mobile, AL 36695
12. Washington, Steven: 1832 Range Street; Selma, AL 36701
13. McCrillis, Walter C. II: 5124 North Dr.; Moss Point, MS 39563

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Winston, Erma; 7831 Sandpiper Dr.; New Orleans, LA 70128
2. Kiletko, John; 2821 Villa Dr.; Marrero, LA 70072
3. Ponsati, Tim; 3600 Houma Blvd., Apt. 623; Metairie, LA 70006
4. Cornelius, Walter; 3602 Joyce Dr.; Mandeville, LA 70448
5. Crise, Jerry; 440 Birchwood Dr.; Monroe, LA 71203
6. Green, David; Rt. 1, Box 94; Kaplan, LA 70548
7. Mundinger, Dr. Gerhard; 4 Autumn Woods Rd.; Madison, MS 39110
8. Hein, Elwood J.; 1844 Mobbs School Rd.; Arab, AL 35016
9. Hulberg, Bruce; 3445 Loch Ridge Rd.; Birmingham, AL 35216
10. Anderson, Richard; P.O. Box 6; Shalimar, FL 32579
11. Engel, Mylan; 6409 Brindlewood Ct.; Mobile, AL 36608
12. Lutz, Timothy; 1604 Landau Ct.; Dothan, AL 36301
13. Hermetz, Virginia; 14208 South Swan Rd.; Gulfport, MS 39503

C. Advisory Pastor

Lewis, David A.; Decatur, AL

D. Advisory Teacher

Buetow, Paul E.; Metairie, LA

Southern Illinois District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Norton, James E.; R.R. 1, Box 136; Nokomis, IL 62075
2. Nebel, Mark A.; 21 Circle Dr.; Cortage Hills, IL 62018
3. Laetsch, Leonard C.; 1022 Eighth St.; Highland, IL 62249
4. Jans, Gregory D.; 102 S. Railway; Mascoutah, IL 62258
5. Christiansen, Herman; P.O. Box 176; Hoyleton, IL 62803
6. Bramstedt, Paul W.; 603 W. Illinois St.; Steeleville, IL 62258
7. Mech, Timothy J.; 304 Winters Ave.; DuQuoin, IL 62832

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Fessur, Larry; R.R. 2, Box 147; Farmersville, IL 62533
2. Guebert, Ray; 606 Montana; Bethalto, IL 62010
3. Eter, Roger; 305 Emilie; Collinsville, IL 62234
4. Blunk, Kurt; 901 Indian Springs Rd.; O'Fallon, IL 62269
5. Meyer, George; R.R. 1, Box 92; Bluford, IL 62814
6. Kirby, Robert; R.R. 1, Box 65B; Marissa, IL 62257
7. Cramer, Lester; Rt. 2, Box 42; Murphysboro, IL 62966

C. Advisory Pastor

Bach, Joseph; Belleville, IL

D. Advisory Teachers

Pautler, Vera; Baldwin, IL
Ruhe, James; Bethalto, IL

Texas District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Hill, Art; 2231 Beech; Pampa, TX 79065
2. Mennenga, Francis W.; 3014 68th St.; Lubbock, TX 79413
3. Carr, Timothy J.; 705 Nancy Ann Avenue; Hamilton, TX 76531
4. Handrick, Tomas V.; P. O. Box 126; Wichita Falls, TX 76307
5. Manil, Michael J.; 1200 Cimmaron Trail; Sherman, TX 75090
6. Schamehorn, Philip J.; 1120 S.E. 25th St.; Mineral Wells, TX 76067
7. Schroeder, Francis; 1220 Brinker Street; Sulphur Springs, TX 75482
8. Rosenthal, Timothy S.; P. O. Box 1778; Athens, TX 75751
9. Chaffee, Michael G.; 5102 Foley Drive; Arlington, TX 76031
10. Olson, Jr., Donald L.; 6125 Bosque Blvd.; Waco, TX 76710
11. Struckmeyer, Alan D.; 820 Filly Lane; Temple, TX 76704
12. Ellwanger, John P.; 7406 Barcelona Dr.; Austin, TX 78752
13. Loeschman, Albert J.; 248 Lone Oak; Seguin, TX 78155
14. Erickson, Patrick Theron; 762 N. Getty; Uvalde, TX 78801
15. Schuster, William K.; 5101 Saratoga; Corpus Christi, TX 78413
16. Morfin, Steven; 1157 E. Monroe; Brownsville, TX 78520
17. Schwertlich, William L.; P. O. Box 14; Parisson, TX 77466
18. Franke, Gilbert A.; Rt. 2, Box 510; Brenham, TX 77833
19. Gray, Jr., Roosevelt; 9519 Arrowgrass Dr.; Houston, TX 77088
20. Dinger, Timothy J.; 3819 Purdue; Port Arthur, TX 77642
21. Sawhill, David; 1406 Peach; Pasadena, TX 77502
22. Smith, John D.; P. O. Box 34482; Houston, TX 77234
23. Peymann, Donald R.; 8601 Chimney Rock; Houston, TX 77096
24. Hildebrandt, Barry C.; P. O. Box 553; Magnolia, TX 77355
25. White, Laurence L.; 1008 Richelieu; Houston, TX 77018
26. Lofgren, Richard S.; 6601 Sherman; Houston, TX 77011

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Zeasin, Deane; 2839 Lawton; Amarillo, TX 79110
2. Fitting (III), Ralph U.; 704 Dellwood; Midland, TX 79703
3. Wagner, Robert; Rt. 2, Box 190 B; Brownwood, TX 76801
4. Phillips, John F.; 2517 So. 38th; Abilene, TX 79605
5. Whiteside, Wilson; 6541 Ivy Glen; Dallas, TX 75240
6. York, Ronald; 6816 Megan Lane; North Richland Hills, TX 76180
7. Wegley, Merrill A.; Rt. 1A, Box 132; Scroggins, TX 75480
8. Heil, George A.; Rt. 4, Box 215 (Walker Rd.); Kilgore, TX 75662
9. Miller, Donald E.; P. O. Box 340; De Soto, TX 75115
10. Drews, Kenneth; 1414 Northridge; Martin, TX 76661
11. Walther, Harold; 304 Canyon Wren; Buda, TX 78610
12. Lange, John; 5005 Shoal Creek Blvd.; Austin, TX 78756

13. McDowell, James; Rt. 4, Box 366V; Canyon Lake, TX 78133
14. Andres, Prentice; 2103 Morning Dove; San Antonio, TX 78232
15. Anderson, George; 601 N. Austin; Rockport, TX 78382
16. Buffo, John; 306 Rivers Ave.; P. O. Box 710; Raymondville, TX 78580
17. Bullard, Paul; 110 Deerfield; Sweeny, TX 77480
18. Voelter, Don; 2 Country Place West; Brenham, TX 77833
19. Siegall, Bobette (Mrs.); 5002 Glendower; Spring, TX 77373
20. Anderson, Edwin; 615 26th St.; Nederland, TX 77627
21. Koehl, Kenneth; 188 Castlegary; Houston, TX 77015
22. Rosenhagen, Ron; 902 Forest Lake; Seabrook, TX 77586
23. Wuensche, Fred; 10611 Har; Houston, TX 77099
24. Gray, David; 10522 Brenway; Houston, TX 77070
25. Krueger, Wesley; 5326 Hialeah; Houston, TX 77092
26. Stoerckel, Fred; 1138 Bethlehem; Houston, TX 77018

C. Advisory Pastors

Becker, E. George; Georgetown, TX
Roschke, Norbert F.; Nederland, TX

D. Advisory Teachers

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Christian, Don; Houston, TX
Frieling, Gary M.; Plano, TX
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Miesner, Timothy G.; Fort Worth, TX
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Wyoming District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Koessel, Francis O.; 615 South Locust; Kimball, NE 69145
2. Morris, Ralph C.; 1815 "R" Street; Gering, NE 69341
4. Berrum, Peter; P.O. Box 147; 357 Willow Crk Dr.; Wright, WY 82732
5. Johnson, Donald L.; 577 West Brodie; Lander, WY 82520
6. Brown, Barclay J.; 275 North Willow (Box 1016); Jackson, WY 83001
7. Schroeder, Mark; 2128 Rainbow; Laramie, WY 82070

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Wecker, Robert; 1722 Maple; Sidney, NE 69162
3. Rutter, Mark H.; Parkview Terrace; Chadron, NE 69337
4. Buck, Johnny; 1833 Zuni Drive; Sheridan, WY 82801
5. Brantz, Walter; 169 Sage Creek Rd; Cody, WY 82414
6. Boehlke, Vernon; 805 Antelope; Kemmerer, WY 83101
7. Wisroth, Robert; 4730 County Rd. 213; Burns, WY 82053

C. Advisory Pastor

Garwood, Ronald; Sheridan, WY

B. Synodical Representatives (Advisory)

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Gierke, Eugene, Nebraska
Guehns, Richard, Minnesota North
Hartwig, Raymond, South Dakota
Heins, John, Michigan
Hinz, Richard, Southeastern
Kalthoff, James, Missouri
Kapfer, Richard, Iowa District West
Kieschnick, Gerald, Texas
Kollmann, Alvin, Southern Illinois
Kramer, Loren, Pacific Southwest
Kuhn, Robert, Central Illinois
Laesch, Theodore, Northern Illinois
Lehenbauer, Osmar, New England
Lutz, Arleigh, North WisconsinMarcis, Albert, SELC
Mueller, Orval, Southern
Oberheu, Robert, Wyoming
Petersen, John, Rocky Mountain
Pittetko, Roger, English
Sandmann, Donald, New Jersey
Schmidt, Eugene, Kansas
Seitz, Lane, Minnesota South
Sims, Timothy, Indiana
Sincetbaugh, Norman, North Dakota
Suellow, Edwin, South Wisconsin
Tietjen, Walter, California-Nevada-Hawaii
Wollenburg, George, Montana
Zehnder, Thomas, Florida-Georgia

BOARDS OF REGENTS AND FACULTIES

Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, IN

Board of Regents

Roetman, Orvil

Faculty

MacKenzie, Cameron A.
Mueller, Norbert H.Concordia Seminary
St. Louis, MO

Board of Regents

Prevallat, Donald

Faculty

Hempelman, Dean
Johnson, John F.

Concordia College
Ann Arbor, MI

Board of Regents
Wilkening, Rolland

Faculty
Koerschgen, James
Schmaltz, Norman

Concordia Lutheran College
Austin, TX

Board of Regents
Bokenkamp, Donald

Faculty
Martens, Ray F.
Meissner, Laurence

Concordia College
Bronxville, NY

Board of Regents
Kane, Richard J.

Faculty
Buerger, Jane R.
Schultz, Ralph C.

St. Paul's High School
Concordia, MO

Board of Regents
Grefe, Vernon

Faculty
Helge, Erich E.
Laubenstein, Larry P.

Christ College Irvine
Irvine, CA

Board of Regents
Gooding, Elmer R.

Faculty
Halm, D. Ray
Mueller, Roland M.

Concordia University Wisconsin
Mequon, WI

Board of Regents
Schroeder, Rodney L.

Faculty
Buuck, R. John
Sohn, Lawrence

Concordia College
Portland, OR

Board of Regents
Dinger, Stephen P.

Faculty
Bremer, Nolan
Schlimpert, Charles

Concordia University
River Forest, IL

Board of Regents
Israel, Herbert W.

Faculty
Krentz, Eugene L.
Wente, Steven F.
Zimmer, R. Allan

Concordia College
St. Paul, MN

Board of Regents
Buck, Benjamin A.

Faculty
Holst, Robert
Kaden, Kenneth P.

Concordia College
Selma, AL

Board of Regents
Lewis, Cleveland

Faculty
Jenkins, Julius

Concordia College
Seward, NE

Board of Regents
Heibel, Daniel

Faculty
Kinworthy, John
Walz, Orville C.
Zwick, Richard

PROGRAM BOARDS

Board for Evangelism Services

Board
Kersten, Darwin L.

Staff
Muller, Lyle D.

Board for Higher Education Services

Board
Meyer, John
Ungrodt, Richard

Staff
Meyer, William

Board for Mission Services

Board
Zimmerman, Paul A.

Staff
O'Shooney, Glenn R.

Board for Parish Services

Board
Royak, Ronald J.

Staff
Boldt, H. James

Board for Youth Services

Board
Pless, John

Staff
Wilke, LeRoy R.

SUPPORT SERVICES BOARDS

Board for Communication Services

Board
Walter, Norman

Staff
Devantier, Paul

Board for Social Ministry Services

Board
Trapp, Edwin A., Jr.

Staff
Krenzke, Richard L.

COMMISSIONS

Commission on Adjudication

Caspersen, David A.

Commission on Appeals

Dissen, Walter C.

Commission on Black Ministry

Commission
Bodley, Simon

Staff
Clancy, Bryant E.

Commission on Constitutional Matters

Groh, James
Hopmann, Roland
Rotin, Walter
Schlecht, Richard
Schnetz, Gene

Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support

Commission
Zersen, David

Staff
Schmiel, David G.

Commission on Organizations

Commission
Hecht, Susan

Staff
Winker, Eldon K.

Commission on Structure

Schildwachter, John C.

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

Commission
Gruell, Eugene
Kolb, Robert
Michael, Gerhard, Jr.
Schmelder, William
Utter, Daniel

Staff
Joersz, Jerald C.
Nafziger, Samuel H.

Commission on Worship

Commission
Oue, William H.

Staff
Brauer, James L.

OTHER SYNODICAL ENTITIES

Concordia Historical Institute

Board
Sauer, Joyce

Staff
Suelflow, August R.

Concordia Publishing House

Board
Moeckler, Albert

Staff
Gerber, John W.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Board
Bode, James

Staff
Bryant, Vic
Haake, Arthur C.

LCMS Foundation

Board
Welk, Robert

Worker Benefit Plans

Board
Daniel, Richard J.

Staff
Haake, Earl E.

Accounting

Horensky, George

Convention Manager

Lange, Forrest

Human Resources

Staff
Mittendorf, Gary

Office of Information Systems

Criley, Ron

Internal Audit

Rhodes, Charles

Legal Counsel

Pranschke, Leonard

Planning and Research

O'Hara, John

Council on Stewardship**Council**

Schlake, Ray C.

StaffMaddox, Richard L.
Schmidt, David P.**OFFICIAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES****Atlantic District**Froehlich, Charles, Dix Hills, NY
Mau, Dwayne H., Flushing, NY**California-Nevada-Hawaii District**Iverson, Theodore A., San Francisco, CA
Koerschen, Joel H., San Francisco, CA**Central Illinois District**

Goldhammer, David, Petersburg, IL

Eastern DistrictBrese, James, Tonawanda, NY
Cochran, William, Depew, NY**English District**

Willmann, Victor D., Detroit, MI

Florida-Georgia DistrictMeyer, Judith E., Stuart, FL
Neubauer, Richard, Orlando, FL**Indiana District**Muhl, A. Herbert, Kokomo, IN
North, Paul, Tipton, IN**Iowa District East**Karsten, Alfred, Marengo, IA
Schmidt, Lawrence, Cedar Rapids, IA**Iowa District West**

Reinhardt, Larry L., Fort Dodge, IA

Kansas DistrictPatten, Howard J., Topeka, KS
Schmidt, Warren W., Colby, KS**Michigan District**Locke, George M., Ann Arbor, MI
Weber, John A., Mt. Clemens, MI**Mid-South District**Brondos, Andrew D., Cordova, TN
Pinkerton, Irma, Hixson, TN**Minnesota North District**Brill, Paul, Brainerd, MN
Strohschein, David P., St. Cloud, MN**Minnesota South District**

Miller, Jeffrey J., Buffalo, MN

Missouri DistrictArkebauer, Herbert, Springfield, MO
Jaider, Louis, St. Louis, MO**Montana District**

Blunck, Paul H., Missoula, MT

Nebraska DistrictSandfort, Neil, Seward, NE
Wassman, Darwin, Ogallala, NE**New England District**

Buchmann, Rolf, South Windsor, CT

North Dakota District

Sharpe, William, Fargo, ND

North Wisconsin DistrictLueck, Dwayne, Wausau, WI
Schultz, Joseph, Fall Creek, WI**Northern Illinois District**Johnson, Janet M., Lisle, IL
Young, Kenneth R., Oak Park, IL**Northwest District**Linnemann, Arthur, Portland, OR
Mietzner, Leonard, Rupert, ID**Ohio District**Bergen, Ronald L., Kent, OH
Gahl, Richard W., Olmsted Falls, OH**Oklahoma District**Hartmann, Paul A., Moore, OK
Lippert, Robert L., Oklahoma City, OK**Pacific Southwest District**

Dammann, Dean, Irvine, CA

Rocky Mountain DistrictRenzelman, Delwyn, Broomfield, CO
Wert, Robert K., Littleton, CO**South Dakota District**

Kootsman, Howard E., Sioux Falls, SD

South Wisconsin DistrictBye, Thomas, Oshkosh, WI
Schubert, Jeffery S., Milwaukee, WI**Southeastern District**

Wagner, Preston E., Alexandria, VA

Southern District

Marshall, Ulmer, Mobile, AL

Southern Illinois DistrictKastens, Dennis A., Collinsville, IL
Roth, Daniel C., Belleville, IL**Texas District**Clasen, Norman L., Dallas, TX
Schlake, Ray C., Austin, TX**Wyoming District**

Garwood, Ronald, Sheridan, WY

CHAPLAINS/OVERSEAS MISSIONARIESArp, Margie
Arp, Woodrow
Brodbeck, Martin
Brones, Dana
Eggert, John
Guetersloh, Ralph
Muchow, Donald K.
Rasmussen, John A.
Selle, Robert**C. Special Representatives****YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES****English District**

Kuchner, Cynthia

Florida-Georgia DistrictGlenke, Tiffany L.
Weidler, Jonathan**Indiana District**Brauer, Andrea
Smith, Jenny**Iowa District West**

Kneedler, Rachel

Michigan District

Sarr, Renee

Minnesota North District

Brill, Andrew

Missouri DistrictHolste, Joy
Oeming, Grant**New England District**

Emmonds, Heather

Northwest District

Gehrke, Amy

Ohio District

Kucirka, Jennifer

Oklahoma DistrictEggers, Denise
Weible, Amy**Pacific Southwest District**

Henkell, Jim

SELC DistrictCahill, Kary
Schiffrik, Jessica**Southeastern District**DeMik, Peter
Mitchell, Johnson**Southern Illinois District**

Meyer, Elizabeth K.

Texas DistrictMartin, Sarah
McMillan, Jon**COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS**Arkebauer, Herbert
Gierke, Charles
Olsen, Melvin M.
Wilkening, Harvey

TABULAR SURVEY

Synodical District	Delegates Present							Delegates Absent						
	Voting			Advisory				Voting		Advisory				
	P A S T O R S	L A Y M E N	T O A L	P B R R E D S D I R	P A S T O R S	T E A C H E R S	T O A L	P A S T O R S	L A Y M E N	P A S T O R S	T E A C H E R S	O T H E R S	T O A L	
Atlantic	12	12	24	3	1	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	
California-Nevada-Hawaii	18	18	36	2	1	3	6	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Eastern	17	17	34	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	
English	19	19	38	3	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Florida-Georgia	17	17	34	3	2	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Illinois, Central	15	15	30	2	1	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Illinois, Northern	26	26	52	3	2	9	14	0	0	0	2	0	2	
Illinois, Southern	7	7	14	3	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Indiana	22	22	44	3	2	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Iowa East	12	12	24	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Iowa West	21	21	42	2	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Kansas	16	16	32	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Michigan	41	41	82	3	1	14	18	0	0	1	1	0	2	
Mid-South	9	9	18	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Minnesota North	18	18	36	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Minnesota South	26	26	52	2	2	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Missouri	29	29	58	3	4	9	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Montana	6	6	12	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Nebraska	22	22	44	3	1	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	
New England	9	9	18	2	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
New Jersey	7	7	14	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	
North Dakota	9	9	18	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Northwest	23	23	46	3	2	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ohio	15	15	30	3	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Oklahoma	7	6	13	3	1	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	1	
Pacific Southwest	28	28	56	2	3	8	13	0	0	0	2	0	2	
Rocky Mountain	14	14	28	3	1	2	6	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	2	1	2	5	1	0	1	0	0	1	
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	0	0	0	
Wisconsin, North	20	20	40	3	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Wisconsin, South	23	23	46	2	1	6	9	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Wyoming	6	6	12	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Boards and Commissions							69					3	3	
General Officials							9					0	0	
Boards of Regents							12					1	1	
Faculty Members							26					2	2	
Overseas Missionaries & Military Chaplains							9					0	0	
Totals	583	583	1166	87	45	105	361	1	1	3	6	8	17	
Ad Hoc Committees							4							
District Youth Representatives							23							

Comparative Figures

	1971	1973	1975	1977	1979	1981	1983	1986	1989	1992
Voting Delegates Present	1,020	1,075	1,118	1,123	1,116	1,127	1,128	1,155	1,139	1,166
Advisory Delegates Present	546	500	492	496	516	495	360	372	363	361
Total Delegates Present	1,566	1,575	1,610	1,619	1,632	1,622	1,488	1,527	1,502	1,527

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
KB—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—SEL
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

Laesch, Theodore L. (NI)

District Presidents

Bauer, Erhart L. (NOW)
Sims, Timothy E. (IN)
Suellflow, Edwin S. (SW)

Pastors

Christiansen, Joel T. (OK)
Erickson, Patrick (TX)
Fejen, John (NW)
Johnstone, Douglas V. (PSW)
Reagan, William M. (FG)
Wegener, Thomas C. (IE)

Laypersons

Bajus, Mrs. Anna (S)
Buck, Johnny (WY)
Hoagland, Harry (CI)
Jordan, Stanley (MO)
Keefe, Jeff (EA)
Keers, Jack (MNS)
Rathe, Ron (NEB)
Umbach, Richard (NI)

Commissioned Ministers

Laaba, Jonathan C. (MC)

Advisory Persons

Synodical Officer Eugene Bunkowski
Board of Directors Robert Hirsch, Gilbert LaHaine
Staff Resources Glenn O'Shoney, Lyle Muller, Bryant
Clancy, Paul Devantier
Chief Staff Person Glenn O'Shoney

Committee 2 CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES

Chairman

Lutz, Arleigh L. (NW)

District Presidents

Guehna, Richard L. (MNN)
Kuhn, Robert T. (CI)
Wollenburg, George F. (MT)

Pastors

Bramstedt, Terrill F. (SD)
Davis, Clark (SW)
Lemmermann, Walter (NEB)
Maier, David P.E. (MC)
Meier, Peter A. (MNS)
Quiram, Daniel H. (SE)
Schwertlich, William (TX)

Laypersons

Brauer, Ralph (NI)
Herbert, Paul C. (EN)
Horn, Ma. Jane (MNS)
Totzke, Ma. Joyce (MC)
Trout, Edgar (IE)

Commissioned Ministers

Elaner, James L. (NI)
Kantel, Ma. Barbara (IN)
Pool, Jeffrey (OH)

Advisory Persons

Synodical Officer Robert King
Board of Directors Cliff Dietrich, Richard Thompson
Staff Resources H. James Boldt, James Brauer, John
Gerber, August Suellflow, Jean Garton
District President Lane Seitz (MNS)
Chief Staff Person H. James Boldt

Committee 3 THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS

Chairman

Marcis, Albert M. (S)

District Presidents

Kalthoff, James W. (MO)
Kieschnick, Gerald B. (TX)
Mueller, Orval D. (SO)

Pastors

Albrecht, Ardon (PSW)
Collins, Robert H. (NI)
Hemenway, William (NOW)
Schneekloth, Larry (EN)
Weber, Paul A. (OH)

Laypersons

Blanke, Robert (SE)
Jacobsen, Gary (MC)
Kohls, Don (KS)
Luening, Martin (PSW)
Paulson, Leonard (MNN)
Schouten, Don (IW)

Commissioned Ministers

Linnemann, Arthur (NOW)
Sharpe, William (ND)

Advisory Persons

Synodical Officer August Mennicke
Staff Resources Samuel Nafziger, Jerry Joersz, Joel
Lehenbauer, Eldon Winkler
District President Donald Sandmann (NJ)
Chief Staff Person Samuel Nafziger

Committee 4 PROGRAM AND FINANCE

Chairman

Buegler, David D. (OH)

District Presidents

Hartwig, Raymond L. (SD)
Schmidt, Eugene E. (KS)
Tietjen, Walter C. (CNH)

Pastors

Bacon, Paul (EN)
Brandt, Charles (SW)
Buchhop, Mark (IW)
Ellwein, Maurice D. (MNS)
Garwood, Ronald (WY)
Gerike, Ernest (CI)
Krueger, Carl (S)
Misterek, Wallace (NOW)
Niernmann, Thomas (NI)
Pasvola, Daniel (NW)
Reehl, John (NEB)
Rothchild, Dean (ND)
Skov, Richard (NE)

Laypersons

Asendorf, Steve (SE)
Austin, Sam F. (OK)
Cornelius, Walter (SO)
Cramer, Lester (SI)
Cromeana, John (IN)
Guebert, Alex (MO)
Holzheimer, Robert (MNN)
Lavrenz, Raymond (IE)
Meyer, Roger (PSW)
Neubauer, Richard (FG)
Ninnemann, Karl (NJ)
Rosenhagen, Ron (TX)
Schenone, Leo (AT)
Siebels, Marvin (MDS)
Stretton, Cliff (RM)
Weber, John A. (MC)
Yocum, Ralph (MT)

Commissioned Ministers Ebke, Harold (EA)

Advisory Persons

Synodical Officer Norman Sell
Board of Directors Lester Schultz, John Daniel
Staff Resources John Schuelke, Arthur Haake, Nor-
man Sell, David Schmidt, Richard Maddox, (Lyle
Muller)
Chief Staff Person John Schuelke

Committee 5 STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

Chairman

Kramer, Loren T. (PSW)

District Presidents

Belasic, David S. (EA)
Benke, David H. (AT)
Heina, John L. (MC)

Pastors

Brondos, Andrew D. (MDS)
Laetsch, Leonard C. (SI)
Liefeld, David (EN)
Matasovsky, Daniel V. (MNS)
Meyer, Laurence (NOW)
Rogers, James C. (MO)
Trout, Edward W. (KS)

Laypersons

Burrus, William (FG)
Gehrt, Robert L. (NW)
Konda, Ma. Rita (CNH)
Lichner, Ma. Sandra (NI)
Schaefer, Harvey (RM)

Commissioned Ministers

Bade, William (NEB)
Clasen, Norman (TX)

Advisory Persons

Synodical Officer Walter Rosin
Board of Directors Henry Koepchen, Florence Montz
Staff Resources John Schuelke, Walter Rosin
Chief Staff Person Walter Rosin

Committee 6 HIGHER EDUCATION

Chairman

Pittelko, Roger D. (EN)

District Presidents

Hinz, Richard T. (SE)
Lehenbauer, Osmar O. (NE)
Oberheu, Robert C. (WY)

Pastors

Becker, E. George (TX)
Ralph, Edward M. (FG)
Reetz, Peter (OH)
Steinbronn, Anthony (IN)
Stennfeld, Fred (CNH)
Zimmermann, Timothy (IW)

Laypersons

Dieckhoff, E. Paul (MO)
Geidel, Herbert (SD)
Israel, Herbert W. (EA)
Meinke, Darrel (MNN)
Mundinger, Gerhardt (SO)
Schnell, Ronald (MC)

Commissioned Ministers

Haas, Walter D. (SW)
Krueger, William (CI)
Olson, Ma. Brenda (NI)

Advisory Persons

Synodical Officer Walter A. Maier
Board of Directors Donald Snyder, Donald Brosz
Staff Resources William Meyer, David Schmiel, College
 and Seminary Presidents
Chief Staff Person William Meyer

**Committee 7
HUMAN CARE**

Chairman

Petersen, John M. (RM)

District Presidents

Barry, Alvin L. (IE)
 Gierke, Eugene V. (NEB)
 Zehnder, Thomas R. (FG)

Pastors

Albers, Steven (MO)
 Kruger, David F. (SO)
 Neumann, Mark G. (NW)
 Shoemaker, David (CNH)
 Wilber, James (MC)
 Wippich, DeLloyd D. (MNS)

Laypersons

Andres, Prentice (TX)
 Kalnik, Ms. Eleanor (SE)
 Kraayenbrink, Timothy (IW)
 McQuerry, Mrs. Charleen (MC)
 Sink, Ms. Ann (OH)
 Turner, Ms. Jane (KS)

Commissioned Minister

Latske, Laura (NI)

Advisory Persons

Synodical Officer Robert Sauer
Board of Directors Harold Olsen
Staff Resources Richard Krenzke, Earl Haake, Bruce
 Hartung, (August Mennicke)
District President Callies, David (MDS)
Chief Staff Person Richard Krenzke

Committee 8**PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION****Chairman**

Kapfer, Richard G. (IW)

District Presidents

Diekelman, William R. (OK)
 Kollmann, Alvin V. (SI)
 Sincebaugh, Norman C. (ND)

Pastors

Bouman, James (NI)
 Flammann, William (EA)
 Haupt, Kenneth (NJ)
 Kreger, Walter (MC)
 Schudde, Arthur (CI)
 Smith, Gregory (MO)

Laypersons

Buffo, John (TX)
 Hanson, Donald L. (NW)
 Meyer, Ms. Judith E. (FG)
 Rammelsberg, Marvin (PSW)
 Roberts, Dan (SE)
 Schilling, David A. (NOW)

Commissioned Ministers

Albers, Wayne (NE)
 Fehrl, Stephen G. (MNS)

Advisory Persons

Synodical Officer Walter Rosin
Board of Directors Arnold Kuntz, Victor Marxhausen
Staff Resources Walter Rosin, John Schuelke, Norman
 Sell
Chief Staff Person Walter Rosin (William Schmelder)

Committee 10**CREDENTIALS, REGISTRATION, AND ELECTIONS****Chairman**

Sandmann, Donald W. (NJ)

District Presidents

Callies, David W. (MDS)
 Seitz, Lane R. (MNS)

Pastors

Dubberke, Edwin (MO)
 Eggold, Tom (IN)
 Gehrke, Robert J. (MNN)
 Lampe, Ken M. (IW)
 Schuelein, Virgil L. (RM)

Laypersons

Atkinson, Miss Patty (MC)
 Buss, Myron (SW)
 Hartman, Ms. JoAnn (CNH)
 Von Seggern, Burnell (NEB)
 Wuenache, Fred (TX)

Commissioned Minister

Braaten, Ms. Rebecca (MT)

Advisory Persons

Chief Staff Person Forrest Lange (Robert Daugherty)

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

(Note: Floor Committee Meetings Were Held July 9-10)

FRIDAY, JULY 10

- 9:00 Open Hearings
- 3:00 Orientation
- 4:00 Orientation (Repeat)
- 7:30 Opening Service with Communion, President Ralph A. Bohlmann, Preacher

SATURDAY, JULY 11

- 8:30 Devotions—Dr. Wilbert Sohns, Convention Chaplain
- 8:45 LifeLight Bible Study—Dr. Earl Gaulke, Dr. Erwin Kolb
- 9:15 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (10)
- 9:30 Convention Opening
- 9:35 Welcome and Response, Dr. David Belasic, Eastern District President; Dr. Henry Koepchen, Chairman, Board of Directors
- Dr. J. A. O. Preus, Former LCMS President, Video Greeting
- 10:00 Convention Schedule
- 10:10 President's Report, 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
- 1:15 Devotions
- 1:20 Greetings—Bishop Pavel Uhorskai, Slovakia
- 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 Other Vice-Presidents
- 3:40 Witness and Outreach (1)
- 4:20 Congregational Ministries (2)
- 5:00 Devotions
- 5:20 Recess
- 7:00 Special Social Event

SUNDAY, JULY 12

- 9:30 Mission Celebration and Worship
- 11:30 Recess
- 1:15 Devotions
- 1:25 Minutes
- 1:30 Witness and Outreach (1)
- 2:00 Balloting for Other Vice-Presidents (10)
- 2:40 Nominations Committee (9)
- 3:35 Program and Finance (4)
- 4:15 Human Care (7)
- 5:00 Greetings—Dr. Edwin Lehman, President, Lutheran Church—Canada, and representing the International Lutheran Conference
- 5:15 Devotions
- 5:30 Recess
- 7:00 Theology and Church Relations (3)
- 8:00 Planning and Administration (8)
- 9:00 Devotions

MONDAY, JULY 13

- 8:30 Devotions
- 8:45 LifeLight Bible Study—Dr. Arnold Kuntz
- LifeLight Presentation to Reverend Timothy Huber and St. Peter Lutheran congregation, Lodi, Calif.
- 9:30 Greetings—Mrs. Ida Mall, President, International Lutheran Women's Missionary League
- 9:40 John of Beverly Award
- 9:45 Structure and Organization (5)
- 10:15 Planning and Administration (8)
- 11:00 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (10)
- 11:55 Noonday Prayers
- 12:00 Recess
- 1:15 Devotions
- 1:25 Minutes
- 1:30 Higher Education (6)
- 2:00 Greetings—Mr. Roy Schmidt, President, International Lutheran Laymen's League
- 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
- Alumni Gatherings

TUESDAY, JULY 14

- 8:30 Devotions
- 8:45 LifeLight Bible Study
- 9:30 Elections
- 10:15 Congregational Ministries (2); Christus Magister Award
- 11:00 Program and Finance (4)
- 11:45 Address of the President-Elect
- 12:00 Noonday Prayers
- 12:05 Recess
- 1:15 Devotions
- 1:25 Minutes
- 1:30 Planning and Administration (8)
- 2:15 Program and Finance (4)
- 2:45 Greetings—Dr. Herbert Chilstrom, Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- 3:00 Higher Education (6)
- 4:15 Human Care (7)
- 5:15 Devotions
- 5:20 Recess
- 7:00 Eastern District Special Event

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

- 8:30 Devotions
- 8:45 LifeLight Bible Study
- 9:30 Witness and Outreach (1); Martin of Tours Medal
- 9:40 Special Committee
- 11:00 Theology and Church Relations (3)
- 11:30 Congregational Ministries (2)
- 12:00 Noonday Prayers
- 12:05 Recess
- 1:15 Devotions
- 1:30 Minutes
- 1:35 Higher Education (6)
- 2:15 Witness and Outreach (1)

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

2:45 Program and Finance (4)
 3:30 Structure and Organization (5)
 4:30 Theology and Church Relations (3)
 5:15 Devotions
 5:30 Recess
 President's Reception

THURSDAY, JULY 16

8:30 Devotions
 8:45 LifeLight Bible Study
 9:30 Witness and Outreach (1); Mission presentation via satellite—Henry Rowold, Hong Kong
 9:50 Greetings—Laymen's National Bible Association presentation to LWML—Mrs. Betty Duda
 9:55 Higher Education (6)
 10:45 Planning and Administration (8)
 11:15 Theology and Church Relations (3)
 12:00 Noonday Prayers
 12:05 Recess
 1:15 Devotions
 1:25 Minutes
 1:30 Congregational Ministries (2); Ephphatha Award

2:00 Structure and Organization (5)
 3:00 Human Care (7)
 3:45 Program and Finance (4)
 4:15 Structure and Organization (5)
 5:00 Devotions
 5:05 Recess
 7:00 Evening Session

FRIDAY, JULY 17

8:30 Devotions
 8:45 LifeLight Bible Study
 9:30 President's Address
 10:00 Theology and Church Relations (3)
 11:00 Higher Education (6)
 12:00 Noonday Prayers
 12:05 Recess
 1:15 Installation of Officers
 1:45 Minutes
 1:50 Unfinished Business
 3:30 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (10)
 3:45 Closing Devotions
 4:00 Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE CONVENTION

Opening Worship

The opening worship service for the 58th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was held on July 10, 1992, in the David Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, Pa. The Rev. Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann, president of the Synod, was the preacher, with Rev. Barry J. Keurulainen, pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church, serving as the presiding minister.

Delivering a message based on Acts 4:29 to a full convention hall, Dr. Bohlmann emphasized the blessings of the Spirit which evoked faith and courage within the early church. President Bohlmann spoke of the opportunities awaiting our response as congregations and individuals, and he encouraged us to be about our Father's business that we might, *with great boldness, tell everyone what HE has done.*

Session 1

July 11, Morning

Opening Devotions

The opening devotions were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Wil Sohns, chaplain to the convention.

LifeLight™ Bible Study

Dr. Earl Gaulke introduced LifeLight Bible Study to the delegates and the visitors to the convention.

Committee 10: Credentials, Registration, and Elections

The Rev. Dr. Donald Sandmann, president of the New Jersey District and chairman of the Committee on Credentials, Registration, and Elections, reported on the number of voting delegates registered to this point in the convention. As of 9 a.m., July 10, there were 576 voting

pastors and 570 voting laypersons registered. The total number of voting delegates present was 1,146, constituting a quorum. Registered pastoral advisory delegates, 52; teacher delegates, 98; representatives from the Synod's boards, commissions, and faculties, 204; youth representatives, 24; others, 28. The total registrations: 1,552.

Dr. Sandmann also reminded the delegates that the convention will utilize the electronic voting system throughout the convention. 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 with thanks, President Bohlmann declared the 58th convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod open in the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. David Belasic, president of the Eastern District, warmly welcomed the delegates. He shared a welcome from the mayor of the city of Pittsburgh, who has declared July 10, 1992, to be Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Day. He expressed appreciation for all the volunteers for the convention from the greater Pittsburgh area. Dr. Belasic closed with a plea for harmony.

A response to the welcome was given by the Rev. Dr. Henry Koepchen, chairman of the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Dr. Koepchen prayed for the joy and peace of Christ for every participant at the convention.

Greetings and Introductions

President Bohlmann indicated that special greetings have been extended to the convention by our partner churches throughout the world. The only living past president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Rev. Dr. Jacob A. O. Preus, was unable to be present at the convention, but he addressed the delegates through a video.

Dr. Bohlmann introduced the officers of the Synod: the Rev. Drs. August Mennicke, First Vice-President; Robert King, Second Vice-President; Robert Sauer, Third Vice-



Assistant Convention Secretary D. Ray Halm

President; Eugene Bunkowske, Fourth Vice-President; Walter A. Maier, Fifth Vice-President; Walter Rosin, Secretary of the Synod; Dr. Norman Sell, Treasurer of the Synod; Mrs. Angela Haines, Parliamentarian; Prof. William Schmelder, special assistant to the President; Jean Buettner, assistant to the President; the members of the Board of Directors; and the members of the Council of Presidents.

Housekeeping

Dr. Bohlmann introduced Mr. Forrest (Woody) Lange, the manager of the convention. Woody can be reached at 565-4752 during the convention.

Orders of the Day

A delegate moved that the orders of the day be changed so that the President's Report, Part III, would be reordered to a later time in the morning, following the election of the President of the Synod. A two-thirds vote is required to change the orders of the day. A standing vote was taken. The motion failed.

President's Report, Part III

Prior to bringing the third part of his report to the delegates, President Bohlmann shared a video presentation with the convention. The video stressed the challenges confronting our beloved church.

Dr. Bohlmann focused the attention of the convention on Parts I and II of the President's Report. He noted that the report describes what our church at large is doing. All delegates to the convention were encouraged to review the full report.

President Bohlmann pointed to the extraordinary responsibilities that rest with the office of the President of the Synod. These same responsibilities were first defined many, many decades ago. Dr. Bohlmann stressed that the ultimate authority is, always has been, and always shall be the Word of God.

Dr. Bohlmann highlighted the *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties*, the opportunities in Eastern Europe, and the goals of the triennium.

President Bohlmann underscored the desire we all share for peace in the church, and he noted that there is but one way to such peace and that is through the Prince of peace, Christ Jesus.

The President then brought the delegates back to a sharper focus upon the mission blueprint. He stressed the compelling needs described therein. He spoke of the growing number of countries that have closed their doors to the proclamation of the Gospel. The Mission Task Force has set some 15 goals before the Synod with the blueprint. Our attention as congregations, Circuits, Districts and as a Synod must be upon the Pacific Rim, the new opportunities of Eastern Europe, and upon the myriad immigrants making their way daily to our own country.

Dr. Bohlmann also spoke of the continuing desire of the Synod to maintain doctrinal purity. He praised the marvelous parochial school system of our parishes. He noted that the aggregate membership of our congregations rose ever so slightly this past year. Finally, Dr. Bohlmann re-

peated his encouragement that we, *with great boldness, tell everyone what HE has done.*

Electronic Response System

Dr. Donald Sandmann introduced the delegates of the convention to their electronic voting pads. Delegates were reminded of the importance of being present for each vote, and he noted that only delegates wearing a red badge are permitted to vote. Dr. Sandmann pointed out that only the voting-system technician will have access to the vote tally by individual pad during the convention for purposes of making sure that each pad is operating correctly. As soon as the convention is adjourned, these results will be destroyed. A short form containing only the cumulative results on each vote will be kept for posterity.

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* (1A). The standing rules were accepted with the following changes: By common consent of the assembly, part 13 was changed to read "... governed by *Roberts Rules of Order*, Scott, Foresman & Co., 1990 edition."

A motion to amend Standing Rule 7 was presented. The amendment would permit the maker of a substitute motion, following a second to the motion, to state the rationale for the substitute motion. The speaker would be limited to two minutes. The motion passed.

A motion to delete Standing Rule 8 was offered. The Parliamentarian explained the meaning of Question of Privilege. The motion failed.

An amendment to the Standing Rules (6) was proposed which would permit delegate review of a printout of the results of the votes from a given session of the convention during the next recess. The motion failed.

The Standing Rules as amended were adopted by the convention by a 90.7% margin.

Noonday Prayers

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Chaplain of the convention.

Session 2

July 11, 1992, Afternoon

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Dr. Wil Sohns, chaplain to the convention.

Special Greetings

Special greetings were extended to the convention by Bishop Pavel Uhorskai of the Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession of Slovakia. His words were translated for the delegates by the Secretary General of the church.

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: Alvin Barry, Ralph Bohlmann, Robert Kuhn, Eugene Bunkowske, and Robert Sauer. 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 of the Synod with the following results:

Alvin Barry	534
Ralph Bohlmann	481
Eugene Bunkowske	99
Robert Kuhn	9
Robert Sauer	27

The results of the second ballot:

Alvin Barry	544
Ralph Bohlmann	524
Eugene Bunkowske	70
Robert Sauer	16

The results of the third ballot:

Alvin Barry	561
Ralph Bohlmann	542
Eugene Bunkowske	51

The results of the fourth ballot:

Alvin Barry	580
Ralph Bohlmann	568

Dr. Alvin Barry was declared elected as president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. President-elect Barry presented a brief message to the convention.

Committee 10: Credentials, Registration, and Elections

The chairman of the committee reported that as of 1 p.m., July 10, there were registered 579 pastors and 579 laypersons, totaling 1,158.

Resolutions A and B

A motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution A.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution by deleting Overtures 1-39A, 1-39B, 5-50, 5-51, 5-52, 5-53, and 5-55. The motion to amend was carried.

A motion to amend the resolution by deleting Overture 3-09 was made and seconded. The amendment carried.

A motion to amend by deleting Overture 3-22 was made and seconded. The amendment failed.

A motion to amend by deleting Overtures 2-15, 3-55, 6-39, and 8-11 was made and seconded.

A motion to close debate on this amendment and on the main motion was made and seconded. The call for the questions carried.

The amendment failed.

The motion to adopt Resolution A as amended carried.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution B.

A motion was made and seconded to delete Res. 7-26.

Motion was made to close debate and was carried.

The motion to amend failed.

A motion was made and seconded to delete 3-53, 3-54, 3-56A, 3-57, 3-58, and 3-59.

Motion was made to close debate on the amendment and on the main motion. The call for the questions carried.

The amendment failed.

The motion to adopt Resolution B carried.

Adoption of the Slate for First Vice-President

The slate for the office of First Vice-President was presented to the floor. A call for additional nominations was made, and the name of the Rev. Dr. Robert King was added. The slate was ratified as amended. The first ballot yielded the following results:

Eugene Bunkowske	165
Robert King	215
Robert Kuhn	365
Walter Maier	34
August Mennicke	310
Robert Sauer	60

The results of the second ballot:

Eugene Bunkowske	134
Robert King	209
Robert Kuhn	412
August Mennicke	357
Robert Sauer	38

The results of the third ballot:

Eugene Bunkowske	109
Robert King	181
Robert Kuhn	449
August Mennicke	407

The results of the fourth ballot:

Robert King	162
Robert Kuhn	499
August Mennicke	488

The results of the fifth ballot:

Robert Kuhn	571
August Mennicke	579

Dr. August Mennicke was declared elected.

Committee 5: Structure and Organization

The Rev. Dr. Loren T. Kramer introduced the business of Committee 5. Res. 5-01A was placed before the convention. The resolution sets forth a new process for the resolution of conflict within the church. Floor debate followed. The debate on the resolution was interrupted for the election of the four remaining vice-presidential offices.

Committee 10: Credentials, Registration, and Elections

Dr. Sandmann gave instructions to the assembly on the process used for the nomination of those who will serve during the next triennium as Vice-Presidents of the Synod. The results of the balloting will be announced during session 3 of the convention.

Committee 5: Structure and Organization

Debate was continued on Res. 5-01A. After several minutes and due to the orders of the day, debate was interrupted. Speakers were encouraged to return to the microphones the next time Committee 5 returns to the podium.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Chaplain of the convention.

Session 3

July 12, Afternoon

Sunday Worship

The Sunday morning mission worship targeted the United States as one of the foremost mission fields of the world. Six speakers, representing six ethnic groups from the U.S., led the assembled congregation into God's Word to consider the Spirit's will for our day. "Nations will come to your light," Isaiah writes. We must let that precious light, which has been shed upon us, shine in us and through us.

Revs. Glenn O'Shoney, August Mennicke, Robert Scuderi, and Victor Belton conducted the service of Bible study and song. The choir was conducted by Dr. Ralph Schultz, who also composed the anthem, "Tell Everyone What HE Has Done." Inspiring testimonials were shared by Jotham Johann, Bonnie Banks, Marcelene Sparks, Dolly Millender, and Steve Cohen.

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Dr. Wil Sohns, chaplain to the convention.

Committee 10: Credentials, Registration, and Elections

Dr. Sandmann reported that as of this hour 580 voting pastors are registered and 579 voting laypersons, for a total of 1,159. The advisory registrations are 57 pastors; 104 teachers; 212 from boards, commissions, and faculties; 24 youth, and 31 others, for a total convention registration of 1,587.

Committee 1: Witness and Outreach

The Rev. Dr. Theodore Laesch, chairman of the committee, introduced the business of the committee. Rev. Walter Schoedel, who will chair the committees engaged in planning The Great Commission Convocation for 1993, presented the dreams for the gathering. A video was also shown.

The committee introduced Res. 1-13, which calls for synodwide support of The Great Commission Convocation. The motion carried with a vote of 93.6 percent.

The committee introduced Res. 1-01, which calls for adoption of the Mission Task Force Report, *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties*. The resolution also calls for honoring the suggested schedule for progress reports contained with the blueprint.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the motion by deleting lines 2-4 and lines 10-11, (TB, vol. 1A, p. 30). Furthermore, the words *study the full report* are to be inserted into line 6 in place of the word *use*.

A motion was made to call the question on the amendment and on the main motion. The motion to end debate carried.

The amendment failed.

The main motion, Res. 1-01 unamended, carried by a vote of 80.2 percent.

Minutes

The minutes for the opening worship and for sessions 1-2 were presented to the convention and were adopted by common consent.

Committee 9: Nominations

Following an announcement regarding the list of all nominees for the myriad positions to be filled by election at this convention, Res. 9-01, page 309 of the *Convention Workbook*, was placed before the convention. The resolution calls for majority approval of each individual whose name had not previously been forwarded to the Committee for Convention Nominations prior to the date established for forwarding names for committee consideration for the slate of nominees.

The question was called and was sustained.

The motion carried by a vote of 72.5 percent.

The committee then called for additional nominations from the floor.

Robert King was added to the slate for the Board of Directors of Synod.

Steven Wiggins was added to the slate for the Board for Mission Services.

Steven Washington was added to the slate for the Board for Parish Services.

Juan Gonzalez was added to the slate for the Board for Concordia Publishing House.

Dixie Rochester was added to the slate for the Board for Concordia Publishing House.

Raymond Fricke was added to the slate for the Board of Regents for Concordia, Austin.

Janis McDaniels was added to the slate for the Board of Regents for Concordia, Bronxville.

Rozell Gilmore was added to the slate for the Board of Regents for Concordia, Portland.

Frazier Odem was added to the slate for the Board of Regents for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Dorothy Davis was added to the slate for the Board of Regents for Concordia, Seward.

Dolly Millender was added to the slate for the Board for Higher Education Services.

E. G. Manteufel was added to the slate for the Board for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

The Chair was challenged in his ruling that certain names not be removed from the nominations. The Chair was sustained.

Motion was made and seconded to close nomination. The motion carried without dissent.

Committee 4: Program and Finance

Rev. David Buegler, chairman of the committee, introduced the business of the committee, beginning with Res. 4-01, which establishes budget parameters for the coming years.

A motion was made and seconded to substitute Overture 4-07, page 221 of the *Convention Workbook*, for Committee 4's resolution (4-01). The motion to substitute failed, carrying 37.1 percent of the vote.

The question was called and was sustained to end debate on the motion.

Res. 4-01 was carried by a vote of 88.1 percent.

Res. 4-05 was moved by the committee. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 75.1 percent.

Res. 4-03 was placed before the convention. Debate on specific sections of the resolution began.

Following seven minutes of debate, the orders for the

day required postponement until a later session of the convention.

Special Recognition

Dr. Bohlmann introduced to the delegates Dr. Milton Carpenter, who served the Synod as Treasurer for many years. Dr. Carpenter spoke words of encouragement to the delegates.

Committee 7: Human Care

The Rev. Dr. John Petersen, chairman of the committee, introduced the business of the committee. Res. 7-01, which calls for a change in the name of the Board for Social Ministry Services to the Board for Human Care Ministries, was placed before the convention.

The question was called and was sustained.

Res. 7-01 was carried by a vote of 91.4 percent.

Res. 7-02, which addresses the health and welfare program of the Synod, was placed before the convention.

An amendment was made to direct the Board of Directors of the Synod to seek out other means of providing health and welfare benefits to the church's workers. The amendment failed, carrying 28.7 percent of the vote.

The second resolve was augmented by the addition of the words *be encouraged to* by common consent. The new words are to be inserted between *congregation* and *be*.

Special Greetings

Special greetings were extended to the convention by the Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman, president of the Lutheran Church Canada, a daughter synod of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Chaplain of the convention.

Session 4

July 12, Evening

Committee 10: Credentials, Registration, and Elections

Dr. Sandmann, chairman of the committee, led the delegates in voting for the Second through Fifth Vice-Presidents of the Synod. Those nominated and the results of the balloting are as follows:

Karl Barth	335
Eugene Bunkowske	649
Ronald Fink	146
Robert King	740
Walter Maier	361
Kurt Marquart	457
Guido Merckens	104
Dale Meyer	233
Daniel Preus	307
Robert Preus	111
Robert Sauer	454
Wilbert Sohns	266

Dr. Robert King and Dr. Eugene Bunkowske were declared elected as Second and Third Vice-Presidents respectively.

The nominees for the second ballot:

Karl Barth	518
Walter Maier	530
Kurt Marquart	542
Robert Sauer	639

Robert Sauer was declared elected as the Fourth Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The third ballot:

Walter Maier	563
Kurt Marquart	536

Dr. Walter A. Maier was declared elected as the Fifth Vice-President of the Synod.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

The Rev. Dr. Albert Marcis, chairman of the committee, introduced the resolutions. The first resolution to be set before the convention was 3-01, calling for commendation of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations document *A Theological Statement of Mission*. The resolution carried by a vote of 96.1 percent.

Res. 3-02, which encourages the formation of an international Mission Association, was placed before the delegates.

A substitute motion calling for the discontinuation of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations was moved, but the chair ruled the motion out of order. The chair was sustained in his ruling.

The question was called on 3-02. By show of hands and voice vote the debate was ended.

Res. 3-02 was passed by show of hands and voice vote.

Res. 3-03, to end all racism, was moved by the committee.

An amendment was made to alter the first resolved of the resolution to read *any attitude* or in place of *their*. The amendment was adopted by common consent.

Question was called on the motion and was sustained by voice vote.

Res. 3-03 was passed by voice vote.

Res. 3-04, which encourages the service of women in the church, was moved by the committee.

An amendment was moved to insert *men and* into all appropriate places in the resolution. The sense of the resolution would then be to encourage both women and men. The final resolved in the resolution, however, would be directing continuing study on the role of women in the church.

A motion was made to refer the amendment to Committee 3. The motion was seconded and debated. The motion to refer was declared out of order.

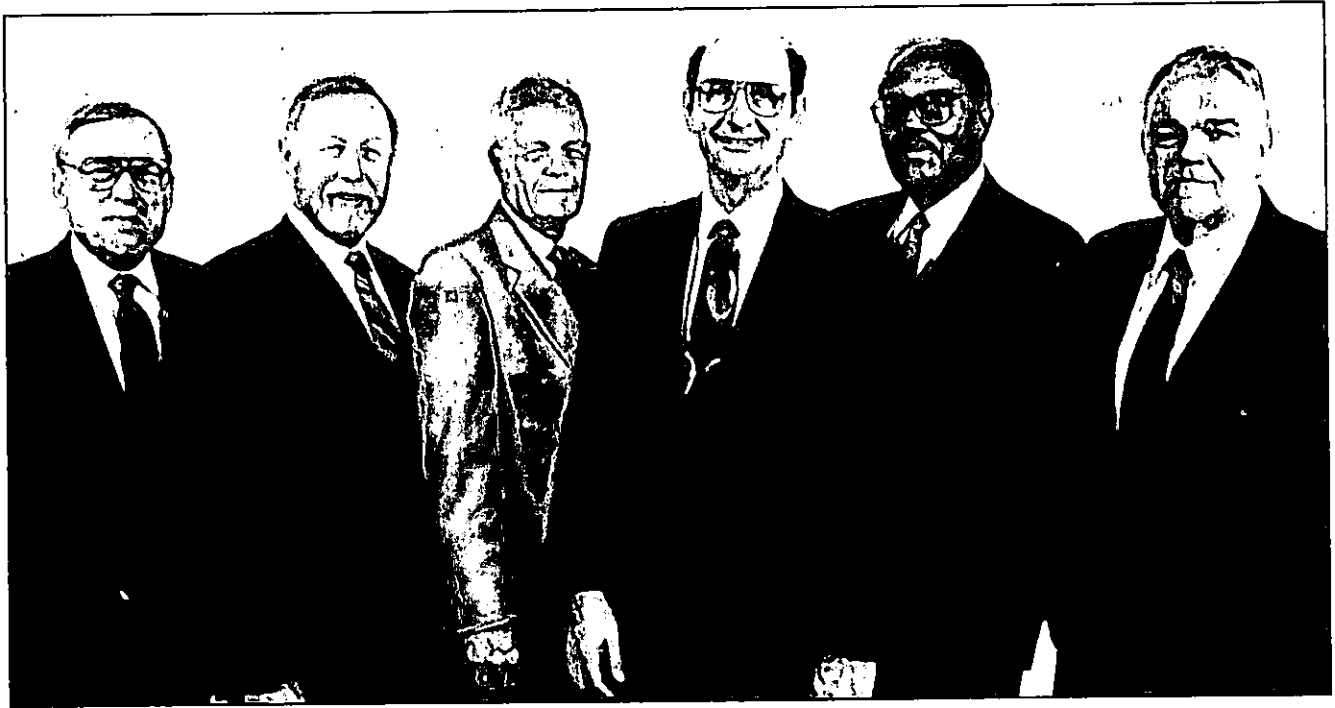
Question was called and seconded on both the amendment and the motion. The question was sustained by a vote of 87.9 percent.

The amendment failed, carrying 39 percent of the vote.

Res. 3-04 carried by a vote of 72.3 percent.

Committee 8: Planning and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Richard Kapfer, chairman of the committee, introduced Dr. Harold Olsen, retiring member of the Board of Directors, who addressed special words to the delegates. Dr. Olsen has contributed 50 consecutive years of service to the boards and commissions of the church.



The Praesidium

Res. 8-01A was placed before the convention. The resolution calls for a clarification of the role of the Board of Directors of the Synod in regard to various corporate and legal entities.

A motion was made to table 8-01A until 4-02 has been determined.

Question was called on the motion to table and was carried by a voice vote.

The motion to table failed by a voice vote.

An amendment was offered and supported to delete lines 50-51 from section 3.182 and the word *program* from line 36 of section 3.190 of the resolution.

The work of the committee was delayed due to the orders of the day. Seventeen minutes had been devoted to the discussion of the motion to amend.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Chaplain of the convention.

Session 5

July 13, Morning

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Dr. Wil Sohns, chaplain to the convention.

Lifelight™ Bible Study

Dr. Earl Gaulke, the LifeLight Bible Study leader, introduced the delegates to the group study for today. The Rev. Dr. Arnold Kuntz, past President of the Pacific Southwest District and member of the Board of Directors of the Synod, addressed the Word of God to the conventioners.

Special Recognition

Dr. Erwin Kolb presented a special plaque of recognition on behalf of the LifeLight Bible Study series to Mrs. Betty Duda, Mrs. Alberta Barnes, and Mrs. Ida Mall, representing the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

Special recognition was accorded Rev. Timothy Huber, Lavern Schmidt, Denise Mulhy, and members of St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lodi, Calif., for the role they played in field testing the LifeLight Bible Study program for the Synod's Board for Parish Services.

Special Greetings

Special greetings were extended to the convention by Mrs. Ida Mall, president of the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Mrs. Mall highlighted the work of the LWML.

Special Recognition

Dr. Thomas Armour, president of the Mill Neck Foundation, presented the John of Beverly Medal posthumously to Dr. George R. Kraus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and Dr. Daniel H. Pokorny of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The awards were accepted by Mrs. Kraus and Mrs. Pokorny on behalf of their husbands.

Committee 5: Structure and Organization

Before the committee could begin its business, a point of order was raised regarding Part III of the President's Report, claiming that elements of the report were improper. The chair ruled the point of order out of order. The convention sustained the chair by a 58.3 percent vote.

Dr. Loren Kramer, chairman of Committee 5, introduced Res. 5-01B.

Motion was made to refer 5-01B to the original task force.

A point of order was called regarding Standing Rule 4. The Chair ruled the point of order out of place. The Chair was sustained by a 79.2 percent vote.

After 30 minutes of debate, the Chair asked the delegates if they wished to close debate. The vote was yes by 75 percent.

The motion to refer to the task force failed, carrying 34.2 percent of the vote.

The debate on the main motion (5-01B) was continued in pro-con mode.

A motion was made to amend by deleting the last sentence of paragraph i of section 8.21.

Question was called on the amendment and on the main motion. The vote to end debate failed, capturing 57 percent of the vote when a two-thirds vote is required.

Debate continued on the proposed amendment.

By consensus, debate was ended on the amendment. The motion to amend was placed before the delegates and was lost.

Debate on the main motion was continued.

Debate was ended due to the orders of the day. Seven minutes remain for debate on the main motion.

Committee 10: Credentials, Registration, and Elections

Dr. Donald Sandmann introduced the ballot for remaining positions to be filled by election. The delegates proceeded with voting, the orders of the day having been extended for 10 minutes until 12:10 p.m.

The Chaplain led the delegation in prayer.



LWML President Ida Mall

Session 6

July 13, Afternoon

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Dr. Wil Sohns, chaplain to the convention.

Minutes

The minutes for session 3 were adopted by common consent.

Committee 6: Higher Education

The Rev. Dr. Roger Pittelko, chairman of the committee, introduced the business of the floor committee to the convention. Res. 6-01, which resolved to give thanks to God for the faithful and laudable service to the church of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., was placed before the convention and was adopted with a standing vote.

Res. 6-02, calling for recognition of the centennial of Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., was placed before the convention. After adopting the resolution, the assembly stood to sing the doxology.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Holst, president of Concordia College, St. Paul, addressed the convention and presented a commemorative shirt as a gift to Dr. Bohlmann.

Res. 6-03, commemorating the centennial of Concordia Teachers College, Seward, was moved by the committee. Following adoption of the resolution, the delegates and observers to the convention rose to sing the Common Doxology.

The Rev. Dr. Orville Walz, president of Concordia, Seward, addressed the convention and presented a commemorative gift to Dr. Bohlmann.

Dr. Julius Jenkins, president of Concordia College, Selma, addressed the assembly with an update on the progress being made at the college. Concordia, Selma, is in the process of becoming a baccalaureate degree-granting institution and will be accepting its first students of junior-class status this coming fall.

Special Greetings

Special greetings were extended to the convention by Mr. Roy Schmidt, president of the International Lutheran Layman's League.

Committee 5: Structure and Organization

Debate on Res. 5-01B was continued.

In accord with Standing Rule 4, 30 minutes of debate having elapsed, the Chair called the question. The assembly voted to continue debate. (Two-thirds of the voters must call for an end to debate. The vote was 66.1 percent)

An amendment was moved to refer the resolution back to the task force and to the congregations. The amendment was ruled out of order in view of the fact that the assembly had declined a similar motion during session 5 of the convention.

In keeping with the orders of the day, the Chair postponed debate on Res. 5-01B until the next time Committee 5 is at the podium. Twenty-two minutes remained for debate.

Committee 8: Planning and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Richard Kapfer reintroduced Res. 8-01A. Debate continued on the amendment that had been before the convention.

The question was called and was sustained.

The amendment failed.

An amendment was proposed to reintroduce the words that had been deleted from line 16, *Today's Business*, vol. 3, page 236.

The Chair asked the assembly if it wanted to close debate. Debate was closed by a 93.1 percent vote.

The amendment failed, carrying 47.3 percent of the vote.

Question was called on the main motion. The delegates voted to close debate by a vote of 78.5 percent.

Res. 8-01A was adopted by a vote of 79 percent.

Res. 8-02, which calls for an extension of the 1989 convention action regarding auxiliaries, was placed before the convention. The motion was adopted by a voice vote.

Res. 8-03 was offered for consideration. The resolution, which provides for other Vice-Presidents of the Synod not in line of succession, was adopted by a vote of 93 percent.

Res. 8-04, which calls for the inclusion of the centennial of LCMS world mission outreach in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the founding of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was offered for consideration. The resolution passed with a voice vote.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

Res. 3-05, which calls for completion of the study on the service of women, was introduced.

An amendment was proposed to add a resolved to the end of the main motion. The amendment calls for the CTCR to solicit comments from the church as the study progresses. The amendment carried with a voice vote.

An amendment was proposed that would place a time limit on the study, calling for a published report no later than 1994, one year before the next synodical convention in 1995.

Question was called on the amendment. The debate was ended by voice vote.

The amendment carried with a vote of 79.5 percent.

Question was called on the amended motion. Debate was ended by a vote of 88.5 percent.

Res. 3-05, as amended, carried with a vote of 75.6 percent.

Res. 3-10 was set before the convention by the committee. Dr. Jean Garton was called upon by the committee to address the delegates.

An amendment was proposed to delete lines 32 and 33. The amendment failed.

An amendment was proposed to add a resolved that would stress the sin of participating directly or indirectly in an abortion.

Question was called on the amendment and on the main motion. The delegates voted to end debate by 76.5 percent.

The amendment failed, carrying 26.5 percent.

The main motion was adopted by a vote of 95.6 percent.

Committee 7: Human Care

Res. 7-02 was reintroduced by the committee and debate continued from a previous session of the convention.



LLL President Roy Schmidt

An amendment was proposed that calls for Concordia Plans to develop policies that will enable all the congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to participate.

Question was called to end debate and was sustained.

The amendment was then placed before the convention and was defeated.

The main motion was adopted by a 90.1 percent vote.

Res. 7-06, which calls for an expansion of ministry to older adults, was moved by the committee.

Question was called and was sustained by a voice vote.

The resolution (7-06) was adopted by a 92.7 percent majority.

Res. 7-05, to support housing ministries, was introduced.

The question was called and was sustained.

Res. 7-05 was adopted by a 95.9 percent majority.

Committee 5: Structure and Organization

Res. 5-01B was once again placed before the assembly. Twenty-two minutes of debate remain.

The delegates voted to restrict speaking to three microphones, one for pro, one for con, and one for amendments.

The Chair placed before the assembly the question of whether the delegates wished to end debate. The delegates voted to end debate by 71.3 percent.

Res. 5-01B was approved by a 66.3 percent majority. Yes, 725; no, 368.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Chaplain of the convention.

Session 7**July 14, Morning***Opening Devotions*

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Dr. Wil Sohns, chaplain to the convention.

Bible Study

Dr. Earl Gaulke invited the delegates to break into groups for the morning study of the Scriptures.

The Rev. Dr. Arnold Kuntz led the convention in a consideration of the words from Acts 3:6, "In the name of Jesus, walk."

Committee 10: Credentials, Registration, and Elections

Dr. Sandmann announced the results of the balloting from session 5 and provided the delegates with a second ballot for runoffs.

The following were elected on the first ballot:

Secretary

Walter L. Rosin

Treasurer

Norman D. Sell

Board of Directors

Pastors Karl L. Barth
 Richard L. Thompson
 Laypersons Donald J. Brosz
 John L. Daniel
 Ernest Garbe

Board for Evangelism Services

Pastor Darwin Karsten
 Teacher Daniel Thurber
 Laypersons Dan Hegg
 Phillip L. Johnson

Board for Higher Education Services

Pastor John W. Meyer
 Layperson James C. Holste

Board for Mission Services

Laypersons Betty Duda
 John W. Vessey, Jr.

Board for Parish Services

Layperson Carol Ebeling

Board for Youth Services

Teacher Kevin Bueltmann
 Synodical faculty member Steven Arnold
 Layperson Tim Schwan
 Youth Beth Figini
 Rachel Kneedler
 Angie Mann
 Kim Novak

Commission on Adjudication

Laypersons Ronald P. Lankenau
 Orrin Rinke

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

Pastor Armand Boehme
 Teacher Robert W. Storm

Board of Directors, Concordia Publishing House

Pastor Alfred E. Thiem
 Teacher Guenther K. Herzog
 Laypersons Carmen Axen
 John Brickler

Board of Regents—Ann Arbor

Pastor Thomas S. Hackett
 Teacher Charles J. Strohacker
 Laypersons Vernona Gibbs
 Gerald Kluck

Board of Regents—Austin

Pastor Paul Bohot
 Teacher Carlos A. Gomez
 Laypersons Derrell Bulls
 J. Bradley Johnston
 Puddin' Krueger

Board of Regents—Bronxville

Teacher Weldon W. Endorf
 Laypersons Paul Braden
 Alice Bruening
 Gary Praetzel

Board of Regents—Concordia, Mo.

Teacher Ben Schumacher
 Laypersons Vernon Grefe
 Vernon Heins
 Wayne E. Krueger

Board of Regents—Fort Wayne

Pastor Raymond A. Mueller

Board of Regents—Irvine

Teacher Paul Hillmann
 Laypersons Daniel Krueger
 Eleanor Kruse
 Setma K. Ramlo

Board of Regents—Mequon

Pastor Paul Grime
 Teacher Frank Wegner
 Laypersons Irving Bennett
 Robert L. Gehrt
 John G. Jaeger

Board of Regents—Portland

Teacher Charles Gerken
 Laypersons Charles Brondos
 Matthew Crawford
 Richard Hyde

Board of Regents—River Forest

Pastor H. Lothar Thoeke
 Teacher Larry Brandt
 Laypersons Herbert W. Israel
 Alan Klaas
 Gerald Rath

Board of Regents—St. Louis

Pastor Eugene A. Oesch
 Laypersons Dale Korth
 C. R. Montz

Board of Regents—St. Paul

Teacher Dennis Dirks
 Laypersons Ronald J. Gangelhoff
 Donald Scheibe
 Michael Uran

Board of Regents—Selma

Pastor Jimmy McCants
 Teacher Donna Behnken
 Laypersons Jean King
 Cleveland Lewis
 Rhonda B. Lohmeyer

Board of Regents—Seward

Pastor Wayne C. Schroeder
 Teacher Dennis Hintz

Committee 2: Congregational Ministries

The Rev. Dr. Arleigh Lutz, chairman of the committee, introduced Dr. Roy Kaiser, who accorded special recognition to the Lutheran Education Association (LEA).

On behalf of the LEA, Dr. Kaiser awarded Mr. Harold Gersmehl the Christus Magister Award.

The committee placed Res. 2-01, which calls for the formation of congregational mission boards, before the convention.

An amendment was proposed to add the word *circuits* in the listings of the Resolved. The amendment was adopted by common consent.

Question was called and was sustained.

The motion carried with a 92.4 percent majority.

Res. 2-02, which calls for the Synod to address worship needs within the Synod, was moved by the committee.

The delegates were asked to add the words *worship* and in the second line of the second Resolved immediately before the words *worship practices*.

An amendment was proposed to add a new Resolved between the existing first and second Resolves: "Resolved that appropriate groups (e.g., CTCR, Commission on Worship) detail for the church a thorough theology of worship and how our worship practices develop Christian character."

The amendment carried with a 92.8 percent majority.

An amendment was proposed to delete the word *creatively* in the fifth Resolved and to replace the words *reflect sensitivity to ethnic and cultural diversity while remaining* with the word *are* in no. 3 of the fifth Resolved.

The question was called and was sustained on both the amendment and the main motion.

The amendment was carried by a vote of 52.9 percent.

The main motion carried by a vote of 88.4 percent.

Committee 4: Program and Finance

The committee noted that while 4-03 was really under consideration, it asked the permission of the delegates to allow 4-02A to be considered at this time. Permission was granted by common consent. The resolution calls for integration and expansion of the Synod's method for mission and ministry planning and implementation.

Question was called on section A of the resolution and was sustained.

Section A of the resolution was adopted with a 78.1 percent majority vote.

Question was called on section D and the entire motion. The motion failed to carry the necessary two-thirds majority.

Question was called on section D and was sustained by an 83. percent majority vote.

Section D was adopted by a vote of 82 percent.

Special Recognition and Greetings

The Vice-Presidents of the Synod were introduced by the Rev. Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann and were welcomed by the assembly.

President-elect Rev. Dr. Alvin Barry addressed the convention, reminding the delegates of the history of God's blessings to Missouri and encouraging each member of the Synod to lift higher the cross of Christ.

Mrs. Barry was recognized and welcomed.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Chaplain of the convention.

Session 8

July 14, Afternoon

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Dr. Wil Sohns, chaplain to the convention.

Committee 8: Planning and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Richard Kapfer, chairman of the committee, introduced the members of the Family Initiative Council: Betty Duda, Steve Carter, Bill Meyer, Bill Thompson, and Carol Ebeling.

Res. 8-05, which calls for the 1998 synodical convention to be held in Chicago, was placed before the body.

The resolution was adopted by voice vote.

Res. 8-06, which calls for an evaluation of the nature and purpose of synodical conventions, was moved by the committee.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 95.6 percent.

Res. 8-09, which would appoint a task force to study and develop a strategic plan re regionalization of synodical and district staff, was set before the delegates.

An amendment was proposed to omit the English and SELC districts from the study, while permitting their representatives to participate in the discussions.

Question was called on the amendment and was sustained by a 87.8 percent majority.

The amendment was lost, carrying only 28.4 percent of the vote.

The Chair asked the assembly if it wished to close debate. The delegates closed debate by a vote of 88.7 percent.

Res. 8-09 was adopted by a vote of 54.2 percent.

Committee 4: Program and Finance

Debate on Res. 4-02A was continued from session 7. Discussion was directed toward section B.

An amendment was proposed to include additional advisory members to the Mission and Ministry Council and was approved by common consensus.

Question was moved on sections B and C and subsequently on the entire motion. The call for the end of debate was sustained by 78.9 percent majority vote.

Sections B and C were adopted by a 75.8 percent vote.

Res. 4-02A was adopted by a vote of 71.6 percent.

Res. 4-03, which calls for restructuring the Department of Stewardship and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, was moved by the committee.

The question was called and was sustained by a 88.2 percent majority.

The main motion was adopted by a vote of 86.1 percent.

Special Greetings

Special greetings were extended to the convention by the Rev. Dr. Herbert Chilstrom, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Committee 6: Higher Education

On behalf of committee 6, Dr. Pittelko presented Res. 6-04, which calls for the establishment of a new corporation within the LCMS to bring into closer relationship the colleges and universities of the Synod while at the same time maintaining complete authority and responsibility for the individual institutions with the respective boards of regents.

The committee asked the delegates to modify part a of section 3.211 by indicating that the "teachers" are "commissioned ministers of religion who are teachers."

Question was called on the resolution and was sustained by a majority vote of 68.1 percent.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 72.4 percent.

The committee moved Res. 6-05A.

Motion was made to amend the resolution by deleting the words *at least 10 years of* from the resolved.

The amendment was defeated, carrying less than 16 percent of the vote.

An amendment was proposed to eliminate the words *are mature* in the resolved.

Question was called on the amendment and the main motion.

Debate was ended by a vote 90.8 percent.

The amendment was declined.

The main motion was adopted by a vote of 84.6 percent.

Committee 10: Credentials, Registration, and Elections

Elected on the second ballot:

Board for Higher Education Services

Teacher..... Ralph L. Reinke

Board for Parish Services

Pastor..... Richard Noack

Teacher..... Jack Giles

Commission on Adjudication

Pastor..... David Caspersen

..... Eugene W. Lauterbach

Commission on Appeals

Pastor..... Jack Preus III

..... Edward L. Saresky

Layperson..... Walter Tesch

Board of Regents—Bronxville

Pastor..... Timothy Knapp

Board of Regents—Concordia, Mo.

Pastor..... Steven Theiss

Board of Regents—Fort Wayne

Layperson..... Melvin Bredemeier

Board of Regents—Portland

Pastor..... Walter A. Anderson

Board of Regents—St. Paul

Pastor..... Victor M. Roth

Board of Regents—Seward

Layperson..... William Hartmann

Mark Koltermann

Elected on the third ballot:

Board for Higher Education Services

Layperson..... David A. Kaufmann

Board for Parish Services

Layperson..... Priscilla Henkelmann

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

Layperson..... Bud Stolzenburg

Board of Regents—Ann Arbor

Layperson..... Walter W. Kayser

Board of Regents—Irvine

Pastor..... Richard Allsing

Committee 7: Human Care

Mr. Ralston Deffenbaugh, director of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, addressed the convention.

The committee placed Res. 7-16, which calls for assistance and support for refugees, before the delegates.

The resolution carried with a 99.1 percent majority vote.

Res. 7-15, which expresses concern and compassion for Haitian refugees, was moved by the committee.

The motion was adopted: 97.2 percent.

The committee moved 7-08, which calls for the identification and training Lutheran counselors.

An amendment was proposed to add the words *including work with the mentally ill* in the first resolved. The inclusion would come immediately after the words *counseling program*.

By consensus the amendment was adopted.

A motion was made to amend by adding a resolved, to wit: "That these counselors are trained in biblical Law and Gospel approaches to counseling rather than secular-humanistic or new-age philosophies."

Question was called on the amendment and the main motion and was sustained: 77.6 percent.

The proposed amendment was declined, carrying 42.6 percent of the vote.

Res. 7-08, as amended, was adopted with a 95 percent vote.

Res. 7-03 was moved by the committee. The resolution calls for assistance for professional church workers and congregations:

An amendment was proposed to add both a *whereas* and a *resolved* that would permit seminarians to be covered under Concordia Health Plan.

The Chair expressed concern regarding the appropriateness of the motion and will rule on the motion when committee 7 next comes to the podium.

The orders of the day called for closing devotions.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Chaplain of the convention.

Session 9

July 15, Morning

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Dr. Wil Sohns, chaplain to the convention.

LifeLight™ Bible Study

The assembly once again participated in Bible study and the sharing of faith, led by Dr. Earl Gaulke and Dr. Arnold Kuntz.

Special Recognition

Those who have served God and country through the Armed Forces were recognized by Chaplain James Shaw on behalf of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The Martin of Tours Award was presented to Chaplain Ernest Wentzel, who addressed the convention.

Committee 10: Credentials, Registration, and Elections

The results of the third ballot:

Board for Mission Services

Pastor Albert Wingfield

Board of Regents—Irvine

Pastor Richard Allsing

The results of the fourth, fifth, and sixth ballots:

Board of Directors

Layperson Oscar H. Hanson

Board for Mission Services

Pastor Donald Bendewald

Board for Parish Services

Pastor David Schroder

Commission on Appeals

Layperson Richard Bodestab

Board of Directors, Concordia Publishing House

Layperson Marvin Jenkins

Board of Regents—Fort Wayne

Layperson Johnny Buck

Board of Regents—Seward

Layperson E. Geno Brink

Special Committee

The co-chairmen of the Special Committee were called to the podium. Dr. Bohlmann announced that the Special Committee would ask someone other than a member of the Praesidium or the Secretary of Synod to chair the convention during the debate on the resolution presented to the convention by the Special Committee.

Delegates were asked to sign up to speak on the resolution.

The Special Committee nominated the assistant secretary of the convention to chair the assembly. The delegates approved the nomination.

The committee placed the resolution before the convention.

An amendment was offered to delete the paragraph regarding the appeal to the secular courts (lines 1–5, page 319, TB vol 6).

Question was called on the amendment and was sustained.

The amendment was declined.

An amendment was proposed to delete lines 21–24, *Today's Business*, page 318, and to substitute words that changed *must follow to may follow*.

The delegates voted to table the amendment.

Delegates were asked if they wished to continue the orders of the day. Debate on the main motion was continued.

After 28 minutes of debate, the Chair asked the assembly if they wished to cease debate. The delegates voted to end debate by a vote of 73.9 percent.

The Chair declared the main motion adopted as printed by a 61.5 percent majority vote.

The Chair exercised his authority to grant an extended lunch and called for the Chaplain.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Chaplain of the convention.

Session 10

July 15, Afternoon

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Dr. Wil Sohns, chaplain to the convention.

Minutes

The convention adopted the minutes for session 5 and session 6.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

Dr. Marcis and the committee presented Res. 3-11 before the convention. The resolution calls for a reaffirmation of the Synod's position on euthanasia and assisted suicide.

An amendment was proposed to add one final whereas and two new resolves, the first of which is to be placed between points 7 and 8; the second forms concluding words for 12. The actual wording is

WHEREAS, It is critically necessary to counteract a false theology of compassion in our culture;

Resolved, Spiritual care and support, however, must be provided for those who struggle with the issues and burdens of caring for patients with such chronically debilitating illnesses such as Alzheimer's.

Resolved, . . . We can ask our society ethical questions such as "What kind of people are we becoming if we cannot care for the weak and helpless?" or "What does it demonstrate about our character if we think we have the right to destroy life?"

Both the amendment and the main motion were postponed until later in the convention at the discretion of the Chair.

Res. 3-06A was moved. The resolution calls for a reaffirmation of the proper relationship between congregations and their pastors.

The question was called and sustained.

The motion carried.

Res. 3-09A was moved.

Adopted by common consent was an amendment to add the words *utilizing the writings of C. F. W. Walther (i.e., his book Church and Ministry and essay "The Congregation's Right to Choose Its Pastor")* immediately after the words *the divine call*.

The main motion was adopted as amended.

Special Recognition

The Chair recognized and welcomed representatives from the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Committee 2: Congregational Ministries

Res. 2-03, which calls for making family ministry a high priority, was placed before the convention.

The question was called and was sustained by a 96.2 percent majority vote.

The main motion was adopted by a vote of 97 percent.

Res. 2-04 was placed before the convention. The motion calls for an examination and enhancement of preparation for confirmation and first Communion.

An amendment was offered to delete the word *and* from line 19 (TB, vol. 1A, page 45) and to add the words *and a Lutheran hymnal* in line 20.

Question was called on the amendment and on the main motion and was sustained.

The amendment carried.

The main motion, as amended, carried with a 93.6 percent majority vote.

Committee 6: Higher Education

Res. 6-06, which calls for a change in the requirements for the teacher colloquy program, was moved by the committee.

A substitute motion was offered but was declined by a voice vote.

Question was called and was sustained.

The motion carried by a 77.5 percent majority.

Res. 6-07, to establish a deaconess colloquy program, was placed before the delegation.

The motion carried by a majority vote of 87.2 percent.

Committee 1: Witness and Outreach

Dr. Theodore Laesch introduced Dr. Glenn O'Shoney, who in turn introduced several missionary families, including John and Janet Eggers, Robert and Penny Selle, Woody and Margie Arp, Marty Brodbeck, and Dana Brones.

Res. 1-02, which calls upon all the people of the Synod to view the United States of America as a world mission field, was moved by the committee.

The motion was adopted by a vote of 98.3 percent.

Res. 1-03A, which would make *reaching the lost* a priority for every congregation, was placed before the body.

An amendment was proposed to add words to the end of No. 7 of the resolved: *being strongly sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity through creativity in worship, but also being cautious to stay in conformity with the Scriptures.*

Question was called on the amendment by the Chair and was sustained.

The amendment was adopted by a 60.8 percent majority vote.

Question was called on the main motion by the Chair and was sustained.

The main motion was adopted by a 90.2 percent majority vote.

Res. 1-04, which calls for a strengthening of public recognition of LCMS mission, was moved by the committee.

A substitute motion was proposed: L1-42 (TB, vol. 1A, page 9).

The assembly voted not to consider the substitute motion.

The Chair called the question and was sustained: 92.4 percent.

Res. 1-04 was adopted by a vote of 88.6 percent.

Committee 4: Program and Finance

Res. 4-04A, which calls for the Synod to continue the "Expanding the Circle" process, was placed before the assembly.

An amendment was proposed and accepted by common consent to add the words *support our seminaries through the designation of student aid, Today's Business*, vol. 4, page 271, line 26, after the second comma.

Question was called by the Chair and was sustained.

The delegates adopted the resolution by a 56.8 percent majority vote.

Special Question

A special question was raised to the Chair, asking whether a process existed for removal of a person from a board or commission. The Chair asked Committee 5 to review the question and to respond to the convention at a later moment in the convention.

Committee 5: Structure and Organization

Res. 5-02A, which calls for clarification and protection of all individual worker rights, was placed before the convention.

An amendment was proposed and adopted by common consent to add the words *declines to suspend the member or to* line 14 between the words *President* and *fails* (TB, vol. 2, page 193).

An amendment was offered and accepted by common consensus to delete the last sentence of paragraph *b*, lines 19-20 (TB, vol. 2, page 193).

Question was called and sustained.

The motion as amended twice was adopted by a vote of 75.2 percent.

Res. 5-03B, which calls for a clarification of faculty rights, was moved by the committee.

An amendment was offered to delete part *d*, including sections 1-3, *Today's Business*, vol. 6, page 330, lines 4-11.

The Chair called for the question and was sustained by a vote of 73.5 percent.

The amendment failed, carrying 14.1 percent of the vote.

The question was called and was sustained.

Res. 5-03B was adopted as printed by a 82.6 percent majority vote.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Chaplain of the convention.

Session 11

July 16, Morning

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Dr. Wil Sohns, chaplain to the convention.

LifeLight™ Bible Study

The delegates once again participated in the study of the Scriptures.

Surprise!

Through the technology of satellite television, the delegates were able to see and hear missionary Henry Rowold in Hong Kong, China, as he described the outreach ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to the 25 percent of the world's population who speak Chinese.

Standing Rule

The delegation adopted a Standing Rule which has also been used in all recent synodical conventions, namely that in the sessions of the final day of the convention, any motion previously adopted may not be reconsidered or rescinded.

The President of the Synod, Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, requested the Council of Presidents to give special attention to Bylaw 3.07 and 3.901 e.

Committee 6: Higher Education

Res. 6-10A, which calls for the provision for five-year renewable terms of office for LCMS college, university; and seminary presidents, was placed before the delegates.

An amendment was proposed to delete the words *identical effectiveness based on these goals and priorities* and to replace them with *the president's faithfulness to God's Word (TB, vol. 2, page 198, line 14-15)* and to delete *effectiveness* and replace it with *faithfulness to God's word* (line 19).

The amendment failed by a voice vote.

An amendment was offered to change the term from 5 years to 10 years.

The amendment failed, carrying 13.5 percent of the vote.

An amendment was offered to delete the words *seminary presidents*.

Question was called on both the amendment and the main motion and was sustained.

The amendment failed, carrying a vote of 31.4 percent.

The main motion carried by a vote of 76.5 percent.

Res. 6-09, exempting Presidents of Districts where seminaries are located from membership on the seminary boards of regents, was placed before the body.

An amendment was proposed to delete the final resolved of the resolution in its entirety.

Question was called on the amendment and on the main motion and was sustained.

The amendment failed, carrying 22.3 percent.

The main motion carried by 65.1 percent majority vote.

Special Greetings

Special greetings were extended to the convention by Mrs. Betty Duda. Mrs. Duda presented an award to Mrs. Ida Mall and to the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

Committee 8: Planning and Administration

Dr. Richard Kapfer asked the delegation to delete the "note" from lines 52-53, *Today's Business*, vol. 3, page 235, by consensus. The assembly agreed.

Res. 8-08, which urges certification process for uncertified pastors, was moved by the committee.

The motion carried by voice vote.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

Res. 3-11A, which calls for a reaffirmation of the Synod's position on euthanasia and assisted suicide, was placed before the body. The resolution has been revised on the basis of the tabled amendment from a previous session.

An amendment was offered and accepted by common consent to add *including material support* to the fifth whereas at the end.

The motion carried with a 99.1 percent majority vote.

Res. 3-07A, which calls for the synodical President to appoint a committee to study the functions of auxiliary offices, was set before the convention by the committee.

An amendment was offered to delete the fourth whereas.

The Chair called the question on the amendment and was sustained.

The amendment failed, carrying 37.9 percent of the vote.

An amendment was offered to include the words *the concept of permanent deacon* and in the second line of the first resolved between the words *including* and *the*.

Question was moved on the amendment and on the main motion, but was not sustained.

Question was called on the amendment only and was sustained.

The amendment was lost, carrying 44.3 percent of the vote.

A substitute motion was offered, namely Overture 3-27 from the *Convention Workbook* (page 188).

The delegates voted not to consider the substitute motion.

The Chair called the question and was sustained.

The resolution was lost, carrying 43.8 percent of the votes.

Committee 2: Congregational Ministries

Dr. Arleigh Lutz introduced the members of the youth contingency at the convention.

Mr. James Henkel, president of Lutheran Youth Fellowship and a preseminary student at Christ College Irvine, addressed the convention.

The committee introduced Mr. Roger DeMeyere of Lutheran Special Education Ministries, who presented the Ephphatha Award to Dr. Earl Gaulke.

Res. 2-05, which calls for the publication of obituaries of professional church workers, was moved by the committee.

The motion was adopted by a voice vote.

Committee 5: Structure and Organization

Res. 5-07, to transfer Fountain of Life Lutheran Congregation, Tucson, Ariz., from the English District to the Pacific Southwest District, was presented and adopted by a majority vote of 77.8 percent.

Res. 5-08, to transfer St. Matthew, Smithville, Ont., Canada, from the SELC District and the LCMS to the East District of the Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC), was moved and adopted.

Res. 5-20, to transfer Calvary, Thunder Bay, Ont., Canada, to the Central District of the LCC, was moved and adopted.

Res. 5-15, to eliminate the Commission on Structure, was moved.

The assembly agreed by common consent to delete the second resolved and to edit the first resolved to properly reflect the passage of 4-02A.

The motion was adopted.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Chaplain of the convention.

Session 12

July 16, Afternoon

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Dr. Wil Sohns, chaplain to the convention.

Minutes

The delegates approved the minutes as corrected on page 354 by the deletion of all the words in the sentence following the page reference.

Special Committee

Dr. Bohlmann appointed the Assistant Secretary to the Convention to assist the delegates as Chairman Pro-Tempore.

The committee presented to the convention for ratification an agreement which bears the signatures of Mr. Orvil M. Roetman, chairman of the Board of Regents, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Dr. Richard J. Ungrodt, Chairman Board for Higher Education Services, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and Dr. Robert Preus, president, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. The document is dated July 16, 1992.



Convention Chaplain Wilbert Sohns

AGREEMENT

1. That Dr. Robert D. Preus serve as President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., until May, 1993, or until a new President is installed, whichever comes first.
2. That the call process for a new President will recommence.
3. That as of this date an Administrative Officer, acceptable to the President, Board of Regents and the Board for Higher Education, is in place. All academic and administrative functions of the Presidential office as defined in Bylaw 6.15 are delegated by the President to this Administrative Officer.
4. That President Preus devote himself in great measure to the Special Anniversary Offering and to recruitment.

The agreement was ratified by 95.49 percent of the delegates.

Committee 7: Human Care

Dr. Richard Krenzke, executive director, Board for Social Ministry Services, introduced Dr. Norman Barth, director of Lutheran World Relief.

Res. 7-14, which calls for continued support for Lutheran World Relief, was moved by the committee.

The motion was adopted by a 98.7 percent majority vote.

Res. 7-17, which calls for support of programs to alleviate domestic poverty and homelessness, was placed before the convention.

The motion was adopted by a majority vote of 98.4 percent.

Res. 7-03, which calls for assistance to professional church workers and congregations, was moved by the committee.

An amendment was offered to add additional wording to the whereases and a new resolved.

The Chair ruled the motion inappropriate to this particular motion and asked the speaker to share the thoughts with the committee.

An amendment was offered and adopted to add in line 39, page 137, *Today's Business*, after the words *using materials provided through the entities listed above* new words: *and that, in consultation with the BHES, a church worker recruitment emphasis be incorporated in the affirmation Sunday observance.*

Question was called by the Chair and was sustained.

The motion was adopted by a 95.9 percent vote.

Committee 5: Structure and Organization

Res. 5-12A, to change times of inductions and appointments, was moved.

The motion carried with a vote of 94.6 percent.

Res. 5-04, to adopt revised procedure for selection of the Commission on Constitutional Matters, was set before the body.

The motion was adopted by a vote of 92.6 percent.

The committee presented Res. 5-05, which calls for the revision of Bylaws regarding Certified Church Workers, Lay.

The motion passed.

Res. 5-10, to approve procedural guidelines for Committee for Convention Nominations, was moved.

By common consensus a correction from 12 to 9 months was made on line 34, page 110, of *Today's Business*.

The motion was adopted by a 94.4 percent majority vote.

Res. 5-11, to establish a deadline for synodical nominations, was moved by the committee.

The motion was adopted by a 96.7 percent majority vote.

Res. 5-09, calling for the adoption of a procedure for the implementation of amending Bylaws, was placed before the body.

An amendment was offered to add the words *subject to the approval of the next synodical convention* to the end of the last resolved.

Question was called on the amendment and was sustained.

The amendment was lost, carrying 27.4 percent of the vote.

The unamended resolution was approved by a vote of 87.1 percent.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

Res. 3-08, to provide for ordination of certain laymen involved in a Word and Sacrament ministry, was set before the delegate body.

An amendment was made to table.

The motion to table lost, carrying 47.2 percent of the vote.

An amendment was offered to delete from line 15, page 51, of *Today's Business* the words *have served at least 10 years* and replace these words with *In the case of men who are serving in Word and Sacrament ministry and...*

The Chair called the question and was sustained.

The amendment was lost, carrying 36.2 percent of the vote.

The Chair called the question on the main motion and was sustained.

The main motion was adopted by a majority vote of 70.2 percent.

Committee 1: Witness and Outreach

Res. 1-17, calling for a revision of the Bylaws on the function of the Synod's Board for Communication Services, was moved.

By consensus the naming of the Synod's boarding high school was included in the resolved.

The motion passed by voice vote.

Res. 1-16, calling for a changing of the title *Director of Evangelism* to *Director of Christian Outreach*, was placed before the body.

The motion was adopted by a voice vote.

Res. 1-12, to join in celebrating the Synod's 100th anniversary of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church, was moved.

The motion carried by voice vote.

Res. 1-05, to respond to renewed mission opportunities in Eastern Europe and Russia, was moved.

By common consensus the words *and to expedite* were added to line 32, vol. 1A, page 33, of *Today's Business* after the word *develop*.

The motion was adopted by voice vote.

Res. 1-07, to develop Circuit outreach strategies, was moved by the committee.

By common consensus the words *be encouraged* were

added to line 43, page 34, of *Today's Business*, after the word *Circuits*.

By common consensus the body agreed to use the name AAL rather than *Aid Association for Lutherans*.

The motion was adopted by voice vote.

Res. 1-06, to encourage congregational witness to ethnic groups, was placed in front of the delegates.

By common consent the words *major* and *people* were deleted from the last line of the resolution.

The motion was adopted.

Res. 1-08, to intensify witness among Muslims, was moved.

The motion was adopted by voice vote.

Committee 4: Program and Finance

Res. 4-06A, which reaffirms the Board of Directors' release of financial disclosure, was moved by the committee.

An amendment was made that all major audited statements such as Balance Sheet, Income Statement, and Flow of Funds and Program Budget Summary be published in the *Lutheran Witness*.

The amendment lost.

An amendment was offered to delete lines 21-22, *Today's Business*, vol. 4, page 272, and to replace these words with the words: *That it make all information concerning payments made to specific vendors, individuals, and litigation available.*

The question was called on both amendment and main motion and was sustained.

The amendment was defeated.

The main motion was adopted by a vote of 92.3 percent.

Res. 4-07, to affirm our Synod's accounting procedure and fiscal operations, was moved by the committee.

An amendment was proposed and adopted by common consent to delete the words *and through existing procedures and get on with our mission* from line 7, *Today's Business*, vol. 1A, page 80.

An amendment was proposed and adopted by common consent to add the word *trust* as the last word of the resolution.

The motion as amended was adopted by 94.7 percent of the vote.

Res. 4-08, to reaffirm the Board of Directors' policy in regard to litigation, was introduced and placed before the convention.

The motion was adopted by a vote of 94.5 percent.

Res. 4-09, to address increased funding for church-worker students, was moved by the committee.

By common consent the word *will* was replaced with *may*.

The motion was approved by 99.1 percent of the voters.

Res. 4-10, to encourage endowments for higher education within the Synod, was moved.

The motion passed with a vote of 97.6 percent.

Res. 4-11, which encourages biblical principles of stewardship, was moved.

An amendment was offered to add the word *tithing* after the words *first fruit*.

The amendment was defeated.

An amendment was proposed and adopted by common consent to add the word *cheerful* after the word *liberal*.

An amendment was proposed and adopted by common

consent to add some references from Scripture to support the resolves of the resolution.

The Chair called the question and was sustained.

The motion was adopted by a vote of 97.4 percent.

Res. 4-12A, which addresses concerns on designated giving via direct mail and telemarketing, was moved by the committee.

The Chair called the question and was sustained.

The motion was defeated, carrying 24 percent of the vote.

Committee 6: Higher Education

A request to reconsider Res. 6-09, which was adopted during Session 11, was moved.

The Chair called for the assembly to vote regarding its desire to reconsider the motion.

The delegates declined to reconsider Res. 6-09.

Res. 6-13, which calls for support for and expansion of recruitment within the Synod of church-work students, was placed before the delegates.

An amendment was offered to delete lines 32-34, *Today's Business*, vol. 1B, page 129.

The Chair called the question and was sustained.

The amendment was defeated, carrying 25 percent of the vote.

The question was called and was sustained.

The motion was adopted by a vote of 91.9 percent.

Res. 6-11, to increase the size of seminary boards of regents, was placed before the convention by the committee.

An amendment was offered to delete the words and *Concordia* at the end of line 3, page 128; and delete words *Seminary, St. Louis, . . . each* at line 4, page 128, and add at line 10, page 128, *Resolved, That the Board of Regents of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, remain at 9 members.*

The amendment carried by a vote of 51.9 percent.

An amendment was offered to alter line 5, page 128, by changing the word *three* to *five*; and delete *and two to be elected by the Boards of Regents in a nonconvention year.*

A motion to refer this amendment and motion back to committee was made.

The Chair called the question on referral and was sustained.

The motion to refer carried by a vote of 51.3 percent.

Special Consideration

Committee 5 announced its desire to have the convention hear a special report tomorrow regarding an issue related to the election of a specific individual to one of the boards of the Synod. A motion was offered for the delegates to consider action on this election after hearing the report.

Special Recognition

The assembly recognized the work of the Rev. Dr. Norbert Mueller in providing leadership to the Fort Wayne Seminary.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Chaplain of the convention.

Session 13

July 17, Morning

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Dr. Wil Sohns, chaplain to the convention.

LifeLight™ Bible Study

The delegates were led for the final Bible study by Dr. Earl Gaulke and Dr. Arnold Kuntz.

Special Recognition and Thanks

Dr. August Mennicke expressed appreciation on behalf of the convention to Dr. Earl Gaulke, Dr. Arnold G. Kuntz, and the LWML for their leadership and support of the LifeLight Bible Study.

Dr. Mennicke introduced The Rev. Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann, president for the past 11 years of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, who addressed the delegates and guests of the convention.

Dr. Henry Koepchen, chairman of the Board of Directors, spoke words of thanks, congratulations, and blessing to both Ralph and Pat Bohlmann and asked the delegates to ratify a decision of both the Council of Presidents and the Board of Directors to name both Dr. Ralph Bohlmann and Dr. J. A. O. Preus, Presidents emeriti of the Synod. The delegates supported the decision.

Mr. Christian Preus, announced on behalf of his father, Dr. Robert Preus, that all charges which were forwarded in the adjudication and appeals processes have now been dropped.

President David Buegler, Ohio District, announced that all of the available seminary candidates have now been placed.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

Dr. Marcis placed Res. 3-12A, which calls for ministry to homosexuals, before the body.

An amendment was offered to add a *whereas*, *It is necessary for the church to expose and resist the sexual idolatry of our society*, and a new goal before number 1, *To offer to our world biblically alternative models of sexual celibacy outside of a committed, permanent heterosexual marriage and same-gender social, but not genitally sexual, deep friendships.*

Question was called on the amendment and was sustained.

The amendment was adopted by a 58.4 percent vote.

An amendment was proposed to add to line 12, page 301, *Today's Business*, vol. 5: *To help the individual recognize that God can rescue individuals from homosexual orientation and practice.*

Question was called and was sustained.

The amendment was passed by a majority vote of 78.1 percent.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 92.1 percent.

Res. 3-13A was proposed to the convention. The resolution addressed concerns related to Valparaiso University.

An amendment was offered to alter the last resolved to read: *That the Synod in convention strongly encourage President Harre and his administration to cease recogni-*

tion of the GALA group on campus because of the serious concerns that are being expressed by congregations and Districts of the LCMS.

The Chair ruled that motion was a substitute for the final resolved rather than an amendment.

The assembly voted to consider the substitute motion.

A motion was made to table the substitute motion and the main motion.

The motion to table was lost.

The Chair called the question and was sustained.

The substitute motion was lost, carrying 30.3 percent of the vote.

The question was called and was sustained.

The main motion, unamended, was supported by a vote of 82.3 percent majority vote.

Committee 6: Higher Education

Res. 6-08, to provide for special certification for Valparaiso University teacher-education graduates, was placed before the assembly. The committee made an editorial change to line 45, page 125, from *do not have to* to *need not*.

The resolution was adopted by a majority vote of 87.4 percent.

Res. 6-16, which calls for an amendment to Article III of the constitution of the Synod to include congregational support of secondary schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries, was placed before the delegates.

The motion was adopted by a vote of 92.5 percent.

Res. 6-15, to identify linkages from the *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties*, was moved by the committee.

The motion was adopted by a voice vote.

Res. 6-19, to study the feasibility of a seminary in the Southwest, was moved by the committee.

The motion carried with 86.3 percent of the vote.

Res. 6-14, to commend scholarship support for church workers' children, was moved.

The motion carried: 95.3 percent.

Res. 6-18, to review personnel policies and procedures of the colleges and universities within the newly established system, was moved by the committee.

The motion was adopted by voice vote.

Res. 6-17, to provide additional married student housing at our seminaries, was moved by the committee.

The motion carried 96.9 percent of the vote.

Res. 6-22, which calls for certain overtures to be referred to the Concordia University System, was moved and adopted.

Res. 6-21, which calls for a correction in the BHES report, was received as a report requiring no action by the convention.

Res. 6-20, to decline an overture to specify that the Synod maintain two synodical seminaries, was moved and adopted.

The committee moved to refer Res. 6-11 to the Board for Higher Education of the new Concordia University System.

The question was called and sustained.

The motion carried by 95.2 percent.

Res. 6-23, to decline certain overtures, was moved and adopted by voice vote.

The Chair announced that Committee 6 had completed its resolutions.

Special Report

Texas District president Gerald Kieschnick reported on successful conversation with a brother regarding *Lutheran Vanguard*.

Committee 5: Structure and Organization

Dr. Loren Kramer, on behalf of the committee, reported their consideration of accountability, discipline, and removal of members from synodical boards and commissions who conduct themselves in a manner inconsistent with the Christian faith and life, to wit:

We believe that the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod provide adequate means to deal with such matters. We cite the following:

Bylaw 2.35: Duties of Members

Every member of the synod shall diligently and earnestly promote the purposes of the Synod by word and deed.

Bylaw 3.73: Accountability of Officers, Boards, and Commissions

All officers, boards and commissions shall be accountable to the Synod for all their actions.

Constitution Art. XI: Rights and Duties of Officers

A 2: The Synod at all times has the right to call its officers to account and, if circumstances require it, to remove them from office in accordance with Christian procedures.

Finally, we refer to the procedure adopted in Res. 5-01B by this convention and cite the following from section 8.01, "Purpose and Objectives":

This procedure is established to resolve, in a God-pleasing manner, disputes that involve as parties, members of the Synod, the Synod itself, a District or an organization owned and controlled by the Synod, persons involved in excommunication or lay members of congregations of the Synod holding positions with the Synod itself or with Districts of other organizations owned and controlled by the Synod and shall be the exclusive remedy to resolve such disputes. It is applicable whether the dispute involves only a difference of opinion without personal animosity or is one which involves ill will and sin which requires repentance and forgiveness. No person or entity to whom or to which the provisions of this chapter are applicable because such person or entity is a member of the Synod may render the provisions of this chapter inapplicable by terminating that membership.

The committee asked that this report be included in the minutes and the delegates approved with a voice vote.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Chaplain of the convention.

Session 14

July 17, Afternoon

Opening

The installation of the officers occurred.

Committee 1: Witness and Outreach

The committee introduced Res. 1-09, to support the work on black ministry. The committee asked that *related* in line 12 be changed to *generated from*.

The resolution was adopted by voice vote.

Res. 1-10, to provide materials for witnessing to un-churched family members, was moved.

The resolution was adopted.

Res. 1-11, to train "living mission" teams, was moved and adopted with an editorial change to add the words *be encouraged* after the word *congregation* in line 16.

Res. 1-14 was moved and adopted.

Res. 1-15 was moved and adopted.

Res. L1-43 was moved to refer to Boards for Mission Services and Parish Services.

The motion was adopted.

Committee 5: Structure and Organization

Res. 5-13, to amend Bylaw 5.33, was moved.

An amendment was proposed as a final resolved: "and be it finally *Resolved*, That each congregation be encouraged to designate a Circuit, District and synodical representative."

The amendment was lost.

The main motion was adopted by 94 percent.

Res. 5-06, to refer term limitation to Board of Directors, was moved.

The motion carried.

Res. 5-16, to eliminate the Human Care Coordinating Committee, was moved and carried by 98 percent.

Res. 5-17 was moved and adopted by a vote of 96.8 percent.

Res. 5-14A, to clarify and designate the listing of advisory members of the Synod, was moved.

The committee offered several editorial changes which were accepted by common consent: page 227, line 13, after the word *church* add *for directors of Christian education*. At the end of the same line change *deaconess* to *deaconesses*; page 227, line 24, add *directors of Christian education* after the word *teachers*; page 227, line 30, add *deaconesses* after the word *outreach*.

The motion carried.

Res. 5-21 was moved and adopted.

Res. 5-18 was moved and adopted by voice vote.

The committee moved that overtures 5-50 and 5-51 to 53 be referred to the Mission and Ministry Council.

The motion was adopted.

Special Committee

The committee moved the resolution printed in *Today's Business*, vol. 8, page 363, to decline certain overtures.

The question was called and was sustained.

The motion was adopted by a 94.6 percent vote.

The Chair announced that the Special Committee would remain in existence until at least Sept. 1, 1992.

Dr. George Wollenburg moved a resolution thanking those on the Special Committee, who have helped the Synod find peace in several difficult matters, and encourages the members of the Synod to continue to strive for peace.

WHEREAS, A Special Committee was appointed by President Bohlmann, to deal with the dispute and conflict that has troubled our Synod with respect to Dr. Robert Preus and various decisions by the COA and CCM; and

WHEREAS, The committee has completed its work and through their dedicated effort and in response to our prayers, the Holy Spirit of God has brought peaceful resolution to the conflict and begun the process of reconciliation and healing for our church; therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank God for the wisdom He has given them in bringing such a resolution to this difficult and troubling case; and be it further

Resolved, That we express the gratitude of our Synod to these faithful and good men who served us on this committee; and be it finally

Resolved, That we, the delegates to this convention, each pledge ourselves to continue diligently to work toward the healing of our church.

The resolution was adopted with a rising vote and singing of the Doxology.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

Res. 3-14 was placed before the convention.

Question was called and sustained.

The motion was adopted.

Res. 3-15 was moved and adopted by voice vote.

Res. 3-16, to encourage theological study, was moved and adopted.

Res. 3-17, to encourage study of the CTCR document, *The End Times*, was moved and adopted.

Res. 3-18 was moved and adopted.

Res. 3-19, encouraging the completion of the study of the issue of gambling, was moved and adopted.

Res. 3-20, to conduct a study of liberation theology, was moved and adopted.

Res. 3-21A, to acknowledge and use God's gifts of research and analysis, was moved and adopted.

A motion was made to table, but was not sustained.

The main motion carried by voice vote.

Res. 3-22 was moved and adopted.

The committee recommended that overture 3-09 be referred to Committee on Lutheran Cooperation.

The motion to do so carried by voice vote.

Committee 7: Human Care

Res. 7-04A was moved and adopted.

Res. 7-07A was moved and adopted as amended by common consent to add a resolved: "That we, likewise, thank God for the work of the synodical Washington Office of Government Information in conveying vital information on church-state and moral issues to our public officials, churches, and others."

Res. 7-09A was moved.

The resolution was amended and accepted by common consent to add the words *stewardship in* after the word *biblical*.

Res. 7-11A was moved and adopted.

Res. 7-10 was moved and adopted as edited by common consent.

Res. 7-12 was moved and adopted.

Res. 7-13 was moved as edited by common consent.

Motion to amend was made to strike the last resolved.

The amendment was lost.

An amendment was made to strike all words after the word *love* in the last resolved.

The amendment was adopted.

The main motion was adopted as amended.

Res. 7-18 was moved and adopted.

Committee 8: Planning and Administration

The committee moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Rev. Dr. Ralph Bohlmann has served with distinction as the President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for the past 11 years; and

WHEREAS, His service in this position will end with the installation of a new president in September; and

WHEREAS, The members of the LCMS desire to thank him for his Christian service and leadership; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 58th Regular Convention of

the LCMS thank President Ralph Bohlmann by rising, clapping, and singing the Common Doxology.

The resolution was adopted.

A resolution was moved to thank the many people who assisted with this convention and the people of the Eastern District, who hosted the delegates.

The motion was adopted.

Motions to Decline

All of the floor committees moved to decline certain overtures.

The delegates voted to decline all overtures as presented by the chairmen of the floor committees.

Committee 10: Credentials, Registration, and Elections

The final report on registration was made: 583 voting pastors; 579 voting laypersons; 58 advisory pastoral delegates; 107 advisory teacher delegates; 215 representatives from boards and commissions and faculties; 24 youth; 32 others.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Chaplain of the convention.

Closing of the Convention

Using the historic gavel, the Rev. Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann closed the 58th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

D. Ray Halm, Assistant Secretary

Election Results

President	Nominating Ballot	Election Ballots				Election Ballots					
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
* Alvin L. Barry	1310	534	544	561	580	<i>Secretary (Vote for 1)</i>					
Ralph A. Bohlmann	1220	481	524	542	568	Halm, D. Ray (PSW)..... 272					
Robert T. Kuhn	396	9				* Rosin, Walter L. (MO)..... 844					
August T. Mennicke	124	(D)				<i>Treasurer</i>					
Eugene W. Bunkowske	65	99	70	51		* Sell, Norman D. (MO)..... 942					
Robert C. Sauer	55	27	16			<i>Board of Directors</i>					
Richard G. Kapfer	43					CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)					
George F. Wollenburg	39					* Barth, Karl L. (SW)..... 696					
Walter A. Maier	35					Goodsman, Ronald (IE)..... 245					
Robert D. Preus	27					Ludwig, David (FG)..... 529					
Kurt Marquart	25					* Thompson, Richard L. (MT)..... 715					
Charles S. Mueller, Jr.	21										
Karl L. Barth	18										
Dale A. Meyer	18										
Raymond L. Hartwig	16										
* Richard T. Hinz	16										

- Elected

† Persons receiving 15 or fewer nominating votes are listed in *Biographical Synopsis*.

<i>First Vice-President</i>	Nominating Ballot	Election Ballots				
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
* August T. Mennicke	919	310	357	407	488	579
Robert T. Kuhn	845	365	412	449	499	571
Alvin L. Barry	451	(D)				
Eugene W. Bunkowske	110	165	134	109		
George F. Wollenburg	80	(D)				
Kurt Marquart	74	(D)				
Robert C. Sauer	74	60	38			
Walter A. Maier	67	34				
* Ralph A. Bohlmann	59	(D)				
Richard G. Kapfer	44					
* Robert H. King	44	215	209	181	162	
Harold L. Senkbeil	37					
Edwin S. Suellflow	33					
Karl L. Barth	32					
Raymond L. Hartwig	32					

- Elected

† Robert H. King was added to the slate by amendment. Ralph A. Bohlmann declined a floor nomination.

<i>Other Vice-Presidents</i>	Nominating Ballot	Election Ballots		
		(1)	(2)	(3)
* Robert H. King	611	740		
* Eugene W. Bunkowske	517	649		
Robert T. Kuhn	482	(D)		
* Robert C. Sauer	332	454	639	
Kurt Marquart	305	457	542	536
* Walter A. Maier	266	361	530	563
George F. Wollenburg	251	(D)		
Wallace R. Schulz	141	(NA)		
Daniel Preus	122	307		
Richard G. Kapfer	82	(D)		
Harold L. Senkbeil	63	(NA)		
Karl L. Barth	58	335	518	
Richard T. Hinz	47	(D)		
Thomas R. Zehnder	39	(D)		
Wilbert J. Sohns	33	266		
Dale A. Meyer	32	233		
Arnold G. Kuntz	31	(D)		
Glenn R. O'Shoney	29	(D)		
Raymond L. Hartwig	28	(D)		
Theodore L. Laesch	25	(D)		
Loren T. Kramer	24	(D)		
Ralph A. Bohlmann	23	(D)		
David D. Buegler	22	(D)		
Robert D. Preus	22	111		
John L. Heins	22	(D)		
Ronald F. Fink	21	146		
Roger D. Pittelko	19	(D)		
Guido Merckens	18	104		

• Elected

Secretary (Vote for 1)

Halm, D. Ray (PSW)	272
* Rosin, Walter L. (MO)	844

Treasure

* Sell, Norman D. (MO)..... 942

Board of Directors

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)

* Barth, Karl L. (SW).....	696
Goodsman, Ronald (IE).....	246
Ludwig, David (FG).....	529
* Thompson, Richard L. (MT).....	715

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 4)

* Brosz, Donald J. (WY).....	754			
* Daniel, John L. (SELC)	582			
* Garbe, Ernest (CI)	561			
* Hanson, Oscar H. (CNH)	439	328	391	611
Hinnefeld, Edward (FG)	349	233	395	515
Kemmerle, Arnold (CNH)	309	82		
Prevaillet, Donald (MDS)	230	107		
Purdy, Paul W. (SO)	359	172	247	
Rodefild, Robert (RM)	399	152		
Schoessel, Arthur (CI)	209			

Board for Evangelism Services

PARISH PASTORS (Vote for 1)

* Karsten, Darwin (MO)	697
Kurowski, Peter (MO).....	428

TEACHERS (Vol. for 1)

Berg, Paul (MNS).....	500
* Thurber, Daniel (NEB).....	595

LAYERPERSONS (Vote for 2)

Gaede, Anita (SW)	545
* Hegg, Dan (NE)	608
* Johnson, Phillip L. (NEB)	632
Smith, Marva E. (AT)	395

Board for Higher Education Services

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Diefenthaler, Jon T. (SE).....	484
* Meyer, John W. (RM)	630

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Behrens, Floyd F. (FG).....	415
* Reinke, Ralph L. (TX).....	661

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

* Holste, James C. (TX).....	729			
* Johnston, Christine (NJ).....	300	223		
* Kaufmann, David A. (FG).....	506	462	537	
Millender, Dharathula "Dollie" (EN).....	254			
Morse, Martha K. (NE).....	408	318	510	

Board for Mission Services

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)

* Bendewald, Donald (SE).....	422	447	503	423	522	623
Koepchen, Henry (AT).....	172	175	184	108		
Kosberg, Steven (NOW).....	182	158				
Lange, George (IN).....	326	327	362	347	383	500
Meinzen, Luther (MO).....	109					
Mueller, Norbert H. (IN).....	374	352	383	246	227	
Wiggins, Stephen (SE).....	168	178	178			
* Wingfield, Albert (MC).....	461	491	556			

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

* Duda, Betty (SELC).....	713
Hackbarth, Oscar (SW).....	489
Timm, Reuben (NW).....	341
* Vessey, John W., Jr. (MNN)....	653

Board for Parish Services

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)

Gammeyer, Thomas (OH).....	322	369	148
Kuehnert, Philip (EN).....	181		
* Noack, Richard (FG).....	408	546	
Preus, Daniel (RM).....	491	473	434 479
* Schroder, David (TX).....	476	530	475 655
Washington, Steve (SO).....	225	227	

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

* Giles, Jack (NI).....	642
Wenz, Richard (IE).....	414

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

Allen, Chris (NW).....	362	269
* Ebeling, Carol (IN).....	712	
* Henkelmann, Priscilla (EN)....	444	432 605
Kehm, Marlys M. (CNH).....	274	
Otten, Ruth (NI).....	379	370 439

Board for Youth Services

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

* Bueltmann, Kevin (CI).....	562
Hagge, John (NW).....	140
Malland, Roger (MC).....	384

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES (Vote for 1)

* Arnold, Steven (EN).....	640
Baden, Robert (PSW).....	446

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

Kroemer, Leon (IE).....	191
Payton, Dianne (EN).....	227
* Schwan, Tim (NW).....	628

YOUTH (Vote for 4)

* Figini, Beth (EA).....	586
* Kneedler, Rachel (IW).....	494
* Mann, Angie (OH).....	495
* Novak, Kim (MO).....	502
Ogden, Amy (TX).....	353
Vaughan, Amy (KS).....	419
Wenz, Ariel (NEB).....	451
Yahn, Keith (FG).....	490

Commission on Adjudication

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)

* Caspersen, David (WY).....	508	518
* Lauterbach, W. Eugene (IN)....	528	595
Mehl, Carl E. (MC).....	383	432
Riemer, Milton H. (TX).....	470	494
Taddey, Martin (CNH).....	301	

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

* Lankenau, Ronald P. (OH).....	621
* Rinke, Orrin (MNN).....	529
Rubin, Arthur (OK).....	465
Tenuta, Frank Cal (IW).....	467

Commission on Appeals

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)

Hedtke, Robert (IE).....	442
Miller, La Mar (NI).....	339
* Preus, Jack III (MO).....	682
* Saresky, Edward L. (EA).....	658

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

* Bodenstab, Richard (NI).....	373	379	578
Hoberg, Gordon (ND).....	394	350	496
Mossner, Eugene D. (MC).....	355	285	
* Tesch, Walter (SW).....	557		
Wilkening, Harvey W. (SO).....	322		

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

* Boehme, Armand (MNS).....	623
Griffen, William H. (NI).....	486

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Lams, E. Theodore (NI).....	493
* Storm, Robert W. (MO).....	608

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

Beineke, Thomas (NE).....	277	318	415
Dawn, Marva (NOW).....	194	265	
Ott-Hager Diane (EN).....	58		
* Stolzenburg, Bud (NEB).....	462	485	624

Board of Directors—Concordia Publishing House

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Bornemann, George W. (EN)....	345
Gonzalez, Juan (FG).....	166
* Thiem, Alfred E. (ND).....	587

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Essig, James (FG).....	498
* Herzog, Guenther K. (IN).....	587

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

* Axen, Carmen (PSW)	550			
* Brickler, John (MO)	729			
Farley, Hilton A. (OH)	456	262	269	
* Jenkins, Marvin (MNS)	397	302	422	588
Olsen, Melvin (CNH)	480	292	346	514
Rochester, Nikki (SE)	245	182		
Russler, Russ (SE)	240			

Board of Regents—Ann Arbor

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Brondos, Joel (IN).....	464
* Hackett, Thomas S. (OH).....	610

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Daenzer, Charles G. (EN).....	495
* Strohacker, Charles J. (MC)....	577

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

* Gibbs, Vernona (MC).....	610		
* Kayser, Walter W. (MC).....	485	483	591
* Kluck, Gerald (MC).....	695		
Meints, Clifford (IW).....	470	272	
Mundinger, Gerhard Jr. (SO)....	380		
Widenhofer, Gerald (IN).....	485	289	443

Board of Regents—Austin

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

* Bohot, Paul (TX).....	575
Goodwill, Richard (TX).....	468

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Allmon, Richard (TX).....	107
Fricke, Raymond (TX).....	316
* Gomez, Carlos A. (IE).....	588

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

* Bulls, Derrell (TX).....	528
* Johnston, J. Bradley (TX).....	633
* Krueger, Puddin' (TX).....	595
Kunkel, Oscar (RM).....	484
Sailer, Calvin (RM).....	265
Schur, Martin (TX).....	499

Board of Regents—Bronxville

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Kitzmann, Harold (SE).....	311	
* Knapp, Timothy (NE)	397	530
Kuehnert, Richard E. Jr. (NE) ..	315	515

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

* Endorf, Weldon W. (AT).....	521
Kanc, Richard (EA).....	485

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

* Braden, Paul (EA)	653
* Bruening, Alice (SE)	776
Mackey, Norman C. (AT)	228
Mahn, Edward (NJ)	184
McDaniels, Janis (AT)	279
* Praetzel, Gary (EA)	560
Turner, Chris (FG)	274

Board of Regents—Concordia, MO

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Eckardt, Burnell, Jr. (SW)	448	438
Harre, Alan (IN)	171	
* Theiss, Steven (MC)	436	613

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Janssen, Leland L. (MO)	498
* Schumacher, Ben (MO)	530

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Culbertson, Kenneth (KS)	355
* Grefe, Vernon (MO)	517
* Heins, Vernon (MO)	715
* Krueger, Wayne E. (CI)	526
Mack, George A. (IW)	497
Weiss, Norman (MO)	369

Board of Regents—Fort Wayne

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

* Mueller, Raymond A. (OH)	514
Zimmermann, Elwood H. (IN) ..	491

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

* Bredemeier, Melvin (IN).....	521			
* Buck, Johnny (WY).....	415	375	512	649
Koehn, Don (IE).....	361	168		
Manteuffel, E. G. (CI).....	80			
McNally, William (MC).....	323	306	370	477
Olsen, Harold (CI).....	231	213	233	
Richter, Erwin (MNS).....	151			

Board of Regents—Irvine

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

* Allsing, Richard (PSW)	325	381	538
Hentz, Robert (PSW)	224	298	
Oswald, Orval (CNH)	146		
Reimnitz, Elroi (PSW)	311	357	512

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

* Hillmann, Paul (CNH)	563
Hilst, Helen (CNH)	466

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Ash, Neil (PSW)	425
* Krueger, Daniel (RM)	606
* Kruse, Eleanor (CNH)	575
Lehman, Paul (PSW)	558
* Ramlo, Setma K. (PSW)	595
Tritch, Ralph (CNH)	241

Board of Regents—Mequon

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Foard, Howard A. (NI)	512
* Grime, Paul (SW)	521

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

Raedeke, Henry W. (IN)	485
* Wegner, Frank (NW)	518

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Barnet, Joseph Jr. (SW)	512
* Bennett, Irving (NW)	627
* Gehrt, Robert L. (NW)	551
Gipp, Robert (NW)	499
* Jaeger, John G. (SW)	536
Rueger, Walter (SW)	211

Board of Regents—Portland

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

* Anderson, Walter A. (NOW)	493	538
Gilmore, Rozell (NOW)	141	
Meyer, Larry (NOW)	373	502

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

* Gerken, Charles (NOW)	751
Meyer, Gerhardt (NOW)	228

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

* Brondos, Charles (NOW)	616
* Crawford, Matthew (MT)	571
Edwards, Gloria (CNH)	542
* Hyde, Richard (CNH)	543
Misterek, Leon (NOW)	241
Schelp, Don (NOW)	307

Board of Regents—River Forest

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Schildwachter, John (MNS)	479
* Thielke, H. Lothar (IN)	512

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

* Brandt, Larry (CI)	525
Klemm, Lowell (NI)	449

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Davis, Bruce (MNS)	312
* Israel, Herbert W. (EA)	664
* Klaas, Alan (NW)	535
* Rath, Gerald (NI)	501
Schroeder, Leonard (NI)	489
Ulrich, Wendell (NI)	331

Board of Regents—St. Louis

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Fink, Ronald (FG)	192
Jording, Howard J. (ND)	190
Odom, Frazier (MO)	112
* Oesch, Eugene A. (TX)	538

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

Czanderna, Alwin W. (RM)	468
* Korth, Dale (SW)	730
* Montz, C. R. (ND)	540
Sweney, Richard (OH)	237

Board of Regents—St. Paul

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Bugbee, Robert (MNS)	315	402
Pfotenauer, Paul (MNS)	214	
* Roth, Victor M. (MNS)	462	620

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

* Dirks, Dennis (MNS)	701
Labbus, Paul (NW)	267

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Bayer, David (MNS)	258
Brinkmann, Merlyn (MNS)	271
* Gangelhoff, Ronald J. (FG)	688
Preus, Christian A. (MNS)	467
* Scheibe, Donald (SD)	703
* Uran, Michael (MNN)	500

Board of Regents—Selma

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

* McCants, Jimmy (SO)	756
Meyer, Richard H. (SO)	221

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

* Behnken, Donna (SO)	487
McBride, Mary (SO)	460

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Hafner, Lawrence E. (FG)	364
* King, Jean (MO)	534

* Lewis, Cleveland (IN)	648
* Lohmeyer, Rhonda B. (SO)	589
Pugh, Willie J. Jr. (NOW)	494
Sansbury, James (OH)	213

Board of Regents—Seward**CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)**

Reiss, Harold (RM)	466
* Schroeder, Wayne C. (IE)	527

TEACHERS (Vote for 1)

* Hintz, Dennis (KS)	668
Johnson, Arthur R. (MO)	295

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

* Brink, E. Geno (NEB)	371	368	609
Davis, Dorothy (MC)	207	233	508
* Hartmann, William (NEB)	835		
* Kolterman, Mark (NEB)	782		
Rodenburg, John (CI)	295	222	
Schkade, Anthony (NEB)	187		
Smith, Marti R. (NEB)	259	222	

Special Standing Rules

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. When recognized by the Chair, members of the convention shall state their name. They shall also state the name of the District or of the administrative unit (board, faculty) they represent.
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 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 and seconded the presenter shall be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for presenting it. The convention shall then 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 fails; 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, 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 Scott Foresman 1990 edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

(The words *and seconded the presenter shall be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for presenting it* were added to Standing Rule 7 by amendment. An amendment to add the words "When used, the ERS operator shall produce a hard-copy paper printout of the vote, listed by voter codes. The printout shall be available for examination during recess and included with the minutes. Copies of the printout may be obtained through written petition to the Secretary. The loss of the voting tally or printout shall constitute an annulment of the vote, requiring a recount on that vote" to Standing Rule 6 was declined.)

Miscellaneous Resolutions and Resolutions of Thanks**To Honor and Thank President Bohlmann**

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Ralph Bohlmann has served with distinction as the President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for the past 11 years; and

WHEREAS, His service in this position will end with the installation of a new president in September; and

WHEREAS, The members of the LCMS desire to thank him for his Christian service and leadership; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 58th Regular Convention of the LCMS thank President Bohlmann by rising, clapping, and singing the Common Doxology.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Commend Special Committee for Its Work

WHEREAS, The Special Committee was appointed by President Bohlmann to deal with the dispute and conflict that has troubled our Synod with respect to Dr. Robert Preus and various decisions by the COA and CCM; and

WHEREAS, The committee has completed its work, and through their dedicated effort and in response to our

prayers, the Holy Spirit of God has brought peaceful resolution to the conflict and begun the process of reconciliation and healing for our church; therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank God for the wisdom He has given them in bringing such a resolution to this difficult and troubling case; and be it further

Resolved, That we express the gratitude of our Synod to these faithful and good men who served us on this committee; and be it finally

Resolved, That we, the delegates to this convention, each pledge ourselves to continue diligently to work toward the healing of our church.

Action: Adopted (14).

**To Express Gratitude for Leadership
of Convention Chairman**

WHEREAS, President Ralph Bohlmann has shown great care, sensitivity, and compassion in leading the 58th 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 Pittsburgh at its 58th convention show its profound thanks by rising and applauding.

Action: Adopted (14).

**To Express Thanks to Individuals
and Groups Involved
in Convention Preparation and Conduct**

WHEREAS, Many individuals and groups have gener-

ously 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 58th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to all for their faithful services which the convention an enjoyable one, and for their assistance to delegates in carrying out their responsibilities, and in particular our gracious host, the Eastern District, and its president, Dr. David Belasic; the local committees; the fine young pages; our convention managers, Forrest Lange and Lynne Neuman; Vice-Presidents Mennicke, King, Sauer, Bunkowske, and Maier; our efficient Secretary, Dr. Rosin, and Assistant Secretary, Dr. Halm; the parliamentarian, Angeline Haines; our chaplain, Dr. Sohns, and organists David Christian and Dr. Brauer; the LifeLight leaders, Dr. Gaulke and Dr. Kuntz, 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.

Action: Adopted (14)

**To Ratify Decision of the Council
of Presidents and Board of Directors**

Resolved, That the delegates ratify the decision of the Council of Presidents and the Board of Directors to designate Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann as President Emeritus of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That Dr. J. A. O. Preus be designated as President Emeritus of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Action: Adopted (13).



REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Part I

"With Great Boldness Tell Everyone What He Has Done!" What a magnificent theme for the 58th regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and for the mission and ministry of the Synod and its congregations in these challenging but difficult times! For the last three years, we have described our synodical mission in terms of the post-Communion canticle based on the opening verses of Psalm 105: "Tell Everyone What He Has Done." These words have helped many in the Synod focus on the task of proclaiming the Good News to all the world as the central mission of the church of Jesus Christ. As we have done so, we have become increasingly aware of the urgency and vitality of our telling. With the problems of sin and suffering all around us, and with more than three-fourths of this world's population unaware of God's gift for them in Jesus Christ, we need the boldness of the early Christian church as we go about our task.

In Acts 4, after they saw the boldness of Peter and John, these early Christians prayed: "Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness" (v. 29). St. Luke reports: "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly" (v. 31).

It is my prayer that these words will guide the 1992 convention of our great church body and its congregations as we face the many challenges and opportunities of our day. For, we, too, like those early Christians, need to cease being timid and fearful people behind closed doors, concerned primarily about ourselves. We, too, need the power of the Holy Spirit to give us the boldness to look out at the world, which needs to hear of Jesus Christ, and to get on with our work "with great boldness!"

My report on the administration of the Synod is in three parts. In this first part, I will summarize and comment on several organizational and administrative matters. Part II will be presented at the floor committee meetings on May 29–June 1, and mailed to the delegates shortly thereafter. The third and final part will be presented at the opening session of the convention on July 11. While this first part properly reports on past activities and emphases, Parts II and III will focus on actions of the convention intended to help the Synod meet the issues and challenges God has placed before us in this last decade of the 20th century.

Summary of Administrative Activities

In Memoriam

During this past triennium, it has pleased the Lord to take to Himself into heaven two former District Presidents: Carl H. Bensene (Northwest District) and Walter D. Oetting (Iowa District East). 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.

Council of Presidents

The Presidents of our 35 Districts, together with the synodical President and five Vice-Presidents, serve as the Synod's Council of Presidents. The council has continued to provide excellent leadership, counsel, and support in a number of important areas.

Dr. John L. Heins has served as chairman of the council since Dr. Glenn O'Shoney's acceptance in 1990 of the call to serve as the executive director of the Synod's Board for Mission Services. The council serves as the Synod's Board of Assignments for our professional church workers and supervises our official rosters. The council has also undertaken a number of studies, including the Office of the Ministry and Doctrine of the Call, the Synod's close Communion practice, the role and function of women in the life of the church, and the personal conduct of professional church workers. The council also gathered data through the "Toward a More Excellent Ministry" project to assist the Synod's development of a suitable instrument for assisting congregations in the calling process. In August 1991, the Council met with the seminary faculties, focusing on the shape of theology as we move toward the year 2000, as well as mutual collaboration to shape and nurture pastoral ministry in the Synod.

In the District conventions held in 1991, 13 District Presidents were elected to that office for the first time. They are David H. Benke (Atlantic), Walter C. Tietjen (California-Nevada-Hawaii), David S. Belasic (Eastern), Timothy E. Sims (Indiana), David W. Callies (Mid South), Lane R. Seitz (Minnesota South), James W. Kalthoff (Missouri), Eugene V. Gierke (Nebraska), Osmar Lehenbauer (New England), Norman C. Sincebaugh (North Dakota), William R. Diekelman (Oklahoma), Gerald B. Kieschnick (Texas), and Robert C. Oberheu (Wyoming).

In early 1992, President Richard Kiessling of the Montana District announced his resignation, because the District Board of Directors determined that the office should be full-time. He was succeeded by the District's First Vice-President, Dr. George F. Wollenburg.

The 1991 District conventions, of which I attended 13 as the synodical representative, were characterized by an excitement and focus on the Lord's mission to reach the unchurched with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In my article in the August 1991 *Lutheran Witness*, I characterized the picture of the Synod emerging from District conventions as follows:

1. The Synod wants to move ahead.
2. The Synod desires pastoral and evangelical leaders.
3. The doctrinal position of the Synod is honored and upheld by its members.
4. The Synod wants a peaceful and caring spirit to prevail.

5. The Synod's decentralized organization is increasingly effective.

A more detailed report of each District's activities, prepared by each District President, is presented elsewhere in this *Workbook*.

Vice-President Mennicke and I have implemented the plans announced at the last convention to visit with all District Presidents and their staffs on an individual and regular basis during each District triennium. Visits were completed in 32 districts, with additional visits now scheduled for all districts during the current District triennium. These visits have done much to help strengthen the bond of faith, confession, and mission between the Districts and the national offices of the Synod.

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 1991 Circuit Counselors' Conference, the synodical colloquy committees, the Planning Council on Mission and Ministry, and ongoing studies on lay ministry. He has also represented the President on the Boards of Regents of both seminaries. In addition, he has had the important responsibility of monitoring alleged irregularities in the doctrine and practice of the congregations and professional workers of the Synod and of assisting and supporting the District Presidents in their supervisory responsibilities in such matters. The many administrative details and correspondence associated with the office of the President and First Vice-President are ably handled by Professor William Schmelder, Miss Jean Buettner, two secretaries, and a shared-time clerical helper. Mr. Les Stroh served as assistant to the President until Feb. 28, 1991. Dr. Arthur Kuehnert, who had provided full-time assistance after his retirement in 1988, again "retired" at the end of June 1991, but continues to provide invaluable assistance on various projects. 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, Board for Mission Services, Board for Higher Education Services, and the Board for Communication Services meet on a regular basis as the "President's Liaison Team," in order to provide mutual support, direction, and planning on a number of administrative activities and issues.

Vice-Presidents Robert King, Robert Sauer, Eugene Bunkowske, and Walter Maier have also provided valuable assistance during the past triennium, especially in the doctrinal supervision of a number of difficult cases, as well as counsel on major issues facing the Synod. They also represented the President's office at several of the 1991 District conventions and at a number of other meetings and events. A more detailed report on the activities of the Praesidium is provided below.

Ecclesiastical Supervision

The Synod has assigned to the President of the Synod

"the supervision regarding the doctrine and the 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 decentralized.

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.

Included in the annual reports of District Presidents are statistics on the number of pastors on our clergy roster who have experienced a broken marriage and how these cases have been dealt with; the number of congregations in which women serve as chairman and elders; the instances of congregations in which so-called charismatic gifts are used publicly and how these issues are being dealt with; the participation of pastors and lay members in unofficial special interest groups and the impact of such groups on the attitudes of people regarding the Districts

and the Synod; and the instances of inter-Christian worship activities that appear to be in violation of our Synod's stated policies and how the congregations or pastors are being addressed about such instances. In all such cases, I am pleased to report that our synodical and District supervisors of doctrine are committed to following fraternal, evangelical, and patient approaches. Contrary to impressions circulated in various parts of the Synod, there is a healthy practice of doctrinal discipline among us, and the number of cases requiring attention has either improved or remained relatively constant for several years. It is clear that two areas in particular, namely women's service in the church and Communion practices, need further attention and study because of the disagreements apparent among us, and for that reason the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, as well as the Council of Presidents, has devoted considerable time and attention to such matters.

Because misleading reports continue to circulate in the Synod, implying that our synodical and District officers do not exercise doctrinal discipline effectively, it should be understood that this is not only untrue and unjust, but often appears to reflect a misunderstanding of the nature and purpose of doctrinal discipline within the church as set forth by the Word of God. It should also be underscored that in every meeting of the Council of Presidents, a substantial portion of time is devoted to considering and counseling one another on specific cases. To help all of us in the ministry of supervision focus on the biblical directives for this important activity, I led the council in a discussion of "The Discipline of Restoration." Attached as Appendix A is a copy of "A Fraternal Plea," which I originally presented to the council in November 1988, but again discussed with the council in the first meeting following the installation of new District Presidents in September 1991. The emphases of this statement continue to be reflected in the disciplinary ministry of the leadership of the Synod.

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 they are faithful to the Synod's doctrinal position. At the present time, approximately 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. However, in a few instances, published materials were challenged and handled by the Commission on Doctrinal Review as provided in the synodical Bylaws. The vigilance exerted by our church body in this effort is very unusual among major church bodies today, but it provides an invaluable assistance to the many writers and editors of our church body in making as sure as we can 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 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, Vice-President Mennicke and I attempt to spend as much time as possible in personal visits throughout the Synod in order to listen to the boards, staffs, Districts, Circuits, conferences, and congregations of the Synod. From these contacts, both of us are convinced that the overwhelming majority of congregations, pastors and teachers, and lay members of the Synod are strongly committed to the confession and mission of our church body and are eager to get on with the task of the church.

Government Contacts

I have continued to represent the Synod in a number of contacts with national governmental leaders, including President Bush, particularly in areas where the Synod has a direct interest, such as pro-life questions, policies affecting our secondary and elementary schools, family issues, tax matters, chaplaincy programs, the welfare of church workers serving abroad, and human-rights dimensions of national and international events. Such contacts have been greatly enhanced by generous grants that have enabled the Synod to provide a modest full-time presence in Washington, D.C. The Washington Office of Government Information (whose report appears elsewhere in the *Workbook*) is intended to expedite the provision of information about the Synod and its official policies to governmental entities and to provide for a flow of information and counsel to our various synodical offices and congregations. This office, although having only a very small staff, 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 educational concerns, and other government issues that may affect our institutional life together. Information from the office is also shared on a regular basis with the leaders of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church. There is increasing evidence of growing congregational interest in matters of public policy and a number of key national issues, particularly in the fields of abortion, euthanasia, and education, that require greater attention at the District and state level. It is our hope that the Washington office can assist in those efforts, as well as congregational initiatives, more vigorously in the coming triennium.

Response to Gulf War

Although the war in the Persian Gulf in early 1991 has receded into the memories of most of us, it should not be forgotten that the congregations and pastors of the Synod, and especially our military chaplains, responded in a most commendable fashion. More than 30 LCMS chaplains were at one time deployed to the Middle East. The Synod can be especially proud of our chaplains and the ministry they carry out to the men and women of our armed forces on our behalf. For many decades, Missouri's military chaplains have been recognized as among the finest. What isn't always understood is that the qualities for which they are commended in their military ministries are the same pastoral qualities that characterize pastoral ministry throughout the parishes of our church body. We are truly grateful for our tradition of seminary education and for the models of pastoral ministry given us by our fathers, as well as the strong support and assistance rendered to pastors by the wonderful people of our Synod.

During the Persian Gulf crisis, I was privileged to meet with President Bush and several of his top advisors on two occasions, not only to discuss the relevancy of just-war questions to the Gulf War situation, but to express our Synod's appreciation to our national leadership for continuing to provide for the spiritual needs of the men and women of our Armed Forces during this conflict.

Although the war itself concluded several months ago, the quest for peace in the area continues, and the need to minister to the victims of the war remains as strong as ever. Our Synod is involved in such efforts through its appropriate agencies.

International Visits

During this triennium, I have represented the Synod in six overseas visits with church leaders. In September 1989, the International Lutheran Conference met in Seoul, Korea. The meeting was attended by 25 church bodies in partnership with our Synod. I also serve on the Continuation Committee of this group and served as its acting chairman in 1990 and 1991. The ILC has become the major instrument for fostering strong theological and missions relationships between our church body and confessional Lutherans around the world. Unfortunately, illness prevented me from attending the October 1991 meeting in Hong Kong, but we were ably represented by Drs. Samuel Nafzger and Glenn O'Shoney. Reports on this meeting were carried in the *Lutheran Witness*.

In May 1990, I visited with the leadership of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines in an effort to ascertain the nature of difficulties in our relationship and to do everything possible to deal with the serious tensions that have existed for a number of years.

In October 1990, I convened a meeting of partner-church representatives in Berlin to explore mission opportunities in Eastern Europe and then represented the Synod at a meeting of our partner church in former East Germany, sometimes known as the "Old Lutheran" church, as it voted to merge with our West German partner church, the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In November 1990, I represented the Synod at a Latin

American Theological Education Conference of our partner-church presidents and seminary leaders held in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

In May and July 1991, accompanied by SELC President Albert Marcis, Dr. David Daniel, and Pastor Dusan Toth, I visited with the Lutheran bishops and church leaders of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Silesia in an effort to establish a basis of friendship for providing possible support to these churches. I also visited the convention of our partner church in West Germany (the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church) on the occasion of its official merger with the "Old Lutheran" church.

Many more visits should be made to the partner churches, as well as other Lutheran churches around the world, than budget and time permit. The LCMS, both because of its size and resources, remains the acknowledged leader among confessional Lutheran churches worldwide. We have much to give to our partners around the world, but we have much to learn from them, too.

Opportunities in Eastern Europe

Few of us could have anticipated the tremendous changes that have taken place in Eastern Europe during this triennium. These changes have brought unparalleled opportunity for the Synod and its people to respond, and strong efforts have been made to do just that. After initial contacts generated by our Board for Mission Services, I visited with the heads of a number of European churches not in fellowship with the Synod, but known to be eager to maintain a confessional Lutheran witness. The response to these visits has been almost overwhelming. In Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Silesia, the Synod has received numerous invitations to assist those church bodies in the proclamation and teaching of the Word of God. In the Lutheran Church of Slovakia, for example, the Synod has been providing all Sunday school material, aided by the generous support of Concordia Publishing House. Representatives from our Board for Parish Services have conducted a workshop dealing with Sunday school administration and instruction for representatives of the entire church body, and more than 6,000 primary packets have been furnished to the 300 congregations of that church body. More recently, our Board for Communication Services sponsored a communications workshop to assist Lutheran congregations in Czechoslovakia and Silesia in the production of materials. The Board for Mission Services, through Dr. David Daniel, who serves us on a part-time basis from Bratislava, has provided invaluable counsel and support. Pastor Dusan Toth, an SELC pastor from Toronto and a native of Czechoslovakia, has served my office as an assistant for Eastern European church relations and has enabled us to make valuable contacts. CPH President John Gerber and staff colleagues recently accompanied Pastor Toth to Czechoslovakia and Poland to explore additional publishing opportunities. And the list goes on and on! The Board of Directors, in an effort to encourage more financial support for these opportunities, has authorized special funding for Eastern European outreach, but funds received to date have not been sufficient.

In addition to these efforts, the International Lutheran Laymen's League has undertaken a number of very excit-

ing projects to assist independent Lutheran congregations in Russia, primarily German-speaking. Associate Lutheran Hour Speaker Wallace Schulz has given personal leadership to these efforts. More recently, the Board for Mission Services has appointed Dr. Thomas Sluberski to serve in the St. Petersburg area, and additional English language teachers have been provided. Much of the work we are attempting to do in Eastern Europe is not what we have typically understood as "mission work." We have not focused on starting new Lutheran congregations but have attempted to support established Lutheran churches with whom we do not enjoy an official fellowship relationship at the present time. However, I am pleased to report that all of our contacts to date, particularly with the Lutheran Church in Czechoslovakia and its Bishop, Pavel Uhorskai, have been most graciously received and blessed by the Lord. I feel very hopeful about the future of these efforts.

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 in 1988 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 the Synod remains in continuing contact with more than 35 partner churches and other Christian groups worldwide.

There have been relatively few official contacts with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod during the past triennium, but a number of informal contacts, as well as meetings involving synodical staff persons, have continued to bring evidence of cordial and friendly relationships. However cordial such contacts have been, it remains a disappointment to me that these two church bodies have demonstrated very little interest in responding to our standing invitation to meet at any time to discuss our long-standing differences as well as the possibilities of closer relationships. Both of these church bodies have been invited to bring greetings to our convention.

Dealing with other autonomous church bodies requires not only doctrinal integrity but a special sensitivity and fraternal collegiality, particularly with smaller third-world churches, who remember only too well the days of paternalism and colonialism. The LCMS has assigned such church relations responsibilities to the synodical President (cf., Bylaw 3.101, f and g). This responsibility could easily

engage a small staff of full-time LCMS "ambassadors," something we obviously cannot afford. Accordingly, key BFMS staff help by carrying out such ambassadorial, church relations duties, in addition to their many administrative tasks.

Confessional and mission ties remain very strong with our newest partner church, the Lutheran Church—Canada, which began its autonomous existence on Jan. 1, 1989. Regular meetings are held between the officers and staffs of the two church bodies to maintain the highest possible level of solidarity and cooperation.

Annual meetings are also held with the leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This "Committee on Lutheran Cooperation" monitors the work the two church bodies do together in Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, and various other inter-Lutheran agencies. Theological differences, which keep the two churches from enjoying altar and pulpit fellowship, have also been addressed during this past triennium. With the aid of a generous grant, the Bishops and Presidents of the two church bodies, together with their counterparts in Canada, held a conference in 1990 to discuss common problems faced by the two church bodies in strengthening and supporting the pastoral office, and, in informal small groups, to understand better what steps need to be taken to improve relationships between the church bodies. Contrary to some reports that have circulated in the Synod, the devotional exercises at this conference faithfully observed synodical principles. Another such meeting is planned for the fall of 1992.

On a worldwide basis, we have had only marginal contacts with the Lutheran World Federation during the past triennium. These contacts have consisted primarily in visits between key staff persons, correspondence, and occasional telephone conversations. The Lutheran World Federation continues to emphasize its self-understanding as a "communion" of churches in full fellowship with each other—an understanding that is contrary to our theological position. In the meantime, in contacts with our sister church in Australia, the LWF has made it clear that it is now open to a kind of "associate membership" with that church body that will not entail automatic altar and pulpit fellowship. Although the Synod has been in conversations with leadership of the Lutheran Church of Australia, as well as the Lutheran Church—Canada, about the LCA's interest in such associate membership, synodical leaders have expressed no interest in pursuing that possibility.

Conversations have also taken place during the triennium 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. Several of these conversations have focused on our common opposition to abortion on demand.

Considerations are also underway concerning the possibility of mutual partner church recognition with our sister church in Paraguay. If at all possible, a recommendation to that end will be forthcoming at the convention itself.

During this triennium, the Commission on Theology

and Church Relations released a major study instrument to assist the members of the Synod in applying our historic church relations principle to a number of practical situations. The study recognizes the highly flexible situations that confront many of our pastors and congregations and attempts to offer a way to assist responsible confessional decision-making in such instances. A more complete report on this study is contained in the report of the CTCR to this convention. This topic remains one of the highest priorities of the Synod because of the frequent misunderstandings and differences of opinion that exist within the Synod in this sensitive area. The purpose of the churchwide discussion is to assist all of us in achieving a stronger measure of consensus in the application of our biblical and confessional church relations principles, not to introduce a new church relations agenda. Although the formulations of the CTCR, and even the substance of its presentation, may be revised as a result of reports from the churchwide study, it is unfortunate that the churchwide discussions of these issues have been marred by occasionally inaccurate, judgmental, and political responses.

In general, I believe The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod today is presenting an exceptionally strong, faithful, and positive witness to the doctrinal position of our church body in numerous ways throughout the world. In fact, we need to become much more aggressive in our confessional witness worldwide.

Relationship to Auxiliaries

The President's office, together with key staff persons, 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. The presidents meet regularly for general sharing and direction, and the executive committees meet together with synodical leaders at least annually. The relationships today continue to be excellent and are characterized by a deep dedication to the task of meeting the many opportunities for mission that we have around the world. Inasmuch as both leagues are independent of synodical decision-making structures, the existence of such relationships is a great plus for the Synod, allowing us to work through many questions where one or the other or both auxiliaries are involved in projects in overseas areas. The presidents of both auxiliaries have been invited to bring special greetings to our convention.

President's Commission on Women

Severe budget constraints have kept this special commission of six women, appointed in 1984, from addressing all of its concerns as completely as it would like. The focus of this past triennium has been on developing contacts and sharing resources among the District committees on women that were encouraged by the 1989 synodical convention. The focus of the commission and the District network linked to it has been on expanding all opportunities for the service of women to the church that are consistent with our understanding of the Word of God. The commission has also been able to address reports from some areas of the Synod where inappropriate attitudes toward the service of women appear to exist. Of special importance for

this often sensitive issue was the commission's presentation to the Council of Presidents in early 1992, as well as its contacts with our seminaries, designed to assist future pastors in meeting the particular needs of women. The report of this commission appears elsewhere in the *Workbook*.

Black Ministry Task Force

In accord with 1989 Res. 1-04A, I convened a special task force to review, evaluate, set goals, and create a vision for the ongoing work of black ministry in our church body. Twenty-three districts of the Synod responded to the survey prepared by the task force. On the basis of its extensive study, the task force delivered its report to the President on Jan. 9, 1991, with nine specific recommendations for action. This excellent report and call to action has been widely distributed throughout the Synod and has already begun to bear fruit in a number of areas of black ministry.

Pro-Life Efforts

For several years, our church body has been recognized as one of the strongest voices in the United States on behalf of unborn human life and related life concerns. A special task force of the Board for Social Ministry Services, as well as our Washington Office of Government Information, has been particularly helpful in expressing the Synod's position with reference to a number of governmental programs or proposals, as well as encouraging instructional and caring efforts at the local level.

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 synodical officers and staff in this area, continues to provide excellent leadership, as well as resources, in this important area.

As the abortion issue moves more and more to the state level, it is important that individual Districts and congregations develop greater knowledge and information about this issue, with a particular focus on educational efforts within our congregations. To that end, I have participated in the 1992 formation of a national coalition of pro-life leaders, who will attempt to support and lead such educational programs.

End of Life Issues

In October 1979, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations issued a report on *Euthanasia with Guiding Principles*. Since that document was produced, end of life issues have been the subject of vigorous debate in theological, legal, medical, and legislative arenas. Many in our congregations, and especially our pastors who are called to give guidance and counsel to parishioners, are in need of the best advice and support the Synod can provide. In order to draw responsible people together for a discussion of end of life issues, I invited 12 people of the Synod, all of whom are deeply involved in the subject, to serve as a think tank. This meeting was held on Nov. 13, 1991. A report on the discussion is planned for the May 1992 issue of the *Lutheran Witness*.

Discussions with RIM

Based on the analysis of certain statements associated with "Renewal in Missouri," the Commission on Theology

and Church Relations expressed its concern in February 1989 about certain doctrinal positions of this group, which consists largely of pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who are supportive of charismatic renewal. In keeping with the request of the 1989 synodical convention (Res. 3-15), a number of discussions were held between synodical leaders and the leaders of RIM during this triennium. A complete report of those discussions, adopted unanimously by all participants, has been distributed to the pastors of the Synod and is attached to this report as Appendix B.

As we thank God for the agreements that are noted in this report, we also pray for His continued blessings as disagreements continue to be addressed.

In the meantime, we continue to commend to the church the excellent reports of the CTCR on the issue of charismatic renewal, as well as the position of the Synod on certain problems in the movement as adopted in 1977. The great deal of variation in theological emphasis one finds within this movement calls for a highly individualized approach, which our District Presidents and others involved in doctrinal supervision are seeking to follow consistently throughout the church.

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 it will demonstrate the worldwide confessional fellowship of which we are a part. Although this important effort has been slowed considerably by the lack of full-time assistance, the project is finally nearing completion and should be ready for use in the church by late 1993.

150th Anniversary Planning

In 1997, the Synod will observe its 150th anniversary. At the request of the 1989 convention, early planning has already begun. After considerable staff study, the Board of Directors is recommending that the 100th anniversary of our world mission program in 1995 also be noted as a part of this celebration. In the same year, we will also mark 100 years of ministry among the deaf and hearing impaired. Our Fort Wayne seminary and Concordia College in Seward are also noting significant anniversaries. All of these occasions provide us with splendid opportunities to reflect on the great heritage of our Synod and the importance of continuing to maintain our doctrine and mission as we move toward the next century.

Preus Cases

Because of his disagreement with the July 1989 decision of the Fort Wayne Seminary's Board of Regents to honorably retire him from the seminary presidency, Dr. Robert Preus initiated three civil actions, including one suit against the Synod, the President, and several synodical officials. He also filed a complaint against the Board of Regents and a second count against the President and First

Vice-President. A political network within the Synod, of which Dr. Preus has been a leader for many years, has attempted to generate a great deal of support for Dr. Robert Preus in these actions, often on the basis of reports disseminated through its own publications and frequently reflecting a limited understanding of the facts involved. Because of Dr. Preus' perceived misconduct in the way he responded to the Board of Regent's action, the President and five Vice-Presidents of the Synod filed an official complaint against him in early 1991, after several months of earlier attempts to reach him in more personal ways were unsuccessful (see Praesidium report).

When these cases, currently in the appeals process, have been concluded, the church will receive a more complete report than is possible at this time. In the meantime, informal efforts at reconciliation continue to be attempted. The earnest prayers of the church are requested on behalf of Dr. Preus and his family, the Fort Wayne seminary, and the Synod and its officers that these matters will be brought to an early and God-pleasing solution.

Entered into Rest

Attached as Appendix C is a list of the professional church workers of the Synod whom the Lord called home to Himself in heaven during this past triennium. The convention will praise God for His many blessings towards these departed servants during a special convention worship service.

Vision, Goals, and Priorities

The Synod's Vision: Gospel, Mission, Congregations, and People

Our 1989 synodical convention made it very clear that the Synod wants all of our members to be united in our conviction "that telling everyone what He has done is our highest priority and deserving of our ongoing commitment and constant prayers" (Res. 1-01). Throughout the triennium, as the boards, commissions, task forces, Districts, and other entities of the Synod developed their plans and priorities, the 1989 convention theme emerged as a short, but powerful, mission statement for the entire Synod. "Tell Everyone What He Has Done" focuses simply, but directly, on the task of telling, reminds us that the subject matter of our telling is God's action in redeeming the world through Jesus Christ, and emphasizes that the audience of our telling is nothing less than the entire world. As the various components of the Synod have focused on this mission statement, they have also endeavored to develop what the 1989 convention called "a renewed and clear mission vision" (Res. 1-01). Res. 8-02 reminded us that developing such a common vision will enable "congregations to view all their activities and planning in light of Christ's Great Commission." As such vision planning impacted the work of the Synod during the past triennium, we developed four summary concepts to describe key components of that vision *and to serve as criteria for planning and related activities of the various components of the Synod*. As the Synod is increasingly focused on its mission of telling everyone what He has done, we will be increasingly *Gospel-based, mission-driven, congregation-centered, and people-*

oriented. These concepts were featured in our 35 District conventions in 1991, both in the synodical video report and in banners and printed materials that provided the context of District convention action.

Although these four vision concepts employ familiar words, their implications are not always obvious. With our focus on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we remind ourselves that the world's primary need is spiritual, and that God has addressed that need primarily through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. A *Gospel-based* church knows the priority of Gospel over Law but takes the Law seriously, too; it emphasizes the forgiveness of sins above rules, procedures, and order; it knows itself to be a community of forgiven sinners, rather than a society of the pure and perfect; it understands that it is the Gospel, not programs and human efforts, that is God's power for salvation, but also for the life and service of His people. In a *mission-driven* Synod, the key question is never simply maintenance of past traditions or ways of doing things, but rather the question of what needs to be done in order to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ, especially to the lost. Such a church, at all levels, will do everything it can and spend whatever it is able to in order to reach those who do not know Jesus Christ with its saving message.

Understanding ourselves as a *congregation-centered* Synod, although long emphasized and underscored in both our doctrine and polity, is not always obvious. On the one hand, much of our piety has tended to be individualistic, rather than congregational. And the Synod and its Districts have too easily been thought of primarily as recipients of congregational support, rather than as providers of support and encouragement for congregations. As the primary place where believers in Christ gather around Word and sacraments, congregations are the focus of everything we do to carry out our Lord's Great Commission. Even our world mission program needs increasingly to be carried out *through* congregations and not only on their behalf.

By underscoring that our vision includes the picture of our Synod as *people-oriented*, we again remind ourselves that the church is not primarily institutional, organizational, or structural, whether we are speaking of the local congregation or the national and District expressions of the church. Our primary focus, therefore, is on helping the people of the church to relate to each other and to support and encourage one another as fellow members of the body of Christ and of the people of God. A people-oriented church also places a greater priority on relationships than we have sometimes done and gives strong attention to those special people among us who need our love and support in various ways. This includes especially minorities, those who hurt and suffer, the unborn, the aging, and the poor of this world.

These four key components of our synodical vision are reflected in the reports of numerous boards, commissions, Districts, and other entities in this *Workbook*. The convention itself will have many opportunities to reflect these vision concepts as it weighs various decisions and adopts a course of action for the Synod's future years.

Synodical Goals

In Part II of my report to the 1989 convention, I invited the committees of the convention to respond to two questions:

1. What would the LCMS be like in 1995 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?

I then laid out some of my dreams and goals in the several areas of the Synod's work, which correspond roughly to the major areas of responsibility assigned to floor committees, namely, missions, congregational ministries, theology, funding, organization and leadership, higher education, and human care.

In order to answer the question of what steps we would need to take, particularly during the triennium, in order to help such dreams become a reality, the various dreams and goals were discussed and further refined by the synodical staff after the convention. Eventually, the steps thus identified were arranged into 58 goal statements and grouped into eight areas, the seven listed above, as well as an additional area of support and trust. Each of the goal statements was then assigned to an individual working with an existing synodical entity. Throughout the triennium, priority attention has been given to these specific areas of activity, including the identification of action steps to be taken and the target date for their completion.

Throughout the *Workbook*, especially in the reports of the various synodical entities, attention is given to such goals and the action steps necessary to meet them. Lest this be misunderstood and minimized as just another bureaucratic procedure, let it be underscored that this activity has helped all of us in the synodical administration, including our boards and other components, to develop a much stronger sense of the vision concepts identified above as part of our overall mission to "Tell Everyone What He Has Done." The long-range planning and vision thinking that has emerged has set our Synod on a course of leadership and service that will increasingly help every congregation, and every individual member of every congregation, we pray, to be more effective and more deeply involved in the Great Commission of our Lord.

10 Top Priorities

To help the Synod's leadership at all levels apply our mission statement, vision concepts, and goals to the most critical areas of our life and work together, the following 10 top priorities have been identified and provide an on-going checklist for the Synod's leadership team. In most cases, the outline that follows has been fleshed out in great detail. Again, the reports of the various boards, commissions, and other synodical entities being presented to this convention will reflect the progress the Synod has made in these priority areas, as well as the many areas of activity where continuing emphasis and effort are needed.

1. Spiritual Growth

a. The Gospel and sacraments must remain central in

every dimension of the church's life—individual, congregational, District, national, and international—because it is only through the means of grace that God gives life and power to His church to accomplish its mission.

b. All dimensions of the church's life will use every means available to help pastors and congregations increase church attendance, use of the Lord's Supper, and study of God's Word.

Comment: Although a major responsibility of the President and his co-workers 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 and its members, it is my conviction that the pastors, teachers, and lay leaders of the Synod today are making strong and effective efforts to carry out their responsibilities for spiritual life and growth. We are grateful for the signs of such growth among us, including the large numbers of children baptized and adults received into communicant membership each year. At the same time, we continue to be concerned that nearly one-fourth of our communicant membership does not partake of the Lord's Supper even once during a typical year. Again, we note that only about 39% of our members are worshipping in our congregations on an average Sunday—a statistic somewhat better than many other large denominations, but far from adequate. Our congregations continue to lose approximately 50,000 members through the "back door" each year; think what it would mean if each congregation could reverse that statistic!

2. Witness and Outreach

a. The "Mission Blueprint for the '90s" will be discussed by all major components of the Synod with the intention of guiding the congregations and the Synod itself in becoming increasingly more effective in reaching the lost with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

b. The many opportunities for reaching out with the Gospel in Eastern Europe will receive a high priority from the Synod in coming years.

c. Congregations, Districts, and national synodical components will increasingly focus on North America as a major world mission field.

Comments: In 1988, with the support of the Board of Directors and the cooperation of the Board for Mission Services, I initiated an effort to develop a mission blueprint for the '90s that would include an analysis of all current world and North American mission activities, as well as a design and strategy for our future efforts. An outstanding task force, representing many areas of the church's leadership and mission activity, completed this assignment in 1991. Since that time, promotional materials have been prepared, and discussions of the implications of the blueprint are taking place with every board in the Synod, with plans to reach congregations with its implications at the earliest possible date. The blueprint for the '90s, in abbreviated form, is printed in its entirety in the Appendix to this *Workbook*. In addition, various floor committees will be asked to focus on some of its specific implications as these committees report to the plenary convention.

The Synod's response to open doors in Eastern Europe is detailed in the report of the Board for Mission Services and in earlier paragraphs of this report. Plans also call for direct personal reports to the convention from this area of synodical activity. Our recognition of North America as a major mission field will also be reflected in various reports to the convention, as well as the special mission rally held during the convention.

3. Pastoral Ministry

a. Written materials, theological studies, and pastoral conferences will help the Synod to clarify the current confusion that exists among us in the doctrine of the ministry.

b. Every possible step will be taken to promote the growth and support of our pastors and other professional church workers.

c. A major study by the seminaries and the Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry will address key questions about seminary curriculum, the location of seminaries, theological education by extension, and related questions.

Comment: A number of factors have combined to create an atmosphere of confusion in the church on the doctrine of the call and the status of the pastoral office. Strong leadership in this area, based on solid study, has been given by the Council of Presidents. Much of the confusion surrounds action taken by the 1989 synodical convention in the area of lay ministry. The convention will address key aspects of this question, but continuing effort will be needed throughout the coming triennium. During the past triennium, the newly formed Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support, aided by a generous grant, has made important strides in the area of supporting pastors and other professional church workers in the areas of theological study, the development of improved ministerial skills, and the achievement and maintenance of personal wholeness. Under the leadership of the Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry, and with the full cooperation of both seminaries, important beginnings have been made to study the future shape and direction of seminary education.

4. Inter-Christian Relationships

a. The study document developed by the CTCR will receive widespread study and attention throughout the Synod in an effort to develop a stronger consensus in our application of biblical principles, combined with responsible flexibility in addressing the changing conditions and circumstances faced by our congregations.

b. Every effort will be made to develop and aggressively expand our confessional efforts and contacts worldwide.

Comment: The CTCR document, described elsewhere in this report, is serving the Synod as a needed catalyst to explore a number of important questions in how we relate to other Christians in a way that is consistent with our confessional convictions, while at the same time recognizing that the exercise of responsible freedom is also called for. In the meantime, efforts need to continue at the local, District, national, and international levels to bear strong witness to the confessional doctrine and sense of mission of the Synod. Although some among us advocate withdrawing into a more isolationistic posture, the Synod

today faces unparalleled opportunities to bring confessional Lutheranism to bear on numerous situations in Eastern Europe, China, the International Lutheran Conference, dialogs with other Christians, and contacts with other Lutherans. Such efforts call for a theological leadership at all levels of the church that is not only well-informed, but deeply committed, evangelical, and open.

5. *Women's Service in the Church*

a. The Synod at every level will enhance and encourage all opportunities for the service of women that are in keeping with the Word of God.

b. The President's Commission on Women, the Council of Presidents, and the CTCR will work together with our seminaries, auxiliaries, and others to help our entire membership understand and apply the biblical teaching on the service of men and women in the church.

c. Synodical and congregational leadership will encourage the faithful observance of the Synod's position and practice, while at the same time avoiding binding consciences where Scripture is silent or leaves practical questions open.

Comment: The difficult and sensitive questions in this area will not disappear either through silence or through shrill debate. Increasingly, we are called on to recognize what it means to be a church of *sola Scriptura* in this and every other area, faithfully accepting and following everything the Scriptures teach, but at the same time recognizing that when Scripture is silent we must recognize and tolerate differences of opinion within our fellowship. This entails helping one another in our congregations to understand and accept that the Scriptures do not permit the ordination of women to the pastoral office, but that they do invite and encourage women, as part of the universal priesthood of all believers, to share the gifts God has given them to edify the entire body of Christ. In the meantime, as we wrestle with a number of questions in this area, we need to help each other maintain the highest level of responsibility and trust at all times.

6. *New Family Initiatives*

Comment: A major grant to the Synod has enabled the recent appointment of a Family Initiatives Council to give strong leadership to a new and exciting venture to support families. The appointment of the council follows several meetings and studies by a number of experts in the area of family life and ministry. This program has the potential of providing exciting new resources and support to all of our congregations as they struggle to deal with the many problems and opportunities facing the church in our ministry to and through families.

7. *Strengthening Higher Education*

Comment: A special Task Force on Higher Education was appointed at the request of the Board of Directors to find ways of administering and funding our Synod's higher education system in a more effective and efficient manner, while, at the same time, helping the people of the Synod to support the ministry of higher education as a key component in the life and work of the Synod. Elsewhere in this

Workbook, the recommendations of this task force and of the Board of Directors help us to focus on this exciting and important venture, particularly at a time when financial and demographic concerns have made the task of maintaining our colleges and universities an especially difficult one. The convention will have an opportunity not only to reflect on this report and provide direction for the future, but to express its appreciation in various ways to the wonderful men and women of our colleges, universities, and seminaries, who contribute so much to our carrying out of the Lord's mission.

8. *Funding the Mission*

a. District and national leadership will join hands to encourage and assist congregations in the improved stewardship education of and by the congregations of the Synod.

b. Expanding the Circle (ETC), a major effort encouraged by the 1989 synodical convention to explore improved ways of funding our total mission, will continue to be piloted and refined throughout the Synod.

Comment: In many respects, the Synod's financial situation is a story of good news. Not only have congregational receipts continued to climb, but the work of the LCMS Foundation in planned giving as well as the investments of God's people through Church Extension have been truly blessed by our Lord. Nevertheless, as explained elsewhere in the *Workbook*, the flow of dollars to the District and national offices has not been adequate to fund the many projects and opportunities of the Synod, even in our areas of high priority. The convention will receive recommendations from the floor committees on this critical issue. However, few would question the need for improved stewardship education throughout the Synod if we truly hope to achieve the many goals we have set for ourselves as we seek to be faithful in responding to our Lord's Great Commission. Among the more exciting ventures currently being tested and explored throughout the Synod is the so-called "Expanding the Circle" model, which encourages congregations to become better informed about the wide range of opportunities available throughout the world, while at the same time according participating congregations greater freedom to choose the specific projects or areas they want to support with their mission dollars. This effort, while recognizing that the giving patterns of numerous individuals and congregations throughout the Synod already reflect greater choice than years ago, requires strong communication and relational efforts to achieve maximum success.

9. *Organizational Effectiveness*

a. National and District leaders will continue to give strong impetus to the vision, networking, and compatible relationship approach endorsed by the 1989 Planning Council and synodical convention (Res. 8-02).

b. Both because of the Synod's organizational focus on vision, networking, and compatible relationships, and because of diminished revenues from the congregations of the Synod, District and national structures will make every effort to streamline, "right size," and employ effective *ad hoc* approaches to carry out our priority activities.

c. Widely representative committees will continue to explore and make appropriate recommendations about the size, shape, and purpose of Districts; regionalization; and other structural components of the Synod that will increase its efficiency in serving the congregations of the Synod in carrying out the mission of the church.

Comment: The Synod's emphasis on vision, networking, and compatible relationships is not bureaucratic public relations jargon, as some suggest, but rather points to a major reorganizational pattern for our life and work together. Many years of study and experimentation have gone into the realization that the various boards and departments of the Synod no longer serve most effectively as purveyors of program material. They must increasingly focus on linking people and congregations with similar needs and solutions. Exciting stories abound on the success of this effort during the past triennium! Although care must be taken not to think of structural or organizational change as the primary means by which the Synod will become more effective in carrying out the Lord's mission (which remains the means of grace), we must increasingly recognize that some organizational changes are necessary precisely in order to help us maintain our confessional solidarity and provide an effective focus on the world mission of the church. A number of key proposals for organizational change are before this convention from the Commission on Structure and Board of Directors and deserve our careful study and support.

10. Peace in the Church

a. Improved methods that employ biblical emphases and reduce adversarial confrontation are necessary in the Synod's way of dealing with conflict at the congregational, District, and national levels.

b. Studies of 1 Corinthians 6 and related materials should take place throughout the Synod in an effort to help reduce the use of civil action as a means of settling disputes among Christians.

c. Every effort must be made to counter the divisive behavior and diminished trust that characterize a network of political activists within the Synod.

Comment: A special Task Force on Conflict Resolution has developed a number of outstanding recommendations for the consideration of the convention. These are printed elsewhere in this *Workbook*. Throughout this triennium, we have suffered greatly because of inadequacies and abuses of our present system. (Please note several recommendations later in this report.) An excellent study by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations has been prepared on the implications of 1 Corinthians 6 and a Christian's use of the civil courts as a means of resolving conflicts. This study needs to be given serious attention, and all of us need to be more keenly involved in discouraging one another from taking civil action against each other, particularly when prior efforts to resolve difficulties through personal or ecclesiastical means have not been given every opportunity to succeed. The Council of Presidents, together with pastors' conferences throughout the Synod, needs to give increased attention to dealing with those who cause divisions and offenses among us through false witness, misrepresentation, and power-oriented po-

litical activity. The mission God has given us is too challenging and important for us to allow the devil to continue to sow seeds of discord and divisiveness among us. Conscious efforts to develop a higher trust level among us should be encouraged at every level of our synodical life together.

In each of the above priority areas, the Synod is encouraged to act with great boldness if we are indeed to be about our task of telling everyone what He has done in the most effective way possible.

Special Projects and Studies

The foregoing section called attention to a number of special studies and projects that have received direction, encouragement, and support from the President's office. They include a CTCR study on 1 Corinthians 6, a report of the Task Force on Conflict Resolution, the report and recommendations of the Task Force on Higher Education, the Mission Blueprint for the '90s, a study of the future of seminary education, and the beginning of a major family initiative. In the paragraphs below there are additional comments on some of those projects as well as three additional matters.

1 Corinthians 6

In the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Synod following the Wichita convention, I stated that one of the issues that needed to be addressed in the Synod was the use of civil courts by Christians and the implications of 1 Corinthians 6:1-11 for our common life together. Subsequently, the Vice-Presidents and I requested the CTCR to address the issue, which it did in a document that was mailed to all pastors in the fall of 1991. Not only does this study strongly discourage the use of civil action by Christians against Christians when personal and ecclesiastical efforts have not been exhausted, but it reminds us that St. Paul teaches us that it is better to suffer reproach than to follow civil approaches that injure the church and its witness.

Although it is often observed that we are living in a very litigious society, the increased instances of litigation within the Synod have not only been costly in terms of finances, but also in terms of our corporate witness and our example to our sister churches around the world. I believe that the time has come for the Synod not only to adopt better means of conflict resolution among us, but to state very clearly that any member of the Synod who engages in litigation against the Synod thereby forfeits his membership in the Synod, except perhaps in very unusual circumstances.

Conflict Resolution Proposals

In my report to the 1989 synodical convention I reported that "various complexities in our procedures need clarification and adjustment" and 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" (1989 *Workbook*, p. 5). Early in this triennium, it became increasingly clear that the present Bylaws of the Synod dealing with reconciliation, adjudication, and appeal have a number of

limitations. Accordingly, I appointed a special Task Force on Conflict Resolution. A wide range of competent individuals was available for appointment to this task force, including members of the Synod with professional experience in industrial, legal, academic, and professional studies in this area. However, because of the immediate and pressing need for studies dealing with our Bylaws and how they have worked in practice, I appointed pastors and laymen to serve on the task force who had experience on the Commission on Appeals, Commission on Adjudication, Commission on Constitutional Matters, and the Council of Presidents. They were not chosen to be official representatives or spokesmen of those groups, nor to address specific cases or rulings, but rather because they were experienced participants in the synodical processes governed by the Bylaws of the Synod. Accordingly, the criticism of this appointment process made by the commission on Appeals, and reported by that Commission to this convention, is not only lacking in understanding, but unwarranted and unfair. The task force was given the specific mandate to consider various methods of conflict resolution and to recommend any such methods as are consistent with biblical models and appropriate use at the congregational, District, institutional, and national levels of the Synod. The task force was further asked to review Chapter VIII of the current *Handbook* and to recommend any changes it deemed appropriate. In pursuing this effort, the task force was asked to study methods of conflict resolution that have been introduced in the civil and business areas of our society, but to focus primarily on biblical models.

Other than making the appointment of the task force and outlining its initial task, I have not been directly involved in shaping its proposals. Nevertheless, I strongly endorse them and recommend their adoption by this convention.

Mission Blueprint for the Nineties

As the abridged report included in this *Workbook* itself makes very clear, the *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties* is one of the most exciting and important studies of the triennium. It represents thousands of hours of work and study and includes the input of literally hundreds of people who have been involved in the mission of the church. I strongly encourage the Synod to express its appreciation for this report, not only by endorsing its major proposals, but especially by encouraging and enabling its study and implementation throughout the Synod.

Church-Growth Studies

For several years, the church-growth movement has received widespread study and attention by national and District synodical officials. Criticisms and concerns about some of the emphases of this movement have also been voiced among us. In 1988, our Commission on Theology and Church Relations produced an excellent biblical and practical analysis of both the strengths and weaknesses of emphases often associated with the movement. During the past triennium additional studies and conversations were initiated between representatives of our seminaries and mission executives. The study resulted in another excellent document that received attention and distribution during the triennium, and remains available from our Standing

Committee on Pastoral Ministry. Those who continue to have questions and concerns about the theology of the church-growth movement are urged to give special attention to these two excellent documents. In addition to providing practical helps to the pastors and leaders of our Synod as we encourage one another to grow by reaching out with the Gospel, these documents should help to lay to rest the continued criticism heard in parts of the Synod and beyond that the Synod has uncritically adopted or been negatively influenced by major tenets of the church-growth movement.

Integrative Efforts

Our Synod is a community made up of more than 60 individual corporations. Our 35 Districts not only have considerable autonomy and responsibility, but in recent years they have expanded the range of ministry they carry out on behalf of our congregations. Many of our strongest synodical components (i.e., LCEF, Foundation, Worker Benefit Plans, CHI, and CPH) are separately incorporated, organized, and governed as "other synodical entities." Both District and national officers and staffs serve more than 6,000 self-governing congregations. Meanwhile, the society in which we live is increasingly characterized by fragmentation and the breakdown of traditional social groups, including the family, neighborhood, and civic community. Although we live together side by side, we often do so without much involvement and interaction with others. This individualistic, free-choice spirit is also reflected in the giving patterns of American people, including members of our synodical congregations, often resulting in the breakdown of the traditional unified budget, as individual and congregational donors frequently divide their gifts among a dozen or more church and charitable organizations. This same spirit is a factor in the declining loyalties of American Christians to their own denominations, as well as the development of eclectic, "pick and choose" approaches to one's personal faith and theology.

In the midst of such developments, it becomes increasingly important for the leadership of the Synod at all levels to commit itself to the coordination and integration of the life and work of the entire Synod and all its members. This is not some misguided call to "centralization," nor even an issue of "control" or "authority," but rather a plea that we all work together to maintain and strengthen our solidarity and wholeness. A Synod in which each congregation, District, board, commission, or "other entity" goes its own way will not aid in our task of remaining faithful to our confessional heritage, nor in the maximum utilization of our resources for the mission of the church. I have therefore encouraged colleagues in the administration of the Synod to become more and more intentional about doing those things that will promote our unity and solidarity of faith, confession, and mission. Although there are obvious organizational implications of this principle, the most important factor in developing greater solidarity and wholeness as a Synod is our common faith and confession. The leadership of the Synod, including this convention, must work closely together to foster those studies, activities, events, and relationships that will provide and encourage our confessional solidarity and integrity and find expression in a more unified approach to meeting the many

mission and ministry challenges facing the Synod throughout the world.

LCMS Identity

In 1988, I asked the Board for Communication Services to undertake a careful study of ways to clarify who we are, what we do, and how we are perceived as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. This study was to include an analysis of our name. The 1989 convention gave further encouragement to that study (cf., Res. 1-05A), asking that it include consultation with our partner churches and the solicitation of possible names from the congregations and other entities of the Synod. The results of this study, now complete, will be reported to the convention, with opportunity given to the delegates to respond to a number of critically important questions. The results of this study can do much to help us and our publicity efforts as we seek to carry out our mission *with great boldness*.

Recommendations

Selection Procedures

The commissions that serve the Synod in adjudication and appeals, as well as 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 Appeals are elected by the convention, while the CCM is appointed by the President in consultation with the Vice-Presidents. Prior to the 1989 convention, recognizing that both elective and appointed 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 to make recommendations to the convention that would provide for adequate checks and balances in the selection of competent and objective individuals for these commissions. Based on these studies, the 1989 convention resolved to continue the same selection procedures that have been in place for a number of years. However, the question of selection, as well as the understanding of the function of these key commissions, continues to be questioned by various parties in the Synod. Such questioning is often combined with the mistaken notion that the President seeks the power to appoint all of these commissions. Again categorically denying that assertion, I repeat my 1989 recommendation to the Synod that we again review our selection process for all such commissions to insure their maximum objectivity and effectiveness.

Congregational Mission Boards

I recommend that this convention encourage every congregation to identify a committee or board of interested members who will study the many mission and ministry projects carried out by the District and the Synod throughout the world, keep their congregation informed of all such efforts, make recommendations to the voters assembly concerning the mission implications of the congregational budget, and assist the pastor and other congregational leaders in educating and assisting congregational members to be

as involved as possible in telling everyone what He has done.

Regional Approaches to Staffing

I recommend that the convention encourage appropriate District and national leaders to consider regional approaches to staffing, including the use of trained volunteers, to assist the congregations of the Synod in vision, networking, and compatible relations in support of the mission and ministry of the entire Synod.

Theological Study

I recommend that the convention encourage the pastors and teachers conferences of the Synod, assisted by the CTCR and the Council of Presidents, to give intensive ongoing study to the following issues: the nature and distinctive functions of the pastoral office, the ministries of men and women in the church, Communion practices, Lutheran worship practices, dealing with divisive and disruptive conduct, and end of life questions.

Uncertified Pastors

I recommend that the convention direct that any LCMS congregations currently being served by a pastor who is not an officially certified LCMS pastor be counseled by its District President on how it may rectify that anomaly at the earliest possible date.

Adjudication and Appeals

I recommend that the Synod clarify its Bylaws to state the following:

1. That the Commission on Appeals and all other adjudicatory agencies of the Synod and its Districts must accept all CCM interpretations of the Constitution, Bylaws, and policies of the Synod issued prior to and apart from any case in adjudication as binding on such cases until and unless those interpretations are overturned by a convention (Bylaw 3.533 d).
2. That no synodical or District adjudicatory agency may accept any case until it has been determined by that commission that the complainant has followed biblical mandates urging the interpersonal reconciliation of issues.
3. That all adjudicatory and appeals commissions or agencies are to apply the synodical position, whether a matter of doctrine or order, to whatever cases they are considering, and that such commissions and agencies have no authority to determine *de novo* such positions of the Synod or to set synodical positions aside as they judge cases in which synodical doctrine and order are an issue.
4. That any and all persons serving on commissions of adjudication or appeals with a real or apparent conflict of interest must be excluded from sitting in judgment on such cases where that conflict exists or appears from available information to exist.
5. That synodical Bylaws that prohibit publicity of issues in a case (cf., 8.51 m) do not limit the responsible reporting of the nature of a case and of the synodical procedures being followed to handle it.

Civil Action

I recommend that the convention state that any syn-

odical officer, board member, or staff person who takes civil action against the Synod or any of its entities, or who advises another member of the Synod to take civil action against the Synod or any of its entities, shall thereby forfeit his office, board membership, or staff position.

Integrated Planning

I recommend that the convention clearly state that all entities of the Synod, including those that are separately incorporated, are held to coordinate and integrate their general plans and directions with those of the Synod, and that this take place under the general supervision of the synodical Board of Directors.

Streamlining and Focusing Conventions

I recommend that the Synod provide for a study, with recommendations to the next synodical convention, on how we might streamline synodical conventions and focus them more effectively on the mission and ministry of the church without losing our traditional concern for full congregational representation and democratic decision-making.

Conclusion

As extensive as the above organizational and administrative activities may be, they do not begin to portray the most essential dimension of our beloved Synod's life and work, namely, the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments and the resulting ministry of witness, nurture, and service in and through all the congregations of our church body. Even so, the administrative structure of our Synod, cumbersome and complex though it may be at times, has proved to be a valuable means for supporting, undergirding, and implementing the mission that the Lord of the church carries out through the congregations of the Synod. How richly He has blessed our church body throughout the years with sound doctrine, a great heart for missions, and a spirit of commitment and caring among its wonderful people! 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 "Tell Everyone What He Has Done!" I am deeply grateful to the many co-workers in the synodical organization as well as the congregations of the Synod for supporting that work with their prayers and personal involvements. May the Lord of the church give us great boldness, in the convention and beyond, as we continue to "Tell Everyone What HE Has Done!"

Appendix A

A Fraternal Plea

As we minister together, may God help us to do the following:

- a. Work hard to create and sustain a climate of mutual trust and respect among our pastors
- b. Encourage our pastors to study (and help their members study) our church relations policies and practices with a view to achieving greater consistency, responsibility, and appropriate flexibility
- c. Help our pastors and congregations achieve greater

consistency in understanding and following our "close Communion" position

- d. Handle cases of clergy divorce and immorality in a strong, pastoral, and consistent manner
- e. Expect and encourage our congregations to honor and uphold our Synod's position on the service of women in the church
- f. Work to discontinue, with understanding, all unionistic worship services and involvements of pastors and congregations
- g. Send clear and consistent signals that we expect all pastors and congregations to honor and uphold the Synod's position on the charismatic movement and its theology
- h. Let our people know that we are indeed carrying out our responsibilities to exercise evangelical discipline in the church
- i. Let our love, prayer, forgiveness, and support for one another be so visible that we provide a ready example for our people

Appendix B

Discussions between Representatives of the Synod and "Renewal in Missouri"

A Report to the President of the Synod

A. Background

In August 1988, President Ralph Bohlmann referred to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations three documents distributed by "Renewal in Missouri" (RIM), with the request that the CTCR determine whether positions taken in these materials are "consistent with the doctrinal stance of the Synod." The CTCR completed its review of the RIM materials in February 1989 and concluded that there are "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" (1989 *Convention Workbook*, p. 66; see "An Evaluation of RIM Materials," pp. 66-68).

In response to the CTCR's evaluation and conclusions, the Synod adopted Resolution 3-15 "To Encourage Study of 'An Evaluation of Some RIM Materials'" at its 1989 convention. In this resolution the Synod asked "that the President of the Synod facilitate discussion with representative RIM pastors with a view toward a God-pleasing resolution of differences." President Bohlmann, in keeping with this request, convened a meeting Dec. 3-4, 1990, of representatives of the Synod and of RIM. Two additional meetings were held, Sept. 5-6, 1991 and Jan. 23-24, 1992.

As a result of these discussions, the representatives of the Synod and RIM have been able to draw up the following "affirmations" and "rejects" which address areas of biblical teaching in which disagreement and/or lack of clarity has existed in the past. These statements represent, in our judgment, some progress in the resolution of differences between the position of the Synod regarding "charismatic" teaching and positions of RIM.

Nevertheless, it has also become clear that there remain some crucial points of disagreement with specific reference

to point 8 of 1977 Resolution 3-10A, which states: "Certain doctrines held and taught by some individuals and groups in the charismatic movement are mere human opinion, not clearly taught in Holy Scripture and therefore contrary to the Holy Scriptures, and therefore dangerous to the salvation of men to teach . . . that God gives guidance and leadership to the church today through visions and dreams or direct prophecy" (1977 *Proceedings*, pp. 131-32). We, therefore, present those points concerning which disagreements still remain, yet not, in our opinion, without hope of resolution. We also list those areas where controverted points exist where further examination is needed.

B. Affirmations

Together we . . .

1. Affirm: That the assurance of our salvation is always based on the atoning work of Jesus Christ attested in Sacred Scripture and worked in us through the means of grace. We are justified by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.

Reject: That the ground or assurance of our salvation can be based on the presence of some spiritual gift or experience in the Christian life.

2. Affirm: That the inspired Scripture is the only judge of movements, experiences, and theologies. God's Word judges experiences and not vice-versa.

Reject: That any movements, experiences, or theologies ever stand in judgment of Scripture.

3. Affirm: That it is the Holy Spirit who apportions his gifts upon whomever and whenever he wills (1 Cor. 12:11).

Reject: That the Scriptures teach that certain gifts of the Spirit cannot be present in the church today or that the Scriptures teach that all the gifts of the Spirit are present in the church today.

4. Affirm: That spiritual gifts are given not only for the edification of the individual (1 Cor. 14:4) but also and primarily for the building up of the church (1 Cor. 14:12). "The Christian church today will accept with joy and gratitude any gift that the Spirit in His grace may choose to bestow on us for the purpose of edifying the body of Christ" ("The Charismatic Movement and Lutheran Theology," A Report of the CTCR, 1972, p. 25).

Reject: That every congregation must have every one of the Spirit's gifts listed in the New Testament or it is somehow incomplete, inferior, or spiritually deficient.

5. Affirm: That the presence of the fruit of the Spirit, rather than the manifestation of any spiritual gift, is a mark of growing spiritual maturity.

Reject: All forms of spiritual pride that point to self, including any comparisons of sanctification over against others in Christ's body or any judgment regarding the presence or absence of gifts of the Spirit that lead either to boasting, self-satisfaction, spiritual elitism, or to despair.

6. Affirm: That although we live in a sinful and wicked world confronted by "spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12), Jesus Christ, who is "the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb. 13:8), is the ultimate victor over every spiritual enemy through his cross and resurrection. In the New Testament, the proclamation of this message of victory was often accompanied by signs and wonders that demonstrated his lordship over the enemy and blessed those in need. In assessing whether such signs and wonders are still present today, "The church will not reject out of hand the possibility that God may in His grace and wisdom endow some in Christendom with the same abilities and powers He gave His church in past centuries. It will take care lest it quench the Spirit by neither praying for nor expecting God's presence and power in building His church." The church "will also take seriously the admonition of the apostle to 'test the spirits to see whether they are of God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world' (1 John 4:1, 1 Cor. 12:10)" (CTCR, *ibid.*).

Reject: That Scripture teaches that God must perform certain signs and wonders today (e.g., healing) and if such do not occur, it is necessarily due to a lack of faith;
That suffering, which is a mark of the cross-life for righteousness' sake, is a sign that we have missed some blessing of God;
That temporal prosperity is a necessary condition of God's favor.

C. Issues Remaining to Be Resolved

1. The interpretation of SA III, viii, 3-13 (Tappert, pp. 312-13) and its application to 1979 Resolution 3-10A, Point 8.
2. The relationships between the means of grace, prayer, and charismata.
3. Does the content of the promises made by Jesus Christ to his church include the charismata?
4. The Word- and faith-confirming function of manifestations of the Spirit.
5. How to discern the authenticity of spiritual gifts.

D. Recommendation

In view of the progress made in these discussions, we recommend that further discussions be arranged for the purpose of seeking resolution of the points of disagreement which remain.

Participants:

Dr. Ralph Bohlmann
Dr. Richard Kapfer
Dr. Robert Kolb
Dr. Albert Marcis
Dr. Samuel Nafzger

Rev. Philip Gehlhar
Dr. Theodore Jungkuntz
Dr. Donald Miles
Rev. Delbert Rossin

February 1992

Appendix C

[See "Entered into Rest" at the back of this *Proceedings*.]

Part II

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

"WITH GREAT BOLDNESS—Tell Everyone What HE Has Done!" What a marvelous theme we have for the 58th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod! How simply and clearly it expresses the mission of the church and challenges us to do it, and to do it *now!*

The words themselves combine a phrase from Acts 4 with familiar words from our post-Communion canticle, based on Psalm 105: "Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done." Not only did those words serve us well in our 1989 Wichita convention, but throughout the past triennium. As the boards, commissions, task forces, Districts, and other entities of the Synod developed their plans and priorities, the 1989 convention theme emerged as a short, but powerful mission statement for the entire Synod. Simply, but directly, those words remind us that our task is *telling*, that our subject matter is *God's action* in redeeming the world through Jesus Christ, and that the *audience* of our telling is nothing less than the entire world. What a glorious theme this remains for our coming convention! 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. It provides a clear focus for every action we take at our coming convention—and for every congregation, as well.

But to remind ourselves of the urgency of our telling in a world where billions of people are without faith in Jesus Christ, we have added the words, "With Great Boldness," from Acts 4. You remember that chapter, don't you? Immediately after the miracle of Pentecost, Peter healed a crippled beggar, spoke to the onlookers about the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and promptly found himself before the Sanhedrin. There he forthrightly explained that it was "by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed . . . Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (10–12 NIV). Three times in the verses that follow, St. Luke uses the same word, *parresia*, to describe the bold quality of their witness to the Christ. That boldness so unnerved the Sanhedrin that they conferred about what they would do and its members called in Peter and John again, and again the disciples expressed themselves with great courage: "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

After they were let go, Peter and John went back to their circle of believers and told them everything that happened. And at that point, that tiny circle of believers, which by some standards should have been scared to death, prayed: "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable Your servants to speak Your word *with great boldness*" (v. 29). St. Luke records the result very simply: "After they prayed,

the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God *boldly*" (v. 31). And their boldness in telling about the risen Christ did not stop! Again and again in the book of Acts, and indeed throughout the writings of the New Testament, we read about the bold, courageous, venturesome, risky, joyfully confident witness of the early church as they told everyone what He, the risen Christ, had done!

We, in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod need that boldness, too. In the sinful and difficult world in which we live, it's five minutes to twelve in God's time, as the signs of His return to judge surround us. With 65 to 75 percent of the world not even knowing about the Christ, and with all the resources God has given us and our people, we can no longer continue to do business as usual in our congregations and personal lives. It's time for us to be *bold* in our telling, *bold* in our mission and outreach, *bold* in our congregational ministries, *bold* in taking our theological position on difficult issues into all the world, *bold* in expanding our church relationships on the basis of the Word of God, *bold* in offering new opportunities for service to the men and women who constitute the royal priesthood of believers, *bold* in establishing peace within the church, *bold* in works of love and mercy toward the poor and unfortunate, and *bold* in risking new patterns of organizational effectiveness in order to tell everyone what He has done as quickly, as powerfully, and as effectively as we can.

Role of the Convention

Admittedly, it's difficult for the large number of people involved in a convention such as ours, who must deal with the large amount of business we expect a convention to handle, to gain a collective sense of the actions that must be taken to tell everyone what He has done *with great boldness*. That's why the leadership provided by floor committees is so important to a successful convention. For, although a convention is the principal legislative assembly of the Synod, it exists for other purposes as well, and all of its objectives pertain to the work and responsibility of floor committees. Our bylaws state the functions of conventions 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 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. Please understand that referring overtures in this way is a responsible, representative, and democratic way of helping the convention devote its time and energy to those issues that the committees—who represent the whole convention—feel are the most critical.

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 42 reports and 570 overtures before the convention; 370 overtures were submitted by 174, or 2.92 per cent, of our congregations, and the remaining 200 overtures came from Districts, boards, faculties, and Circuit forums. (Incidentally, one congregation submitted 16 overtures, and 19 came from one District.) Committees should treat every overture seriously, whether it comes from a small congregation or a large District. However, 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 available to our convention, it 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, and to do so *with great boldness*.

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, or about our relationship to other Christian ministries all over the world, 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 again be utilizing a state-of-the-art electronic response system in Pittsburgh 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; in such cases, committees should check with Pastor Paul Devantier, who is coordinating such presentations for the convention. Moreover, the random seating of convention delegates requested by a previous 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. In this last decade of the 20th century, we are attempting to do everything we can as a Synod to face the tremendous opportunity and challenge that surrounds us on every side. For several years, we have studied, interviewed, surveyed, met, discussed, resolved, planned, motivated, encouraged (and the list of verbs goes on) not only to help one another provide better, livelier, and stronger congregations, but to link our congregations to each other in new ways as we reach out to our communities and to all the world on the solid basis of Holy Scripture in order to tell everyone what GOD has done. How richly God has blessed those efforts! Today we enjoy great unity of doctrine and great commitment to reaching the lost for Christ—contrary to some voices in our midst. We have a very strong vision of what our church could and ought to be as we carry out our Lord's Great Commission, and we have set admirable goals in a number of areas—and will be reviewing some of them in a moment. But the time has come—and is here *NOW*—for us to act, and to act *boldly*, on behalf of our Synod and its mission in a number of key areas.

Leadership

But before pointing to some of those key areas, I want to emphasize how critical it is that this convention provide the Synod with strong, evangelical leadership. It goes without saying that we need leaders who are completely committed to the Synod's confessional doctrinal position (including its nuances in such sensitive areas as inter-Christian relationships, the role of women, and the ministry), who will honor our Constitution and polity, and who are enthusiastically dedicated to our overarching mission

to reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Within those parameters, each leadership position requires the very best in terms of understanding, experience, the ability to work with others in a collegial fashion, and the capacity to make a difference in addressing needs and opportunities in our ever-changing and difficult world. What the Synod emphatically does *not* need is people in leadership positions with close ties to special interest groups and publications which undermine the trust and confidence of our life together through the use of untruthful, malicious, and irresponsible attacks on fellow members of the Synod. Experience demonstrates that it is extremely difficult for such persons to exercise the kind of leadership the Synod needs and deserves. No matter how lofty our resolutions may sound, their effect will be minimal if those elected to implement them are linked to groups with their own agendas.

In addition to good evangelical leaders who represent all of the people of this church and who have a strong vision for the future that honors the past and engages us in the present, we also need strong leadership directions and actions. To that end, I challenge you, the floor committees of the convention, to develop proposals for convention action and congregational implementation that are not only faithful to Holy Scripture, but—precisely because they are faithful—actions which challenge and assist every congregation in every District, in every part of this Synod, to be bold in telling everyone what HE has done. And once you have adopted proposals for action, I challenge you—all of you—to exercise leadership among other delegates and on the floor of the convention for the course of action you recommend.

Visions, Goals, and Priorities

Given the need for the convention to choose evangelical leaders and to receive wise and strong leadership from you who serve on floor committees, which areas, you may ask, should receive the primary attention in our life and work together, and therefore in the coming convention? With so many overtures and reports filling so many pages on so many issues, what, practically speaking, does leadership mean? I believe that committees (and the convention, too) can be helped greatly by building upon the visions, goals, and priorities of our past convention and the implementation of its policies and resolutions since that time. These are summarized in Part I of my report (please turn now to pages 5–10 in the *Convention Workbook* for this summary).

As requested by our last convention as a result of many years of listening to our people and reflecting on their desires and needs as they seek to carry out our Lord's Great Commission, four concepts have emerged as the key components of our synodical vision and have guided the work of the Synod during these years. We have deliberately focused on being *Gospel-based* in all we do, in becoming increasingly a *mission-driven* Synod, in understanding our life together as one in which the *congregation is at the center* and all other components serve it and assist it, and by being *people-oriented* in every dimension of our work, rather than thinking of ourselves primarily in institutional or organizational terms. I challenge you and all convention delegates to keep those four components alive in your

thinking and resolving and encouraging our Synod to be everything we can be, and to do everything we can do under the blessing of our good and gracious Lord.

Three years ago, we asked the convention to respond to two questions:

1. What would the LCMS be like in 1995 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?

Let's ask those same questions in our work this weekend so that the convention as a whole can ask them, too, as we decide together what our Synod needs to do in order to faithfully and boldly tell everyone what HE has done. During the past three years, our boards and other components of the Synod have tried to flesh out the responses of our Synod to these questions and to develop goals and action steps that reflect the highest priorities in our life together. The 10 top priorities that emerge from this process as we plan for the future are the following: *spiritual growth, witness and outreach, pastoral ministry, inter-Christian relationships, women's service in the church, new family initiatives, strengthening higher education, funding the mission, organizational effectiveness, and peace in the church*. As you review these broad areas, please pay attention to the two or three goal statements that follow each heading. Note, also, the commentary that follows, for in each priority area you will read summary remarks that remind us of the progress we have made, and how far we still have to go to reach the goals that we have set for ourselves as we have listened to the word of God and its direction for our mission in these last years of the century.

Let's take a moment to do that now.

Spiritual Growth. What can we do as floor committees, and subsequently as a convention, to help the Gospel and Sacraments be and remain central in the life and work of every dimension of our life together? For it is the *Gospel* that is the power of God unto salvation, and not only unto salvation, but for all good works and efforts that we do in our Savior's name. Church attendance, Communion attendance, the study of God's word—all of this is fundamental, basic, the one thing needful in our life and work together.

Witness and Outreach. Part of the assignment of every committee at the convention is to review the *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties*, printed, in summary form, at the back of the *Convention Workbook*. Although committee 1 has the primary responsibility of helping us apply the goals of the blueprint to our congregational life in its resolutions, every committee should ask much the same question, namely, what do the goals established in this mission blueprint mean for the area of work addressed by our committee?

Pastoral Ministry. How can our convention actions support and undergird the work of the pastoral ministry in our midst, beginning with recruitment, continuing through seminary education, and thereafter in the continued growth and support of our professional church workers whose effectiveness in ministry is absolutely critical to our mission?

Inter-Christian Relationships. How can our contacts with other Christians help or hinder our task of bringing the Gospel to the nations? And how can we develop and aggressively expand our confessional efforts and contacts worldwide in ways that are completely faithful to our scriptural and confessional principles? Let me emphasize at this point that the doctrinal faithfulness of our entire church body is an absolute given in everything we do or say at the convention, including the important area of church relationships. Committee 3 will be wrestling with this area, and many other sensitive doctrinal questions, including **Women's Service in the Church.** Note the comment, which needs to be underscored again and again: "The difficult and sensitive questions in this area will not disappear either through silence or through shrill debate. Increasingly, we are called on to recognize what it means to be a church of *sola scriptura* in this and every other area, faithfully accepting and following everything the Scriptures teach, but at the same time recognizing that when Scripture is silent we must recognize and tolerate differences of opinion within our fellowship." This means retaining our solid confessional position against the ordination of women to the pastoral office, while at the same time inviting and encouraging women, as part of the universal priesthood of all believers, to share the gifts God has given them to edify the entire body of Christ.

New Family Initiatives are needed throughout the Synod. All committees are challenged to keep families and their needs uppermost in their thinking as they formulate resolutions and proposals to strengthen the ministry of congregations in this vital area.

Strengthening Higher Education is a major goal of the Synod, not only because of the difficulties posed for all of our institutions of higher learning in a time of economic difficulty and a declining student population, but also because these excellent institutions prepare our pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers, and they equip our laity for a wide variety of vocations in service to our Lord. Committee 6 has an important challenge as it reviews proposals for a new university system, as well as a number of other considerations affecting the future of our educational institutions.

Funding the Mission remains an absolutely critical dimension of our work together, not only to increase the revenue available to us at every level—can't we begin to do something about the 20/80 ratio in our parishes?—but also to enable us to send more missionaries and to support our colleges, universities, and seminaries the way we want to. The exciting Expanding the Circle effort will receive serious attention, particularly by committee 4, as it weighs the results of pilot projects throughout the Synod to see whether free-choice funding options really assist God's people in carrying out their mission. This committee, too, will have an opportunity to help the Synod respond to some of the questions and concerns about the Synod's fiscal management.

Organizational Effectiveness will receive considerable attention in this convention, too, as proposals to "fine-tune" and streamline our organizational structure will be considered. We all need to ask how we can structure our life and work together in the most effective and efficient

ways, retaining our traditional and cherished representative principle, avoiding centralization in any one office or board, but understanding that integrative efforts are extremely important for our life together, too. Working together more effectively to maintain and strengthen our solidarity and wholeness in confession and mission has nothing to do with centralization, control, or authority, as some mistakenly suggest. But it has *everything* to do with carrying out the Lord's mission in the best possible manner.

Human Care concerns, too, are very strong in the life and work of our church. Even though no special topic is devoted to this area, it is a given of the Christian life and the *people-oriented* dimension of our synodical vision that we will respond generously to human need wherever we find it, and committee 7 will have a special responsibility to help us do just that.

Peace in the Church is a matter of vital importance for the mission of the church. The Synod will depend on the leadership of this convention to help it resolve some of the most serious internal issues the Synod has faced in many years. Among the proposals that the leadership of the Synod strongly endorses is the recommendation for a new approach to conflict resolution among us, emanating from a special task force appointed two years ago to consider that issue. Beyond those proposals, we must also recognize a number of special problems that need our prayers, deliberation, and churchmanship. These include a review of the cases involving Dr. Robert Preus, former president of the Fort Wayne seminary, as well as the current impasse between the Board of Regents of the Fort Wayne seminary and the Commission on Appeals. There is a woeful lack of factual information on these cases in the Synod, caused in part by the understandable Bylaw restriction on the publicity of issues while cases are in appeal, but compounded by the misinformation and poor judgments expressed in unofficial publications and in various rallies and "rumor mills" throughout the Synod. As soon as it is possible to do so, the Vice-Presidents and I intend to give a full report to the Synod on these cases (if possible, such reports will be included as appendices to my convention report).

A special committee consisting of the elected officers of the Synod's two highest entities, the Board of Directors and the Council of Presidents, has been appointed to help us resolve the present impasse between the Board of Regents and the Commission on Appeals. The Special Committee has urged the two groups to meet as soon as possible, an action supported by the Board of Directors earlier this week. Somewhat related to this issue is the need for the Synod to clearly answer a number of questions that have been raised about the authority and procedure of the Synod's Commission on Appeals, as well as totally unfounded allegations that the president of the Synod has inappropriately involved himself in the adjudicatory processes of the Synod (note my comments on page 9 and my recommendations on page 10 of the *Convention Workbook*). Please note that this Special Committee is also constituted as a convention floor committee and may bring a report and recommendation directly to the convention.

Because peace in the church is so fundamental, not only

for our convention, but for our entire synodical and congregational life and work, please let me observe that the achievement of peace among us has three major components.

First, all of us need to commit ourselves to the New Testament injunction of St. Paul in Eph. 4:3 to make "every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." This Word of God is not simply a theological abstraction to be accepted intellectually, but it is to be a way of life in and for the church of Jesus Christ. Like all other dimensions of our Christian faith and life, the bond of peace is not something *we* achieve on our own, but we are empowered through the gift of the Spirit in Word and Sacraments, together with His gifts of forgiveness, life, and hope. We need to be in the Word and Sacraments, seeking and maintaining the peace as brothers—evangelically, fraternally, under the Word and in the Spirit. And that means that we discard methods and modes of behavior that place personal victory or vindication above the peace of the church.

Second, all of us in the church need to have a strong commitment to doing all things "decently and in order" (1 Cor. 14:40). A commitment to good order in our fellowship is not simply a wise organizational option, but God's will for life in the church. In synodical matters, that means that we must all put personal preferences and interests under the synodical constitution and bylaws, as well as officially-binding interpretations of the same rendered by our Commission on Constitutional Matters (see Bylaw 3.533, d), for we have covenanted together to carry out our synodical life and work in this way. Please understand, however, that this principle applies not only to plaintiffs and defendants in cases under adjudication, but to the very commissions who judge such cases, and indeed to all of us, each in our own calling.

Third, we need to help one another, throughout the Synod and within each of its congregations, to achieve a better atmosphere of trust and mutual regard. As we learn from the New Testament, that cannot be achieved simply by fiat or by convention resolution, but it *will* happen as we speak the truth in love, prefer one another to our own self-interest, submit ourselves one to the other, accept the role and authority given to others, and above all, forgive one another even as we are forgiven through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

As the convention labors to help the Synod in all of these priority areas—and many others—the golden thread that binds it all together is what Dr. Martin Luther, in his 62nd Thesis, called "The Gospel of the glory and grace of God." For it is that Gospel that gave us new life in our Baptism, that nourishes us on the Body and Blood of our Lord, and is the content of the strong Word that speaks us righteous again and again because of the life and death of Jesus Christ for us and for all the world. That Gospel provides us with the forgiveness of our good and gracious God, daily and richly, which covers the sin and weakness that plagues our life together. But it is that Gospel, too, that gives us the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish all the many challenges that God has set before us. Even timid souls, like many of us, become bold witnesses like Peter and John

in Acts 4, when captivated by the Gospel and the world's tremendous need for it through the ministry of Christ's church. It's the power of that Gospel that will enable us in committee sessions, and afterward in convention actions, to address the roadblocks and impediments that keep us from being as effective as we might. It's that Gospel that gives us cause to celebrate and live joyous, freed lives in our Savior's service. And so, I urge you, dear partners and co-workers of our church body, to let that glorious Gospel of the grace of God captivate your work and effort in your floor committees, in your private reflections on decisions, and in your personal and congregational efforts to serve our Lord with faithfulness and vigor.

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, and having taken forward steps in many key areas, can really take specific actions in this convention to move us forward faithfully, aggressively, and boldly, in carrying out our mission? To be sure, there are some voices of fear and concern, and sometimes even some suspicion among some of us, and we need to care for those brothers and sisters who feel that way, but most of our people are ready to move forward in the name of the Lord, and to move *now*!

In many respects, the world of today is not like the world of yesterday. Ceaseless change is an unchanging factor in the life of our world, not only in science and technology, but in the very fabric of our life and society with all of its precious values. Much has changed in the institutional church, too, including our own church body. We, like many other Christian groups, know something about declining denominational loyalties, membership plateaus, fewer children, more elderly people, continuing movement from rural to urban communities, increased, almost baffling opportunities among ethnic and minority populations, apathy and indifference, and the increased expectation of accountability from those who serve. Let us, therefore, emphasize that we seek no change in our faith and doctrine, and that in fact we must work harder than ever to preserve our precious theological heritage. But organizationally, we cannot simply stand still or, even worse, attempt to re-create a past that no longer exists.

But who is equal to such a task? That's the question St. Paul asked in 2 Cor. 2:15 as he recalled the task the Lord had given him, namely, the task of bringing the Gospel of the victorious Christ to the world. He immediately answered his own question by reminding his readers—including us—that our competence to do what God asks us to do does not come from ourselves but from *God*! And He has made us competent ministers of the New Testament. In Him, and guided by His Spirit, I pray that this convention will help us move forward biblically, evangelically, pastorally, decisively, and boldly as the *Gospel-based, mission-driven, congregation-centered, and people-oriented* community of Christians that God has made us and called us to be. To that end, God help each of us and each of our committees, as well as our coming convention and every congregation of this magnificent church body, to *Tell Everyone What HE Has Done* and to do so with *Great Boldness*! Amen!

Part III

I am 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 58th regular convention. The Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod requires the President to give an accurate report to the Synod "at all sessions of the Synod." In keeping with that constitutional requirement, which is further explicated in Bylaw 3.25, I call to your attention that I have already provided you with two parts of that President's report. Part I is in the *Convention Workbook*, pp. 1-14. In that portion of the report, I called to your attention some of the major areas of activity that have engaged the President, the Vice-Presidents, and the different agencies, boards, and committees touched by the Office of the President during the last three years. The second part of my report is also before you in writing. It was shared at the meeting of the convention floor committees held in St. Louis on May 28 and is found in *Today's Business*, pp. 19-25.

Since that time, the President has also prepared a supplemental report entitled *A Supplemental Report on the Responsibilities of the Commission on Appeals*, which will be presented to you in writing in *Today's Business*. I don't intend to spend any time talking about it at this point, but it provides supplemental information on some of the statements, concerns, and recommendations that appear in the President's Report, Part I.

There are many things in Parts I and II that I would love to highlight for you, but there isn't time for that. I would like to, however, underscore what the pastoral office of the President really entails. I quote from Article XI of the Constitution, which states that the President has the "supervision regarding the doctrine and 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, it's the task of the President, and I quote again, "to see to it that all the aforementioned act in accordance with the Synod's constitution." What power does the President have as he does that? A lot of people ask questions about that from time to time, and again the Constitution responds by saying he shall have the power "to advise, admonish, and reprove." It says, "He shall conscientiously use all the means at his command to promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all the districts of the Synod" and "shall see to it that the resolutions of the Synod are carried out." Many of you know those responsibilities are sketched out in greater detail in the Bylaws of the Synod. I simply want you to understand as best you can (and I still stand in awe of those words) that these important responsibilities assigned to the person you call to be the President of our church body have not just been put there in the last few years, but have been a part of our way of life together since the Constitution of the Synod was first adopted. There is nothing in that Constitution or in those Bylaws that would suggest for one moment that the Office of the President is authoritarian or dictatorial or hierarchical in its concept. It simply is not, and its incumbents have understood that

very well. The responsibilities assigned to the office, and its accountability, in many respects far exceed the actual authority that the President exercises, if you define authority in terms of decision.

Why am I underscoring this? Because I think it's important for the Synod to understand that this office, which humbles anyone who wears it, is really a pastoral and spiritual office. It's a specialized ministry that you call your servant to in this position. That's true of the Vice-Presidents, as well. People, to be sure, are in a different relationship to the President of the Synod and of their own Districts than they are to their own pastors, but I believe we should see our synodical President also as a pastor, in an office that's exercised at the call of God's people with the blessing and guidance of the Spirit, and that he's a pastor trying to serve the Synod on behalf of its member congregations like all other pastors of the church. That means that much of its authority and responsibility lie in the Word of God. That's the ultimate authority that any pastor has—an authority exercised by preaching and teaching and directing our hearts and minds into the beloved Word of God.

It's an authority exercised once in a while by encouraging and holding up the arms of people, and once in a while by discipline and reminding and teaching about this or that course of action. I want to tell you again today, as I have in every convention, how humbled I have been to serve in this office, and how much in awe of it I am. I want to thank you for the high honor and trust that you have demonstrated again and again. I think I know better than anyone, unless it would be perhaps my wife or my secretary, or the people who work with me day in and day out, that I have not been perfect in the performance of my responsibilities. I have made mistakes; I have weaknesses and limitations just like everyone else. I hope that you'll be forgiving toward me and all others who serve you. And I hope and pray that we can always be people who acknowledge with great charity, just as our Lord does as He looks with charity upon our sins, that those who serve us are frail, human, sinful beings who live by the grace of God in Jesus Christ, too.

If you have the opportunity and haven't done so yet, it might be useful at some point to do a quick flip through the written President's report. Some of the items in Part I speak to some of the questions that people often have about the direction of the Synod. There is, for example, a treatment of ecclesiastical supervision and how the synodical and District Presidents carry out the office of supervision among us. You will also find materials in Part I about our contacts with the United States government on page 3. (I'm always amazed and grateful that when we have opportunity to speak to officials in the United States government, and once in a while in its state governments, about our positions on abortion or education or other key issues, that we are received so graciously.)

Opportunities in Eastern Europe are described on page 3. (A word or two about that later, but they have been just wonderful; this has been a triennium in which God has opened new doors for us in Eastern Europe.)

Church relations matters are discussed on page 4, including our relationships with the other large Lutheran church in this country, the one that's twice our size, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, whose bishop will bring greetings to us later in the convention, as well as our other friends in other synods, including the Wisconsin Synod.

Mention is made of auxiliaries, the Commission on Women, and discussions with RIM leaders on page 5. The following pages focus on some of the synodical goals of the whole leadership team that was introduced to you a moment ago, and the many, many others who should have been included in it. Our work during this triennium has been guided by the concept of our being a Gospel-based, mission-driven, congregational-centered, people-oriented church. You will find those concepts reflected, in the reports and resolutions which are coming before the convention.

The 10 top priorities of the church during this past triennium, together with a number of goals in each area, are summarized here. I want to underscore that this is not just the President's work, but the work of a team of leaders that works together in a very collegial, consensual sort of way. Many of those items, too, will be reflected in resolutions coming before the convention.

There are also special projects and reports included in the rest of Part I. In Part II, which is in *Today's Business*, we came back to the visions and goals and priorities of the Synod (page 22ff. of the *Convention Workbook*). We asked the convention two questions three years ago. They're pretty good questions for this one, too:

1. What would The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be like in 1995 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 a large extent it's the vision of a church that's Telling Everyone What HE Has Done with Great Boldness, with emphasis on Gospel and mission and congregation and people, that drives our response to these questions. One newer item in Part II, on page 24, deals largely with the desire for peace in the church. I mentioned there some of the issues that are coming before this convention, and gave three words of advice in our seeking of peace for the church, which is fundamental to our carrying out the mission of the church. First, we need to commit ourselves to the New Testament words of St. Paul to make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; second, a commitment to doing all things decently and in order; and thirdly, an atmosphere of trust and mutual regard that happens only when we really do it. Already this morning many speakers have prayed for peace among us—a prayer that we all join in. We are not going to achieve peace in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod simply by voting or by any kind of power or authority in this convention. We will need to work at it when we go home. We must work at peace as we do all other problems and challenges in the church, by laying them at the foot of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by confession and absolution, by

the pledge to listen, to confess, to absolve, to heal. And we will also be looking at some structural changes that might help us to resolve conflicts among us in a better way.

While we are emphasizing the subject of peace in the church, let me mention a little story from a book by Max LeCotto called *In the Eye of the Storm*. As he tells the story, when he was a boy in high school, his family used to fish every year during spring break. One year he and his brother and their father and a friend went fishing. They could hardly wait until they could camp out and go on this wonderful trip. But, as they sat there in their camper with their little Coleman stove and all of that, it was windy, it rained the whole time, they couldn't go outside. And, predictably, they got into each other's hair, and found fault with each other throughout a long day and a long, cold night. Then the next morning when they awoke to the sound of sleet slapping the canvas, "We didn't even pretend to be cheerful," he says, "we just were flat out grumpy." He tells how his brother "became more of a jerk" with each passing moment, and how Dad couldn't do anything right. When the next day was even colder, the first thing Dad said was, "We're going home." And no one objected! May I just tell you briefly how he concludes the story? "I learned a hard lesson that week. Not about fishing, but about people. When those who are called to fish don't fish, they fight. When energy intended to be used outside is used inside, the result is explosive. Instead of casting nets, we cast stones. Instead of extending helping hands, we point accusing fingers. Instead of being fishers of the lost, we become critics of the saved. Rather than helping the hurting, we hurt the helpers. The result," says Max LeCotto, "is 'church Scrooges.' Bah! Humbug, spirituality! Beady eyes, searching for warts on others while ignoring the warts on the nose below. Crooked fingers that bypass strengths and point out weaknesses. Split churches, poor testimonies, broken hearts, legalistic wars, and sadly, the poor go unfed, the confused go uncounseled, and the lost go unreached. When those who are called to fish don't fish, they fight."

We are called to fish. That's why we did the lead-in from the opening part of the blueprint for missions for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Again, you have the essentials of that report before you. Many congregations, District boards, and virtually all the boards of the Synod have spent some time looking at the blueprint and its implications for us as we move through the '90s and into the next century. It's a wonderful document, in my judgment. The people who worked on this included almost every missionary in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, at least by mail. It reflects a great number of reports, comments, studies of demographics, visits by experts, and attempts to take a good, hard look at where we are as a fishing church, a church that tells everyone what HE has done.

The blueprint reminds us of the context in which we live—in a world of 5.4 billion people living in 225 countries separated into 12,500 people groups, reminding us of the hard work we have to do. Our mission blueprint calls for work, for building, for construction, for building the body of Christ. Eighty percent of the world's population lives outside of North America and Europe. And over 90 percent of the projected population growth of our world in the next 30 years will take place in these same regions. By the year

2000, or just slightly beyond the world of today, the population of 5.4 billion will have grown to nearly 7 billion people.

The blueprint reminds us that in 1978, there were 37 countries that had closed their doors to Christian missionaries. But today, one-third of the world's area, with 65 percent of the population, has closed its doors to traditional mission work. Those countries contain 83 percent of the people in the world who have not yet confessed their faith in Jesus Christ. This serious problem cannot be tackled by the Christian church on earth with a kind of "business as usual" approach.

Other factors are cited in the blueprint to remind us of the world in which we live. One that we don't hear much about is sometimes called "the persecution factor." It is estimated that almost 300,000 Christians will be killed because of their faith in any one year. This reminds us of Scripture's warning that we wrestle not only against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world.

The blueprint sets before our church body 15 goals that it believes we need to meet in order to do the task. Before it does that, it reminds us that what it calls a "centrifugal model," that is, a movement toward the outside world, must also be accompanied by a "centripetal model," as the people from out there surround us in North America. The report particularly calls for our attention to Africa and to China, where the church continues to grow under restrictions, and to neighboring India, which together with China, makes up approximately one-fourth of the entire human family.

The challenge is also very great in other parts of Asia, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union. The world of Islam, which is especially resistant to the Word, again and again these days offers new openings. In Latin America, patient, evangelical mission witness among growing rural and urban populations continues to bear fruit and give promise of still more to come. We need to evangelize the city. We need to have culture-specific ministries. We need to see the United States as a world mission field, something we're going to underscore on Sunday morning with our big mission rally and the offerings that you and your people are bringing to give new and dramatic and urgent application to the task of *telling everyone* here in the United States, a key world mission field. The implications of this are very great for the recruitment and training of mission personnel, theological education, the leadership and witness in congregations and Districts and national organizations of the Synod, networking, and fine-tuning the structures of the church so that we're really geared toward mission as our highest priority.

Funding is a major concern. We have a whole committee (committee 4) looking at that question. We know that God has given us the resources, but how do we spend it on our priorities in our home congregations, communities, Districts and our international operation in such a way that we are really giving the highest priority to boldness in mission? There are many other emphases that you learn about as you read the blueprint. I hope you'll do that, because so much of what we're trying to do in this church body, and what we have been working at for many years,

has to do with this blueprint for building God's kingdom as His servants, and for doing so *with boldness!*

I mentioned a moment ago that we have had special blessings in this triennium in our efforts to get to know and become friendly Christian supporters of a number of Lutheran churches in Eastern Europe. What a window of opportunity is open! Only the Lord knows how long it will be open. With the unbelievable, unexpected collapse of the Communist system in most of the world in just this triennium, a wall has come down! I will always cherish the memory and the privilege of representing you and the wonderful people of our church body in several key visits during the last years. One was in October of 1988, to the little town of Klitten, East Germany, down in the corner, very near Poland and Czechoslovakia.

That was the setting for the convention of our sister church, known as the "Alt-Lutheraner," the Old Lutherans, a very small group that had lived through Communist oppression. Klitten had been set as the place for this meeting three years before because the Communist government of that area had scheduled the tearing down of this old church built in 1847 (the same year, incidentally, that our Synod was founded). By the way, it was from the Klitten area that many Wendish Lutherans came to the United States in the 19th century, many of them settling in the great state of Texas. But the church in Klitten had not been torn down. Instead, the Communist government collapsed. It was there that the church body voted itself out of existence in order to become a part of the West German partner church that we call SELK, or the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church.

A year later, because of the contacts we had made through people like Wally Schulz of the Lutheran Laymen's League, and David Daniel, professor of church history at the St. Louis seminary for many years, but now serving in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, we made a visit on behalf of the Synod to the bishops of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, and then a few weeks later, Poland and Silesia. (By the way, we have additional trips planned for this fall to Romania, Yugoslavia, and the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania, and perhaps Estonia.) In every Eastern European country, we are being welcomed as the first emissaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to these churches. All we wanted, we said, was to learn to know their story and to be helpful to them. I think many of you know how God opened doors through those contacts and many others by our Board of Mission Services. Today, and for several months, we are supplying all of the Sunday school literature for 300 Sunday Schools in the Lutheran congregations of Czechoslovakia. I personally consider it one of the high points of this convention that we are going to receive greetings from the bishop of that church this afternoon, a man who spent several years in prison because of his conviction, and who today leads this church and labors to help it be faithful to God.

Eastern Europe—what an opportunity, what an open door God has set before the Christian church on earth. These people love and respect The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod because of our doctrine and our passion for souls and our sound educational materials. And they cry out and say, "Come over and help us!"

The Board of Directors, as you know, has responded to that cry by recognizing, in conjunction with the Board for Mission Services, an Eastern European Outreach Goal. We're trying to do more and more all the time. If you hear me speaking with considerable personal emotion about Eastern Europe, it's because the need and the opportunity is so great . . . and the need is *now*!

In this convention, we're going to hear, we believe, if technology serves us well, from another exciting field. We hope to talk to our chief mission person in China, Missionary Henry Rowold, and to do it live by satellite during this convention. China has almost one-fourth of the world's population. You all know what went on in Tiananmen Square years ago, and what a perilous situation remains for Christians in China. But our church body is there, too, working together with the Lutheran Laymen's League, assisted by the wonderful women of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, and by many others who are trying to present the Gospel on tape through libraries, teaching English as a second language, and any other means to help and support the church in China and to be strong in the proclamation of the Good News in Jesus Christ.

People in this great church are responding wonderfully to God's Macedonian call to many parts of our world. But we need to ask harder questions if we really want to be a mission church. And, dear brothers and sisters, *that's* the chief challenge of this convention.

How are we doing as a Synod, you might well ask? The way you answer that question depends on your perspective, I suppose. The Presidents of our Districts and the faculties of our two seminaries had a retreat several months ago. We listened to one of America's distinguished theologians talk about "perspective." He used as an illustration he called "the hurricane model." When you look at a hurricane from a satellite, as we sometimes do on the evening newscasts, it looks almost beautiful, because you see it as a whole. If you look at a hurricane from a weather plane, you're just a little bit closer, and it isn't all that beautiful. If you look at it from a weather station, you're still closer, and if you have to look at it from a hut, God help us!

That's an interesting analogy for the way in which we see this big family of God that we call The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. How are we doing? The answer depends, I suppose, on whether at any one time you happen to be in a hut or a weather station or a weather plane or a satellite. We need to recognize and accommodate each other's different perspectives. Things often look different when your contexts are not the same.

The optimist and the pessimist in each of us also tends to see things a little bit differently. Is the glass half full or is it half empty? Is that a doughnut that I am about to eat, or must I pity the hole that's there with no food value? If you're shoveling out a barn, as I once heard a preacher remind us, are you going to complain about the smell and uncleanness, or are you going to conclude that there must be a horse somewhere that you could ride as soon as you got finished.

When you describe the Synod, do you focus on pluses or minuses? Both of them are there. The Synod, in any sound and fair evaluation of the 60-some corporations that

comprise us, the 35 Districts, the colleges, the seminaries, the universities, the 35 mission fields, and the 6,000 congregations who, as we know are autonomous, independent congregations, has many, many pluses. I believe one of the great pluses of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continues to be our concern for and practice of pure doctrine. We seek to be faithful to the Word of God and to the Lutheran Confessions in everything we do. How important that is today at a time when many others around the Christian church are so preoccupied with the various "isms" and ideologies of this strange world. I'm proud of the pastors and teachers and laity of this church who, almost without exception, it seems to us who supervise them, are clear and strong and consistent in their proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of His holy and inspired Word, and who do it so faithfully. We don't need to, and we don't want to, and we must not allow change in that beloved doctrine! As Dr. Sohns reminded us this morning, it's part of the boldness of our Christian confession, to say with the Augsburg Confessors on the basis of Psalm 119, "I will speak Thy testimonies before kings and will not be put to shame."

There are many other positive things we can talk about in the Synod. For example, approximately 250,000 young people are students in our parochial school system—the largest in the nation's Protestant church family. We have also been able to maintain a plateau in church membership—a slight gain last year after a decline the previous year. To be sure, these are not figures to brag about, but by a lot of hard work and good evangelism effort, I believe there are many examples among us of outstanding witness and outreach. Sunday school and Bible class enrollment continues to climb, although it's still too low. We still have only 40 percent of our people or a little bit less in church on Sunday; if you're comparing yourself with another church that has only 31 or 32 percent, you can say that's good, but when you compare ourselves to the Word of God, which tells us to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, we cannot be happy with that. Or with the fact that approximately 25 percent of the communicant members of our congregations do not even commune once in any given year. There is much work to do to provide the spiritual care for the people of our church. But God be praised that so much is going on!

Some mistaken information gets out once in a while, implying that we are declining in mission outreach. I don't know whether a lot of people understand that during the last 10–15 years there's been a dramatic change in mission strategy in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and in many other churches of the world as well. We no longer count the activity of mission outreach in terms of missionaries sent out each year, because the philosophy has been that the missionary goes in order to train missionaries who are natives in the church in which they work. Today, we have many evangelists, catechists, and pastors and lay leaders in churches that were once served as mission fields of the Synod. Such workers today number over 4,000 missionary personnel, compared with about 2,000 in the year 1980, and 2,600 in the year 1970, and 1,000 in the year 1950. It is true that the number of U.S. missionaries is lower than it once was. But when one looks at the number

of people baptized in these churches, we also recognize that that graph line has gone up—not down.

I'm not trying to suggest for one moment that we are doing all that we can as a Synod to send missionaries. I think we need to confess our sin here again and again in this convention, and we need to do everything we can organizationally to increase the number of personnel we send, but we also need at the same time to remember how our good and gracious God has blessed our efforts in mission outreach, too.

Brothers and sisters, *boldness* is the name of this convention. We need boldness to increase our use of Word and Sacraments. We need boldness in world evangelization, beginning at home. We need boldness to explore new educational and organizational options. We need boldness in forming new congregational networks and linkages. We need boldness in continuing to do all we can to help small and rural churches (which are so dear to us in the Missouri Synod) to grow. We need boldness to give major attention to major mission and ministry opportunities, and not to those internal activities that weaken and destroy. We need to deal with those issues fairly and firmly, but without losing perspective. We need a discipline of restoration when we fall. We need to respect the *episkope*, or the supervision, of our pastors and leaders in the church who have been called to exercise it. But above all, we need boldness in becoming steadfast and unmovable and abounding in the wonderful work of the Lord.

I have always liked a quotation that I found years ago when I was teaching at the seminary. A little more than two hundred years after our Lord gave His church the Great Commission, a North African churchman by the name of Cyprian wrote these words to his friend, Donatus. "This is a cheerful world as I see it from my garden under the shadow of my vines. But if I could ascend some high mountain and look very far, what would I see? Robbers on the highways, pirates on the seas, armies fighting, cities burning, in the amphitheatres men murdered to please applauding crowds, selfishness and cruelty, misery and despair under all roofs; it is a bad world, Donatus, an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered," Cyprian went on to say, "in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They have found a joy which is a thousand times better than any of the pleasures of our sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people, Donatus, are the followers of the Christ, and I am one of them."

Change the words a bit, and our world doesn't seem all that different. From our gardens, and under the shadows of our vines, this, too, is a very beautiful and cheerful world. Advances in science and technology, accomplishments in engineering and medicine and many other areas continue to highlight the beauty and the cheerfulness of the world that God gives us. The tools that we have at our disposal—to literally talk to a Chinese missionary during this convention—live—are just unbelievable! And yet, we too have wars and rumors of wars, unborn children killed by the millions, economic depression, poverty, disease, AIDS, the threat of nuclear holocaust not completely removed, crime on the streets and off of them, what Cyprian

called "selfishness and cruelty, misery and despair under all roofs," seem to be the order of the day. And yet in the midst of this world that is at one and the same time cheerful and bad, there exists what Cyprian called "a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret"—the followers of Jesus Christ. And with him we exclaim, "And I am one of them." But let's correct one thing: That secret that we have discovered is not ours for keeping and holding inside. It's for sharing! It's for giving away! It's for bringing this world to know and become a part of that quiet and holy people.

And how is all that to happen, you ask? We reminded ourselves (or rather God's Spirit did) through His Word last night and again this morning that this power is God's gift to us through His Word and Sacraments. Dr. Martin Luther said it very well in a letter to an Augustinian monk he had come to befriend. In a letter written in 1516 he wrote, "My dear brother, get to know Christ and Him crucified. Learn to praise Him and not to despair of yourself. And then to say to Him, Dear Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness. I am Your sin. You have accepted what is mine, and given to me what is Yours. You took upon Yourself what You were not, and gave to me what I was not. For Christ lives only among sinners. In Him alone and utterly despairing of yourself and your works," Luther wrote, "you will find peace, and you will experience that He makes His righteousness to be yours, just as He accepted you and made your sins to be His very own."

It is to Him, the Christ of the past, the present, and the future, the changeless Christ in a world of dizzying change—it is to Him that we dedicate this 58th Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with the prayer that all of our deliberations will help us and all of our people, with vigor and enthusiasm, with excitement and vision, to *Tell Everyone What HE Has Done* as part of that great and holy people who have learned His great secret and who want to share it with others *With Great Boldness*. So be it! Amen.

Ralph A. Bohlmann, *President*

Addendum to Part III

Report of the Praesidium of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod on Its Charges against Dr. Robert Preus

(See Part II of the President's Report, which made reference to a future more complete report from the Praesidium)

On May 31, 1992, the Commission on Appeals (the COA) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod announced its decision in our complaint against Dr. Robert D. Preus, holding that Dr. Preus be restored to membership in good standing on the clergy roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The COA's decision reversed the decision of the Indiana District Commission on Adjudication (the IDCA) on Jan. 20 that Dr. Preus' membership in the Synod be terminated unless and until he repents of sinful conduct with which he had been charged. The IDCA found Dr. Preus unrepentant of unbrotherly conduct and falsehood

in five of eight specific charges included in our complaint sent to Indiana District President Reuben Garber on Jan. 31, 1991.

We strongly disagree with, and are deeply saddened by, the decision of the COA, not because Dr. Preus has been restored to the clergy roster of the Synod by that decision, but because we believe it is a decision that is harmful to Dr. Preus spiritually and to the church in general.

We brought our complaint against Dr. Preus after observing, over a period of 17 months following his honorable retirement, a course of conduct by him that we believe was sinful. Our purpose in doing so was not to expel Dr. Preus from clergy membership in the Synod, but rather to seek the assistance of the Synod's formal disciplinary process in bringing Dr. Preus to recognize the wrongful nature of his actions, to accept responsibility for the consequences of his actions, and to seek his repentance. The complaint was lodged with District President Garber only following repeated attempts by us to counsel with Dr. Preus, to admonish him personally, and to seek his repentance.

Following his retirement by the Board of Regents (the BOR) of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, on July 27, 1989, Dr. Preus acted in a manner which, in our judgment, was unbecoming a fellow Christian and required his correction. One can readily understand Dr. Preus' frustration when he was honorably retired as president of Concordia Theological Seminary on July 27, 1989. But his conduct as he endeavored to reverse that decision was a cause of grave concern to the Praesidium.

With what sins did we charge Dr. Preus? In our formal complaint, we described it as "conduct unbecoming a Christian" and noted two categories of misconduct: a persistent pattern of untruthfulness and unbrotherly conduct toward other Christians.

The latter category, we believe, is seen in his use of the civil authorities without first exhausting all personal and ecclesiastical means to handle his concerns, in his treatment of two District Presidents, and especially in his lack of cooperation and participation in informal reconciliation efforts.

Even before his retirement was to become effective on Aug. 15, 1989, Dr. Preus had taken two civil actions. One was a complaint against the BOR, filed with the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, claiming that age discrimination was the real reason for his retirement. Another was Dr. Preus' request for a court injunction to prevent the BOR from filling the presidency before he completed his attempts to regain the presidency through the Synod's adjudicatory processes. Seven months later, Dr. Preus filed suit again, this time against the Synod itself, as well as its President and other officers, alleging that they had acted in concert to deny him access to the Synod's adjudicatory processes. In none of these cases did Dr. Preus first attempt to resolve his concerns through personal or ecclesiastical avenues available to him.

Dr. Preus declined requests to participate in the Synod's informal reconciliation process as provided in Bylaw 8.05, even failing to respond to letters of fraternal concern from the synodical President for a period of nearly eight months. He did not cooperate in the earnest efforts of a small rec-

onciliation committee formed to resolve his differences with the BOR, and failed, when asked, to provide nominees to that committee.

In his efforts to regain the seminary presidency, Dr. Preus took other actions against his brethren that, in our judgment, were not fraternal, as, for example, when he lashed out at two District Presidents and inappropriately shared his letters of accusation with others in their Districts. We concluded that his basic error of unbrotherly conduct was in circulating those letters and in taking his three civil actions without first presenting his concerns directly to his brethren, or giving the Synod's processes adequate opportunity to handle his complaints.

During this same period of time (August 1989 through December 1990) we perceived Dr. Preus making public statements that were either harmfully misleading or that we believed to be untrue. In all three of his civil actions, we perceived that Dr. Preus misrepresented the facts, as, for example, when he told the court that the Synod's President and legal counsel had told him he could not regain the seminary presidency, even if he won his case in adjudication. His claim that his age was the real motive for the BOR's retirement action, as well as his charge that synodical officials had acted to deny him access to synodical adjudication, were both vigorously denied by all officials involved.

We viewed Dr. Preus as making harmfully misleading statements. He wrote a letter, published in *Alive*, which created the false impression that the synodical President refused to meet with him, when an informal reconciliation committee had previously informed him of Dr. Bohlmann's willingness to meet. A letter he wrote to the synodical Commission on Adjudication also distorted the truth by, for example, implying that Dr. Bohlmann and Dr. Mennicke refused to participate in informal reconciliation and that they planned quickly to call a new president to the Fort Wayne seminary.

Throughout a period of 17 months, from August 1989 to January 1991, the President, often in consultation with the Vice-Presidents, made numerous direct and personal efforts to reach Dr. Preus with concerns about his conduct, as did individual Vice-Presidents. Many of these efforts were ignored, resisted, or rejected out of hand. One such meeting took place in July 1990; but accomplished little. When Dr. Preus wrote in late November 1990 that reconciliation efforts were pointless, another meeting planned for January 1991 was canceled.

In December 1990, when it appeared to us that Dr. Preus' conduct had become more erratic and disruptive and also that he was increasingly difficult to reach, Dr. Preus' District President visited with Dr. Bohlmann about the need to confront Dr. Preus in a strong way about his perceived misconduct, and a meeting was arranged for that purpose in January 1991. On Jan. 3, the Praesidium also reviewed the latest examples of Dr. Preus' conduct and encouraged a disciplinary approach to Dr. Preus that might help him to recognize the seriousness of his actions and repent. Our chief concern was for Dr. Preus' own spiritual condition, and secondarily for the example his conduct was giving the church.

When Dr. Preus was confronted on Jan. 21 by Dr. Bohlmann and District President Garber with a summary of several concerns that had been brought to his attention several times before, as well as some more recent actions, he did not acknowledge any wrongdoing, did not repent, and told the President to charge him if he must. Thereafter, we did charge him, hoping that taking our concerns to the brethren would gain Dr. Preus' acknowledgment of the wrongful nature of his conduct and his correction of those wrongs.

Our goal in formally charging Dr. Preus with these errors has never been his expulsion from the ministry, but rather to help him, first through our own attempts to meet with him concerning his conduct and, when those attempts were rejected, through the good offices of the District President and the Synod's adjudicatory processes. Throughout this process we repeated our sole purpose: to help Dr. Preus to acknowledge his wrongdoing, repent, and be restored (Gal. 6:1) through the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ. That remains our goal to this day.

Regrettably, we have been unable to achieve our goal of leading Dr. Preus to repentance and absolution. Dr. Preus has admitted no wrongdoing as charged, in spite of two formal hearings with hundreds of pages of documentation and argumentation, and in spite of dozens of hours of informal efforts, several initiated by us and others arranged by the IDCA and the synodical COA.

We particularly commend the IDCA for its careful biblical and pastoral approach. The members of the IDCA understood that our concern was with repentance and absolution, not with victory or defeat. They knew, too, that the question of Dr. Preus' clergy membership in the Synod was, and is, secondary to the question of Dr. Preus' own spiritual well-being and the example his conduct provides the church. Although we respectfully disagreed with some of their judgments, we commend their efforts to help Dr. Preus and the church. One member recused himself from the hearing and final decision, because he felt he might have a conflict of interest—again, a model of objectivity and fairness that we commend. Their decision was a unanimous 6-0 action, upholding 5 of our 8 charges against Dr. Preus, and ruling that he should be expelled from clergy membership in the Synod until and unless he confessed his sin with a contrite heart.

The May 31, 1992, decision of the synodical COA to overturn the unanimous IDCA decision marks the second time the COA has overturned a lower commission's finding in a case involving Dr. Preus. It came after we protested against the apparent conflict of interest of two commission members, as well as perceived instances of bias on the part of the commission against the President and in favor of Dr. Preus. Both protests were rejected by the COA.

The COA decision means that Dr. Preus is again on the clergy roster of the Synod. The Praesidium would rejoice in that result if it had come about through confession and repentance, but that is not the case. The COA's decision attempts to exonerate Dr. Preus of any wrongdoing as charged. We regard the decision as incorrect and filled with errors of fact, significant omissions, and selective citation. It fails to correct Dr. Preus' understanding of the divine

call, and evidences a serious misunderstanding of brotherly admonition and informal reconciliation efforts within the church. The COA decision lacks a correct understanding of confession and absolution, sin and grace, impenitence and forgiveness. The decision of the COA not only fails to regard sin as sin, but to recognize that impenitence for any sin, great or small, is a serious matter. We believe that at least some members of the COA voted the way they did simply because they did not want to see Dr. Preus expelled from clergy membership in the Synod, and on that account excused his misconduct.

The COA decision repeatedly, incorrectly states that the Praesidium sought Dr. Preus' expulsion from membership in the LCMS, or that the purpose of bringing the charges against Dr. Preus was to "put him out of the Church." This was not a case of excommunication, nor did we have as our purpose the termination of Dr. Preus' clergy membership in the Synod. Our objective always has been to seek the assistance of the Synod's adjudicatory commissions in showing Dr. Preus his error and to gain his correction and repentance.

With no evidence from the COA of Dr. Preus' repentance and restoration, we believe our pastoral concern for him and his spiritual condition must continue. It is not only what we have seen as particular instances of wrongdoing that concern us, but especially that we perceived no evidence of his penitence. We are also concerned for the church, and want to help it understand that this decision does NOT mean that the Synod approves of taking civil action before attempting to reconcile or adjudicate within the church, of careless handling of the truth, or of disregard for our Christian brethren. Dr. Preus' prominent position and the wide respect he has enjoyed for many years make the church's perception of his conduct, and of his penitence, all the more important.

We bear no personal animosity of any kind toward Dr. Preus, and we regret the pain he and his family have endured. But we also believe the Synod has given us, its President and five Vice-Presidents, the sometimes heavy and difficult burden of supervising the doctrine and life of many of its officials and servants. The Synod should know that all of our decisions throughout our several months of dealing with Dr. Preus have been made prayerfully and with complete unanimity.

Where we have failed in exercising our responsibility, we ask God's forgiveness and the Synod's, too. But we also know that the grace of God in Jesus Christ is rich and more than ample to cover our sins and shortcomings, and Dr. Preus', too. Secure in that knowledge, we commend Dr. Preus and the future of this sensitive matter to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Respectfully submitted in the name of Christ,

The Praesidium of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Ralph A. Bohlmann, *President*
August T. Mennicke, *First Vice-President*
Robert H. King, *Second Vice-President*
Robert C. Sauer, *Third Vice-President*
Eugene W. Bunkowske, *Fourth Vice-President*
Walter A. Maier, *Fifth Vice-President*



CONVENTION SERMON

**Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable
Your servants to speak Your word with great
boldness.**

—Acts 4:29 NIV

O Lord, may the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

May the God of Hope fill you with the peace and joy of believing that believing in Him you may abound in hope. Amen.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, why are you here? One answer is simply, "because we've been sent." Many of you are delegates of the 6,000 congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and you've been sent to listen, to learn, and to set policies for the life and ministry of God's people. Others are advisory delegates, and you've been sent, too, by your boards, colleges, institutions, commissions, and the many groups that you represent, as well. Many others have been sent, too—guests, visitors, fellow Lutherans from the greater Pittsburgh area—who also feel "sent" to a delegate convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. But I submit to you that all of us are here this evening—and the thousands, even the millions of people we represent all over this land, and indeed all over this world—we're all here because we've been sent. "Even as My Father has sent Me, so send I you," said our Lord. "Go, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things." But, Go! I have *sent* you!

And then just before His ascension, as St. Luke tells us in the first chapter of Acts, He promised to His disciples of all times and places, "You will receive power from the Holy Spirit when He comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Why are we here? We are here because we have been sent. Some of us are here in a very special way because we've been sent to help this little corner of God's kingdom realize again that its mission to all of the world is to be sent to seek and to save the lost for whom the Lord Jesus Christ lived and died and rose again. To that end, we've chosen as our theme some words from Holy Scripture that summarize for all of us the task that we have committed ourselves to in these days as those sent by God. Those words are printed above my head, they are printed in your order of worship, you will hear them again and again—*With Great Boldness . . . Tell Everyone What HE Has Done*. Those words are based upon a prayer, a prayer of the earliest Christian church recorded in the book of Acts in chapter 4. May I read that simple prayer for you just now and ask God's Spirit to work in your hearts through that word this evening. May that prayer become your prayer and our prayer throughout this wonderful church body of ours, as we seek to know what it means to be sent—and then to go. The prayer is this: "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable Your servants to speak Your word with great boldness."



With Great Boldness! You don't really get the picture of what those words mean unless you bear in mind what has gone on in this chapter, and in fact in the preceding chapters of the book of Acts. Recall the miracle of Pentecost, when God's gift of speech was poured out upon the hearts of the disciples and they proclaimed the risen and living Christ, and the power of His resurrection came alive in the hearts of people, and they believed in Him. Just a few verses later, after the coming of the Holy Spirit, we read about those marvelous early Christians and the fellowship they enjoyed with each other as they were filled with awe at the wonders, the miracles and signs, and the speaking with power of these early Christian "sent ones." They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. And then in Acts 3, Luke reports this most unexpected miracle that surely had all the tongues in Jerusalem wagging.

One day when Peter and John were going to the temple to pray, they saw a crippled beggar who had been there from his youth asking for alms, known by many of the worshipers in the temple. He was over 40 years old, we learn later. One day Peter, with the power of God and the miraculous gift of healing, speaks to him about the risen Christ and the power of the Spirit. And he gets up and walks! That got the people nervous—and we read in chapter 4: "The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people about Christ and His resurrection."

Predictably, they were greatly disturbed, but it was because the disciples were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. "They seized

Peter and John," St. Luke says, and they put them in jail until the next day. Were they terrible criminals, or were they not? They were speaking and preaching in the name of Jesus Christ the resurrection of the dead and doing it in the open, in the temple where everyone could see and hear. "But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand."

Five thousand may seem somewhat small compared to the size of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. But when one bears in mind that the total number of residents in Jerusalem at that time was perhaps not more than 25 to 30 thousand people, it's amazing that five thousand already believed in Jesus! We don't know whether this is on top of those who had come to faith on Pentecost, or the sum total, but clearly a lot of people believed!

That couldn't go on, could it? The rulers of the people, as you read Luke's majestic account of this, got together and had a little miniconvention. They said, "What are we going to do about this problem, the healing of this man who sat by this gate all these years, and the preaching of the resurrection from the dead, that in the name of Jesus Christ there is life, and that the one whom we crucified lives, and He lives in the hearts and the words and the power of these disciples."

So they brought them in and talked to them and told them that this couldn't go on, that they were stirring up the people. Peter says it so simply, "It's by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth whom you crucified, but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." And now comes Luke's introduction of our theme word, "boldness." They listened to Peter, St. Luke says, and when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men "had been with Jesus." What are we going to do about it, they asked? If we put them in jail and show too much muscle, too much pressure, we'll surely cause an uprising among our people. Let's keep this thing from spreading any farther and warn them, as St. Luke says in verse 17, to speak no longer to anyone "in this name." And they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. And again, note Peter's word of boldness. Judge for yourselves, he says, whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God, for "we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." After further threats, they let them go.

Immediately the apostles hurried back to their friends, we're told, for a convention, a small one again, of that early church. What was this strange thing going on in their midst? Here they were, telling people the great and good news of the resurrection and life in Jesus Christ, and their leaders are hauled off and scolded. They are threatened and told not to speak in His name. What did they do? When they heard this report, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. They didn't organize politically, they didn't decide to fight power with power, or anything like that. They prayed a magnificent prayer. "Sovereign Lord, You made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of Your servant, our father, David."

They then recited the familiar words of Psalm 2 and applied them to this situation, about the nations raging and the peoples plotting in vain, the kings of the earth taking their stand. And then the words of our text: "Lord grant to us, Your servants, to speak Your word with great boldness. Stretch forth Your mighty hand and do these wonderful signs, so that people will, through Your Word, come to see You and believe You, the resurrected one." After they prayed, St. Luke says, the place where they were meeting was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. And, they spoke the Word of God *boldly*.

What a wonderful word: boldness, *parrësia*. Again and again in the book of Acts it's used to describe the speaking of leaders of the early Christian church. To be sure, they were threatened, persecuted, driven out of synagogues, beaten, treated in a most unkind way—all because they were trying to proclaim Him who is the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, the stone whom the builders rejected. But they spoke His Word, and they did it with *boldness*!

Tonight, my brothers and sisters, and throughout the convention in our praying and our working together, *that* is our prayer, too. We ask the Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with that same courage, not only to believe in Him as our risen and ascended and forgiving and loving Lord, but to go because we've been *sent* into all the world with the message about what *HE*, not we, but about what *HE* has done for us and for all people.

There are four parts to that prayer. Think about them, pray about them with me for just a moment. "Lord, consider their threats." Think about the threats that you and I face today. Nothing is quite so striking or extraordinary, I suppose, as what Peter and John had been through. They were harassed by the leaders. Praise God, we live in a country that cherishes and prizes the freedom of religion and the freedom to worship our God. But perhaps in its own way our time poses even more of a threat to the proclamation of the Good News than this period of history that we read about in the book of Acts. We are threatened by our own insecurity, our own complacency, our own traditionalism, our own timidity, our own fear—it's not at all surprising to hear news commentators describe *this time*, right now in the United States and in all the world, as one did just a few days ago on an evening news station, as a time of *global disorientation*. Threats, dear Lord, threats within and threats without; dear Lord, consider them. Consider our own weakness, our own tendency to bite and devour and to scold and criticize each other and to focus on ourselves, when our hearts should be so filled with the Good News and the life and the light of God in Jesus Christ, that we, like the early disciples simply go because we've been sent. Lord, consider their threats!

"And enable Your servants." Enable us, dear Lord, because we can't do this alone. Peter and John and the early Christians were but servants praying to the Sovereign Lord. They knew their role, and so do we. We are servants. We are a servant church, asked to be God's people for other people, and we need His enablement. Consider their threats and enable Your servants!

"To speak Your Word." So many times we think we have to do new and great programs, that we have to restructure, organize, pass the perfect resolution, have just the right people in place for everything we think needs to happen.

But the prayer in Acts was very simple. "Enable us, Lord, to speak Your Word." We cannot help but speak about what we have seen and heard. These people, they said, didn't want to let us do it; Lord, help us to speak Your Word. One of the amazing things about God's great plan of salvation is that it happens by our speaking of the Word. He came and dwelt among us and became one of us. He lived our life, took our sins upon Himself, nailed them to the tree, rose triumphantly from the grave, sits at the right hand of God as our Lord of lords and King of kings, and through our speaking of that Word of reconciliation and life and power, God's kingdom comes among us. And again tonight, He speaks that word to us, "Eat My body, drink My blood." Lay this good news of your own forgiveness from sin upon your hearts, for that's where it begins in God's magnificent plan, with the speaking of His Word.

Their prayer added the words "with great boldness." This is no time for the timidity of a Moses who didn't want to go and release his people, or for the reluctant prophet Jonah, who didn't want to go where he was sent. Too many times in the history of the church God's people have found excuses for not doing what He clearly wants us to do, namely, to share this marvelous news of forgiveness with others. With great boldness, we pray this evening and throughout this convention, let us respond to God's gift of love to us this night and every day. His forgiveness of you and of me and of our whole church is what we tell everyone—each other first, and again and again, but then everyone else in this whole wide world. It's difficult to count the total number of Christians, but in a world of 5.4 billion people, three out of four know Jesus Christ. The percentages have improved since the time the apostles were speaking with great boldness, when one Christian needed to convert more than 300 people in order to reach all the lost. Today, it's down to three for each one of us. But to do that it takes boldness in this convention and in every congrega-

tion of this Synod—the boldness to speak the Word of God with power and with conviction—because it's a Word that frees us from our sins and it frees us from ourselves. It's a Word that focuses on the power and the meaning and promise that lies in Jesus, risen from the dead.

Just two days ago, an outstanding black preacher of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod addressed a gathering of Missouri Synod Lutherans involved in black ministry here in Pittsburgh, the Reverend Othniel Thompson of Philadelphia. I don't mean to embarrass him but simply to share with you a story that he told in his sermon that, it seems to me, describes too many of us too often.

He told a story of a man who had a fixation about polishing and restoring and refurbishing an old car, and that's about all he did. He made sure the upholstery was proper and that the finish was beautiful, that the chrome was shiny, that the engine purred like a kitten. He would fine-tune it again and again. One day someone came and asked him, "Why do you spend so much time polishing that beautiful car and you don't drive it?" And he replied, "Because I have no place to go."

Pastor Thompson asked, "Does that remind you of anybody?" We all smiled instinctively because we recognized that temptation as one that we have, too. To shine and polish and refurbish and fine-tune our own engine, our own car, our own Synod, our *vehicle* for being sent into the world. And then we don't go anywhere at all.

There's forgiveness for that sin—your sin and mine, and one we share with so many. Lord, be merciful to us as we confess that sin to You tonight. But send us Your Spirit through Your Word and Your sacraments, that He may give new life and new power to us, His servants, so that we may speak His Word *with Great Boldness . . . Telling Everyone What HE Has Done*. Amen.

Ralph A. Bohlmann, *President*



LIFELIGHT® BIBLE STUDY—DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS

Bible Study 1

A Sight to Make Hell Tremble

(Acts 2:42-47)

Everybody celebrates Christmas—rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief; we all observe the day—doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief. Not a home, not a heart fails to feel the radiance of Christmas or brighten to the joy and merriment of that great holiday. Easter is not quite so big. Still, it calls for a parade, a new outfit, and an annual pilgrimage to church. But when it comes to Pentecost, most people, often even church people, are left unimpressed and unaware and largely unaffected. Has it ever occurred to you how opposite that is to the way in which those days were first observed? The first Christmas found a handful of shepherds who had been keeping watch over their flocks by night, taking maybe 30 to 45 minutes to kneel at the foot of the manger, and then it was right back to work again, albeit sharing with everyone they met “the saying which was told them concerning the child.” As a matter of fact for the first 400 years of its existence the infant church of Christ didn’t even celebrate Christmas except in passing. The first Easter caused a little wider stir. There were holy women hurrying to the grave at dawn. We hear of the disciples engaged in animated conversation behind closed doors in an upper room somewhere in or around Jerusalem and for years afterward Easter was remembered. Yet, of the three festivals, in the beginning, the most spectacular, the one that caught the public eye and caused the greatest stir, was neither Christmas nor Easter. It was Pentecost. The holy city, thronged with visitors, was set to turmoil by a mighty rushing wind and tongues of fire, and three thousand souls at once became the church of Jesus Christ. Christmas is one day and stretch it as we may, the best we can come up with is “the 12 days of Christmas.” Easter and its season, at least for liturgical purists, claims 40 days out of the year. But Pentecost is an age, an era, is still going on today. Granted we’ve streamlined it some. Those first 3,000 spent their time we’re told with the apostles’ teaching (Bible class), fellowship (church), breaking of bread (Holy Communion), and prayer. We pretty well squeeze all that into the time between 8:00 a.m. and noon on Sunday, leaving the rest of the week free for TV, baseball, work, and the Lutheran Bowling League. But we’re at it, just the same. It’s still happening, Pentecost is. And that’s our point. What was really going on in Acts 2:42-47 was the beginning of something still going strong today, the holy Christian church.

In C. S. Lewis’ *Screwtape Letters*, one of the devil’s agents frets because his intended victim has joined the church. But Satan comforts him: “There is no cause to worry,” he says, “so long as he doesn’t see the church as we see it, spread out through time and rooted in eternity, terrible as an *army with banners*. That, I confess, is a sight to make hell tremble.” There’s not much chance you and I will see the church like that. Most of us think of the church as a gathering of human ailments whose weaknesses we are quick to detail to anyone who is willing to

listen, a fifth-rate power for which keeping its head above water is equated with success and for whom survival is synonymous with churchmanship. We forget so often what we are—and whose. Maybe if we took the church as seriously as Satan does we too would see it for what it is, “a sight to make hell tremble.”

The church, which the Spirit of God brought into existence as recorded in Acts 2, is God’s gift to us for our warfare. The enemy is Satan and the forces of evil. Really. All around us—on our streets and in our nation, at home, at work, at play. Dibelius describes Jesus’ arrival on earth as an advance into enemy-held territory. Some of you will remember that famous photograph from the days of World War II of a slain marine’s hand, thrust in death upon the sands of a Pacific island beach. That was the price we paid to advance into enemy territory. The hands of Christ nailed to the brace beam of the cross are the price God paid to advance into enemy territory. The price was paid. Now the church, the holy Christian church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and your congregation, occupies enemy territory. Satan walks about this world which once was his and here and there he sees a church, living, moving, having its being, sometimes even thriving, and Satan knows the world’s no longer his. It’s Christ’s. The church is proof of that. God has set us up to be a fellowship of God’s people right in Satan’s own backyard, a constant reminder that Jesus lives and reigns. The church is Jesus’ army occupying enemy territory. That’s first.

And this is next. Hell, someone has said, is being alone. It is part of the devil’s strategy to keep people apart. He works that strategy well. In this world your heart may break, or even stop, and the faceless people in the apartment next door do not even know, much less care. One person alone is no match for armies, especially the armies of Satan. Even great masses of separated people cannot stand against his armies. But suppose you could break down the walls between people, overcome their separation. Suppose you joined all those separated people into a communion, like an army. Call them a church. Put Jesus in command. Why, hell would tremble. “Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I,” says Jesus, “going on before.” To face the devil alone is despair. But we don’t face him alone. We face him together. Like an army, the church doth stand.

Like an army, not like a country club or service organization. Like an army, with its face set against a common enemy. It is said that the whole is no stronger than its weakest part. But here someone watches the church gather, let us say, to worship, watches its members enter one by one, weak men and women, sinful all of them, spineless some of them, disagreeable many of them, and he listens to them sing together “Lift High the Cross.” Suddenly it dawns on him that the church defies the laws of physics. The church is greater, stronger, more vital than its individual members because it is a communion, a fellowship, an army with the cross of Jesus going on before.

Now the third thing. The old evil foe loves to make folks keep their eyes on the clock and their feet on the ground.

He wants to make us prisoners of time and space. He wants us to think that this little life we lead in this little place where we lead it is our home. Here life withers away and wears itself out. Tramp the treadmill, eyes on the ground till the candle is snuffed. But let a man or a woman see the church with its spires pointing to heaven, better still, let them enter that church, let them fling their souls upward, and hell is wise enough to know its time to tremble. In church we discover that our lives have dimensions no calendar, no yardstick can measure. To know that we are not the prisoners of time and space is the gift of the church to its people. In church we are coaxed and cajoled beyond the little city limits of this world toward eternal verities. The constitutions of a number of New England churches have in them this sentence: "living as befits those whom God has bound together in a little bundle of eternal life." People who live as befits those who are bound together in a bundle of eternal life are fearsome opponents of every evil already in this world and time.

The question is, Is all this too lofty a picture of the church? Is your congregation more platoon minded than it is army minded? As we gather here in Pittsburgh do we more nearly resemble a religious arm of the chamber of commerce or a political party at prayer? You and I, for reasons known only to God Himself have been set down in the middle of the most unique and challenging set of circumstances the world has ever known. Never, ever, has any group of Christians opened its eyes each morning upon the challenges that face us. What our fathers, with their agrarian background called "fields white unto the harvest" refer today to the great metropolitan centers of our world and country. We are in the process in this convention of declaring the United States a primary mission field. Eth-

nicans are gathering among us in numbers greater here than in their native lands. We have developed a freeway civilization where people live and move (well, out my way we don't really move but we do have our being) and even die on our streets. If ever the church was called upon to be God's army of occupation in an alien land, a fellowship, a communion joined and arrayed against the forces of evil, a call, a rallying to a kingdom and a future beyond this world, that time is now.

President Bohlmann yesterday reminded us that in the third century Cyprian wrote to a friend, "In the midst of a really bad world I have found a . . . holy people. They have a joy and a purpose better than anything in life. They are persecuted but they do not care. These people, Donatus, are the Christians, and I am one of them." So am I and so are you. The time has come to act like it.

Bible Study 2

What's In a Name?

(Acts 3:1-10)

Our focus this morning is on Acts 3:6: "In the name of Jesus . . . walk." Shakespeare's Romeo was the first to bring it up. "What's," he wanted to know, "in a name?" Well, that depends. There was power to strike abject terror down to the sockets of a man's nervous system if you were a recalcitrant member of the French underground in 1944 and the name somebody whispered hoarsely in your ear was "Gestapo." There is what it takes to bring a spring to your step and a grin to your face if you're a Portland Blazers' fan and the name is Clyde Drexler. For ancient people particularly, a name went beyond mere identification. You can do that with numbers, as we have proved in this age



of digits. For the ancients, however, something of the person himself or herself was involved when you used his or her name. We've got the backwash of that yet, praying always in the name of Jesus. That's more than sounding brass or tinkling symbol, more than poetry, not just polite and pious talk. When we pray in the name of Jesus we pray in the framework of all that that name stands for, forgiveness and adoption and a Father who loves us and because He loves us He listens. "In the name of Jesus," Peter says.

And Matthew editorializes: "Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). Benjamin Franklin insists that "God helps those who help themselves." We cannot sit around waiting for God to do for us what He expects us to do for ourselves. Benjamin Franklin is right, though it is worth the mention that his sentence doesn't cover every category. God does not invariably, inevitably, and in every case help those who help themselves, particularly when they are helping themselves to something that does not belong to them. Then, too, God's help takes on its own shape and employs its own vehicles. Actually those early Christians were gradually becoming aware of an opposite truth, far greater: God helps those who cannot help themselves. That truth is very close to the heart of the Christian religion and you simply cannot fathom what Christianity is all about unless you are aware that God sent His Son into this world to help us most at that point where we can help ourselves least.

"Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." That is the message in the name *Jesus*, that through Him we are delivered from our sins, something it is beyond us to accomplish for ourselves. The trouble is, we are not accustomed to worrying a great deal about our sins. This news doesn't seem half so good to us as it did to that angel choir that kept singing about it over the plains of Bethlehem or Simon Peter who insisted on referring to it in the middle of this miracle on a poor cripple in the temple gate call "Beautiful."

Imagine that you are lying in a hospital waiting to die. You've been told you suffer from an incurable disease, terminal, fatal. You are disconsolate, counting the hours. Suddenly your doctor bursts through the door and announces, "We have just found a cure for what ails you." That would be good news, wouldn't it, the kind that puts you on the phone with relatives and brings tears to your eyes? Or suppose you're drifting on a piece of flotsam in an angry sea, too long unfound by searchers, on the brink of giving up and letting go. Suddenly there is a light, a ship, a rescue. That light, that ship, they are good news, worth working up an angel choir to sing about, wouldn't you say? The doctor who finds the cure, the captain who pulls his ship up alongside, these are saviors. They do for you what you cannot do for yourself. "Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins"; He does for you what you cannot do for yourself.

But now suppose you are not feeling ill, never felt better, could lick the whole Chinese army and the Dallas Cowboys with one hand tied behind your back. Now the doctor comes to tell you they have found a cure for a dreadful disease. You put your arm around his shoulder and tell him, "Doctor, you are a fine and caring gentleman. I love your en-

thusiasm. At the moment I am feeling fine. But I want you to know that if ever I feel poorly, I'll certainly drop by or give you a ring." Instead of clinging by your fingertips to floating flotsam on an open sea, you're lolling at the pool-side of a luxury hotel in the Bahamas. You don't care where a captain steers his ship or points his light into the night. You see, it's a question of whether you need a Savior or if, perhaps, you can handle things yourself. And the answer to that question depends on whether or not you take sin seriously.

The Bible, about which there has been considerable conversation in our church over the years, of which we stoutly claim every three years in meeting duly assembled that it is the last and final word on things spiritual and a lot of other things as well, the Bible takes sin seriously. You malign a brother or a sister, you are disrespectful of authority, you run down someone's reputation, you minimize his effectiveness, for that matter you take a dollar and a quarter from the school milk fund, these are sins. You're not supposed to take them lightly. Moreover Jesus has turned the idea of sin inward making it a matter of the heart and of the mind so that you can sin leaning on the fender of your car cleaning your fingernails, resenting someone's station in life, envying his good fortune, or failing to defend him or to put the best construction on everything. The Bible takes that seriously.

Let me try to tell you why. I hold in my hand a drinking cup, a cup like any other cup, five and dime. I drop it and it breaks. That's of no great consequence. But if the cup I hold is a matchless piece of china, perfect in texture, translucent in luster, the work of a master, irreplaceable, and I drop it, it makes you want to cry. Human souls are not manufactured by Du Pont or marketed by Woolworth. If God took a casual attitude over against what he has made, regarded it as cheap, the image in which He made it, then it wouldn't matter much when you and I shatter that image. But if we were made perfect in texture, translucent in luster, the work of a master, irreplaceable, then it makes you want to cry to think what we have done to that.

And it makes you want to sing to think "Jesus . . . for He shall save His people from their sins." He does for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

St. Paul, in the letter he wrote to the people in Philippi, insists that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, . . . and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." We would add with Peter, "In the name of Jesus . . . walk." "Let us ever walk with Jesus."

Bible Study 3

Argument for Mercy

(Acts 3:17)

"Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance" (Acts 3:17). Sound familiar? Peter, like the others, didn't cut much of a figure in the events that make up the Friday which we call Good, and I suppose he lived to the end of his life with the shame of his cowardice on that day when Christ was crucified. For all of that he must have elbowed his way, albeit anonymously, to the edges of that Golgotha crowd, close enough at least to have overheard Christ's first words from the cross, "Father, forgive them for they

know not what they do." And what he heard impressed him as fundamental to our understanding of redemption and worth working into his sermon here in Solomon's Colonnade.

Of course, Christ's first sentence from the cross could not have been Peter's first sentence—or ours either. Why didn't Jesus ask instead, "Which of you convinceth Me of sin?" That stopped them once. The centurion might have wondered. Later on he demonstrated an open mind: "Surely this was a righteous man" (Luke 23:47). It might have prompted Pilate to call the whole thing off. He *had* found no fault in Him at all. Of course, we would not have wanted it to stop, the crucifixion and forgiveness and eternal hope. Maybe it's just as well Christ didn't protest His innocence again. But granting that, why were His first words what they were? "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." And why does Peter go out of his way to soften the "stormy, north side" of the law by rationalizing, "I know you acted in ignorance?"

Ignorance is no excuse, but it is an argument for mercy. If that screaming mob underneath the porch at Pontius Pilate's palace had known they watched the Son of God and believed that and still had cried, "Crucify Him," it might have been something else again. If Pilate had been conscious of the fact that he was dealing with the King of kings and washed his hands of it, God might have washed His hands of him. But they didn't know, any of them, not like we do, nor did they believe the way we claim we believe. And Jesus, who looks for reasons to be gracious, found one: "Forgive them for they know not what they do."

It gives you pause and makes you wonder. What does Jesus ask the Father when He pleads on our behalf? Can He say that in our sin we do not know, that our pride is from ignorance, that our selfishness is not conscious idolatry, that our rebellion is somehow less than purposeful? Can He say, they know not what they do of us, that we act in ignorance? What does Christ, who looks for arguments for mercy, find to plead in our case, we who know so well who He is and what our sins do to him?

It impressed Peter that even in the moment of His deepest pain and shame, Jesus looked for arguments for mercy and He found them. And it impresses us that in our deepest shame He finds reason to forgive us. That reason, while it cannot be our ignorance, not with two thousand years of Gospel in our hands, that reason is the love of God. God is love no matter what we are or become. Our failure; our hard-headed, hard-hearted attitude; our weakness; and our downright sin cannot change that. God is unchangeable—and He is love. We are not bigger than He is that we can change Him. He doesn't forgive us because of what we are. He forgives us because of what He is. To this end He came and for this cause Jesus was born. He has His reason to forgive us, and nothing we do is going to change that. We can't change that. We can't change Him.

But He can change us. And I wonder if, after all, that isn't the ray of light that we are looking for. I would like to say this very carefully. I have said it once before. We are driven by an attitude that at times must seem to some to be little less than arrogant. We are wracked by a party spirit, a hardening of our attitudes toward one another. Our strife-torn family is flirting with its own destruction.

Its rescue and its healing will not be effected by resolutions which we pass or don't. A change in us, in all of us, in our deepest secret hearts is needed. Part of the trouble and the tragedy that dogs our days is the way we treat forgiveness as if it were an option and "do good to those who spitefully use you" a visionary's dream. You know how super critical we can be. We have neither cherished nor nurtured the tie that binds us to each other, and if somebody among us writes or talks in a tone that is preposterously inflated we find in that a license to respond in kind. Have we looked for arguments for mercy, reasons to be kind and loving? We ridicule people for the positions that they take. We know all about them on the basis of a few isolated things they do. We have our labels, fully gummed and ready to slap on. I think each one of us can find a place for himself or herself in that catalog of failings. We need changing. We need forgiveness. And we need to be forgiving.

God answers prayer, and Jesus knew what to pray for. "Father, forgive them," and a thief at Jesus' side surprised himself to hear himself ask, "Remember me." That was quite a change. The centurion and his confession constituted an amazing change. 3,000 gladly heard the preaching of St. Peter and were added to the infant church. A little later, "a great company of priests were obedient to the faith" (Acts 6:7). There were some changes made, I should say.

Well, we need changing. We need forgiveness, and we need to be forgiving. At Calvary's cross you find them both, forgiveness and the power to forgive. "Forgive us our trespasses," Jesus teaches us to pray, "as we forgive those who trespass against us." We hold in memory Luther's matchless explanation, "We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins, nor on their account deny our prayer; for we are worthy of none of the things for which we pray . . . but that He would grant them all to us by grace. . . . So will we also heartily forgive, and readily do good to those who sin against us." Upon Calvary you find them both, forgiveness and the power to forgive, because upon Calvary Jesus looked for arguments for mercy, and He found all He needed in the love of God.

Two sentences after the one in Peter's sermon that prompted all of this Peter nails it down, "Turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out." God has all the argument He needs to forgive us. He is love. And that gives us all the reason we need to forgive and love each other.

Bible Study 4

What Made Peter Brassy? Or Whence Great Boldness?

(Acts 4:18-20)

Acts 4:18-20: "Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, 'Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.'"

With great boldness, I should say. That was downright brassy. Of course, Peter often marched in where angels fear to tread. He had this kind of childlike trust, without

great thought or deep analytic reflection back of it, the sort of impulse that had him outside the boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee. Once he drew his blade in the face of the whole armed guard from the high priest's palace. He even took on the Son of God. "Never, Lord. Don't be ridiculous. It'll never happen to you" (Matt. 16:22).

This time, however, there was more behind it, I think, something he had thought about, some deliberate conclusion he had reached. It was deliberate alright, and with good reason. It's that conclusion and Peter's reason for it that we want to talk about. "What Made Peter Brassy" is today's title, or for those of you who require more dignity, "Whence Great Boldness?"

Years ago we used to have a great time twitting preachers of the Reformed persuasion that no matter what the occasion was, they would go cross country just as fast as their legs could carry them to the doctrine of election and want to talk about that. A word of apology is in order this morning because that's exactly what I want to do, talk about election. There is some logic to it. You simply cannot comprehend Peter and John before the authorities in Acts, chapter 4, you cannot fathom their motives or measure their courage, unless you begin with the foremost fact about them, the presupposition of their lives and ministry, the base on which everything else was fitly framed together, namely that their names "were written in heaven."

An English officer many years ago made a hazardous trip into Tibet on a mission for his country. He accomplished his task with such poise that someone asked him the secret of his casualness. "I couldn't lose," he answered. "I had been sent by an unimpeachable authority for a purpose which was sound. I knew that if I got into a tight spot my government would use all of its resources to see me through." Think of the elect. Pick just these early ones, chosen out of a world of madness at a time when the church was young. They had certainly embarked on a hazardous enterprise and somehow impressed their contemporaries with their courage and assurance. Their simple fearlessness was like a miracle and so impressed the world around them that in spite of all the persecutions that were set before them, the Christians conquered. What was their secret? Election—the knowledge that their names were written in heaven, the conviction that they had been sent by an unimpeachable authority for a purpose that was sound and the certainty that the tighter things got the more totally their heavenly government would throw all of its resources into and behind their cause.

The early elect were convinced that they had been sent by an unimpeachable authority. They had an authority to live by. Of all the concepts that have lost status in our cynical age, the most pitiful is the concept of authority. And therein lies a modern paradox. We are mired in enslavement today for the simple reason that there is no one and nothing in charge. Behind the simple testimony of Peter and John was their conviction that in Jesus, God had spoken and their lives were under His command. In other words, they had an authority to live by, and it made them more than conquerors.

One of the old, official reports that never fails to lift my spirits or cause me to want to hop and skip a little when I think about it, comes out of ancient Smyrna. It begins in



its staid and stilted way, "Statius quadratus being full counsel, but Jesus being king forever." Momentary, majority opinion may be good enough for some decisions in life, but for the really big choices, a person needs a king. For the elect Jesus is the king, and God's Word is the last word for life and ministry. We have an authority for our lives, and it makes us bold and even a little bit brassy.

In the second place, the early elect had discovered a purpose for their lives. They found in their election that they were not just fishermen or tradesmen or tax collectors. They were evangelists entrusted with the word of reconciliation. They had it in their hands to set this world free, and they intended to do it.

A magazine cartoon some time ago showed a publisher ushering an author out of his office with the words, "Your novel is excellent; but just now we are looking for trash." That is a tragic parable of our day. There is a good and noble life, but our current generation is tinkering with the possibilities of evil and self-service. But the elect swim against this current of our time. The elect have a high and a holy purpose and are committed to its fulfillment. It's part and parcel of knowing that your name is written in heaven.

William Turnbull is the one who said, "The church exists primarily for those who never go near it." The tragedy of the church is among those of us who have forgotten what we are here for. "Behold," cries a voice out of the vision of St. John, "I have set before you an open door that no one can shut" (Rev. 3:8). For all whose names are inscribed indelibly and forever in heaven's ledger there is an overriding, demanding, driving purpose so to live and move and have our being as will inscribe the names of those not yet of the fold in the book of life. That is our purpose. And it makes us bold and even a little bit brassy.

Finally, the elect believe they have the government of

heaven behind them. That English officer was confident because he knew his government would stand behind him. Sometimes we act as if we don't know who stands behind us. A young playwright convinced a well-known actor to preview one of his plays. During the performance, the actor dozed off. Afterwards the playwright asked him, indignantly, "How could you sleep when you knew I had asked you here for an opinion." "Young man," the actor answered, "sleep is an opinion." No matter what we say to each other in these grand conclaves of the church, the world has been noticing our drowsiness, our timidity, our self-concern. We fail so often to demonstrate the vibrancy of our election, the knowledge that our names are written in heaven and that behind us stands the very government of God. Whatever else the charismatic movement is, it is a response to a vacuum, a vacuum we ourselves have created.

Peter and John surprised their friends and enemies. They were not very impressive in terms of power or influence, and probably the authorities anticipated no great difficulty in handling them. The odds were so heavily weighted on the authorities' side. But the odds didn't make any difference. Somebody was on the side of Peter and John who made them more than conquerors. People cannot stand against God. And people cannot stand against men and women when God stands with them. Those who suppose big battalions are decisive have failed to reckon with big convictions. And the conviction of the elect is that God is with them, His government is behind them, and His Son is going on before.

I don't suppose it is too terribly surprising that ordinary mortals such as you and I should lose sight of that fact. Even the saints have not been immune. There was a time when the subtle, stubborn scheming of Ahab and Jezebel had been getting on Elijah's nerves and one day brought about his total, spiritual collapse. "I am finished," he cried. "No one cares. I am through." It happened to Jeremiah. "Don't talk to me about a God of creation," he said that day. And then, turning to that God, he added, "And don't You give me any of Your specious promises filled with nothing but hot air." "Empty wind," the Bible puts it. It happened one day to the apostle Paul. That aching thorn in the flesh was spoiling everything and, worst of all, it was cramping his style of ministry. "How long is this supposed to go on?" he asked. "Take it away."

No. It isn't too terribly surprising that we should have occasional moods of feeling helpless. Even the saints have not been immune. When that happens, remember, behind us stands God, help from above, the government of heaven. Thus to Elijah whimpering under his juniper tree, an angel came to strengthen him. Thus to Paul, at the end of his tether, a voice told him, "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Cor. 12:9). But not all the stories of help from above come out of the past. Our boldness, yours and mine, rises up out of the conviction that behind us too stands the very government of heaven, and it makes us bold and even a little bit brassy.

There is a place where St. Paul bewails his human frailty and impotence. "I am under the law of death," he says in Romans 7. "I cannot do what I should. Wretched man that I am. Who shall deliver me?" But then, you turn over one page in your Bible to Romans, chapter 8, and you

find this. "There is now no condemnation. I am free." What happened while the page was turning? Paul remembered that his name was written in heaven. Paul has no monopoly on that. Whence great boldness? What made Peter brassy? Why can we be confident? We have an authority to live by. Jesus is our king. We have a purpose for our lives; to share Him is our purpose. Behind us stands the government of heaven; Jesus' resources are our strength. And one more thing: Christ's victory is our triumph. No doubt about it, for our names are written in heaven.

Bible Study 5

With Great Boldness

(Acts 4:29)

"Enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness." I searched around in Holy Scripture to find a preeminent example of the kind of spirit that sentence calls for, a standard against which to measure ourselves vis-à-vis our convention theme. I think I found it. It is the story of the Sunday of the Palms. Remember? Jesus and His disciples were approaching Jerusalem from Bethphage. Jesus sent two of His disciples on ahead, telling them that in the city they would find "an ass tied, and a colt, the foal of an ass." They were to untie the animals and bring them back to Him. And if anyone questioned them, they were to say, "The Lord hath need of them." The disciples did what they were told and found it as He said. Now Jesus was not aiding and abetting what in our day might be regarded as illegal snitching of transportation from an unguarded parking lot. As I see it those two disciples went straight to the same inn in Jerusalem where Jesus and His disciples always stayed whenever they visited the city. They found the animals and were untying them when the owner of the inn came out to see what was going on. They turned to face him, and he recognized them right away. When they told him Jesus needed those animals he gave them permission. Of course. Those animals were the equivalent of today's motel van and were there for the convenience of the guests. So, off they went. Now in those days Jesus was often surrounded by a crowd and on that day by a multitude. And since Jesus was headed for Jerusalem the crowd began to wonder whether this might be the time when He was going to throw the Roman rascals out. It was a festive mood therefore as they put Him on that donkey and led Him back into the city. And—well hear the story from Scripture itself. "A very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees and strawed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, 'Hosanna to the son of David: blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest'" (Matt. 21:8-9).

They didn't use palm branches when our troops returned from Desert Storm. They used shredded telephone directories and ticker tape. But there was the same abandon about it all, the same refreshing recklessness as the spirit of man lets itself go, leaving all its neat and careful calculations at home in the ledger, snatching off its jacket, throwing its cap in the air and tossing onto the ground any token of devotion, of loyalty it can lay its hands on. Well, it was just such a day in Jerusalem. People shouted happily

at one another and many an old feud was forgotten. The Galilean was taking over, God be praised. They jostled one another back and forth good naturedly. Somewhere some children began to sing and the crowd took it up with a roar. Somebody threw his jacket on the ground; then another and another, until they lay like a carpet; and branches of palms. So the multitude spilled into the city until it broke like a tide against the temple wall where the money changers looked up startled and afraid. Until, at last, silence came back to the streets.

Now the glory of it all, it seems to me, lay in the lack of restraint. It looked as if everybody, finally, was giving up the prim tradition of being correct and self-controlled. They meant to cut loose and be themselves, once, with a generous shrug for accountants and people who keep records and read books on etiquette. Here was a great soul, this Jesus, and they meant to go all out for him. It was altogether this time, top to bottom, utterly, and don't worry about the cost.

That brings me to something right away I want to call "the peril of being cautious." There is a sense, of course, in which a person has got to watch his or her step. You have to take certain precautions about budget, about health, about freeway driving, to prevent your own unexpected absence tomorrow morning. On the other hand, while being careful and cautious may result in your living long, it will never bring you to the point of living fully or well. The thing that appeals about the three musketeers, the Count of Monte Christo and Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls is a knight errantry, a careless rapture, a swashbuckling foolhardiness.

Sometimes we talk in the church about using our heads and being guided by reason. We carefully measure just how far we can go before the trouble will start. Our Christianity, which ought to be a free sweep of the spirit, doesn't do anything because it's afraid of the trouble it may get into if it moves at all. We try to keep our balance by standing still. But being a Christian is like riding a bicycle. The only safety there is is to keep going. If you stand still, you'll fall off. Momentum is the secret. You'll never know what it means to be a Christian until you take such faith as you have and live to the very hilt of it.

"A very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed

them in the way." Any token of favor, of confidence would do as they threw caution to the winds for Jesus.

The secret of Christianity is not a matter of following the rules, or obedience, or even loyalty. The secret of true Christianity is in the freedom of high and unbridled devotion. The kind that starts on its knees whispering, "God be merciful to me a sinner," but ends up on its feet shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David," and spreads its garments in the way and cuts down branches and straws them in the way.

Long ago that kind of freedom and lack of restraint was in God Himself as He poured out His abundance across the world and into the hills and over the fields. It stretched out a hand over the twin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, 10 times beyond anything Abraham dared even to pray for, until it found a man by the name of Lot and covered him with protection. It settled down in the heart of the man from Nazareth who passed it along so casually to a woman at the well of Samaria. It poured out of Him into the lives of a few disciples who shook themselves free with it until we see them here in the book of Acts acting delightfully reckless, too. They had learned that life with Christ was not something to be hoarded and saved. It was something to be thrown incautiously away. They looked at Jesus in utter amazement when He first told them that. But they soon discovered He meant it, discovered He meant it when He stooped to pick up their burdens and their loneliness and their sins even, and with a prayer on His lips took them off to the cross. Now that was living, full, fresh, and free, the way life was meant to be lived. And they hurried off to try it themselves. Till we find them here in earnest and eager prayer: "Enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness." It was the mood, once more, of that crowd on the Sunday of the Palms. Every one of the evangelists remembered it and set it down. "A very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees and strawed them in the way." Any token of devotion and loyalty would do.

I wonder if we haven't fallen victim to the peril of being cautious, with none of the full-hearted stateliness, the open-hearted, open-handed chivalry that one unguarded moment brought to a gang of Galilean peasants. And I wonder if we couldn't get it back again, with the cross of Jesus showing us the way.



CONVENTION SURVEYS

Delegate Survey

1. Please indicate your gender:
 1. Male (1074—94.71%)
 2. Female (60—5.29%)
2. How did you become Lutheran?
 1. Reared Lutheran (940—82.60%)
 2. Through a Lutheran school (16—1.41%)
 3. Through marriage (58—5.10%)
 4. Converted as an adult (124—10.90%)
3. Is anyone in your immediate family (parent, spouse, child, sibling) a member of another Lutheran Church body?
 1. Yes (364—32.10%)
 2. No (770—67.90%)
4. Please indicate your age:
 1. Under 30 (30—2.62%)
 2. 30—49 (547—47.77%)
 3. 50—64 (408—35.63%)
 4. 65+ (160—13.97%)
5. What is your race?
 1. American Indian, Aleut, or Eskimo (12—1.05%)
 2. Asian, Pacific Islander (3—0.26%)
 3. Black (21—1.83%)
 4. White (1073—93.63%)
 5. Other (37—3.23%)
6. Are you of Hispanic origin?
 1. Yes (19—1.66%)
 2. No (1125—98.34%)
7. How many confirmed members does your congregation have?
 1. Less than 200 (336—29.32%)
 2. 200—499 (509—44.42%)
 3. 500—999 (200—17.45%)
 4. 1000+ (101—8.81%)
8. My congregation is located in a:
 1. Urban community (302—26.28%)
 2. Suburban community (389—33.86%)
 3. Rural community (458—39.86%)
9. How did you arrive in Pittsburgh?
 1. By plane (597—51.87%)
 2. By train (10—0.87%)
 3. By auto (318—27.63%)
 4. By bus/van (25—2.17%)
 5. By luck (201—17.46%)
10. My hotel room was:
 1. Fit for royalty (108—9.44%)
 2. Fit for near-royalty (496—43.36%)
 3. Fit for a commoner (402—35.14%)
 4. Not fit for habitation (30—2.62%)
 5. What hotel room? (108—9.44%)
11. Are you currently employed outside the home?
 1. Yes, full-time (over 35 hrs/wk, or 45 weeks/yr) (871—76.07%)
 2. Yes, part-time (65—5.68%)
 3. No, not employed but able to work (17—1.48%)

4. No, unable to work (4—0.35%)
5. No, retired (166—14.50%)
6. No, going to school (5—0.44%)
7. No, full-time homemaker (17—1.48%)
12. Which of the following best describes your current occupation:
 1. Managerial (108—9.81%)
 2. Professional (632—57.40%)
 3. Technical (44—4.00%)
 4. Sales (48—4.36%)
 5. Administrative Support (45—4.09%)
 6. Service (97—8.81%)
 7. Farming, Forestry, Fishing (89—8.08%)
 8. Craft and Repair (25—2.27%)
 9. Operators, Fabricators, Laborers (13—1.18%)
13. Has your congregation ever received a Church Extension Fund loan?
 1. Yes (714—62.09%)
 2. No (297—25.83%)
 3. Not Sure (139—12.09%)

Board for Parish Services Survey

1. Approximately what percent of your congregation's vacation Bible school enrollment is unchurched?
 1. Less than 25% (455—49.84%)
 2. 25—50% (293—32.09%)
 3. Over 50% (99—10.84%)
 4. Not sure (66—7.23%)
2. Approximately what percent of your congregation's confirmed membership is enrolled in adult Bible study?
 1. Less than 10% (298—32.04%)
 2. 10—19% (386—41.51%)
 3. 20% or more (233—25.05%)
 4. Not sure (13—1.40%)
3. Are major decisions in your congregation guided by a long-range plan?
 1. Yes (374—41.05%)
 2. No (486—53.35%)
 3. Not sure (51—5.60%)
4. Does your congregation provide position descriptions for congregation officers and board/committee chairpersons?
 1. Yes (782—82.40%)
 2. No (138—14.54%)
 3. Not sure (29—3.06%)
5. Does your congregation provide position descriptions for pastor and full-time staff?
 1. Yes (674—70.06%)
 2. No (245—25.47%)
 3. Not sure (43—4.47%)
6. Please rate how well your congregation is doing in adult Bible studies?
 1. Very well, always effective or adequate (114—11.59%)

2. Moderately well, usually effective or adequate (289-29.37%)
3. Fairly well, but could use some improvement (396-40.24%)
4. Not at all well, we really need help on this (167-16.97%)
5. Not sure, or, does not apply to our congregation (18-1.83%)
7. Please rate how well your congregation is doing in adequate training for lay leaders?
 1. Very well, always effective or adequate (39-4.01%)
 2. Moderately well, usually effective or adequate (137-14.09%)
 3. Fairly well, but could use some improvement (363-37.35%)
 4. Not at all well, we really need help on this (412-42.39%)
 5. Not sure, or, does not apply to our congregation (21-2.16%)

Family Initiative Council Survey

1. The average divorce decreases the standard of living for the mother and minor children by what percent?
 1. 25% (46-4.66%)
 2. 50% (455-46.10%)
 3. 75% (486-49.24%)

The correct answer is 75%.
2. Does your congregation have a single-parent support group?
 1. Yes (136-13.45%)
 2. No (855-84.57%)
 3. Don't know (20-1.98%)
3. How much time per day does the average father spend in meaningful conversation with each child?
 1. 1 hour (17-1.68%)
 2. 15 minutes (299-29.57%)
 3. 40 seconds (695-68.74%)

The correct answer is 40 seconds.
4. Does your congregation have programs that foster parent-child communication?
 1. Yes (304-30.04%)
 2. No (665-65.71%)
 3. Don't know (43-4.25%)
5. For every two marriages in the United States one ends in divorce. What is the divorce rate for those couples who are married in the church, attend church regularly, and have regular family devotions?
 1. 50% (32-3.18%)
 2. 25% (96-9.53%)
 3. 10% (389-38.63%)
 4. less than 1% (490-48.66%)

The correct answer is less than 1%.
6. Of the families in your congregation who were divorced during the past few years, what has happened to them?
 1. Both continued to attend church regularly (81-8.88%)
 2. One left the church (638-69.96%)
 3. Both left the church (193-21.16%)

7. What percentage of community care for older persons is provided by family members?
 1. 50% (498-51.13%)
 2. 60% (132-13.55%)
 3. 70% (127-13.04%)
 4. 80% (217-22.28%)

The correct answer is 80%.

8. What is the average age of widowhood in America?
 1. 60 (227-22.25%)
 2. 65 (358-35.10%)
 3. 70 (345-33.82%)
 4. 75 (90-8.82%)

The correct answer is age 60.

9. Does your church have an active program for members in their golden years?
 1. Yes (490-48.71%)
 2. No (501-49.80%)
 3. Don't know (15-1.49%)

FIC Mission Statement

The mission of the Family Initiative Council is to affirm God's created intent for families in today's world, giving families encouragement, support, and resources so that families living in forgiveness can grow in God's grace and minister to others in church and community.

Program and Finance Survey

(Correct Response is in **Boldface**)

What was the total amount of offerings at the congregational level given by our members last year in response to the love of God?

Choice number 1	\$ 469,000,000
Choice number 2	\$ 809,000,000
Choice number 3	\$1,186,000,000

Of this \$809,000,000, what percentage was sent beyond the congregation's local needs to the work of the church at the District, national and international level?

Choice number 1	8%
Choice number 2	11%
Choice number 3	15%

34% of congregational giving reaches the national budget today in unrestricted giving. What was that percentage 10 years ago?

Choice number 1	5%
Choice number 2	7%
Choice number 3	9%

For the coming year, what percent of the total synodical budget will come from restricted gifts?

Choice number 1	27%
Choice number 2	35%
Choice number 3	46%

What percentage of the world mission and outreach budget for next year will come from restricted gifts?

Choice number 1	29%	\$4,500,000
Choice number 2	37%	\$5,800,000
Choice number 3	44%	\$6,900,000

How many dollars of the synodical budget is designated for seminary education?

Choice number 1	2.9 million
Choice number 2	3.7 million
Choice number 3	4.8 million

What percentage of all the people that work at the International Center are employees charged to the unrestricted synodical budget?

Choice number 1	30% or 169 people; 55% less than 20 years ago, a 25% reduction
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Choice number 2	50%
Choice number 3	70%

It is the intention of the Board of Directors in the next several years to increase the percentage of the unrestricted budget funds for both professional education and world mission and outreach to what level?

Choice number 1	35%—70% total
Choice number 2	37%—75% total
Choice number 3	40%—80% total

Delegate Evaluations

1. How well do you feel this convention performed each of the following functions?

(Choose one response option for each item.)

1. Very well
2. Moderately well
3. No opinion
4. Not very well
5. Not at all well

a. Provide opportunity for worship.

1.	716	74.12%
2.	181	18.74
3.	15	1.55
4.	38	3.93
5.	16	1.66
T:	966	100.00%

b. Provide opportunity for nurture.

1.	287	29.77%
2.	447	46.37
3.	108	11.20
4.	103	10.68
5.	19	1.97
T:	964	100.00%

c. Provide opportunity for inspiration.

1.	304	31.24%
2.	445	45.73
3.	74	7.61
4.	120	12.33
5.	30	3.08
T:	973	100.00%

d. Provide opportunity for fellowship.

1.	295	30.04%
2.	469	47.76
3.	65	6.62
4.	129	13.14
5.	24	2.44
T:	982	100.00%

e. Communicate vital information.

1.	283	28.70%
2.	403	40.87
3.	41	4.16
4.	150	15.21
5.	109	11.05
T:	986	100.00%

f. Amend the Constitution/Bylaws.

1.	185	18.94%
2.	371	37.97
3.	53	5.42
4.	229	23.44
5.	139	14.23
T:	977	100.00%

g. Set priorities for the Synod.

1.	236	23.81%
2.	369	37.24
3.	75	7.57
4.	201	20.28
5.	110	11.10
T:	991	100.00%

h. Establish general synodical policies.

1.	245	24.87%
2.	396	40.20
3.	60	6.09
4.	179	18.17
5.	105	10.66
T:	985	100.00%

i. Elect synodical officers.

1.	403	40.50%
2.	363	36.48
3.	35	3.52
4.	117	11.76
5.	77	7.74
T:	995	100.00%

j. Elect various board/commission members.

1.	394	39.96%
2.	428	43.41
3.	35	3.55
4.	97	9.84
5.	32	3.25
T:	986	100.00%

2. Do you think this convention spent (1) too much, (2) about the right amount, or (3) too little time on each of the following.

a. Worship

1.	167	16.67%
2.	799	79.74
3.	36	3.59
T:	1002	100.00%

b. Bible study

1.	130	13.00%
2.	737	73.70
3.	133	13.30
T:	1000	100.00 %

c. Debating resolutions

1.	302	30.26%
2.	364	36.47
3.	332	33.27
T:	998	100.00 %

d. Electing various board/commission members

1.	144	14.34%
2.	804	80.08
3.	56	5.58
T:	1004	100.00%

e. Receiving greetings from guests

1.	462	47.34 %
2.	491	50.31
3.	23	2.36
T:	976	100.00%

f. Special recognition of individuals/groups

1.	443	45.39%
2.	518	53.07
3.	15	1.54
T:	976	100.00%

3. To what extent would you recommend each of the following for use at the next convention?

- 1—Yes, definitely
 2—Yes, probably
 3—Not sure
 4—No, probably not
 5—No, definitely not

a. Image magnification system

1.	898	89.18%
2.	79	7.85
3.	11	1.09
4.	11	1.09
5.	8	0.79
T:	1007	100.00%

b. Assigned seating

1.	649	63.88%
2.	164	16.14
3.	40	3.94
4.	54	5.31
5.	109	10.73
T:	1016	100.00%

c. Electronic response system for elections/voting on resolutions

1.	957	94.29%
2.	43	4.24
3.	7	0.69
4.	1	0.10
5.	7	0.69
T:	1015	100.00%

4. Do you feel the length of the present convention was.

- 1—Too short
 2—About the right number of days
 3—Too long
- | | | |
|----|-----|-------|
| 1. | 52 | 5.18% |
| 2. | 560 | 55.83 |
| 3. | 391 | 38.98 |

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

1. Address of President-Elect Barry

Dr. Bohlmann, my brother and co-worker in Jesus Christ, delegates, members of the family of God and the family of Missouri, grace and peace in Jesus Christ to each of you.

Earlier this year, I found myself reading through two volumes that I have in my library and have not read for quite some time, dealing with the history of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The one was a volume, *A Century of Grace*, and the other was *Zion on the Mississippi*. And, needless to say, as I read through these two volumes, I once again relearned a goodly amount of information concerning the history of our church body—that there were several reactions that went through my mind as I read through these two volumes.

One reaction was, we really need to study history—both U.S. and the LCMS history—much more frequently than we do. The second reaction was, you know, God has been fantastically good to our church body down through the years. We do have a great and glorious church. But, then, the third reaction also surfaced was that, if we have a great and glorious church, we have even a greater and more glorious God, who year after year and day after day, has poured out His blessings upon us as a church body as we have moved through time into eternity. When you stop to think of how He brought from Germany our forefathers to this land in order that they might establish this great church body here; when you stop to think how He has been with us down through the years and how He has blessed us in good days and bad, in tough days and excellent days; when you stop to think that from a number of 707 Germans who started in Germany towards the United States, He has built this church body to a church body of well over 2 million people (not to mention all of those who have died and gone on before to worship in life everlasting); when you stop to think of all of those blessings that God has poured out upon this our beloved church, we as individuals and pastors and laypeople and the congregations and Districts of this church have every reason, boldly and mightily, to thank and praise God for Missouri.

I would have to tell you also that, as I read through these volumes, there was one more reaction that surfaced in my mind. Even though our early forefathers did not have in their hymnal the hymn by Kitchin, "Lift High the Cross"—as you find yourself reading through the history of Missouri; as you find yourself looking at her goals and her history and her future and all of those things; as you see that of the annals of history unfolding before your eyes and the history of our church body, you cannot help but hear, as it were, "Lift high the cross, Missouri, the love of Christ proclaim." When it came to the pastors of our church body down through the years, the message which they proclaimed to their people was: "Jesus Christ and Him crucified, lifting high the cross." When it came to the day school, where literally hundreds of thousands of young lives have been influenced down through the years, again the message went high: "Lift high the cross." And when you find yourself moving into the pastoral ministry of our brother pastors, those that they baptized and confirmed,



the sick that they took care of, the dying they ministered to; when you take that entire picture and spread it before your eyes, you see a God who has blessed our church body so greatly that there is really no way—no human way—that we could ever thank Him enough for it.

So, that sort of brings to the surface the question: "What, then, about the future? What should be our goal as we meet here and chart a course for this great church body into the final years of this century and the century that is to come? What should we want for Missouri?"

It would be my contention that we would want to ask God to give us the grace to walk in the footsteps of the fathers who have led us and founded this great church body; that we would ask God to give us the grace of a church body to commit and recommit and *recommit*, day after day, ourselves to be the kind of church that has been handed on to us by our grandfathers and our fathers; a church body that was not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, because they know it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes; a church body that is in the Word, even more and more in the Word than we have been in the past, and is marked by being a "in the Wordness" people of God; a church body that is not ashamed to be a confessional church body in this day and age when sometimes confessional Lutheranism is looked down upon; a church body that is willing to be totally spent—totally spent—in getting the Gospel of Jesus Christ out to the ends of the world; a church body that places a very high priority on

the training of future pastors and teachers, knowing that if the lambs and the sheep of Missouri—as we move into the ending years of this century and the first years of the next century—are to be blessed, we must have faithful pastors, we must have faithful teachers; a church body that, perhaps with increased awareness, is ready and open to minister to hurting people, *hurting* people—as one lady said, “the little people who are so often overlooked”; a church body that also finds herself, as I said in the brief acceptance remark, “determined to keep the message straight and to get the message out”; a church body that, assembled in this convention and walking into the next three years and the years that follow, is determined to be a healing entity in Jesus Christ—to seek peace and harmony and unity and joy in Jesus Christ that makes us proud to stand before the entire world and say we are Missouri and we are proud of it; a church body that is empowered, guided, committed to the Word of God and to the Lutheran Confessions and to the sharing of that Gospel of Jesus Christ to the end of the world. That is the course that we must chart and follow together.

As I found myself reading through these two volumes, it almost seemed to me that I could hear our forefathers speaking to us, and in the words of Kitchin, they seem to say, “Lift high the cross, Missouri—higher the love of Christ proclaim.” In the early chapters of the book, it starts out as such a small whispering voice. As you move into the center chapters, it becomes a bold and dynamic voice. And by the time you reach the end of the volume, it is a crescendo: “Missouri, lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim. Keep the message straight, Missouri! Get the message out, Missouri, and do it now! Now, while there is yet time.”

I have told many of you that in May of this year I lost a very good friend in death. He was a treasure of our Iowa District East. I had met him about 12 years ago when he and I started planting a new mission congregation in Cedar Rapids. Through the years we have become very close friends. He had a great love for missions. He was also a grandpa, like me, and every Thursday he would stick his head around the corner when he came to sign the checks and look into my office and say “Hi, Grandpa,” and I would say “Hi, Grandpa.” In November, he came to me and said, “Al, I have just found out that I have a serious case of cancer. It is lung cancer, pancreas cancer, and lymphoma.”

For the next two months he took chemotherapy. Often, we sat in my office and prayed together. In February, the first week, he called me and he said “Al, I need to come by the office and talk with you again.” He told me that all of the chemotherapy treatment had done no good, and that day he was going to Rochester to see if there was any last hope that Rochester might be able to offer to him. About a week-and-a-half after that, he called me again and said

“Al, I need to come by the office.” And he came by the office and he said “There’s nothing that can be done, Al. I have only about six to eight months to live.” And then, looking at me, he said “Al, how do you live those final six to eight months of your life when you know that’s all that you have left?” He said “Al, what do say when you put your arms around your wife and you tell her that you love her, when you know that you only have six or eight months left, Al—your children, when they stand and they look at you and they talk with you. What do you say to them, Al? Al, you’re a grandpa, just like me. When you hold your grandchildren on your lap and you know that grandpa isn’t going to be around too much longer, what do you say, Al? What do you say?”

Well, I won’t tell you everything that we talked about, but I will tell you this—that once he had left my office, I went to the windows and I looked out over the countryside, and as I looked out I couldn’t help but think of all those fantastic “by grace” passages that we know of in the Holy Scriptures: “By grace are you saved through faith”; “My grace is sufficient for you”; “Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” I began to realize: By God’s fantastic grace, Marvin has been brought to faith and Holy Baptism; by God’s fantastic grace, he had confirmed the faith; by God’s fantastic grace, he had for years lived out the faith; by God’s fantastic grace, he had served the Lord; by God’s fantastic grace, he had been the treasurer of our District; and by God’s fantastic grace, he would soon be going home.

The first week in May—not eight months, not six months but only two months later—he passed away. And if I were to tell you that, to this day, I do not miss Marvin, I would be deceiving you. But, what I do need to tell you is that what holds true for Marvin holds true for each and everyone of us and for our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: by God’s fantastic grace, you and I have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; by God’s fantastic grace, we are privileged to be members of Christian congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; by God’s fantastic grace, we are able to be a part of the Missouri Synod; and by God’s fantastic grace, we will continue to live out our lives to the glory of His holy name and hold His cross higher. Higher, Missouri! For God’s sake, higher, Missouri! Until, by God’s fantastic grace, we hear Him say to us, “Come on home, Bill. Come on home, Mary. Come on home, Al, by My fantastic grace.”

O God, as we move into the years directly ahead—working together, building bridges, healing all those great things God—help us, not just as the delegates assembled here, but help our congregations. Help our congregations and us to hold high, as our forefathers have, the cross of Jesus Christ, the love of God to proclaim. Please God. Please God. Please God. Thank you.

A. L. Barry

2. Farewell Address by President Bohlmann

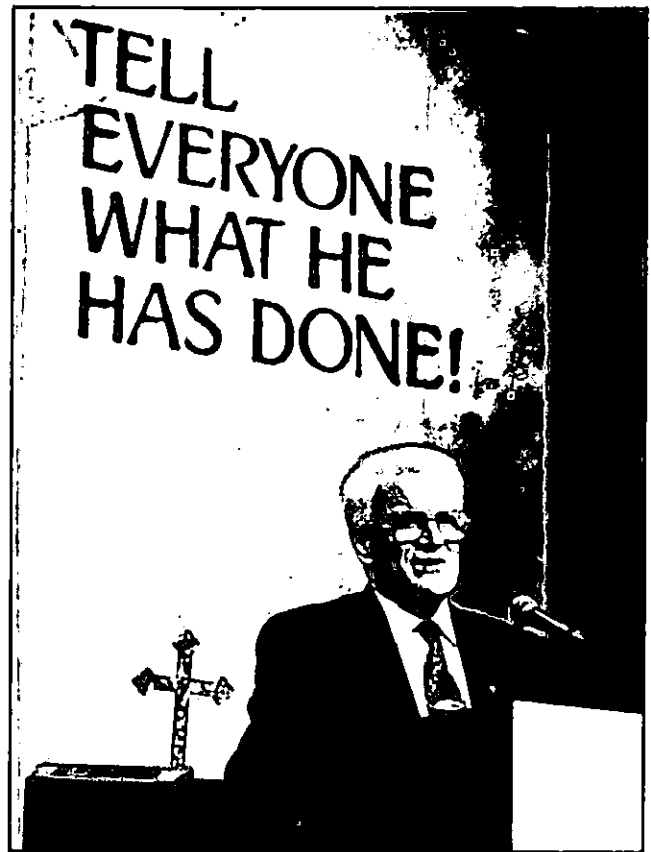
Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I have struggled to find the right words for this time, in prayer, my thoughts have gone over so many speech handles that I can't begin to tell you about them. I know there will be many opportunities to reflect on the past and focus on the future, so I shan't try to do it all right now. But I found my thoughts going back to three plaques, or pictures, that hang on the walls of my offices, two of them in the International Center and one in my basement office at home. I'd like to structure my comments around those three plaques, because they've been with me, I guess, pretty much every day for the last several years.

One of them is a beautifully done calligraphy presentation of a passage from the Word of God that has been there, every day, to remind me of whom I serve and of all of you, too: Philippians 1:3-6: "I thank my God every time I remember you, in all my prayers for all of you I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

It has always seemed to me that the words "partnership in the Gospel," expressed in the context of thanksgiving and trust for the future, were particularly meant for people such as us, and not only for the New Testament Christians to whom the words were first written. I thank my God, and I want to express that to you this morning, for our partnership in the Gospel in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and I do so in that same context of trust and good will, because we, too, are in God's hands for the future. I want to thank you, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod represented here and represented by many others throughout the world, for honoring me these years by allowing me to serve in this pastoral ministry. It's been a tremendous privilege to be able to say, in various places, that I speak, or attempt to, at least, for the two and half million members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, whether that's in the offices of the president of the United States (which has happened, I suppose, some eight or ten times), with cabinet officers of the government, at large assemblies of Lutheran bodies all over the world, with the heads of churches; or what I have really enjoyed much, much more than that—preaching in your congregations as you celebrate an anniversary, as you bury a pastor, as you dedicate a building—as we celebrate those times together, I want to thank you for the high honor and the wonderful privilege to represent this great church body in those ways.

I have always felt that my position was a very humbling one. I have been in awe of it for a long, long time—I suppose since I was a 13- or 14-year-old boy, and my pastor-father used to team up with the President of the Synod, Dr. John Behnken, in Oak Park, Ill., whose office was an expanded porch on Kenilworth Avenue (how times have changed!). Then, during World War II, they would get in the old Chevy on weekends, and, because they both spoke German and had pastored people in German, they would visit German prisoners of war in the Chicago area. I am just as much in awe of the office now as I was then.



It has always seemed to me that it's an office that should seek the man, and that God should lead the church to that choice—not the other way around. It is not a political office, and being chosen for it is *not* like what goes on in the conventions of the political parties of our nation. It's God's way of surfacing individuals who are then chosen, elected, and called by the church through the convention.

And again, I honor the office as a pastoral office, as one that must serve the whole church, not just some of it. It must be respectful of the diversity in the church, of the needs of the church, an office that is able to listen while still providing a measure of guidance—whether that's admonishing a board or commission that does not appear to be following what the church has asked it to do, or whether that means supporting a board or commission or District President or some other group of the church that is making a hard decision that appears to be fully in keeping with the doctrine and constitution of the church.

I don't believe that any President, whether it be I, or the President-elect, or any President still to come, or any district President, should ever be maligned for attempting to do his duty under the Constitution. And I say that not for the sake of the President, but for the sake of the church. Help those who supervise the doctrine and administration of the church to do their task, and I pray that you will do that.

Philippians speaks of "*partnership* in the Gospel." The church is not a one-person show. This day, I thank particularly my wife and family; my wonderful office staff

(who have also served this convention); the Vice-Presidents, and especially my friend, Augie, whom you have honored by asking him to serve again, whose work and mine have gone so well together, the entire Praesidium—men of God—pastors of the church—we have come to care deeply for each other in the care of the church that you have asked us to carry out; the Council of Presidents; members of the Board of Directors; the good staff people; presidents of colleges and universities—all of you, for our “partnership in the Gospel”—I thank you and I praise God for all of you. I want to thank this convention for our partnership in the Gospel these days—for your laughter, for your tears, for your hugs, and especially for your prayers—for the ministry that you have given to Pat and me through flowers (our room looks something like a funeral parlor, but it smells great)—for the cake that came to the room, unsigned, with “Psalm 37” and “Ralph” written across the top—that was our devotion one evening. There are so many things I want to thank you for, but especially as I think of “partnership in the Gospel,” I want to thank this convention for enacting motion after motion which will put into action so many of the goals and dreams and efforts of these past 11 years. It seems to me that virtually all that we have asked the church to do to move us forward in mission, you have done with great enthusiasm and with great care, and I am so grateful for that, that the church goes forward because of our partnership in the Gospel.

There’s another plaque on my office wall, right above the table where we sit so many times to chat about things. And it, too, has a word of God in calligraphy, nicely done. It’s from Revelation, chapter 3, verse 8. May I read it? “Behold, I have placed before you an open door which no one can shut. I know that you have but little strength. Yet you have kept My word and not denied My name.”

That passage was used by me as a text for a sermon, and on another occasion for an evening devotion, at times that were particularly meaningful. May I tell you about them? The one was the sermon at the opening service of Concordia Seminary in the fall of 1974, as we attempted, with God’s help, to recover from a very difficult time and to make a new beginning. These words marked the tears and the prayers of that evening—how richly God blessed that effort of the whole church to rebuild its seminary.

And then, in 1985, one evening as 12 of us were visiting in the People’s Republic of China—in Guangzhou, the city that we used to call Canton, the day before we met former President Nixon, who had done so much to open doors in China—these words were also the text for our meditation. God’s open door is there because we have kept His Word and not denied His name! And we thought of all those people there in China who during years of persecution and difficulty have done just that. This passage became my prayer and the prayer of many others, and I hope it’s yours in this convention, too. I thought of it especially yesterday, as I introduced to you President Benjamin Chung of our Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod, because he was in the room that evening. As we talked yesterday, through the marvel of modern communication, to Missionary Henry Rowold (who was also one of the leaders of that expedition, as we visited with the officers of the Religious Affairs Bureau, with other religious leaders, including the highest

ranking religious leader in China, Bishop Ding, and all those many people), those words seemed to me to be apt words to lay on our hearts together in this convention.

Because God has set before us, too, an open door that no one can shut, simply because He opened it. It’s *His* door. He has given us the resources to walk through it. Oh, I would plead with you to *run* through it! Who knows when doors can slam shut on us in China and Eastern Europe, in the cities and the ghettos of this country, in those many, many, many places where God is leading His church to proclaim the name of Jesus Christ?

When we began this pastoral presidency in 1981, there were three words that I used as “peg” words, as I have called them, to help provide me and colleagues in the administration with some kind of criteria as to what we really want to do in all the daily tasks of the office. The first of those three words was *confession*: We want to confess God’s Word and Luther’s doctrine pure, on the basis of our Confessions, as this great church has done so boldly for so long. I thank God that today the confessional position of this church body is as strong as it has ever been, and I thank and congratulate the pastors and teachers and lay leaders of this church for that. Brothers and sisters, don’t let the word *confessional* become the identity or the badge of a church within a church. This *church body*, its doctrine, its practice, is confessional. And I think we should thank and praise God for that!

The second word was *solidarity*. It was kind of an “in” word in those days, as Lech Walesa and others in Poland struggled to find solidarity. It’s a word that seemed to me to be stronger than “unity,” it seemed to have more stability to it, more punch if you will. And I hoped then, and I hope today, for the solidarity of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod—that we can get over the “we/they” approach to questions, that the confession that God has bequeathed to us of His love in Jesus Christ is something that we will stand on solidly and stand on together.

The third word was *mission*, from the very first until today. And then came a few years when other “peg” words occupied our attention, too. *Growth*: growth in our spirituality, and growth in numbers as we reach out to the world. *Relationships*: working at relationships between cultures, between men and women, and reminding ourselves in this great church that God created male and female and placed all of us into the body of Christ, made all of us a kingdom of priests with rights and privileges and opportunities, that gender is not the primary consideration in the service of God—a commitment that I must tell you with all candor that I intend to pursue through the rest of my days.

And then, I suppose, not to reminisce too long with you, there are banners to my left that many of you saw in your District conventions and have seen on other occasions. They choked me up a bit when they were brought in Sunday morning, because the four vision words upon them reflect so much of what this church body is attempting to do. We are and want to be ever more a *Gospel-based* church. We are a church that puts the message of Jesus Christ into everything it does. It’s not just one doctrine among many, ranked at the top of the list, but the Gospel is like the heart and the circulation system of the human

body—it's what gives it life, it's what flows through all of its parts and veins. And that's the best way I know of for this church to respond to human needs, to be in and of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We also want to be a *mission-driven* church. When it comes to making the hard decisions, we don't put the question "What have we always done?" in first order or "What is most comfortable?" or "What can we afford?" or all those other things, but, rather, the question "What will this do to help us bring the Good News to all the nations?"

We are a *congregation-centered* church. We have worked hard at that in this church body, to turn the typical organizational pyramid upside down. The Synod is not up here and the congregations down there. But the congregations *are* the Synod. People who serve in ministries like mine, or my many good colleagues seated to the right and left and in the back in the Synod's staff and officer positions are people serving congregations at their request. They are enabling and helping congregations to help each other be mission-driven and Gospel-based.

The church is also *people-oriented*. The church is people. The church is not some institution located far off the map. We are not the church in any technical sense in this assembly. The church is people: I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together. Those words I lay on your hearts again this morning as we remind ourselves that God continues to set before us an open door.

I believe we're going to have to find peace among ourselves, however, if we're going to do that, and do it well. One of the pains I have experienced in my years in this ministry is that all too often The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is seen in other parts of the world as a church that has tremendous resources; many gifts to give, wonderful people, a church that has been innovative in electronic ministry and in so many other ways, but yet, as some people see us, a church that fights far too much, that bites and devours, that focuses more attention on the faults of one another than on our mutual strengths and gifts from God. What a pain that is to bear! And it's not just a pain for those who may feel themselves to have been misrepresented or maligned or victimized, as many do in our church from time to time. But it hurts the Gospel mission of our church. We could be ever so much more effective if we could find peace. And I don't think we're going to find it through easy truces. We will find peace only at the foot of the cross. Peace must be based on truth, the truth that begins with the confession of sin and the ability to call sin, sin, but especially the confidence that all sin is covered by the blood of Jesus Christ, and that only His blood can cleanse us from all sin. I believe, brothers and sisters, as you and I together made a beginning yesterday and will continue to strive for even greater peace in the church, we must find a way, under God's blessing and the guidance of the church, to be at peace with one another.

May I add a brief word to women, to minorities, to others who are sometimes disadvantaged and to brothers and sisters in the Lutheran and Christian world beyond who care about us, and about whom we care. I want to pledge my continuing personal efforts, through writing, speaking, and visiting, to help The Lutheran Church—Missouri

Synod and all of its people to continue to do everything we can that is faithful to the Word of God and consistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to be in ministry and to work together as the hand on God's clock moves ever closer to His return.

I believe that by the decision of this convention you have in some ways freed me to use whatever gifts or experience or talents God may have given me to find through His leading new opportunities to pursue the same goals we've been talking about this morning. And I look forward with a certain amount of eagerness to the future, believe it or not.

You've seen me shed a few tears this week. My wife will tell you how embarrassed I am about that. I don't believe I've shed many tears in my life. (We men need to do something about that, if there are others afflicted with that malady.) I cried at my father's funeral; I cry in private. But you've noticed me choke up often, and it amazes me that I haven't blubbered all over *this* microphone. (I think it's the respect for this expensive equipment, in the interest of good stewardship, you know, and all of that).

But I want to tell you what's done that to me: it's your *love* that has done that to me. I shed those tears because of the associations with the people who have come on stage, as my mind races back over meetings and plans and goals, as we worked toward a better arrangement, a better structure for the work of missions in Canada, or with the LWML or these wonderful people who have received the presentations at this convention and their great ministries. The list just goes on and on.

And, I've been choked up by the hugs and the prayers and the gifts and the love of your people at this convention. And this not only for me, but for Pat and for our two children who saw a convention express many things toward their father and mother. But what they will always remember most, I believe, is the love and the prayer and the concern of you wonderful people who represent the very best in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. And I thank you on their behalf for that, and also for the ministry that is yet to come.

One more thing, and then I want to refer to the third plaque on my wall, and it will take me just a minute. I also want to ask your forgiveness for anything I may have done amiss, for any failure . . . [silence, hesitation, applause, more applause] . . . thank you so much—you have a unique way of bailing a guy out of a jam, don't you? But I thank you for that, as I ask your forgiveness. I can think of nothing more precious to me and to you, and to all the folks back home, than the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who died and rose again and even now pleads for us, and in His Word and sacraments gives us that forgiveness each day as we are renewed in our Baptism, and then calls us to share that forgiveness with each other. And we praise Him, as I praise Him at this time.

There is a third picture that hangs in my office at home. It's a picture that was taken on whatever day in late September 1981, when I was installed as the President of the Synod. Back at the seminary that day some students found an old (I trust it was old, I don't think they could afford anything new), an old bedsheet. They wrote some words on it and then somehow climbed Luther Tower, hung it on

the tower, and then took a picture. When I was presented with the picture, I was still the president of the seminary, and I knew that the official rules of the institution forbade students to ascend that tower. (That's what the lawyers, pardon the pun, might call "ascending liability.") But that picture hangs on my office wall. Some of the fellows who climbed the steps to do it I know, others I don't. One that I know served in the Persian Gulf War as a chaplain. I

called him the day before they went into combat and heard him tell me how 20-some people had come to the Lord, and faith in Him, the day before. I reminded him of the sheet on Luther Tower, and we had a good laugh. May I tell you what it said, and may I say it to you as my final sentence: "Mizpah, may the Lord watch between thee and me while we are absent one from another." God bless you!

Ralph A. Bohlmann

3. Greetings of J. A. O. Preus, President Emeritus of the Synod

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Greetings to you in Jesus' name.

Circumstances beyond my control have made it impossible for me to attend this convention of our beloved Synod. This is the first convention I have missed since Cleveland in 1962, and I deeply regret not being able to be with you. The greatest privilege of my life was to serve in the ministry of the church as a pastor, a professor of theology, and a church administrator. A patient and gracious God has been good to me, for which I thank Him, and a patient and kind Synod has also increased my joy in serving Christ and His holy Gospel.

I wish to bring only three points to your attention in these brief remarks, two from the pen of St. Paul and one from our Savior Himself.

In carrying on church service, lay people, pastors, teachers, and administrators in congregations, schools and conventions must always bear in mind that our work is not always joy and celebration, but much of it is drudgery, abuse, disappointment, and even despair. Paul, the greatest of all the apostles, says in his second epistle to the troublesome, divided, and quarrelsome congregation at Corinth (2 Cor. 4ff) "We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed. . . . For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. . . . knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. . . . Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." The key verse in the entire chapter is verse 5, "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake." The work of the church is not about us and our pride and our egos. The work of the

church, including this convention of our beloved Synod, is about Christ. He is our Lord and He is our message. Let us be about His work. That is why we are gathered in convention. And if He is the center of our deliberations and our decisions, this convention, like all others, will be a success, a joy, and a cause for celebration.

Also in 2 Corinthians 12, to that same obstinate congregation filled with arrogant and high-handed people, Paul tells them and us that in the midst of all his difficulties, "Lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.'" Sometimes we see God's grace most clearly in times of hopelessness. In fact, it is only in such agony that grace becomes real. So rejoice because we have in Christ a gracious God whose strength is brought to its fullness in our weakness. "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, 'Rejoice!'"

And finally in Matthew 28 and Acts 1 our Lord Jesus Christ Himself speaks His final earthly words to His church. Just before His ascension He gives the church His great commission, promises His abiding presence with the church, and pours out His Holy Spirit on us to empower us to be His witnesses and to carry His Gospel of forgiveness and eternal life to the ends of the earth. He calls us to be His witnesses, martyrs, who are willing, if necessary, to die for Him, and certainly to live for Him, and bear witness to His love and grace. What an honor! What a privilege! Our glorious and almighty Lord wants *me* a poor lost sinner to bear witness to Him!

Therefore, brothers and sisters, "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." (Eph. 6:10), and God will bless our every endeavor for Him.

Soli Deo Gloria.

J. A. O. Preus

4. Greetings of the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

I want to thank President Bohlmann and you for the gracious invitation to be with you and your warm welcome. It is good to be present at this convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. I bring you greetings from the more than 5 million members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

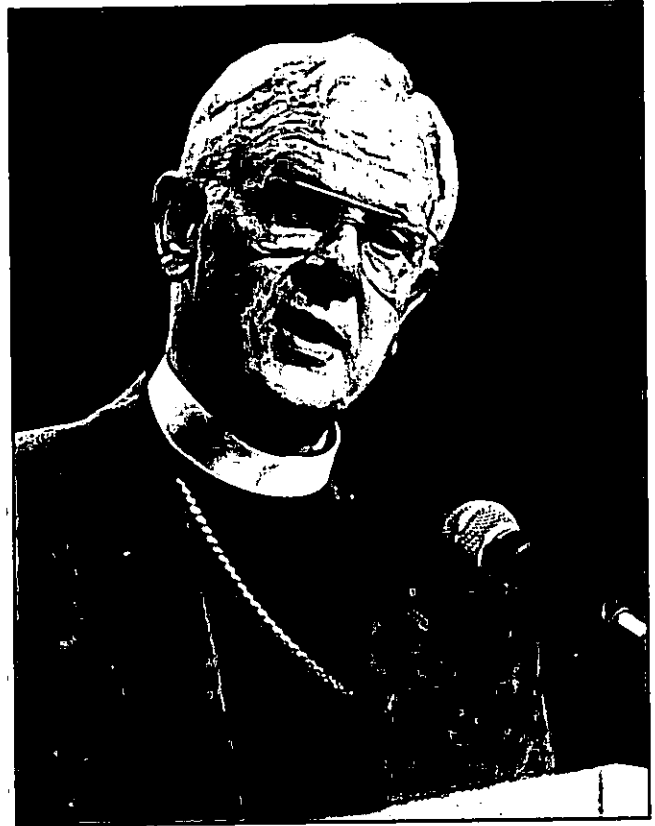
At a time when there are deep divisions in the world, and indeed in American society, when secularism advances and religious values are ever more questioned, Christians need to make a united witness. This is even more true of Christians who together not only claim the heritage of the Reformation but are joint heirs of the Lutheran Reformers who are committed to the witness and truth of the Lutheran Confessions.

It is appropriate that we stand together and work together at many places. Whenever the Committee on Lutheran Cooperation gathers, I am reminded of those places where the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America stands with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in our commitments to Christian education and addressing the social needs of this world. I have in mind such common agencies as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Education Conference in North America, and Lutheran Resources Commission. We have demonstrated a common witness in places of despair and need in the world.

Yet there are times and places when and where we read and interpret our common heritage differently. While many wish that we could close the "gaps" between us, we also realize the difficult challenges this presents. We must respect each other and acknowledge our rights and obligations to make responsible decisions that may, in some instances, separate us, while at the same time we claim together a common Lord of the church and a subscription to the same Confessions. We must both speak the truth in love and walk the path before us as we discern the calling of Christ.

Since the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I also have greatly appreciated the friendship and warmth of the relationship I have had with President Bohlmann. While we have shared our differences forthrightly, we have always done so in a spirit of mutual respect and affection. I regard him as a true and genuine brother in Christ. I want to assure you, President and Mrs. Bohlmann, that my prayers are with you as God opens new doors for witness and service.

I also assure you, President-elect Barry, of my prayerful support as you assume leadership of this church. These are stressful times in the life of all churches across the



entire religious spectrum. I personally pledge to you the same openness that I have shared with President Bohlmann. I look forward to good years of continuing cooperation in those areas where our respective churches have a common interest. I know that many persons in the ELCA enjoy cordial relations with their counterparts in your church. These relationships extend through districts and synods and congregations of both our churches.

A key document of our common heritage, Augsburg Confession, although written in the midst of other challenges and circumstances, reminds all of us who treasure the name Lutheran that the hope in which we live and that we offer to ourselves and others, is that "we may be united in one, true religion, even as we are all under one Christ and should confess and contend for Christ."

I pray that God's richest blessing will rest on this convention as you debate together and reach decisions during these days that will affect the life of your church, and beyond, into the future.

Herbert W. Chilstrom, *Bishop*

5. Greetings of the President of the Lutheran Church—Canada

Dr. Bohlmann, President-elect Barry, brothers and sisters in Christ:

It's always great to be with friends, it's usually good to be with family, but it's a special treat to be with friends who are also family!

I've come to bring official greetings from the congregations, pastors and teachers of Lutheran Church—Canada. But there's more to it than that. For it also means that, indirectly at least, your daughter has come home, and the family is together again for a few days. From all of us, therefore to all of you, "Hi, Mom, it's good to see you again. We've missed you!"

And then, the inevitable questions from Mom (because mothers always worry), "How has it been going for you?"

When people within Lutheran Church—Canada ask that question, I usually respond: "Not as well as it should be, but better than we deserve."

Better than we deserve because God has been so good to us. For one thing, we enjoy the gift of internal peace and unity. Negative voices are few. Serious conflict is absent. Even those who had grave doubts about our autonomy five years ago are, in most cases, strongly supportive. This is clearly a gift from God.

God has also maintained His truth in our midst. While there is some testing of the limits of diversity in practice, we are unashamedly determined to be, and be known as, a confessional and orthodox Lutheran Church.

We are convinced that God's truth is never more powerful than when it is proclaimed, and so we seek to join sound theology with aggressive outreach. God has opened many new doors for us. In recent months we have added to Korean, Hispanic, Chinese, Indian, and French ministry in our own country. We currently support missionaries or mission projects in Japan, China, Guatemala, Zaire, and the Congo, and within a few weeks will be calling two missionaries to go to the Ukraine.

We have welcomed invitations to cooperate with sister churches elsewhere: with Finland to produce a full Russian Catechism, with France to translate a whole range of materials into French, with Australia to provide stronger Lutheran indoctrination for pastors in Indonesia.

And, of course, we continue the pattern of cooperation with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in a variety of projects.

Our seminaries and colleges are academically strong, theologically sound, and financially solvent. This year, for the first time ever, all candidates and vicars assigned to our congregations came from our own seminaries.

Our two auxiliaries, the Lutheran Laymen's League and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League continue to serve both our churches. Two years ago, we hosted the International LLL convention. Next year we will host the International LWML. Following that convention, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League—Canada will become an autonomous organization but will continue to function in partnership with the International LWML, even as our own churches do with each other.

"Blessings better than we deserve"—no question about it. Perhaps it's still a honeymoon, perhaps it's the age of



innocence. Whatever it is, we accept it as a time of blessing and privilege.

But neither is it going as well as it should be. That's our fault, not God's.

We are still too timid in sharing Christ with our neighbors, too comfortable within our own cultures. We are a small church, embracing only about one-third of one percent of our population. We need to grow spiritually, as men and women with the mind of Christ—spending and being spent, giving as we have been gifted, surrendering all that Christ may be all in all.

As we made plans to leave home four years ago, there were two words we used to describe our new relationship: autonomy and partnership. Both ideals have been realized. Our partnership has been exercised in many ways, from missions, to theological study, to the free movement of pastors and teachers. And our autonomy has been real, not imaginary as some had feared.

Much of the credit for this happy relationship goes to you, Dr. Bohlmann, along with the officers and boards, and Council of Presidents. You have been extremely kind and encouraging toward us, while at all times respecting our autonomy. There will need to be a better occasion than this, but for now, please accept my personal thanks, and those of our church. You have been a good friend to us all.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate you, Dr. Barry, on your election as President. I am confident that the same level of mutual trust, respect and support to which I just referred will continue between our two churches during your presidency as well.

And now, for a moment, let me put on another hat, as representative of the International Lutheran Conference. I bring greetings to this convention from the 25 to 30 presidents and bishops of the churches which participate in the ILC. In this confessional family, The Lutheran Church—

Missouri Synod has been the undisputed leader, sharing its theological strength, its missiological expertise, and its financial resources. Missouri Synod presidents have always been actively involved in the ILC, with Dr. Bohlmann serving most recently as vice-chairman and as secretary. His enlightened approach to the smaller churches of other countries has helped make the ILC an effective instrument for strengthening confessional Lutheranism throughout the world. I urge the Missouri Synod to continue to see the ILC as the cornerstone of its approach to international church relations.

I began with the analogy of family, and on that note I would also close. And I address a subject which is off-limits to strangers and impolite even for friends. But we are family. We are your child, Missouri. And a mother's love hears the plea of her child.

As we lie in our little bed upstairs, we hear what is going on in the kitchen. Loud voices are being raised. Angry

words are spoken. We don't understand it all. We're not really part of it. And we're only a child.

But what are we to do, Mother? We cannot just close our ears. We cannot tell you what to do. We will not second-guess your decisions. That would be wrong. But is it wrong for us to worry? Is it wrong for us to care? Is it wrong for us to shed a tear? Because we love you—we love all of you. We love you because God has loved you so much—He has loved all of you with His everlasting love.

And so we will continue to pray for you. We will pray that God grant you peace, that He keep you faithful to His Word, God-fearing in your daily walk, compassionate toward those who hurt, and zealous in your mission so that with great boldness you may tell everyone what He has done. That's the way you taught us it should be. And that's the way we pray it will be for you.

We love you all. . . . God bless you!

E. Lehman, *President*

6. Presentation by Bishop Pavel Uhorskai of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession

Dear Mr. President Bohlmann, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear Mr. President, it is my honor to greet you as President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as a friend of our Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church, and as my brother in Christ.

With love I greet all of you, members of this convention, you who bear the burden of responsibility for your church before our Lord.

Our Slovak Lutheran Church had to pass through and suffer in the time of Communism much persecution and humiliation, much loss and damage. But all these our losses have only facilitated us to stand in the narrow way and to pass through the narrow gate following our Lord Jesus.

In suffering, we were more able to accept the riches of spiritual gifts. There in suffering we knew our mistakes, our trespasses, and sins. And we found the way of repentance by which we can only come to the Lord. His saving death and constant presence had made as real the fact that the blood of Jesus, His Son, washes us from every sin. Our church came out of the period of persecution and oppression beautified but also hurt.

The consequences of the fact that some of our pastors and even leaders of the church compromised with the Communist authorities was, until today, the cause in the church of much tension, and they require remedy. This is one of the lessons of the past period, namely, to compromise with evil is impossible for Christians. It really is a great grace that after losing worldly values we became rich in God. We learned to believe, to confess, and to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice that together with you we believe in the same Lord. Together, with you, we belong to His church, we represent the fellowship of believers. In this fellowship we experience how good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity.



SECAV Bishop General Pavel Uhorskai (*Right*) and Secretary General Peter Krosiak (*Left*)

Cooperation with you in the period of Communism was impossible. We knew only a little about you. I remind you of this fact today, at your convention, that the commission from the Lord is a commitment as well, that from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded. And from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. All together we are obliged to come before the throne of God's grace with our prayers so that Lutheranism in all the world would become Christ's good fragrance, so that as it was in history even now, we would give a good witness to the bright light of the Gospel, not only by words but also by deeds.

We highly esteem your trust and brotherly love. We are very grateful to you for many helps in our mission work with children and youth. Shortly before our departure to you, we had already received the first shipment of materials for Sunday schools provided in Slovak translation by Concordia Publishing House.

We are grateful for Dr. David Daniel, who in cooperation with the Mission Department of the headquarters, mediates to us help to our schools, to our teachers, to our doctors. We thank also the other co-workers with us, namely, to Dr. Arnold Schmidt, Paul Devantier, Rev. Dusan Toth, and many others whom we cannot enumerate here. And also the representatives of the many congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. And we thank you for all the help, material and spiritual, granted to us.

It is necessary for us to be in contact to inform each other and to confirm each other in the faith, so that we would wipe out the differences, straighten inequalities, and deepen trust and cooperation between our churches. We would like to be useful to you in our faith, to be an example of faithfulness and witness, and we would like mostly to strengthen our fellowship in the faith so that our Lord Jesus Christ would be glorified in our lives so that all of us will fulfill our services which we have received in the Lord.

At the present time we consider our main task to be evangelism and mission, spiritual reformation, and spiritual growth of the church on every side. We realize that there is much hard work awaiting us. We are lacking church workers. There is the possibility of separation of

the church and state in our country, which will cause us many economic problems and tasks. The knowledge that we can rely upon our brothers and sisters in the faith strengthens us much.

There is a bright future in Christ for you here in America and also for us at home in Czechoslovakia. He, the Lord of the church, is with you. His faithfulness and His truth do not change. To you who are worn out in work and in service, He gives rest. He it is who causes that His yoke is easy for you and His burden is light. Apart from Him you can do nothing. It is His will that you would go forth and bring forth the fruit, and so that your fruit would remain, and so that the Father would grant you whatever you would pray for in the name of Jesus.

May the Lord bless our cooperation and this, your convention. Thank you.

Pavel Uhorskai, *Bishop General*

Dr. Bohlmann:

We thank you for those wonderful words, and we thank you for your own boldness in confessing Christ as a pastor of Christ's church for many years. I remember shedding some tears in Bratislava when I heard stories you told about the years that you suffered some persecution because of your boldness, but as a pastor of Christ's church how you always prepared a sermon in case God would give you an opportunity to preach it.

You honor us by accepting our meager efforts to help your people. And we pray that the invitation you have given for continued cooperation in proclaiming the Word of God is one that God will grant us.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Witness and Outreach

To Accept and Apply *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties*

RESOLUTION 1-01

App. III (CW, pp. 359-68), Overtures 1-01, 1-07, 1-15 (CW, pp. 155-57, 159)

Rationale:

In the turbulent times of these latter days there is one high and holy purpose for which the end of all things is postponed. That purpose is stated by Christ Himself in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20; 24:14) and supported by our convention theme: *With Great Boldness ... Tell Everyone What He Has Done.*

Understanding the size of the task and knowing the time to be short, President Ralph A. Bohlmann proposed the formation of a Mission Task Force "to carry out a broad review of the Synod's mission activity and to recommend strategies and actions for the future" which are to be

- Gospel based;
- mission driven;
- congregation centered;
- people oriented.

After two years of evaluating in-person presentations, written essays, consultations, and questionnaire responses, the task force submitted its full report April 16, 1991 to the President, to the Board for Mission Services, and the congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It is titled *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties*.

The blueprint highlights 13 emphases which call for attention and action by the Synod, as such, by the Board for Mission Services, by Districts, congregations, and partner churches.

These highlights rest on 10 basic assumptions each with a symphonic refrain: "In the Nineties and until the Last Day ...," expressing full commitment to Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, the means of grace, the proper distinction between Law and Gospel, etc.

On the basis of these emphases and assumptions the task force developed 15 goals, which under the grace of God and by the power of His Holy Spirit should stir the Synod to implement renewed commitment and new directions in mission:

- Renew Our Commitment to Work Overseas
- Work the United States as a World Mission Field
- Reach Out from Congregations with Culture-Specific Ministry
- Evangelize the City
- Recruit and Retain Mission-Ministry Personnel
- Increase Mission and Ministry through TEE
- Manifest a Passion for Mission Leadership and Witness
- Increase Networking
- Realize Greater Blessings from Media in Mission



Committee 1 Chairman Theodore L. Laesch

- Strengthen Funding and Other Resources
- Search for Enabling District and National Structures
- Continue to Be Accountable
- Work Together in Mission with Our Synodical Board for Mission Services
- Work under Mission Covenants
- Realize the Blessings of an International Mission Association

Resolved, That the report of the Mission Task Force be received with a vote of thanks; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm its commitment to missions in all nations and cultures and focus its priorities, planning, and action in accord with the emphases, basic assumptions and 15 goals as outlined in the mission blueprint; and be it further

Resolved, That all congregations and synodical and District boards and agencies be urged to use the *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties* as a guide for developing effective mission outreach strategies and actions; and be it further

Resolved, That the suggested schedule for progress reports on the *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties* be honored; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Mission Services be given primary responsibility to monitor progress toward meeting our opportunities and challenges.

Action: Adopted (3).

(A motion to delete the second and fourth resolves was declined as was a motion to substitute the words *study the full report* for the word *use* in the third resolve.)

To View the U.S. as a World Mission Field

RESOLUTION 1-02

App. III (CW, p. 361), Overtures 1-04, L1-04 (CW, p. 156; TB, p. 9)

Rationale:

The President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod asked that a Mission Task Force be formed to carry out a broad review of the Synod's mission activity and to recommend strategies and actions for the future.

The Mission Task Force *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties* has been completed and now circulated at many levels of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties* includes the following statements in the second goal:

To View the United States as a World Mission Field: the "Centripetal Model: A Window of Opportunity." In the "Centripetal Model," the Lord reverses the flow, pulling hundreds of thousands of people toward the United States.

Though millions are unchurched, the United States is on the cutting edge of international mission opportunity. By sharing the Gospel with immigrants, the Good News reaches their homelands. This key unlocks doors in closed countries.

The *Mission Blueprint* calls for districts to join together to concentrate resources to regions of greatest need within the United States. Where opportunities are greatest, congregations are youngest and resources most limited. We're largely a Midwestern church and a nation growing fastest at its edges. We will meet goals only in unique mission-planting partnerships.

The Lord has brought large numbers of immigrants, international students, business and other professionals from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe to the USA.

Certain Districts are on a cutting edge of international mission opportunity for the '90s.

The membership and fiscal resources of those Districts may be overwhelmed by the ethnic mission challenges to extend the Gospel witness, thus restricting and limiting their ability to seize the day and the opportunity before them.

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention assembled adopt the following recommendations of the *Mission Blueprint* as they pertain to the U.S. as a primary mission field:

- Districts strong in membership and fiscal resources, but without ethnic concentrations explore ways to join with Districts overwhelmed by ethnic challenges.
- The Board for Mission Services structure itself to assist Districts and congregations in culture-specific mission.
- The Board for Mission Services, cooperating with District mission boards call and support evangelistic missionaries to serve in ethnic population centers . . .

and be it further

Resolved, That we give thanks to the Lord of the church for these unique United States mission opportunities.

Action: *Adopted* (10).

To Make "Reaching the Lost" a Priority for Every Congregation

RESOLUTION 1-03A

Overture 1-03 (CW, p. 155)

WHEREAS, The mission of the church today, as in the early church of Jerusalem, begins where we are as disciples of Christ and moves out from us into surrounding areas and through others into all the world (Acts 1:8); and

WHEREAS, God is providing the church countless opportunities to share the Gospel: over 100 million Americans are unchurched, one-third of all Americans who claim to be Lutheran do not belong to a Lutheran church, back-door losses in the Synod approximate 48,000 yearly, one-half of the estimated 440,000 members of the Synod who move yearly do not request a transfer, 62 percent of America's unchurched state that they have never been visited or invited to become active in the worship and life of a congregation, and 58 percent of the unchurched envision joining a church; and

WHEREAS, A recent identity survey conducted by the Synod indicates that outreach activities and witnessing are seen as a low priority among members of the Synod; and the Church Membership Initiative research conducted by Aid Association for Lutherans reveals that "perhaps 70 percent of Lutheran congregations do not appear to be particularly motivated to increase their membership size"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention assembled encourage every congregation of the Synod to establish the theme of this convention, *With Great Boldness . . . Tell Everyone What He Has Done*, as their congregation's theme and primary priority during this triennium through the following seven activities:

1. Seek to know the people of the community, assess their characteristics and needs, and determine their religious background and current interest in the Gospel and the church
2. Pray for growth in their understanding and zeal as a mission base of the church in that place through increased use of the Word and Sacraments
3. Reach out to the lost and the unchurched through a variety of interactive and witnessing activities, such as canvassing, friendship Sundays, small groups, congregational fellowship events, media presentations, and other publicity
4. Strengthen the training and encourage the sending out of congregational members in visitation outreach
5. Concentrate on calling and caring inreach programs to inactives; encourage referral activities to assist Lutherans who move; and offer assimilation programs that help involve and keep new members in the church
6. Review and renew the programs of congregational groups (Bible study, Sunday school, day school, youth groups, organizations, support groups, etc.) so that they are outreach oriented as well as focused on members
7. Recognize that worship services are the major entry point for most strangers and the vital reentry point for most inactives, and seek to create a climate of hospitality

being strongly sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity through creativity in worship, but also being cautious to stay in conformity with the Scriptures

and be it further

Resolved, That we commend our seminaries and colleges for being increasingly sensitive to these needs and activities of congregations in the training of future church workers, urging them to stay attuned to the variety of situations and expectations of the church; and be it finally

Resolved, That District and national staffs and boards continue to uphold the primary priority of reaching the lost and the unchurched in their field services and product development, formulating a nationwide plan to assist every congregation to be an effective mission base.

Action: *Adopted as amended (10).*

(An amendment adding the words *being strongly sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity through creativity in worship, but also being cautious to stay in conformity with the Scriptures* to the end of activity 7 was adopted.)

To Strengthen Public Recognition of LCMS Mission

RESOLUTION 1-04

Report R1-07 (CW, pp. 38-41) Overtures 1-05-06, 1-13, L1-42 (CW, pp. 158, 158; TB, p. 9)

Rationale:

Resolution 1-05A of the 1989 synodical convention asked the Board for Communication Services to "continue the identity study . . .," "study the question of changing or strengthening the name of our Synod . . .," and to "report back to the Synod in convention in 1992."

The identity study conducted by Gallup/CRA was completed in 1992. Among the findings and recommendations are

- identity can be an important factor in mission and evangelism;
- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has very little public identity;
- the people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations favor building identity through personal contact and through use of the mass media;
- a name change is not recommended at this time.

The results of the identity study coupled with aspects of the *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties* and several overtures to the 1992 convention led to the following:

Resolved, That the Board for Communication Services, in consultation with other synodical entities (boards, committees, auxiliaries, etc.), develop a plan to

- provide ideas and resources to establish and/or strengthen The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod identity;
- encourage congregations to make use of mass media opportunities (radio, television, cable, newspapers, etc.);
- seek outside support, if necessary, to accomplish these activities.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(A motion to substitute L1-42—"To Study Change of Synod Name" for the proposed resolution was declined.)

To Respond to Renewed Mission Opportunities in Eastern Europe and Russia

RESOLUTION 1-05

Overtures 1-33-34 (CW, p. 183)

WHEREAS, The collapse of the Communist empire in Central and Eastern Europe and in the former USSR confronts the church with unprecedented opportunities to serve the Lord by reopening a huge mission field of people in need; and

WHEREAS, In this time of need, many of the churches of Eastern Europe are not fully prepared to meet the needs and challenges of their new situation. Christians—as individuals and as groups—have borne the brunt of Communist persecution in past years. Even though many lands of Central and Eastern Europe are served by Lutheran churches that can trace their roots directly back to the Reformation era, in all too many cases 40 and more years of Marxist domination have weakened the life of the church. Imprisonments, banishments, and even death for church members and leaders along with the confiscation of church properties and materials, and restrictions on church activities wounded but could not kill the life of the church; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod rejoices in the news that God has kept a remnant of people for himself and prays that God will bless every effort to help people grow in faith and in the proclamation of the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, As the Lutheran churches of Central and Eastern Europe ask for help to meet the challenges now facing them, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has begun to respond. Many Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod members are stretching out hands of love and concern, seeking opportunities to help as individuals; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention assembled acknowledge the work of our church and of the International Lutheran Laymen's League in Eastern Europe/Russia; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention assembled urge the Board for Mission Services in cooperation with the International Lutheran Laymen's League to develop and to expedite a strategy for ministry in Eastern Europe; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod in convention assembled urge individuals and congregations to support the Eastern European Outreach appeal so that adequate funds will be available for this work.

Action: *Adopted as amended (12).*

(The words *and to expedite* in the second resolve were added by common consent.)

To Encourage Congregational Witness to Ethnic Groups

RESOLUTION 1-06

Overtures 1-26A-B (CW, p. 161)

WHEREAS, God has brought people from other countries and ethnic groups into the communities of our congregations and provides our people with the boldness to *Tell Everyone What He Has Done*; and

WHEREAS, Non-Christian groups actively work in all communities (Muslims, Hindus, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, New Age groups, etc.); and

WHEREAS, Many congregations need special assistance to reach out to people in the changing communities around their churches; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention assembled encourage the church to witness to others, including other ethnic groups; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to make such outreach a high priority in all activities (Sunday school, vacation Bible school, Lutheran Women's Missionary League, preschool, etc.); and be it further

Resolved, That congregations serving ethnic or changing communities be encouraged to assimilate new members from these groups into leadership positions to foster ownership in the congregation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Evangelism Services provide congregations culturally specific materials for witnessing and outreach in such ethnic or immigrant communities; and be it further

Resolved, That national and District boards and staffs and the Ethnic Resource Center be encouraged to network the existing resources for reaching ethnic groups; and be it finally

Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to conduct at least one Bible study and training event yearly to assist in understanding and reaching out to the ethnic groups in the respective areas.

Action: Adopted as amended (12).

(The words *major ethnic people groups* in the last resolve was amended to read "ethnic groups" by common consent. A proposed amendment to add the words *upon completion of adult Confirmation classes* after the word *positions* in the third resolve received no action.)

To Develop Circuit Outreach Strategies

RESOLUTION 1-07

Overture 1-25 (CW, p. 161)

WHEREAS, Each Circuit has within its borders opportunities for outreach, such as new missions, ethnic groups, care-giving ministries, support groups, established congregations, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Each Circuit in its area is in the best position to know of the unchurched and the personal/family needs of people which invite the Gospel's message and power; and

WHEREAS, The development and use of Circuit enablers has helped some Districts in developing an awareness and interest in providing for outreach strategies on the part of Circuits; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Circuits of the Synod be encouraged to organize mission start committees to investigate the opportunities for outreach within their borders by making use of the resources available to them, such as those provided by the materials and District evangelism boards and the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (demographic data) and the Aid Association for Lutheran's Church Membership Initiative; and be it further

Resolved, That these resources be used by the congregations and Circuits and that they be encouraged to diagnose needs and develop outreach strategies; and be it further

Resolved, That Circuits be encouraged to use national and District resources in training Circuit enablers to guide congregations and Circuits to develop Circuit outreach efforts where possible and to commit themselves to each other in sharing resources and insights to strengthen the church among them; and be it finally

Resolved, That Circuit Counselors report to the District President/mission executives the progress made within their respective Circuit.

Action: Adopted as amended (12).

(The words *and that they be encouraged* were added to the second resolve by common consent.)

To Intensify Witness among Muslims

RESOLUTION 1-08

Overtures 1-10A-D (CW, pp. 157-58)

Rationale:

Statistics suggest that Muslims now number one billion in the world and that Islam has spread to and continues to grow on all continents. One person in five is a Muslim; 80,000 Muslims are born daily and 30 million annually; the world Muslim population doubles in 27 years.

Muslims form the largest segment of unreached people in the world—about one-third of those "who have not heard."

Muslims now number about five million in the United States (one million are African Americans) and 250,000 in Canada. Islam is the fastest growing religion in North America.

We confess "that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ," including the world of Muslims, that "He has committed to us the message of reconciliation" for Muslims also (2 Cor. 5:18-21 NIV).

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention assembled instruct the Board for Evangelism Services and the Board for Mission Services to interpret frequently the theological and sociological understanding of Islam and Muslim culture to the people of the Synod by all media means available, presenting the challenges and providing witnessing helps for Christian witness to Muslims in North America; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Mission Services assist Districts and congregations in developing strategies toward effective witness to Muslims in North America wherever opportunities exist; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Mission Services during the next triennium identify at least two world area mission fields where evangelization opportunities among Muslims are possible and intentionally intensify and expand ministries to those fields; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Mission Services and the Board for Evangelism Services at the 1995 convention of the Synod report on the progress made on the above initiatives.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Support Work of Commission on Black Ministry

RESOLUTION 1-09

Report R1-05 (CW, pp. 34—38)

Rationale:

The convention Witness and Outreach Floor Committee has reviewed the work of the Commission on Black Ministry.

The committee has noted the 1991 Black Ministry Task Force Report (CW, p. 35) generated from the 1989 Wichita convention.

The Commission on Black Ministry has developed a mission statement and goals (CW, p. 35).

Resolved, That this convention of the Synod embrace and support the mission statement and goals for the '90s as set forth by the Commission on Black Ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That schools, colleges, and seminaries be encouraged to recruit and employ African-American faculty members and develop new models of training professional church workers (TEE); and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod and Districts be encouraged to recruit, elect, and appoint African-Americans to positions of leadership and service and facilitate the involvement of African Americans in all aspects of ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, That we beseech God to pour out His Holy Spirit upon us as we share the Good News of Jesus Christ with great boldness.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Provide Materials for Witnessing to Unchurched Family Members

RESOLUTION 1-10

Overtures 1-27A-B (CW, p. 162)

WHEREAS, With greater mobility, with absence of extended family support, with growing numbers of unchurched people and those of other world religions, and with the changing nature of families, more dysfunctional families, and declining denominational loyalty are increasing; and

WHEREAS, Those Lutherans who marry someone outside of the Christian faith and those Lutherans who live with unchurched family members need encouragement and support in knowing how to witness to them; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations provide group activities, Bible studies, and other opportunities for ministry that equip and enable Lutheran members to share concerns and find support and care giving; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Evangelism Services provide witnessing helps to reach out and witness to unchurched family members; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Evangelism Services provide guidelines for professional church workers on how to minister to the growing number of members who live in the same household with someone who is unchurched.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Train "Living Mission" Teams

RESOLUTION 1-11

Overtures 1-30A-B (CW, p. 162)

WHEREAS, The International Lutheran Women's Missionary League has provided the Board for Evangelism Services a 1991 LWML project grant to train lay people and pastors in each congregation to provide the spark needed to enable people to be more effective in the mission of hearing the message of forgiveness of sins; and

WHEREAS, The goal of this project is to assist the LWML and congregation members to catch the vision of "living out their baptismal call to be witnesses of Jesus Christ" and "helping their congregation to be a mission base in the community," therefore be it

Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to identify teams of one man and one LWML member to attend the District two-day workshop "Living the Mission" to be held between late 1992 and 1994.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Join in Celebrating 100th Anniversary of IELC

RESOLUTION 1-12

Overture 1-14 (CW, pp. 158-59)

WHEREAS, Under the blessing of God the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) came into being as the result of LCMS mission work begun in 1895 by Karl Gustav Theodor Naether and Franz Edward Mohn; and

WHEREAS, The Lord during these 100 years has richly blessed LCMS work in India with many committed, faithful expatriate missionaries—clergy, teachers, and lay; and

WHEREAS, Since its recognition as a partner church in 1959, the IELC has maintained a close relationship with the LCMS and the family of Lutheran partner churches; and

WHEREAS, The IELC has as a church remained faithful to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His Word; and

WHEREAS, The Lord through His means of grace has

blessed the IELC with more than 60,000 members and a national clergy of 137 pastors plus 22 evangelists, 21 lay preachers, and 615 teachers; and

WHEREAS, The Rev. Isaac Moon in a personal visit and report to the Board for Mission Services presented the IELC's new vision and goal of winning 10,000 new converts for Christ and establishing 100 new congregations during the next four years in commemoration of the IELC's 100th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, President Moon extended an invitation to the BFMS/LCMS to join in thanking and praising God for 100 years of blessing; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 1995 convention of the Synod mark this important milestone in LCMS mission history with a special service and observance of thanksgiving and praise during the convention; and be it further

Resolved, That a special thanksgiving offering at that service be designated as an anniversary gift to the IELC to assist the India church in its determination to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have not yet received Him as Lord and Savior.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Support Great Commission Convocation

RESOLUTION 1-13

Overture 1-37 (CW, p. 164)

Rationale:

The Board of Directors approved the sponsorship of another Great Commission Convocation on October 7-10, 1993, in Minneapolis-St. Paul. The three convocations in the 1980s proved very beneficial for the participants in their role as daring disciples.

The convocation in 1993 will seek to help the members of our congregations reach out to the lost and unchurched, consider new methods of outreach, and confront the numerous changes in our society that profoundly affect the church's ministries. It will also evaluate and promote new approaches in mission and ministry, boost morale as partners in the Gospel and interest in proclaiming the Gospel, and help congregations establish networks that involve them in reaching, teaching, and caring for all people in our changing world. Our church body especially needs to strengthen its witnessing and proclamation of the Gospel to those of other cultures living in the United States as well as throughout the world.

The agenda for Convocation '93 is being built around four themes: "Shine like Stars"—in the family, in the church, in society, and in the world.

Resolved, That the Synod encourage congregations to send several participants (lay and professional) to be participants; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage congregations to support the convocation with their prayers and their own planning; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to provide financial assistance to those attending.

Action: Adopted (3).

To Encourage Greater Use of Lutheran Center in Mexico City

RESOLUTION 1-14

Overture 1-32 (CW, p. 163)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is co-owner of the Lutheran Center in Mexico City; and

WHEREAS, The closing of Augsburg Seminary in Mexico City in 1983 made possible this Lutheran Center which is now primarily dependent on foreign group rental to meet its operational costs; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Center is ideally situated with its dormitory campus in the center of the Americas not only to provide cross-cultural exposure, mission education, and Spanish-language immersion programs, but also to serve as a general retreat center; and

WHEREAS, Capturing a global vision for the need to share the Gospel in all the world is sometimes best done experientially; and

WHEREAS, There is relatively inexpensive, easy access for U.S. citizens to this neighboring foreign destination which is also the largest city in the world; and

WHEREAS, Numerous Lutheran groups found the experience to be culturally and spiritually enriching and challenging; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Mission Services, which shares a supervisory role in maintaining the Lutheran Center, be encouraged to advertise the availability of this center to the church-at-large; and be it further

Resolved, That LCMS entities and institutions be encouraged to consider the Lutheran Center's use both for educational and spiritual growth purposes as well as to help U.S. Lutherans capture a vision for mission to Hispanic Americans both in Mexico and in the U.S.; and be it further

Resolved, That the study/travel programs to the Lutheran Center sponsored jointly by the LCMS Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support and the Office for Hispanic Ministry be encouraged; and be it finally

Resolved, That we thank God for this facility and for the potential of its ongoing usefulness to the educational and spiritual ministries of the LCMS.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Refer Concerns to Board for Mission Services

RESOLUTION 1-15

Overtures 1-16-18, 1-20-22, 1-24 (CW, pp. 159-61)

WHEREAS, Overtures 1-16, 1-17, 1-18, 1-20, 1-21, 1-22, and 1-24 address the importance of bringing the Gospel to Jewish, Native American, and Eritrean peoples; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention assembled express its concern for, and commitment to, bringing the Gospel to Jewish, Native American, and Eritrean peoples; and be it further

Resolved, That these concerns expressed be referred to the BFMS for appropriate action.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Change Director of Evangelism to Director of Christian Outreach

RESOLUTION 1-18

Overture 1-40 (CW, pp. 165-66)

WHEREAS, Christ College Irvine, Irvine, Calif., and Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., have prepared students for full-time service in the ministry of the church in the 1980s through the office of the *Director of Evangelism*; and

WHEREAS, The Lord of the church has blessed these ministries of Christian outreach in many mission fields; and

WHEREAS, The graduates of these programs, the faculties of Christ College Irvine and Concordia College, St. Paul, concur that recruitment for this ministry could be more effective if a name change for this office would be made; and

WHEREAS, Surveys have been made of pastors in at least two Districts (Pacific Southwest District and California-Nevada-Hawaii District) resulting in the new designation *Director of Christian Outreach* being preferred by a large majority to any other name; and

WHEREAS, The faculty and the Board of Regents of Christ College Irvine have approved the designation *Director of Christian Outreach* as a name change for the previous *Director of Evangelism*; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention in 1992 change the name designation for the ministry known as the Director of Evangelism program to be herewith identified by the LCMS as *Director of Christian Outreach*.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Revise Bylaws on Function of Communication Services

RESOLUTION 1-17

Overture 1-41 (CW, p. 166)

Rationale:

Because of the rapid change in technology, the present Bylaws defining the functions of the Board for Communication Services are too limiting and do not reflect the realities of the current situation.

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.403 f, g, and h be amended as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

- f. maintain liaison and cooperation with ~~the appropriate units of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. and with assigned auxiliary and auxiliaries~~, other recognized service organizations, and other appropriate entities;
- g. serve as a resource to the various boards, commissions, congregations, and other entities of the Synod by providing creative ideas and information along with programs, production facilities, and other ~~material~~ assistance for ~~radio and television ministries~~ print and electronic media;
- h. encourage and assist the Synod's high school, colleges, universities, and seminaries in providing educational opportunities in ~~radio and television~~ print and electronic media.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 1-18

Overtures 1-19, 1-23, 1-36 (CW, pp. 160-61, 164)

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
1-19	Indian Ministry Position	No funding
1-23	Jewish Ministry Position	No funding
1-36	To Thank God for the Spread of Christianity in Americas	Because all the relevant resolves are covered in other resolutions and previous conventions

Action: Adopted (14).

2. Congregational Ministries

To Form Congregational Mission Boards

RESOLUTION 2-01

Report R1-8, App. III (CW, pp. 1-10, 359-68)

Rationale:

A primary responsibility of the local congregation is to carry out the Great Commission given by its Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18-20). He has bid His church to go and make disciples of all nations both in the local community and in all the world (Acts 1:8). Deliberate and sustained effort is required to fulfill this assignment. This is because the life and work of the church is marred by sin and hindered by the forces of evil which surround it in this world. One evidence of this is the continual temptation for the church to turn inward, to be concerned about its own needs and desires, while neglecting or ignoring the needs of the unchurched who are also to be an object of the church's concern and love. Consequently, if the local congregation is to be faithful to its Lord in carrying out His Great Commission, some internal structure or group is needed to keep this responsibility in all of its aspects before the congregation as it goes about its worship and work. Therefore be it

Resolved, That every congregation of the Synod as it seeks with great boldness to tell everyone what He has done be encouraged to form a congregational mission board with some or all of the following goals:

1. To keep the world of the Great Commission before the congregation, its boards, committees, organizations, and members
2. To support and promote a variety of congregational efforts to reach the unchurched in the local community
3. To inform the congregation about opportunities for mission outreach through Circuits, District and the Synod
4. To encourage the congregation and all of its entities to support congregational, Circuit, District, and synodical mission outreach opportunities with prayers, gifts, and appropriate personal witness and service
5. To explore networking possibilities with sister congregations either to give or receive assistance in cross-cultural outreach and ministry
6. To work with the parents, pastors, teachers, DCEs, and other leaders in identifying young people to whom God has given gifts for ministry and encourage them to use these gifts in full-time professional church service

Action: *Adopted as amended* (7).

(By common consent the word *Circuits* was added in point 3.)

To Address Worship Needs in Synod

RESOLUTION 2-02

Overtures 2-08-11, 2-14, 2-16, 2-18-20 (CW, pp. 172-76)

Our Synod's Constitution (Art. III, 7) states that "the Synod, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions,



Committee 2 Chairman Arleigh L. Lutz

shall . . . encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith"; and since this Christian body desires to proclaim Christ *With Great Boldness* to our members and to a lost and dying world *now* and in the decades ahead; therefore be it

Resolved, That the worship life of our people receive the highest priority in our congregations and from our synodical leadership; and be it further

Resolved, That appropriate groups (e.g., CTCR, Commission on Worship) detail for the church a thorough theology of worship and how our worship practices develop Christian character; and be it further

Resolved, That all entities of the Synod be encouraged to study the Lutheran Confessions in reference to worship and worship practices; and be it further

Resolved, That all worship (liturgies, sermons, songs, prayers, etc.) conducted within the Synod

1. be Christ-centered and not human-centered;
2. distinguish properly between Law and Gospel;
3. emphasize the Gospel of Christ's forgiveness; and
4. be faithful to the Word of God and in harmony with our Lutheran Confessions; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship be retained as a self-standing commission; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship be charged

with the responsibility to meet the common needs of peoples of diverse backgrounds by

1. establishing goals and objectives based on a Christ-centered Word and Sacrament understanding of worship;
2. establishing channels of networking among worship leaders through the use of District and Circuit-level models, for both print and interpersonal networking;
3. encouraging production of worship resources which are based in the Christ-centered celebration of Word and Sacrament;
4. reviewing hymnals currently used and encouraging poets and musicians to create and submit new hymn texts, hymn tunes, and liturgical settings; and be it finally

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Board of Directors be requested to make immediate provision for appropriate staff, preferably full-time, to provide bold leadership in this area.

Action: *Adopted as amended (7).*

(The resolution was amended by addition of the second resolve. Also, the word *creatively* was deleted from the sixth resolve and the words *reflect sensitivity to ethnic and cultural diversity while remaining* were replaced by the word *are* in point 3 of the final resolve.)

To Make Family Ministry a High Priority

RESOLUTION 2-03

Overture 2-30 (CW, p. 178)

WHEREAS, Ministry to and concern for the well-being of all families are immediate priorities and ongoing concerns of the church's ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That the concept and approach of the Family Initiative Council (FIC) be affirmed and applauded and that the FIC be encouraged to pursue the critical targets and goals it has identified (CW, p. 47); and be it further

Resolved, That the FIC be encouraged to employ the strike-force concept, to develop and network new and available resources and family models at every level within the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations be challenged to respond with great boldness to the needs of families by developing a quality ministry reflecting the critical targets and goals of the FIC.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Examine and Enhance Preparation for Confirmation and First Communion

RESOLUTION 2-04

Overtures 2-22-24 (CW, pp. 176-77)

Rationale:

Preparing children and adults for membership in the church is an important responsibility of the local congregation. A great variety of confirmation practices and policies, including policies concerning admission to the Sacrament of the Altar both before and after confirmation, are currently in place within the Synod. Because this variety will continue, there is a need for each congregation

to carry out this responsibility in a way that is thorough, genuinely Lutheran, and sensitive to the practices of sister congregations.

Resolved, That every congregation of the Synod be encouraged to examine and enhance its efforts to prepare children and adults for confirmation and first Communion by

1. providing extensive Lutheran catechetical instruction based on the Holy Scriptures, the Six Chief Parts of Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism, and a Lutheran hymnal;
2. involving children's parents as fully as possible in the entire instruction and preparation process;
3. establishing a policy for admission to first Communion (e.g., whether before or after confirmation) that is sensitive to the diverse practices and customs of sister congregations; and
4. determining the age and time of junior confirmation carefully according to local circumstances and needs, taking into consideration the mobility of population and the practice of sister congregations.

Action: *Adopted as amended (10).*

(The resolution was amended by the addition of the words and a Lutheran hymnal in section 1.)

To Resume Publishing Obituaries of Professional Church Workers

RESOLUTION 2-05

Overtures 1-11-12 (CW, p. 158)

WHEREAS, The Scriptures encourage us: "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith" (Heb. 13:7 RSV); and

WHEREAS, From its very beginning the Synod has recognized the contributions of dedicated servants of the cross by publishing obituaries in its official publications, listing areas of service and other gifts that have benefited the life and mission of the church; and

WHEREAS, The demise of the *Update* bulletin has eliminated the traditional full obituaries for our professional workers which have noted and honored their service to the Lord; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod's Board for Communication Services, in conjunction with the Department of Human Resources, disseminate such information once again in the *Lutheran Witness*.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 2-06

Overtures 2-01, 2-05, 2-07A-B, 2-13, 2-25-27C, 2-29 (CW, pp. 167, 169-73, 177-78)

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:

<i>Overture</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Reason</i>
2-01	Change name of Board for Parish Services	Impractical. If 4-02 is adopted, independent board no longer exists in three years
2-05 2-07A-B	Curriculum Editors 1991 Catechism	Board of Directors decided Bylaw 11.15 provides for doctrinal review of published materials
2-13	Hymnal Target Date	Commission will survey convention

2-25	YLTP Program	Will be included in Introductory Remarks
2-26	Age Requirements	If 4-02 is adopted, youth board no longer exists independently
2-27A-C	Walther League Anniversary	Will be included in Introductory Remarks
2-29	Sanctity of Life Sunday	Already in place

Action: Adopted (14).

3. Theology and Church Relations

To Commend CTCR Document *A Theological Statement of Mission*

RESOLUTION 3-01

Overtures 3-98, 3-102 (CW, pp. 210-11)

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention asked 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" (Res. 3-02, 1986 Proceedings); and

WHEREAS, The CTCR in November 1991, completed and distributed *A Theological Statement of Mission* (1992, CW, pp. 322-30) in response to this request; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has called on its members to give high priority to God's mission in keeping with His will that His church seize every opportunity to give an uncompromising, yet winsome, testimony to the Gospel of Jesus Christ which declares that He alone is the Savior of the world and the only way to heaven; therefore be it

Resolved, That *A Theological Statement of Mission* prepared by the CTCR be commended to the Synod for study and use as a tool to aid the various units of the Synod for the development and/or evaluation of their own mission statements; and be it further

Resolved, That all members of the Synod be encouraged to develop a clearer understanding of their involvement in God's mission and be moved to participate in it with greater joy, fervor, and enthusiasm.

Action: Adopted (4).

To Encourage Formation of International Mission Association

RESOLUTION 3-02

App. III (CW, p. 365)

WHEREAS, The desire for closer ties among confessional Lutheran church bodies was a recurring theme during the March 1992 meeting of the International Lutheran Conference (ILC) Continuation Committee; and

WHEREAS, The *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties* envisions increased cooperation between and among the members of the ILC as together they explore and implement coordinated mission planning and outreach; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention endorse the recommendation of the *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties* that invites interested sister churches to discuss forming an association that would

1. enable sister churches with limited material resources to participate and take ownership in a wider mission endeavor;



Committee 3 Chairman Albert M. Marcls

2. expand the mission view and world consciousness of all participating sister churches;

3. coordinate cross-cultural exchanges and the sharing of resources between participating sister churches;

4. develop creative ways of working together to proclaim the Gospel to every nation; and

5. keep before all participating sister churches the global dimension of our common task in the Great Commission.

Action: Adopted (4).

(A substitute motion calling for discontinuation of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations was ruled out of order and the chair was sustained in the ruling.)

To Combat All Racism

RESOLUTION 3-03

Report R3-01, B, 2 (CW, p. 66); Overture 3-100 (CW, p. 211)

WHEREAS, Racism, namely the mindset that considers one group of people to be superior to another, continues to hurt its victims and cause offense in the church and conflict in society; and

WHEREAS, The Bible teaches that all people come from Adam: "From one man He made every nation to have the people live all over the earth" (Acts 17:26); and

WHEREAS, The Bible teaches that all Christians, regardless of race, color, nationality, social status, or gender,

are God's chosen people in Christ, who has broken down the dividing wall of hostility by His perfect sacrifice for the entire human family (1 Peter 2:8-9 and Eph. 2:14-16); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations is currently working toward the completion of a major study of racism in the church; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod urge its members to repent of any attitude or practice of racism as individuals and congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod repudiate all racism and urge its members to celebrate God's love in Christ and their forgiveness and acceptance as God's children by loving and serving all their fellow humans as they have been loved and served, without any exception of persons, and to work toward social justice in their neighborhoods and workplaces and all areas of society; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod assembled in convention urge the rapid completion of the CTCR study; and be it finally

Resolved, That the members of the Synod be urged to make maximum use of this study upon its completion and to pray the Lord of the church to bless this study and cause it to effect appropriate changes in attitudes and actions.

Action: Adopted as amended (4).

(In the first resolve, the words *any attitude or* were substituted for *their* by common consent.)

To Encourage Service of Women in the Church

RESOLUTION 3-04

Overtures 3-68A-B, 3-70A-B (CW, pp. 202-03)

WHEREAS, The Synod continues to recognize with thanksgiving all of God's gifts to the church for the accomplishment of His mission of bringing the Gospel to the whole world; and

WHEREAS, "Women and men are equally members of the priesthood of all believers by faith in Jesus Christ. They are both called to 'declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light' " (CTCR, 1985, *Women in the Church*, p. 18); and

WHEREAS, The Synod has commended and encouraged the continuing service of men and women to our Lord and His church, in accordance with His will as set forth in the Holy Scriptures; and

WHEREAS, Women have not always been accorded the opportunity to give full expression to their privileges and responsibilities as members of the priesthood of all believers; therefore be it

Resolved, That the full, appropriate service of women at synodical, District, and congregational levels be encouraged; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage continuing study and discussion of what the Scriptures teach concerning the role of women in the church, making use of the various resources prepared by the CTCR and the President's Commission on Women (e.g., the CTCR's report, *Women in the Church* and the PCW's *God's Woman for All Generations*).

Action: Adopted (4).

(An amendment to add the words *and men* in appropriate places after the word *women* was declined after a motion to refer the matter back to committee 3 was declared out of order.)

To Urge Completion of Study on Service of Women in All Congregational Offices

RESOLUTION 3-05

Overtures 3-63-64C, 3-66, 3-77-79 (CW, pp. 200-02, 204-05)

WHEREAS, Questions continue to be raised and guidance sought with regard to which congregational offices women may hold in accord with scriptural teaching; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has been requested to prepare a study on the eligibility of women for service in all offices of the congregation, including that of chairman, vice-chairman, and elder; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod urge the CTCR to complete this study for distribution to the members of the Synod one year prior to the 1995 synodical convention; and be it further

Resolved, That as the study progresses, the CTCR be encouraged to solicit and welcome comments and concerns from interested members, groups, and congregations within the Synod.

Action: Adopted as amended (6).

(The resolution was amended by addition of the final resolve. It was also amended by the addition of the words *one year* in the first resolve, as well as deletion of the words *give high priority to the completion of* between the words *to* and *this*.)

To Affirm Proper Relationship Between Congregations and Their Pastors

RESOLUTION 3-06A

Report R3-01, I, B, 13; I, C, 2; I, C, 6 (CW, pp. 66-67, 70); Overtures 3-43, 3-45, 3-50-52 (CW, pp. 193-96)

WHEREAS, God exhorts both pastors and congregations to serve one another in their respective responsibilities so that no obstacle may be placed in the way of the church's proclamation of the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, Mutual edification, support, and encouragement yields manifold blessings to the congregations and to the pastors; and

WHEREAS, The body of Christ is harmed when either the pastor or the congregation attempts to exercise unscriptural authority over the other; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm the scriptural position of the church and its ministry as taught in the Lutheran Confessions that God has instituted the office of the pastoral ministry and that the one who holds this office carries it out on behalf of and with accountability to God and those through whom God has called him; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod guard against all distortions of the scriptural position.

Action: Adopted (10).

To Appoint Committee to Study Functions of Auxiliary Offices

RESOLUTION 3-07A

Report R6-02 (CW, pp. 121-22); Overtures 3-18-21, 3-23-29, 3-31A-C, 3-33A-35, 3-38, 6-16-17 (CW, pp. 185-92, 273)

WHEREAS, The Synod has established the category of "Certified Church Workers, Lay" (Res. 3-05B, 1989 *Proceedings*); and

WHEREAS, The Synod has expressed its position regarding lay ministry in Res. 3-05B; and

WHEREAS, Questions regarding lay ministry have arisen and overtures have been submitted to this convention concerning the involvement and supervision of laymen in Word and Sacrament ministry, definition of terms, clarity of titles, and the relationship between the pastoral ministry and auxiliary offices; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations, in response to concerns raised by the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK), has reviewed Res. 3-05B and has concluded that the provisions of Res. 3-05B regarding the involvement of laymen in Word and Sacrament ministry are in accord with the teaching of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, including Art. XIV of the Augsburg Confession; and

WHEREAS, The urgency of our time and the salvation of humankind compels us to marshal the resources of the Gospel as effectively as possible; therefore be it

Resolved, That the synodical President appoint a committee to continue to study and evaluate the functions of those carrying out ministry in auxiliary offices, including the relationships of the auxiliary offices to each other and to the pastoral office; and be it further

Resolved, That said committee make appropriate recommendations to the 1995 convention.

Action: Declined (11).

(An amendment calling for deletion of the fourth whereas was declined, as was an amendment asking for addition of the words, *the concept of permanent deacon and* in the first resolve between the words *including and the*. A motion to consider Overture 3-27, "To Limit Use of 'Lay Ministers' in Area of Public Ministry," was defeated.)

To Provide for Ordination of Certain Laymen Involved in Word and Sacrament Ministry

RESOLUTION 3-08

Overtures 3-24A-25, 3-30, 3-32A-C, 3-36-37 (CW, pp. 188-92)

WHEREAS, Some individuals have for many years been providing preaching and sacramental ministry in certain extraordinary situations, even though they have not completed a synodical seminary program or been ordained; and

WHEREAS, Some of these men have gained experience, and in many cases have had additional education—which suggests that they be recognized in a way that goes beyond the licensure by District Presidents which was authorized at the 1989 synodical convention (Res. 3-05B); and

WHEREAS, The 1989 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod resolved:

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? (Res. 3-12, B, "Ordination of Nonseminary Trained Men Serving in Word and Sacrament Ministry. Alternate Route to the Pastoral Office"); and

WHEREAS, At the request of the Standing Committee for Pastoral Ministry, the President of the Synod appointed the Colloquy Committee, augmented by two District presidents, to study these questions; and

WHEREAS, This committee recommends that in certain cases, it is appropriate and necessary for such laymen to be ordained; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following paragraph be inserted in Bylaw 6.97, "Program of Instruction," after section f:

g. In the case of men who have served at least 10 years in Word and Sacrament ministry and are currently licensed for preaching and administering the Sacrament by a District president, the Synodical Colloquy Committee may itself carry out the entire colloquy process. This may be done only at the request of a congregation holding membership in the Synod and with the support of the appropriate District president. In such cases, the Synodical Colloquy Committee may approve the ordination of such laymen who are found to be well-qualified, or may assign a program of study at its own discretion and may waive the requirement of a college degree;

and be it further

Resolved, That the paragraphs currently denominated g and h be denominated h and i.

Action: Adopted (12).

(An amendment calling for replacement of the words *have served at least 10 years with are serving* was declined. A motion to table was also lost.)

To Study Theology and Practice of "the Divine Call"

RESOLUTION 3-09A

Overtures 3-40-42, 3-44, 3-46-49, L3-111 (CW, pp. 192-95; TB, p. 10)

WHEREAS, Overtures to this convention have raised several issues that emanate from various perceptions and implications re "the divine call," e.g., initial placement of candidates, dismissal from office, retirement, the appropriateness of the term *divine call* for those serving in elected and appointed offices, etc.; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention assign to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, in consultation with the Council of Presidents and representatives of our Synod's terminal schools, the preparation of a single document that provides answers to the questions and concerns

within the church regarding the theology and practice of "the divine call," utilizing the writings of C. F. W. Walther (i.e., his book *Church and Ministry* and essay "The Congregation's Rights to Choose Its Pastor").

Action: *Adopted as amended (10).*

(By common consent, the words, *utilizing the writings of C. F. W. Walther . . . Its Pastor* were added to the final resolve.)

To Promote Greater Activity in Support of Scripture's Pro-Life Position

RESOLUTION 3-10

Overtures 3-80-86 (CW, pp. 205-07).

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" (Res. 3-02A, 1979 Proceedings); and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States has signaled the possible end of abortion on demand by its ruling in the case of *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, Inc.*, in allowing governmental authorities, particularly state and local governments, greater latitude in deciding human life issues from the time of conception; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS has prayerfully and earnestly sought such actions through convention resolutions, citizen petition and participation, and the submission of *amicus curiae* briefs to the Supreme Court as recently as 1991; and

WHEREAS, There continue to be developments in the life sciences (e.g., experimental use of fetal tissue and early detection of unwanted genetic traits) that signal the prospect of ongoing concerns beyond the present abortion law crisis, underscoring the increasing pressures brought to bear on decisions to undergo an abortion affecting the people of our society; therefore be it

Resolved, That the pastors of the LCMS be encouraged to provide strong leadership in reaffirming the LCMS position of sanctity of life and to help those who suffer from stress due to a variety of causes leading to consideration of abortion, and to provide counsel for those who face the tragic reality of post-abortion syndrome; and be it further

Resolved, That we call upon all members of our Synod, via this convention, to bear witness boldly to our pro-life position; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage all congregations to place life issues under the auspices of a congregational committee, working with a pro-life resource and contact person to become better informed about all aspects surrounding the issue of abortion, to observe an annual Life Sunday, and seek out all opportunities for extending the fullest protection of law for all human life from the time of conception

until natural death and exercise those opportunities in a responsible manner; and be it further

Resolved, That each Circuit of our Synod be encouraged to establish an active Lutherans for Life group, thereby availing themselves of resources to promote the principles of human life; and be it finally

Resolved, That our Synod continue to be a strong advocate for the protection of human life, for the improvement of its quality, and for the safety of defenseless human beings of all ages endangered by the current carelessness and ruthless selfishness of our society.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

(An amendment proposing to delete the second-last resolve was defeated. Also declined was an amendment to add, "**Resolved**, That congregations and their pastors stress the sin of direct or auxiliary involvement in the practice or counseling of abortion, and be encouraged to admonish and, if necessary, excommunicate the impenitent.")

During discussion, an effort was made to introduce an amendment relating to the destiny of the soul of the aborted child. The delegate who wished to offer the amendment was assured by the committee chairman that it would be forwarded to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations for information as it completes its study on bioethics.)

To Reaffirm Synod's Position on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

RESOLUTION 3-11A

Overtures 3-93-94 (CW, pp. 208-09)

WHEREAS, The practice of euthanasia and of assisted suicide is becoming more common in our society; and

WHEREAS, It is critically necessary to counteract a false understanding of compassion in our culture which claims that terminating the lives of those who are weak and helpless is a compassionate act; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations has provided a most useful instrument in its *Report on Euthanasia with Guiding Principles* (1979); and

WHEREAS, This study is more than 12 years old, and in that time a large number of developments in medical science and practice have occurred, with much additional thought and many different interpretations of this subject surfacing and being widely discussed; and

WHEREAS, There is a growing need to provide spiritual care and support for those who struggle with the issues and burdens of caring for patients with chronically debilitating illnesses, including material support; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR is currently working on an update of its *Report on Euthanasia with Guiding Principles*; therefore be it

Resolved, That the CTCR be urged to complete and distribute its update as soon as possible; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention assembled commend to its members the following guiding principles found in the CTCR's 1979 *Report on Euthanasia* for reference and guidance:

1. *Euthanasia, in its proper sense, is a synonym for mercy killing, which involves suicide and/or murder. It is, therefore, contrary to God's Law.*

2. As Creator, God alone knows with certainty whether a disease or an injury is incurable.

3. When the God-given powers of the body to sustain its own life can no longer function and doctors in their professional judgment conclude that there is no real hope for recovery even with life-support instruments, a Christian may in good conscience "let nature take its course."

4. Administering pain-killing medications, even at the risk of shortening life, is permissible, since this does not entail the choice of death as either a means or an end.

5. It is good ethical procedure for the doctor to request and receive a statement signed by the patient, if competent to consent, or by the nearest of kin, agreeing to the uselessness of further "heroic efforts" and consenting to termination of treatments.

6. Each person, no matter how infirm and socially useless he or she may appear to be, deserves to be accepted as a being created in the image of God.

7. While suffering is an intrusion into life, it provides the opportunity for Christian witness and service.

8. Often the time prior to death is so wrapped in mystery that no one ought forcibly to interrupt the movement of man's spirit as it may be communicating through God's Spirit with his Creator and Redeemer by way of responding in trust and inner yearning.

9. Death is not merely a physical but a crucial spiritual event for each person.

10. Any decisions made in this highly complex area, and any actions taken that may later appear to have been wrong, have been redeemed by that forgiveness which is available to all who put their trust in the work and merits of mankind's Savior and Redeemer.

11. The spiritual and moral questions raised by the issue of euthanasia are of such a nature that their evaluation is an enterprise touching on the very survival of the basic principles which undergird the integrity of our Christian faith and the survival of our cultural heritage. They constitute the primary spiritual and moral crucible of this age.

12. Christians are obligated to make their position known, by whatever means possible, as a way of helping to shape public opinion on the question of euthanasia.

and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to boldly address such ethical questions as the following to the society in which we live:

"What kind of people are we becoming if we cannot care for the weak and helpless?"

"What does it demonstrate about our character if we think we have the right to end life?"

Action: Adopted (11).

(In session 10 an amendment and two additional points were offered as additions to the original resolution. No action was taken on these proposals. However, in session 11 the revised resolution incorporated the proposed whereas as the second one in its 3-11A and one of the point as the final resolve. The specific points could not be changed since they were a direct quotation from a previous document. The proposed point which would have stated, "Spiritual care and support, however, must be provided for those who struggle with the issues and burdens of caring for patients with

such chronically debilitating illnesses such as Alzheimer's," was, in substance, included as a fifth whereas, the delegates adding the words *including material support*, by common consent.)

To Develop Plan for Ministry to Homosexuals and Their Families

RESOLUTION 3-12A

Overtures 3-86, 3-88A-C, 3-89A-B, 3-91 (CW, pp. 207-08)

WHEREAS, Many voices in our society as well as in various church bodies are expressing the view today that homophile behavior is an acceptable alternative lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, The Word of God clearly condemns homophile behavior in Lev. 18:22, Rom. 1:26-27, and 1 Cor. 6:9; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention in 1973 stated: "That the Synod recognize homophile behavior as intrinsically sinful"; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations document on *Human Sexuality, A Theological Perspective*, states, "Whatever the causes of such a condition may be, . . . homosexual orientation is profoundly 'unnatural' without implying that such a person's sexual orientation is a matter of conscious, deliberate choice. However, this fact cannot be used by the homosexual as an excuse to justify homosexual behavior. As a sinful human being, the homosexual is accountable to God for homosexual thoughts, words, and deeds." (*Human Sexuality, A Theological Perspective*, p. 35); and

WHEREAS, The redeeming love of Christ, which rescues humanity from sin, death, and the power of Satan, is offered to all through repentance and faith in Christ, regardless of the nature of their sinfulness; and

WHEREAS, The need exists to make available a carefully developed Law/Gospel ministry plan to congregations and other institutions in order to minister to those who are troubled by their homosexuality; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary for the church to expose and resist the sexual idolatry of our society; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in convention, reaffirm the position it stated in 1973, "That the Synod recognize homophile behavior as intrinsically sinful"; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Synod direct the appropriate boards and commissions to develop a plan for ministry usable by congregations, campus ministries, institutions, and agencies in the Synod, for the purpose of providing biblical and Gospel-oriented ministry to persons troubled by being homophile in their sexual orientations and to their families; and be it finally

Resolved, That the goals to be pursued by such a plan for ministry be

1. to offer to our world biblically alternative models of sexual celibacy outside of a committed, permanent heterosexual marriage and same-gender social, but not genetically sexual, deep friendships;

2. to confront the individual with his/her sinfulness, and call him/her to repentance;

3. to help the individual recognize that God can rescue individuals from homosexual orientation and practice;

4. to assure him/her of forgiveness in Christ, contingent upon sincere repentance and faith in Christ, and to assure him/her of the love and acceptance of the church;

5. to assist the individual to rely on Christ's love and strength to abstain from homophile behavior;

6. to help the individual to bear his/her burden without fear of recrimination and rejection by his/her sisters and brothers in Christ;

7. to find ways of ministering to families which include persons of homophile orientation;

8. to do all this patiently, persistently, and compassionately in the love and Spirit of Christ, who says, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Action: Adopted as amended twice (13).

(The resolution was amended by the addition of the seventh whereas and point 1 of the last resolve and was later amended by the addition of point 3 of the same resolve.)

To Respond to Concerns re Valparaiso University

RESOLUTION 3-13A

Overture 3-87-88C, 3-90, 3-92 (CW, pp. 207-08)

WHEREAS, Many questions have been raised and much concern expressed in the Synod regarding action taken by Valparaiso University to recognize the presence on campus of an organization called Gay and Lesbian Association; and

WHEREAS, This organization has recently changed its name to Gay and Lesbian Awareness in order to set itself apart from any perceived ties to Gay and Lesbian Association; and

WHEREAS, Valparaiso University, while not a synodical institution, has nevertheless historically enjoyed a cordial and mutually supportive relationship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The president of Valparaiso University, Dr. Alan Harre, has expressed in writing his "unqualified support for LCMS teaching and practice regarding homosexuality," i.e., "that the Synod recognizes that homophile behavior is intrinsically sinful" (1973 Res. 2-04); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod express appreciation for Dr. Harre's unqualified expression of support for the doctrinal position of the LCMS regarding homosexuality; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod again express the necessity of proclaiming pastorally the Law and Gospel to homosexual persons on university campuses and elsewhere; and be it finally

Resolved, That President Harre and his administration be encouraged to continue to give serious consideration to the concerns that are being expressed by congregations and Districts of the LCMS.

Action: Adopted (13).

(A motion was made to change the final resolve to state, *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention strongly encourage Presi-

dent Harre and his administration to cease recognition of the GALA group on campus because of the serious concerns that are being expressed by congregations and Districts of the LCMS." This was ruled a substitute motion which the convention agreed to consider but then declined after also declining to table the substitute motion and the main motion.)

To Complete Work on Inter-Christian Guidelines

RESOLUTION 3-14

Overtures 3-10-17 (CW, pp. 183-85)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations received a mandate from the Synod (Res. 3-03, 1981 *Proceedings*) to prepare practical guidelines "to assist the officials, pastors, teachers, congregations, and individuals in the Synod in determining which practices and activities are appropriate to the various levels of inter-Lutheran and inter-Christian relationships in which the Synod is involved"; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR has shared with pastors and congregations of the Synod a preliminary draft of its *Statement on Inter-Christian Relationships* which is to be used as an instrument of study and a tool to involve the entire church body in a participatory process; and

WHEREAS, Both support for and opposition to this instrument of study have been expressed throughout our church body; and

WHEREAS, It is to be recognized that the CTCR is only partially done with its 1981 convention mandate; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention thank the CTCR for its hard work on the project to this date; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention commend those who have already responded to the CTCR's study instrument; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Synod be encouraged to study the document with care and submit their comments and recommendations as soon as possible to the CTCR; and be it finally

Resolved, That the CTCR be encouraged to move toward the completion of practical guidelines on inter-Christian relationships by July 1994.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Commend Study of Lutheran—Roman Catholic Dialogue Statement on Justification

RESOLUTION 3-15

Report R3-01, I, A, 4; App. I (CW, pp. 65, 313-16)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran—Roman Catholic Dialogue in the United States completed its seventh round of bilateral dialogues by adopting a "Common Statement" on "Justification by Faith"; and

WHEREAS, This doctrine is the "articulus stantis et cadentis ecclesiae" (the article upon which the church stands or falls); and

WHEREAS, The participants in this dialogue have joy-

fully reported that Lutherans and Roman Catholics have reached a "fundamental consensus" in the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has prepared a response to this "Common Statement," affirming its belief that Lutherans and Roman Catholics "are now closer on the doctrine of justification than at any time since the collapse of their last extended official discussion of the topic at Regensburg in 1541"; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR has noted that both sides in the dialogue have also presented evidence that this affirmation "does not necessarily involve full agreement between Catholics and Lutherans on justification by faith"; therefore be it

Resolved, That we praise the Spirit who makes us one for bringing us to this historic point towards doctrinal unity; and be it further

Resolved, That we thank the LCMS participants in the dialogue for their faithful witness to our Lutheran heritage; and be it further

Resolved, That we commend *Justification by Faith* (Augsburg Publishing House, 1985) and the CTCR's response (CW, pp. 313-16) to the members of the Synod for study and reference; and be it finally

Resolved, That we urge the LCMS to continue to participate in this dialogue with prayers for the resolution of the disagreements that remain.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Encourage Theological Study

RESOLUTION 3-16

Report R1-8 (CW, p. 10)

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod has recommended that the pastor and teacher conferences of the Synod engage in intensive theological study of the following issues:

- The nature and distinctive functions of the pastoral office
- The ministries of men and women in the church
- Communion practices
- Lutheran worship practices
- Dealing with divisive and disruptive conduct
- End of life questions

and

WHEREAS, The church and its workers are well-served by serious and regular theological study by the conferences of ordained and commissioned ministers; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention encourage official conferences in the Districts as well as Circuit conferences and forums to engage in such theological study; and be it further

Resolved, That the Council of Presidents and the CTCR be asked to provide encouragement and helpful resources to facilitate such studies.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Encourage Study of CTCR Document *The End Times*

RESOLUTION 3-17

Overture 3-106 (CW, p. 214)

WHEREAS, Jesus emphasized that His kingdom is not of this world; and

WHEREAS, Many sincere Christians believe that Jesus will come again to establish a kingdom on this earth over which He will reign visibly for a thousand years; and

WHEREAS, Millennialist views concerning a reign of Christ on earth have led many Christians to embrace misleading ideas that are injurious to faith; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, on the basis of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions (AC Art. XVII), has rejected false teachings regarding a visible earthly, millennial reign of Christ; therefore be it

Resolved, That we give thanks to God for the CTCR's document *The End Times*, which addresses many of the errors and false teachings in our day and shows the clear teaching of God's Word concerning millennialism and other eschatological matters; and be it further

Resolved, That the document *The End Times*, prepared by the CTCR, be commended to the Synod—its pastors, teachers, professional church workers, and congregations—for study and direction in scriptural and confessional truths regarding the last times.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Commend CTCR Document

1 Corinthians 6:1-11:

An Exegetical Study to the Church for Careful Review

RESOLUTION 3-18

Overture 3-99 (CW, pp. 210-11)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has produced a report entitled *1 Corinthians 6:1-11: An Exegetical Study* (CW, 317-21); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod thank the CTCR for its efforts on this project; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Synod be encouraged to study the document with care and submit their reactions and responses to the CTCR.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Encourage Completion of Study on Gambling

RESOLUTION 3-19

Report R3-01, I, B, 11 (CW, p. 66); Overture 3-105 (CW, p. 214)

WHEREAS, The 1991 convention of the South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod formally requested that the Commission on Theology and Church Relations promptly address the subject of gambling; and

WHEREAS, Legalized gambling and accompanying concerns continue to proliferate throughout our society; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR has indicated that it is in the process of addressing this assignment in cooperation with our partner church, the Lutheran Church—Canada; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod commend the CTCR for its efforts to work together with the LCC in its work on this assignment; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR be encouraged to complete work on this assignment as soon as possible so that the church may be well advised regarding this very significant social and moral concern of our times.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Conduct a Study of Liberation Theology

RESOLUTION 3-20

Overtures 3-96A-B (CW, pp. 209-10)

WHEREAS, Liberation theology, a philosophy which blends Marxist thought and Christian teaching, is commonly discussed, preached, and taught in many countries by many diverse church groups as a "preferential option for the poor" and as a way for Christians living in the Third World to apply the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their own particular setting; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS has not produced a statement concerning liberation theology and its compatibility with confessional Lutheranism; and

WHEREAS, Such a statement would be of great benefit to the LCMS as it discusses liberation theology with other denominations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Theology and Church Relations conduct a comprehensive study of liberation theology and its variations in light of confessional Lutheranism.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Acknowledge and Use God's Gifts of Research and Analysis

RESOLUTION 3-21A

Overture 3-52 (CW, pp. 195-96)

WHEREAS, The scriptural doctrine of creation moves us to recognize and use God's gift of rational analysis of the earthly realm (also in the ministerial use of reason within the church) as is confessed in Luther's explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed; and

WHEREAS, The academic disciplines and research and planning help to shape insights and provide direction which may be used in the service of proclaiming the biblical message which alone informs us of the way of salvation in Christ Jesus; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention acknowledge God's good gifts of research and rational analysis and urge their appropriate use in the life and mission of the church.

Action: Adopted (14).

(A motion was made to table the resolution but was not sustained.)

To Recognize Pastoral Visitation as a Means of Edifying the Church

RESOLUTION 3-22

Overture 3-52 (CW, pp. 195-96)

WHEREAS, The practice of the ministry of the Word in the Christian church and the Lutheran tradition has included pastoral visitation by those who exercise the office of the holy ministry as synodical President, District President, and Circuit Counselor; and

WHEREAS, Such visitation provides one means for the mutual edification of the church at the congregational, Circuit, District, and synodical levels; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS continue to seek the godly edification of parish life and pastoral work through such wholesome and faithful visitations which through the Gospel encourage and support proper exercise of the callings of pastors and congregations.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Decline Request to Add to CTCR Membership

RESOLUTION 3-23

Overture 3-109 (CW, p. 215)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations from its founding in 1962 until 1981 was composed of 23 voting members, including 8 theological professors, 7 pastors, 6 laymen, and 2 teachers; and

WHEREAS, In 1981 the membership of the CTCR was reduced to a voting membership of 13, including 4 laymen, 4 pastors, 2 professors, 1 teacher, and 2 others; and

WHEREAS, Three additional theological professors were added to the membership of the Commission in 1986 (Res. 3-16) so that at the present time the composition of its voting membership of 16 must always include 5 theological professors (4 of whom are teaching in the Synod's seminaries), 4 pastors, 4 laymen, 1 teacher, and 2 others; and

WHEREAS, Since 1981 the presidents of the Synod's two seminaries serve as advisory members of the CTCR without limitation of tenure; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 3-109 "To Add Two Seminary Professors to Commission on Theology and Church Relations" be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted (14).

4. Program and Finance

To Retain Budget Priorities

RESOLUTION 4-01

Overtures 4-02A-4-08E, 4-13-15, 4-25, 4-29-30, 6-08
(CW, pp. 220-23, 227-29, 271)

Rationale:

Our beloved Synod in its stated objectives (Constitution, Art. III) has rightly underscored as primary activities of the church the work of extending the Gospel witness into all the world and the training of pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers. These long-standing objectives continue to enjoy a high priority in our Synod, as is evidenced by the many overtures submitted to this convention which express concern that budgeting continue to reflect these primary functions of the church. A variety of suggestions also advocate measures intended to ensure that these priorities will be constantly maintained despite income shortfalls and other budget cuts.

While the mandating of fixed budgetary percentages may seem to be a simple and straightforward solution, it should be noted that complications abound due to

- varying perceptions of what may be included as mission activity and expenditures,
- varying bases for comparisons as a result of customary distinctions made between and allocations of unrestricted and restricted funding,
- varying questions regarding the method of administering financial support to synodical schools,
- varying requirements of previous convention mandates and the need to respond to opportunities in our changing world, and more.

It should also be noted that the current apportionment of unrestricted synodical income already approximates many of the proposed percentages advocated by the above-referenced overtures. The proposed 1992/93 budget established by the Board of Directors designates 35 percent of such income from congregations and Districts for World/National Missions and Outreach and an equal percentage for Preparing Church Workers. When restricted and board-designated monies (anticipated to exceed \$25 million in 1992/93) are also included, the percentages still total 29.3 percent and 27.6 percent respectively. (See budget addendum.)

It should finally be noted that at the present time while total giving throughout the church continues to increase, unrestricted income shortfalls are creating the need for budget reductions and a corresponding downsizing in many departments at the national level of the Synod. Allocations for mission work and church-worker training have nonetheless been favored and maintained at a relatively constant level, reflecting a continuing awareness of the priorities long established by our Synod.

Resolved, That the Board of Directors be encouraged to maintain and, as feasible, exceed existing percentages of financial support for World/National Missions and Outreach and for Preparing Church Workers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors in allocating un-



Committee 4 Chairman David D. Buegler

restricted budget funds be encouraged to work toward its stated goal of 37.5 percent for World/National Missions and Outreach and 37.5 percent for Preparing Church Workers; and be it finally

Resolved, That the members of the Synod be reminded and encouraged that desired increases in financial support for those purposes valued most highly, namely mission work and church-worker training, are best fostered and enabled by corresponding increases in remittances to the Synod by congregations and Districts.

Action: Adopted (3).

(A motion to substitute overture 4-07 for the resolution was defeated. The overture called for the adoption of specific percentages of budget expenditures.)

Report on Synodical Operating Budget

The Board of Directors at its May 26-28 meeting adopted a balanced tentative operating budget for the 1992/93 fiscal year beginning July 1. The tentative budget assumes that the convention will approve various overtures submitted by the board and now refined into resolutions drafted by various floor committees. The operating budget is summarized as follows:

	1991/92	1992/93	Increase (Decrease)
Unrestricted	\$31,097,000	\$28,857,000	\$(2,240,000)
Restricted	20,479,129	25,016,408	4,537,279
Total	\$51,576,129	\$53,873,408	\$ 2,297,279

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
1992/93 Operating Budget by Unit

With Great Boldness Tell Everyone What He Has Done!

	1991/1992 Budget					1992/1993 Budget				
	Unrestricted		Restricted & Board Designated	Total Budget		Unrestricted		Restricted & Board Designated	Total Budget	
	Amount	Percent		Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent		Amount	Percent
Program Services:										
World/National Missions and Outreach:										
Mission Services	9,209,352	29.59	3,360,000	12,569,352	24.37	8,910,000	30.88	5,142,623	14,052,623	26.09
Black Ministry	216,239	0.70	37,056	253,295	0.49	228,266	0.79	85,750	314,016	0.58
Volunteer Youth—Serv Events	19,088	0.06	54,324	73,412	0.14	21,604	0.07	47,117	68,721	0.13
Evangelism	266,385	0.86	20,846	287,231	0.56	250,000	0.87	157,056	407,056	0.76
Partner Church Relations	76,668	0.25		76,668	0.15	60,535	0.21		60,535	0.11
Social Ministry	518,402	1.67	701,908	1,220,310	2.36	548,460	1.90	265,651	814,111	1.51
Communications—Electronic Media	81,698	0.26		81,698	0.16	87,000	0.30		87,000	0.16
Total World/Nat'l Missions and Outreach	10,387,832	33.39	4,174,134	14,561,966	28.23	10,105,865	35.02	5,698,197	15,804,062	29.34
Preparing Church Workers:										
National Office	639,474	2.06		639,474	1.24	623,392	2.16		623,392	1.16
Special Ministerial Support	14,208	0.05		14,208	0.03	151,957	0.53		151,957	0.28
Seminary Support	2,065,463	6.64	2,760,376	4,825,839	9.35	1,825,839	6.33	3,000,000	4,825,839	8.96
College Support	5,327,538	17.14		5,327,538	10.33	5,233,502	18.14		5,233,502	9.71
Ethnic and Minority Programs	205,862	0.66	510,664	716,526	1.39	230,862	0.80	525,748	756,610	1.41
Special Support and Assistance	199,643	0.64		199,643	0.39	211,708	0.73		211,708	0.39
Gifts and Grants			659,477	659,477	1.28			800,023	800,023	1.49
Internal Audit—Colleges	162,681	0.52		162,681	0.31	195,689	0.68		195,689	0.36
Ministerial Growth & Support	40,426	0.13	452,000	492,426	0.95	90,873	0.31	447,379	538,252	1.00
CDP—Placement of Church Workers	24,562	0.08		24,562	0.05	23,664	0.08		23,664	0.04
Stewardship College Resource Counselor	9,108	0.03		9,108	0.02					
Subtotal Preparing Church Workers	8,688,965	27.95	4,382,517	13,071,482	25.34	8,587,486	29.76	4,773,150	13,360,636	24.80
Transfer To Educational Property Fund	946,845	3.05		946,845	1.84	1,514,853	5.25		1,514,853	2.81
Total Preparing Church Workers	9,635,810	31.00	4,382,517	14,018,327	27.18	10,102,339	35.01	4,773,150	14,875,489	27.61
Direct Services to Congregations:										
Congregational Services:										
Parish Services	1,282,136	4.12	491,315	1,773,451	3.44	590,403	2.04	892,742	1,483,145	2.75
Youth Services	321,479	1.03	71,770	393,249	0.76	260,000	0.90	46,107	306,107	0.57
Youth Gathering			728,183	728,183	1.41			3,766,056	3,766,056	6.99
Social Ministry—Health & Healing	20,000	0.06	122,007	142,007	0.28	16,942	0.06	78,314	95,256	0.18
Worship	122,870	0.40	32,371	155,241	0.30	42,676	0.15	29,908	72,584	0.13
Congregational Min Coord Committee	25,000	0.08		25,000	0.05	75,660	0.26	280,664	356,324	0.66
Stewardship Education and Nurture	609,203	1.94		609,203	1.18	270,000	0.94		270,000	0.50
Congregational Services	2,380,688	7.65	1,445,646	3,826,334	7.42	1,255,681	4.35	5,093,791	6,349,472	11.78
Ecclesial Services:										
Doctrinal Review	2,000	0.01		2,000		1,699	0.01		1,699	
Organizations	73,656	0.24		73,656	0.14	73,140	0.25		73,140	0.14
Commission on Theology & Church Relations	296,247	0.95		296,247	0.57	291,644	1.01		291,644	0.54
Ecclesial Services	371,903	1.20		371,903	0.71	366,483	1.27		366,483	0.68
Total Direct Services to Congregations	2,752,591	8.85	1,445,646	4,198,237	8.13	1,622,164	5.62	5,093,791	6,715,955	12.46

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
1992/93 Operating Budget by Unit

With Great Boldness Tell Everyone What He Has Done!

	1991/1992 Budget					1992/1993 Budget				
	Unrestricted		Restricted & Board Designated	Total Budget		Unrestricted		Restricted & Board Designated	Total Budget	
	Amount	Percent		Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent		Amount	Percent
Mission Through Lutheran Radio			1,973,000	1,973,000	3.83			2,117,751	2,117,751	3.93
World Relief and Refugee Service			5,601,272	5,601,272	10.86			5,308,241	5,308,241	9.85
Supplemental Retirement to Vets of the Cross	1,299,141	4.18		1,299,141	2.52	1,083,415	3.75	250,000	1,333,415	2.48
Total Program Services	24,075,374	77.42	17,576,569	41,651,943	80.75	22,913,783	79.40	23,241,130	46,154,913	85.67
Mission and Ministry Support Services:										
Interp the Mission & Min (Communications)	1,231,245	3.96	510,000	1,741,245	3.38	1,098,000	3.80	692,306	1,790,306	3.32
Future Mission and Ministry Support:	1,749,270	5.63	1,631,668	3,380,938	6.56					
Development and Planned Giving						1,000,000	3.46		1,000,000	1.86
Special Gift Donor Services						35,000	0.12		35,000	0.07
Expanding The Circle	97,015	0.31		97,015	0.19	250,000	0.87		250,000	0.46
Gift Annuity Payments						6,558	0.02		6,558	0.01
Lutheran Resources Commission						13,318	0.05		13,318	0.02
Future Mission and Ministry Support	1,846,285	5.94	1,631,668	3,477,953	6.75	1,304,876	4.52		1,304,876	2.42
Other Mission and Ministry Support Services:										
Ecclesial Services:										
Adjudication	6,190	0.02		6,190	0.01	6,168	0.02		6,168	0.01
Appeals	8,970	0.03		8,970	0.02	9,646	0.03		9,646	0.02
Constitutional Matters	7,807	0.03		7,807	0.02	6,497	0.02		6,497	0.01
Convention Nominations	24,961	0.08		24,961	0.05	5,045	0.02		5,045	0.01
Structure	13,106	0.04		13,106	0.03					
President's Commission on Women	13,310	0.04		13,310	0.03	14,736	0.05		14,736	0.03
Roster Maintenance	260,352	0.84		260,352	0.50	258,139	0.89		258,139	0.48
Government Information	49,755	0.16	70,553	120,308	0.23	57,432	0.20	151,339	208,771	0.39
Church Relations	33,190	0.11		33,190	0.06	36,691	0.13		36,691	0.07
Concordia Historical Institute	284,763	0.92		284,763	0.55	276,000	0.96		276,000	0.51
Circuit Counselors Conference	52,500	0.17	398,000	450,500	0.87			670,385	670,385	1.24
Synodical Convention										
Scholarly Research			50,000	50,000	0.10					
Ecclesial Services	754,904	2.44	518,553	1,273,457	2.47	670,354	2.32	821,724	1,492,078	2.77
Business and Financial Services:										
Treasury	155,024	0.50		155,024	0.30	153,081	0.53		153,081	0.28
Property and Insurance	282,693	0.91		282,693	0.55	240,590	0.83		240,590	0.45
General Services			12,000	12,000	0.02			12,000	12,000	0.02
External Audit	59,500	0.19		59,500	0.12	59,500	0.21		59,500	0.11
Internal Audit	301,766	0.97		301,766	0.59	241,600	0.84		241,600	0.45
Planning and Research	110,284	0.35		110,284	0.21	97,609	0.34		97,609	0.18
Accounting	138,296	0.44		138,296	0.27	128,745	0.45	11,000	139,745	0.26
Legal	221,000	0.71		221,000	0.43	221,000	0.76		221,000	0.41

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
1992/93 Operating Budget by Unit

With Great Boldness Tell Everyone What He Has Done!

	1991/1992 Budget					1992/1993 Budget				
	Unrestricted		Restricted & Board Designated	Total Budget		Unrestricted		Restricted & Board Designated	Total Budget	
	Amount	Percent		Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent		Amount	Percent
Foreign Exchange	6,219	0.02		6,219	0.01	3,000	0.01		3,000	0.01
Business and Financial Services	1,274,782	4.09	12,000	1,286,782	2.50	1,145,125	3.97	23,000	1,168,125	2.17
Total Other Mission & Min Support Services	2,029,686	6.53	530,553	2,560,239	4.97	1,815,479	6.29	844,724	2,660,203	4.94
Total Mission and Ministry Support Services	5,107,216	16.43	2,672,221	7,779,437	15.10	4,218,355	14.61	1,537,030	5,755,385	10.68
Synodical Administration:										
Ecclesial Services:										
Council of Administrators	73,875	0.24		73,875	0.14	5,045	0.02		5,045	0.01
Council of Presidents	90,497	0.29		90,497	0.18	108,294	0.38		108,294	0.20
President and Vice-Presidents	617,581	1.99		617,581	1.20	588,353	2.04		588,353	1.09
Secretary	150,700	0.48		150,700	0.29	152,992	0.53		152,992	0.29
Ecclesial Services	932,653	3.00		932,653	1.81	854,684	2.97		854,684	1.59
Mission and Ministry Council and BOD	330,749	1.06	42,959	373,708	0.72	270,118	0.94	36,321	306,439	0.57
Total Synodical Administration	1,263,402	4.06	42,959	1,306,361	2.53	1,124,802	3.91	36,321	1,161,123	2.16
Contingency Reserve:										
Miscellaneous Committees & Projects	57,115	0.18		57,115	0.11	60,000	0.21		60,000	0.11
General Contingency	79,668	0.26		79,668	0.15	49,403	0.17		49,403	0.09
Interest and Debt Service	514,225	1.65	187,380	701,605	1.36	490,657	1.70	201,927	692,584	1.29
Total Budget	31,097,000	100.00	20,479,129	51,576,129	100.00	28,857,000	100.00	25,016,408	53,873,408	100.00

The unrestricted budget is funded primarily from Sunday morning offerings. The amounts of such offerings congregations pledged to Districts in 1992 is down substantially, resulting in Districts reducing their 1992 intentions for national Synod by \$1,855,000. The 1992/93 unrestricted budget assumes that calendar year 1993 receipts from Districts will be at least as high as 1992. The restricted budget, funded through legacies, bequests, special gifts, and grants is up primarily as a result of the Board for Mission Services including a total spending plan for the year in its budget amounts and because of the expenses of the 1992 synodical convention and Youth Gathering. The decrease in the unrestricted budget is, among other things, due to the following:

Reduction in the Board for Mission Services budget because the Southern District determined to become self-supporting ...	\$ 300,000
Transfer of the Mission Resource Unit costs to the Board for Mission Services restricted budget	330,000
Transfer of editorial costs from the Board for Parish Services to Concordia Publishing House	593,000
Transfer of Planned Giving costs to the LCMS Foundation	420,000
Transfer income from the ILL's Endowment Fund for Veterans of the Cross to restricted budget	250,000
Program and staff reductions	1,250,000
Increases due to changes in priorities	(903,000)
Net decrease in unrestricted budget	<u>\$2,240,000</u>

The majority of the unrestricted budget program and staff reductions were made in the area of Congregational Services, with a 47.6 percent reduction. Although the Board for Parish Services editorial units will remain intact when the costs are transferred to Concordia Publishing House, staffing for other congregational service units charged to the unrestricted budget will be reduced by 11, resulting in a staff of 18 executive, professional, and secretarial personnel to provide services in worship, youth, parish services, schools, and stewardship nurture. In agreeing to these staffing levels, it is recognized that many of the congregational ministries services are rendered by District boards and staffs. It is also recognized that in some areas, engaging full-time staff is not the best way to meet the needs of the Synod in the 1990s and beyond. Part-time or volunteer staff may provide more effective services and provide broader grassroots involvement. A significant reduction is proposed in the Stewardship Nurture staff, primarily due to concluding at Dec. 31, 1992, the His Love—Our Response program.

In addition to staff reductions in Congregational Services, various resources have been eliminated and additional materials will be sold rather than given away. District newsletters will be cut back and some may be eliminated. Although travel for workshops is expected to be reimbursed, visits to District boards and staffs remain in the national budget, but will be reduced. These visits are considered important to establish a strong and unified partnership with Districts in behalf of congregations. These partnerships should, however, be enhanced through

inclusion in the budget funds for the proposed Conference of Congregational Services.

Mission and Ministry Support Services charged to the unrestricted budget have been reduced by 17.4 percent. Interpreting the mission, including the official periodicals, have been reduced by 10.8 percent. The ecclesial services and business and financial services portions of the Mission and Ministry Support Services budget have been reduced by 11.2 percent and 10.2 percent, respectively. The Synodical Administration portion of the budget has been reduced 11 percent, primarily as a result of the elimination of the Planning Council. A combined budget is included for the proposed Mission and Ministry Council and the Board of Directors. The full-time officers and administrative staff continues to be 11, the same number as in 1972.

The 1992/93 unrestricted budget provides for 169 staff persons, down 36 from the actual staffing of 205 at March 31. These reductions include transferring the costs of the editors to Concordia Publishing House, certain staff transferred to restricted funding or to other positions to fill vacancies, as well as a number of retirements or terminations. The 169 staff level accounts for about 30 percent of the total staff located at the International Center.

As a result of Districts falling short of their 1991 intentions to national Synod by \$990,000 and reducing their 1992 intentions by \$1,855,000, an operating deficit of at least \$600,000 is anticipated for the 1991/92 fiscal year. The 1992/93 budget includes \$200,000 to begin amortizing this deficit.

The 1992/93 unrestricted budget accounts for 53.6 percent of the total budget at the national level of the Synod in behalf of and in support of congregations. The spending plan for the year also includes \$25,016,000 of restricted and board-designated funds which generally cannot be expended until funds are received for the specific purposes.

The unrestricted/restricted budgets of "the Synod" account for only part of the work conducted from the International Center. Separate budgets for the corporate and/or trust entities of the Worker Benefit Plans, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, as well as for the Office of Information Systems are authorized by separate action of those other entities of the Synod.

The floor committee has reviewed a number of reclassifications made by the Board of Directors for reporting purposes. All programs have been reviewed and similar programs are now included in the same categories. The following reclassifications were made in the 1992/93 tentative budget and the 1991/92 budget was restated accordingly:

1. All of the work of the Commission on Black Ministry is reported in the Mission and Outreach major category. This is comparable to all other ethnic ministries, which have long been reported as Mission and Outreach.

2. The agencies and institutions and the institutional chaplain portions of the Board for Social Ministry budget are reclassified to Mission and Outreach. The primary purpose of these efforts is in outreach, and they are comparable to similar world mission activities and military chaplains, which have long been reported as Mission and Outreach.

3. The electronic media outreach portion of the Board for Communication Services budget is reclassified to Mission and Outreach. The primary purpose is outreach to the unchurched, and the programs are similar to worldwide media outreach programs, which have been included in the Board for Missions Services budget.

4. The audit costs for colleges, universities, and seminaries will now be reported under the category of preparing church workers. Placement costs will also be reported in this category.

5. Ministerial growth and support efforts applicable to full-time church workers will now be reported under the category of preparing church workers. These efforts are similar to and are coordinated with the continuing education programs offered by the Synod's colleges, universities, and seminaries.

Future budgets. With the exception of some minor refinements, the Board of Directors and the floor committee believe that the 1992/93 budget accomplishes the "right sizing" of the Synod's programs and staffs for the 1990s and perhaps beyond. Subject to no further declines in income from Districts, the board in future years intends to apply anticipated reductions in development and planned giving costs, supplemental retirement benefits to Veterans of the Cross, and interest and debt service, equally to Missions and Outreach and to Preparing Church Workers, until each receives 37½ percent of the unrestricted dollars.

To Integrate and Expand Synod's Method for Mission and Ministry Planning and Implementation

RESOLUTION 4-02A

Overtures 4-01, 4-26-27 (CW, pp. 217-20, 227-28)

Rationale:

By the adoption of two specific resolutions, delegates to the 1989 synodical convention set in motion a process in which the Synod became involved in an evaluation of its organizational effectiveness in relation to its primary purpose. One, Res. 8-02A, asked the whole of the LCMS (congregations, District and national staffs, boards and commissions) to "involve itself in a coordinated planning and decision-making process to assure more effective and better coordinated services to congregations," and also asked that "proposed structural changes be brought to the 1992 synodical convention for approval" should such changes seem advisable.

More specifically in adopting Res. 1-01, "To Intensify and Prioritize Mission," the Board of Directors was instructed "to evaluate the structures of our Synod in the light of God's primary purpose for the church" and to "recommend to the 1992 synodical convention a structure for mission and ministry which gives priority to God's primary purpose for the church." The Board of Directors, in responding to this directive, asked the Commission on Structure to take the initiative on this matter and to develop appropriate recommendations.

These convention actions were the culmination of decisions already made by the 1986 synodical convention di-

recting the Commission on Structure "to initiate churchwide discussions on the matter of planning and decision making in the church on all levels, and on the basis of these discussions . . . submit to the 1989 convention proposals for improved planning and decision making, recommending necessary structural changes" (Res. 5-01A).

In approaching these assignments the commission studied past research, including the 1989 report of Colarelli, Meyer and Associates (CMA). The commission also asked the Synod's Research Advisory Group whether these 1980s findings are still valid for the 1990s and were advised that various focus-group meetings and other research since 1989 reinforce the CMA findings. Therefore, the CMA study, which involved 650 congregational, District, and national leaders across all 35 Districts, and which contained the following eight "valued elements," served as guiding principles to the commission in considering refinements in synodical structure. These "valued elements" indicate congregations desire the following:

1. *A vision for the future of the LCMS that is based on wide input and review and that generates broad commitment and support.*
2. *The continued centrality of the congregations:*
 - *Congregations need high quality and timely service from Districts and the national office that meets their needs in carrying out the mission.*
 - *Districts and the national office need to respect and be sensitive to congregational uniqueness and diversity.*
 - *Districts and the national office need to recognize that it isn't easy for congregations to make input (but input has to be obtained nevertheless). There must be interactive, "high touch" methods to get congregational input.*
 - *The identification of needs and the development of programs and other interventions must be "close to" the congregations.*
3. *The bonding of congregations and Districts to each other through sharing of information, providing mutual assistance, and being a resource to each other.*
4. *A synodical leadership group that has an overall understanding of the life of the church in today's changing world (i.e., the "big picture").*
5. *Funding by voluntary contributions from congregations to Districts to the Synod.*
6. *Effectiveness of implementation:*
 - *Accountability: Somebody in charge, somebody who can follow up.*
 - *Efficiency: Less duplication, bureaucracy, and complexity.*
7. *Provision of some services from the national office, including*
 - *Seminaries and colleges;*
 - *world mission;*
 - *Doctrinal review;*
 - *Curriculum resources;*
 - *Administrative and support services;*

- *networking the Districts to share resources across Districts, minimize duplication among Districts, and help Districts learn from each other.*

8. *For Districts to know congregations on an individual basis and to network among congregations to meet mutual needs.*

Mission and Ministry Council

The 1989 convention in Res. 8-02A asked congregations, Districts and national staffs, boards, and commissions to coordinate their planning and decision making with emphasis on vision, networking, and compatible relationships. The creation of the Planning Council (Bylaw 3.731) was an attempt to do this. Experience has shown that the large Planning Council (219 attended the 1991 meeting), although an effective vehicle for brainstorming about meeting changes and developing vision, was too large and not an effective forum for planning. Also, some of its stated responsibilities appear to duplicate those of the Board of Directors. Both the Board of Directors and Commission on Structure believe that a smaller, integrative Mission and Ministry Council is desirable. Such a council must include national members, (pastors, other professional church workers, and laity generally elected by conventions) as well as members of boards most affected by the decisions. It is important that these people agree on synodwide vision and how it is to be implemented. Such a structure decentralizes power by involving more people in the decision-making process, including the allocation of funds made available by congregations and Districts. Individual boards must have a high degree of autonomy within their limited areas of responsibility but must also integrate their operations with others through the council toward achieving a common vision, and they should be held accountable for their programs and services to the council between conventions.

To meet these objectives for a more integrative structure, the Board of Directors and Commission on Structure propose the following refinements to the current structure:

1. Reduce the size of the present 200-plus member Planning Council, rename it the Mission and Ministry Council, and limit it to the 4 full-time elected officers, 13 nationally elected members, who along with the full-time elected officers would also serve as the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc., the 9 chairmen of the operating boards, 2 additional members from the Board for Congregational Services, and 2 District Presidents to be elected by the Council of Presidents. These 30 voting members, plus the principal executives of the Board of Directors, each operating board, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, Concordia Historical Institute, Commission on Black Ministry, and Vice-Presidents 2 through 5 as advisory members, will have responsibility for integrating the respective plans of the officers and operating boards and proposing to the convention a single visionary long-range, strategic mission and ministry plan for the Synod, as well as its implications for the next triennium. The council would have responsibilities regarding the implementation of the plans. The Council would agree on broad budget priorities for the corporate entity of the Synod and on common policies for the respective operating units, functions of the present Board of Directors.

2. Refine the Council of Administrators to be a collegium of the elected officers and the principal executive of each operating board to meet on a regular basis to coordinate the administration of the Synod at the national level.

In addition to providing a more efficient and effective way to cooperate and integrate the national work of the Synod, this proposal will result in cost reductions. Actual costs charged to the Planning Council unrestricted and restricted budget in the 1990/91 fiscal year totaled \$309,000. The 1991/92 budget was reduced to \$136,000 and provided only limited staff services and a meeting of only part of the Council members held in conjunction with the convention floor committees. In contrast, the proposed Mission and Ministry Council would add only an estimated \$20,000 to the current Board of Directors budget, a net savings of \$116,000.

Conference of Congregational Services

The concept of a more closely aligned congregational ministries unit has been under consideration for years. Already in 1959 the San Francisco convention considered a division of congregational ministries embracing those units providing congregations of the Synod with advisory services and technical aids.

In 1981, Task Force II had proposed the formation of a Board for Congregational Services to include the units involving parish education, youth, evangelism, and worship. Since that time, Commissions on Structure have consistently proposed similar action.

In 1988, the participants at the Planning Council surfaced the question of whether or not the various synodical congregational services boards and commissions should in some way be combined to form a Board for Congregational Services to render services to the congregations in the areas of witness, worship, nurture, service, and fellowship. At the 1989 Planning Council, when small table groups discussed the issues and responded to a question as to how boards which primarily work in support of congregations should be structured, more than three-fourths of the tables felt some kind of combination was in order.

In view of the long history of concern for developing an effective structure to serve the congregations of the Synod, the recommendation to bring certain boards and commissions into a Conference of Congregational Services should not be surprising. It is clear, however, that such a conference must include provision for maintaining the unique functional emphasis of each of the boards and commissions. It is based on considerable input from throughout the Synod. It does not incorporate radical changes but is, rather, a rearrangement for organizational effectiveness to meet current and future needs of the Synod within polity outlined in its Constitution.

The "valued elements" previously listed, as well as other information in the Colarelli-Meyer Report, reflect that the world and, therefore, the congregations of the Synod have experienced rapid change during the decade of the '80s. While standing firm in their doctrine and theological heritage, congregations are adapting their practices more and more to meet the unique opportunities in their local ministries. Congregations increasingly desire personal contacts and services from Districts and a variety of materials

from Synod to meet on a timely basis their unique needs. And, they want to influence the design of those services by being listened to in personal visits. They then expect cooperation and integration of the services by boards and staffs empowered to serve. Great strides have been made in these directions throughout the Synod, but some structural elements need to be streamlined for maximal effectiveness.

Both the Board of Directors and the Commission on Structure recommend that to meet these expectations of congregations, Districts redefine the roles of their boards and staffs to provide to congregations "Mission Enablers" who can help congregations plan their local ministry, as well as their expanded ministries, through District and national Synod. These "Mission Enablers" would also listen to the needs of congregations and share those needs with District and national boards and staffs and share with congregations the vision for the future of the LCMS developed by the Mission and Ministry Council. They would invite wide input and review to help further shape that vision. This would be a continuing cycle whereby congregations would have considerably more impact upon the mission and ministry of the Synod. The "Mission Enablers" would be equipped to share with congregations the names of other congregations or persons with special experience and expertise who could help in talent pools, who could help them in the functional areas such as worship, witness, education, service, fellowship, stewardship, and others, as well as help them find available material resources in these areas.

The Board of Directors and Commission on Structure believe that congregations in the 1990s can best be served and serve others through balanced, integrated, and coordinated "Congregational Ministries" units at both the District and national levels. As previously mentioned, the District staffs should serve largely as "Mission Enablers," who can assist congregations as generalists in the planning and communication process and can help them get specialized assistance as needed. The national offices of the Synod would have departments for each functional area who would, in turn, define a pool of specialists and field-service personnel in each functional area who could be made available to congregations upon request and at their expense. It is anticipated that many of these would not be on District or national staffs. The Board of Directors and the Commission on Structure also believe that it is desirable to first make changes at the national level, to provide a model for Districts, which will result in more compatible structures.

Presently, at the national level, there are separate boards, commissions or councils for worship, evangelism, parish services, youth, social ministry, and stewardship. While these staffs meet jointly each month to provide some coordination, there is no provision for coordination at the board level. To eliminate duplication and provide efficient and effective support to the ministries of congregations, someone, both at the national and District levels, needs to be placed in charge of the congregational ministries staffs and be accountable to a single Board for Congregational Services. The Board of Directors and Commission on Structure recommend that the 1992 synodical convention au-

thorize such a national board and combined staff, effective with the 1995 convention, and that all Districts be encouraged to provide for a Board for Congregational Services and staff at their 1994 conventions.

As an initial step during the 1992-95 triennium, the Board of Directors and Commission on Structure recommend the creation of a Conference of Congregational Services, comprised of the members of the present boards, commissions, and councils of worship, evangelism, parish services, youth, and stewardship, together with one board person from each District selected by the District board of directors to represent its congregational services interests. This conference should also include representatives from CPH, social ministry, black, Hispanic, Asian, and other ethnic commissions or committees. This conference, meeting semiannually, would study and define the functional areas and departments, approve the congregational ministries programs proposed by the respective units, allocate the congregational ministries budget to such units, and approve staffing levels for these units. The conference would operate on a pilot basis and would propose to the 1995 convention the size and composition of a smaller conference. It would also propose the size and composition of the new Board for Congregational Services, such board however is not to exceed more than one person from each area of function. It is extremely important that the conference also recommend how to maintain the visibility of the various congregational ministries functions, and the District and national responsibilities in carrying out those functions. This initial conference will assist both Districts and national Synod to meet new challenges which do not clearly fit into a single unit in the present structure. These may include involving all units in cooperative efforts on

- *helping congregations operate as the mission base of the Synod in approaching their local communities, the United States, and the rest of the world as mission fields;*
- *helping congregations stimulate the spiritual growth of their members, as evidenced by improved attendance at worship, reception of Holy Communion, Bible study, and involvement in ministries;*
- *helping meet the diverse needs and opportunities of congregations;*
- *helping congregations meet the many needs of families;*
- *helping enrich the worship life of congregations and the lives of families through private devotional materials;*
- *helping individuals approach biblical stewardship as a way of life;*
- *helping integrate youth into the total ministry of the congregation;*
- *helping create and employing networks of people and materials to support congregations;*
- *helping create and communicating integrative and balanced congregational ministries support;*
- *helping congregations be aware of their history and the history of the Synod and maintain appropriate archives.*

The current Congregational Ministries Coordinating Committee staff is commended for defining these needed cooperative efforts and for the progress they are making

in coordinating and integrating their work. They are also commended for their planned efforts to involve District staffs in defining the congregational ministries staff and service functions that can best be carried out at the District level and at the national level. The Board of Directors and Commission on Structure also support the efforts to have more joint meetings of congregation services related boards. To facilitate the work of the proposed Conference of Congregational Services, it is recommended that all of the congregational services-related boards meet at the same time and conclude with a joint session to act on the conference's assigned responsibilities. The annual cost of two meetings of the proposed Conference of Congregational Services is estimated to be \$30,000, assuming each of the congregational services boards and commissions would spend an additional day in St. Louis after their regular meeting and 35 District representatives would join them for a weekend conference meeting. This cost is far less than the cost of the present planning style. Further savings would occur in 1995 if a single Board for Congregational Services is approved, and there would be only one synodwide meeting a year of national and District staffs and/or chairmen, rather than the several meetings now held as each current board convenes its own meetings.

Recommended Action

A. To Integrate and Expand the Synod's Method for Mission and Ministry Planning and Implementation

Resolved, That the Synod establish a Mission and Ministry Council to replace the Planning Council; and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.731 (the Planning Council) and other references in the Bylaws to the Planning Council be eliminated in their entirety; and be it further

Resolved, That the membership of the council, meeting semiannually, and chaired by the President, be comprised of 30 voting and 17 nonvoting members determined as follows through the adoption of the following Bylaws:

Membership

a. Thirteen members elected at-large (four ordained ministers, one commissioned minister, eight laypersons), and the four officers of the Synod (the President, the First Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer), who make up the Board of Directors of the Synod;

b. Chairman, or a board member designated by him, of the 9 operating boards (Missions, Higher Education, Conference of Congregational Services, Social Ministry, Concordia Publishing House, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, Worker Benefit Plans, Communications);

c. Two additional members selected by the Conference of Congregational Services, one pastor, and one layperson;

d. Two District Presidents to be elected by the Council of Presidents;

e. Executive officer of the synodical Board of Directors, and the executive officer of each of the 9 operating boards, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, Concordia Historical Institute, and the Commission on Black Ministry as advisory members;

f. Vice-Presidents of the Synod 2 through 5 as advisory members.

Functions

a. Report to the convention a long-range, synodwide strategic mission and ministry plan, as well as its implications for the next triennium;

b. Provide a forum for the integration of the plans of the respective operating boards (Missions, Higher Education, Conference of Congregational Services, Social Ministry, Concordia Publishing House, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, Worker Benefit Plans, Communications) and commissions;

c. Support the operating boards in the implementation of convention and/or council-approved plans;

d. At the request of the operating boards, approve necessary changes to the plans between conventions;

e. Report to the convention performance with respect to the mission and ministry plans adopted at the prior convention;

f. Provide input to the synodical Board of Directors as it appoints certain boards and staffs;

g. Recommend auditors and general legal counsel for use by all Synodwide corporate and trust entities;

h. Recommend to the synodical Board of Directors the allocation of undesignated receipts to appropriate entities who shall be responsible for their respective budgets;

i. Provide policies to assure protection of assets and personnel by all corporations and other entities;

j. Provide for resolution of disagreements between synodical operating boards or commissions or between such entities and the synodical officers;

k. Act in those situations between conventions where others are not authorized to act.

Resolved, That a periodic meeting (at least once a triennium) between the Mission and Ministry Council and the Council of Presidents be encouraged; and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.69 be amended to add a paragraph (n) that "all synodwide entities shall be responsible between conventions for the implementation of their portions of the triennial mission and ministry plan, in consultation with the Mission and Ministry Council."

B. To Establish a Conference of Congregational Services and a Board for Congregational Services

Resolved, That for the 1992–95 triennium, a Conference of Congregational Services be established, on a pilot basis, through the adoption of the following Bylaws:

Membership

a. Twenty-six at-large members elected to Boards of Parish Services, Evangelism, and Youth;

b. Thirteen at-large members appointed to the Commission on Worship and Council on Stewardship;

c. Thirty-five representatives from District congregational-ministries-related boards selected by District boards of directors with a balanced distribution from the

areas of function as recommended by the Board for Congregational Services (initial distribution will be determined by the synodical Board of Directors);

d. Executive directors of the national congregational ministries units as advisory members;

e. One staff representative each from North American Missions, Social Ministry, Black Ministry, Concordia Publishing House, a representative of the Commission on Women, plus other ethnic representatives, and 4 district staff persons, chosen by their peers, representing the following four areas of congregational ministry: education, evangelism, stewardship, and human care.

Functions

a. Provide future-oriented, shared program vision and wisdom;

b. Appoint an executive director, who shall be empowered to represent congregational ministries and coordinate the operations of the various congregational services boards, commissions, and councils;

c. Be responsible for the ministry services of the Synod in the conference's area of responsibility, proposing to the Council on Mission and Ministry a shared, long-range, strategic program plan with operating goals for the next triennium;

d. Maintain communication with Districts as to their needs and those of their congregations and share synod-wide needs and plans with them;

e. Allocate the congregational-ministries program budget to the respective congregational services boards, commissions, and councils and approve the necessary staffing levels for these units, refining them as necessary;

and be it further

Resolved, That effective with the 1995 synodical convention, a Board for Congregational Services be established to consolidate the present boards, commissions, and councils of Parish Services, Evangelism, Youth, Worship, and Stewardship with this board, to include no more than one person from each area of function related to congregational services; and be it further

Resolved, That the Conference of Congregational Services propose to the 1995 convention the size and composition of both the smaller Conference of Congregation Services and the new Board for Congregational Services, the method to maintain visibility of the various congregational ministries functions, and the District and national responsibilities in carrying out these functions; and be it further

Resolved, That the 1995 Committee for Convention Nominations nominate candidates for the new Board for Congregational Services, based on the size and composition as recommended by the initial Conference of Congregational Services; and be it finally

Resolved, That the recommendations of the initial Conference of Congregational Services, regarding congregational ministries structure and District and national functions and staffing, be completed in sufficient time to

be shared with the 1994 District conventions, along with recommendations that Districts take appropriate actions.

C. To Refine Definitions as the Result of the Creation of a Mission and Ministry Council and a Conference of Congregational Services

Resolved, That the definitions appearing in Bylaw 3.51 be revised to read as follows:

Conference—an officially established representative assembly of national and District board/staff members which provides future-oriented, shared vision and wisdom, and communicates the same to its respective constituencies or gatherings convened for a specific purpose.

Council—an officially established group elected or appointed as a legislative or advisory body.

D. To Refine the Bylaws re the Council of Administrators

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.711—"Council of Administrators" be replaced in its entirety with the following:

a. Membership: The Council of Administrators shall consist of the following synodical officers and executive officers of the administrative and operating boards:

1. The elected, full-time officers of the Synod, with the President of the Synod, or in his absence his designee, serving as chairman of the council.

2. The executive officer of the synodical Board of Directors and the executive officer of each of the nine operating boards represented on the Mission and Ministry Council.

3. The unit executives of other boards, commissions, and departments, other than a Board of Regents, as advisory non-voting members.

4. Other advisory nonvoting members appointed by the President of the Synod.

b. Functions. The Council of Administrators shall

1. be a forum, meeting on a regular basis to coordinate the administration of the Synod at the national level.

2. engage annually in planning designed to identify and outline elements necessary for the efficient achievement of the strategic mission and ministry plan approved by the Mission and Ministry Council.

3. receive periodic reports on activities and general plans of all units represented on the Council of Administrators for purposes of information and integration of plans and actions.

4. As appropriate, initiate proposals for policies jointly affecting the various units and staff represented on the Council of Administrators and review such policies adopted by the Mission and Ministry Council or Human Resources Committee.

5. in cooperation with the executive officers of the respective boards of directors annually review the long-range plans, work programs, and budgets of the respective boards, commissions, and operating departments of the Synod and submit to the Mission and Ministry Council and the respective boards of directors recommendations

thereon in line with projected income and in keeping with the concept of balanced budgets.

6. Approve the allocation of undesignated grant funds received from fraternal insurance groups or other sources.

Action: Adopted (8).

(Sections A and D were adopted in session 7 and sections B and C in session 8. The entire resolution was then adopted.)

To Restructure Department of Stewardship and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation

RESOLUTION 4-03

**Reports R4-02, R4-06 (CW, pp. 75-81, 86-87); Over-
ture 4-22 (CW, pp. 225-26)**

Rationale:

The executive director of the Department of Stewardship resigned in 1991 to accept another position. The Board of Directors expressed its appreciation to Richard Engdahl for his 10 years of service and the development of a highly effective Stewardship Department. During this period member contributions to congregations increased from \$469 million to \$808 million, planned-giving activities increased to an amount of \$93 million booked in 1990, and development activities for missions, seminaries, and world hunger/relief increased substantially. With the vacancy it was an appropriate time to evaluate the function, relationships, and structure of the Department of Stewardship and the LCMS Foundation function and staff in light of what is best for stewardship in the church for the next decade and beyond. An extensive study was done by the Stewardship staff which involved Districts, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, and other people. As a result of this study, the Council on Stewardship, the LCMS Foundation, and the Board of Directors concurred that the planned giving, development, and consulting services of the Department of Stewardship should be transferred to the LCMS Foundation, with the Council on Stewardship to retain responsibility for stewardship education and nurture. Responsibilities for working with Districts in developing and communicating the synodical budget should be assumed by the Board of Directors.

Many factors are converging which make the consideration of these changes necessary:

- Rapid societal change is making ministry and its funding more difficult.
- The declining unrestricted budget for the LCMS raises the question of continued ability to fund the planned-giving program.
- Many desire that the LCMS expend more of its unrestricted budget on missions and higher education, and question staff size and budget allocation among LCMS units.
- A need exists for greater local and national involvement by partners in the activities of planned giving and the LCMS Foundation.

- The LCMS Foundation trustees want to clarify their role and function in regard to planned giving.
- There is a need to be more responsive by providing the services desired and needed by donors and ministry constituencies.
- There is increasing fund-raising competition and a growing need for more gift income to sustain and increase our ministries.
- The planned-giving window of opportunity with the generation ages 65 and older is closing.

The structure of the LCMS Foundation needs to be refined with the assumption of additional responsibilities. The membership needs to be broadened to involve participating entities, and the Board of Trustees needs to include some people with marketing or development experience, some with trust management or investment experience, and a representative from the Council on Stewardship to help ensure that the Foundation continues to operate under the principles of Christian stewardship.

Resolved, That in order to reflect the reorganization of the Department of Stewardship and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, the following Bylaw amendments be adopted:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

3.641 Incorporation

a. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation shall be maintained and controlled by the Synod as a corporate entity organized under the laws of the State of Missouri and shall be operated by a Board of Trustees, responsible to the Synod, in accordance with the provisions of its articles of incorporation and corporate bylaws.

b. Any amendments to the articles of incorporation shall be subject to approval by the ~~voting members of the Board of Directors of the Synod serving as the~~ Members of the Foundation.

3.643 Membership

The Members of the Foundation shall consist of two groups, one consisting of individuals appointed by the Synod's Board of Directors and the other consisting of that number of individuals representing Districts, colleges, universities, seminaries, high school, agency, or auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as established by the Foundation bylaws. ~~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 of the Synod or his representative, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Synod (nonvoting), at least 10 other trustees as provided in the *Bylaws of the Foundation*, and the ~~principal staff person of the Department of Stewardship chairman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod board, commission, committee, or council with responsibility for stewardship education and nurture.~~

3.645 Functions

a. The Foundation shall serve as the Trust Department of the Synod. It shall manage, conserve, and be responsible for all legacies, bequests, devises, endowments, foundations, annuity gifts, and all other trust funds of the Synod and its Districts, colleges, universities, seminaries, high

school, agency, or auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as established by the Foundation bylaws. It shall also provide such services to congregations, auxiliaries, other recognized service organizations, and others under policies approved by the Board of Trustees.

~~b. The Foundation Board of Trustees shall maintain and publish written policies approved by the Members of the Foundation for (1) the negotiation of any qualified deferred gift devices by the Synod's Department of Stewardship and the development staffs of the Synod's districts, colleges, seminaries, and agencies and (2) the acceptance of the same by the Foundation. The Department of Stewardship shall be consulted in the development of such policies.~~

(Moved from Bylaw 9.05 under "Stewardship"):

b. The department Foundation shall

1. devise synodwide programs of deferred giving, including legacies, bequests, devises, endowments, foundations, and other trusts for the advancement, promotion, endowment, and maintenance of the Synod and its Districts, colleges, seminaries, and other agencies, and such other causes as may be designated by ~~The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation~~ the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors of the Synod;

2. provide estate-planning services, materials, and training events in accordance with applicable policies established by ~~The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation~~ the Board of Trustees to assist estate-planning counselors throughout the Synod in consummating gifts;

3. maintain a current catalog of North American and worldwide missions, and social ministry, higher education, and other projects, on a prioritized basis, which could be funded by special gifts from individuals, congregations, and auxiliaries, and develop prospectuses for use by special gift counselors in making all calls;

4. provide materials and conduct training events to assist both volunteer and salaried counselors throughout the Synod.

c. The Foundation shall be responsible for providing consulting services to promote ministry enhancement, sustained giving, and capital improvements for the maintenance of the institutions, agencies, causes, and objects of the Synod.

e-d. The Treasurer, as the trust officer of the Synod, shall provide staff services to the Foundation. In this capacity he shall function under the bylaws and written policies of the Foundation as well as those of the Board of Directors of the Synod and be accountable to the same.

d-e. The Foundation shall distribute designated funds in accordance with the contractual instructions of the donor. The distribution of undesignated funds shall be determined by the ~~Members of the Foundation~~ Board of Trustees in consultation with the Board of Directors of the Synod.

e-f. The Foundation shall be audited annually by independent certified public accountants selected by the Board of Trustees ~~Members of the Foundation~~. The audit report shall be made available upon request. The auditors shall also provide the ~~Members~~ an annual letter commenting on the administrative and financial controls.

3.647 Other Foundations

Since the Foundation serves all the Synod, no new foundations shall be established by Districts, colleges, seminaries, and agencies without prior approval of the synodical Board of Directors.

(The following are changes for the "Stewardship" section of the *Handbook*.)

9.01 General

The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility for providing operating and capital funds for carrying out the work of the Synod and to that end provide for a Department of Stewardship under the board which will promote stewardship, ~~obtain deferred and special gifts, and coordinate capital drives for the Synod education and nurture.~~ Its work shall be in accordance with the Biblical principles of stewardship. To assist the board and the department, there shall be a Council on Stewardship as provided for in Bylaw 3.721.

9.03 Stewardship Support

The department shall

a. provide input to ~~the Foundation and other units of the Synod sections in the department~~ to assist them in including proper Scriptural motivation in all ~~special gift and deferred giving programs~~ gift programs;

b. provide to the Board for Parish Services advice and materials which will cultivate congregational members to continue to grow in living their lives as faithful stewards of Jesus Christ, effectively carrying out Christ's ministry and mission collectively through congregations and through the Synod and its agencies as well as in their day-to-day personal relationships;

c. provide, in consultation with Districts, materials and training events to aid Districts, pastors, and congregations in effectively teaching the grace of proportionate giving and in promoting their program in the congregation and through the District and the Synod.

(Bylaw 9.05, "Deferred and Special Gifts," moved to Foundation)

9.07 District Boards

a. Membership. Each synodical District shall elect or appoint a committee or board for stewardship.

b. Function. The District board shall cooperate with the Synod's Department of Stewardship and shall assist and advise the local congregations in the development and promotion of an adequate stewardship program.

c. Stewardship Secretary. The Districts of the Synod are advised to provide for the systematic supervision and qualified guidance and promotion of stewardship education. To that end, where possible, they shall establish and maintain the office of a Stewardship Counselor or Secretary, who shall be responsible to the District Stewardship Board ~~in the performance of his duties.~~

9.09 Congregational Boards

Every congregation is encouraged to elect or appoint a board or committee for stewardship, which shall be responsible for carrying on an adequate stewardship program in the manner prescribed by the congregation.

Action: Adopted (8).

To Continue Expanding the Circle Process

RESOLUTION 4-04A

Report R4-04 (CW, pp. 83-85); Overtures 4-10, 4-19, 4-21 (CW, pp. 222, 224-25)

Rationale:

While it is recognized that unrestricted giving of congregational offerings through District and Synod has been and continues to be an essential source of financial support for the mission and ministry of the church, a working team was appointed following the 1989 synodical convention to address the desire of the Synod to encourage and attempt to realize increased financial support. The working team shifted the emphasis from "funding the mission" to "finding the mission." *Expanding the Circle* (ETC) as a model seeks to help individuals and congregations support the work of the Lord in a more generous manner as they—

- understand the Gospel basis for mission and ministry;
- develop a personal sense of ownership in mission and ministry;
- remain informed, excited, and interested in them.

The ETC process seeks to bring the Word of God to more people by enabling individuals and congregations to grow continually in understanding the biblical teachings on sharing the Gospel and using His blessings. ETC frees more people in the congregation to "own" the mission through presentations of biblical stewardship principles, personalization of mission support opportunities, support of our seminaries through the designation of student aid, and stronger ties to our ministries of outreach and service. It uses better and more frequent communication to unite donor and receiver, so that together they can better serve the Lord as He expands the number of those within the circle of His grace.

ETC was initially intended as a pilot program and, though working in a compressed time frame, was able to reach a test group of congregations and Districts. Their participation was expressed in a positive reaction and a feeling of true ownership and involvement. ETC was not meant to be a stewardship effort but, in its form, does reflect, in congregational terms, the personalized firstfruit-giving concept supported by past conventions. The pilot program, in a learning process, was able to incorporate recommendations and changes which resulted from congregational and District input. The continual evolution of the ETC model requires more time to crystallize into its final form, so that it may benefit the total mission in ministry effort of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Resolved, That the ETC working team be directed to continue development of this model and the pilot test into the next triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the voluntary participation of more Districts and congregations; and be it finally

Resolved, That a report on research findings, model development, and congregational implementation be presented to the 1995 convention.

Action: Adopted (10).

To Levy Districts for Convention Expenses of Required Attendees

RESOLUTION 4-05

Overture 4-24 (CW, p. 227)

Rationale:

In the past, the convention budget costs of District Presidents and the synodical Board of Directors have been included in the unrestricted budget of the Synod. Questions have continued to arise as to whether this is appropriate in view of the required attendance of District Presidents and synodical Board of Directors members. Bylaw 3.35 provides for assessing Districts for the operating costs of the synodical convention which excludes from the assessment the expenses of synodical officials and District Presidents. Since the Bylaws (3.13) require the attendance of the synodical Praesidium, Secretary, Treasurer, the Board of Directors, and all District Presidents, it would seem they should be included in the assessment.

Resolved, That the convention expenses of the synodical Praesidium, Secretary, Treasurer, the Board of Directors, and all District Presidents be included in the operating cost of the synodical convention, and as such be part of the District levy as provided for in Bylaw 3.35.

Action: Adopted (3).

To Affirm Board of Directors' Release of Financial Disclosure

RESOLUTION 4-06A

Overtures 4-33 (CW, pp. 224, 229-30)

WHEREAS, The right to request financial and/or operating information of the Synod belongs to all the members of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, It has been a longstanding policy of our synodical Board of Directors to provide financial disclosures to members of the Synod upon request; and

WHEREAS, Such practice and policy demonstrates the integrity of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the policy of the synodical Board of Directors continue to be

1. that it honor all requests for audited financial statements;

2. that it honor all requests for officer salaries and other salary scales (Res. 4-07A, 1989 Proceedings);

3. that it honor all requests for the Program Budget Summary, using discretion in releasing budget detail;

4. that it refrain from releasing information concerning payments made to specific vendors, individuals, or where prohibited by legal action or advice of counsel; and be it further

Resolved, That requests ordinarily be made in writing through members of the Synod.

Action: Adopted (12).

(An amendment to add a point 5 stating, "That publication of all major audited statements such as balance

sheet, income statement, and flow of funds and program budget summary be included in official publications such as the Lutheran Witness," was declined. An amendment calling for replacement of point 4 with the words, *That it make all information concerning payments made to specific vendors, individuals, and litigation*, was also declined.)

To Affirm Our Synod's Accounting Procedure and Fiscal Operations

RESOLUTION 4-07

Overture 4-16 (CW, p. 223)

WHEREAS, The right to inspect financial and/or other records of the Synod belongs to all members of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, It has been a longstanding policy of our synodical Board of Directors to provide disclosure to members of the Synod on request; and

WHEREAS, Ernst & Young, an independent, respected auditing firm has examined the books, records, and accounting procedures of the Synod and has found that these areas meet or exceed good and accepted accounting and control principles; and

WHEREAS, Accounting procedures are governed by certain rules and practices, while actual budget process and classification of expenditures can be subjective in nature; and

WHEREAS, It is a healthy and desirable process to question, reexamine, and discuss the subjective areas of program and finance; and

WHEREAS, There will be occasions, when addressing subjective material, that an impasse can result; and

WHEREAS, There are occasions where it becomes evident that a prolonged pursuit of the unresolved impasse no longer serves the best interest of the mission of the church; and

WHEREAS, In a particular situation involving Mr. Edwin Hinnefeld, originating in conjunction with the 1989 convention and subsequent resolution of these concerns at the 1989 convention by Res. 4-04, and the fact that in a joint statement with the Board of Directors Mr. Hinnefeld agreed that he "supports Resolution 4-04 which supports the Board of Directors decisions" (ref: minutes of the convention); and

WHEREAS, Subsequent to the convention, other meetings were held and information was shared with Mr. Hinnefeld, and apparently the impasse remains; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention recognize that the officers and the Board of Directors of the Synod have complied with the Synod's policy of disclosure; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention recognize the possibility of honest disagreement in our church with the decisions of elected and appointed boards and committees; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod in convention affirm the integrity of our Synod's accounting procedures and fiscal op-

erations and therefore encourage this church to move on in Christian fellowship and trust.

Action: *Adopted as amended (12).*

(In the last resolve, the words at the end, "and through existing procedures and get on with our mission," were deleted and the words, *and trust*, were added by common consent.)

To Reaffirm Board of Directors Policy in Regard to Litigation

RESOLUTION 4-08

Overture 4-33 (CW, pp. 229-30)

Preamble:

During the past several years the Synod has been involved in several lawsuits, raising a question of the Synod's policy regarding litigation. As a result, the Floor Committee on Program and Finance has reviewed the policy previously adopted by the Board of Directors (Policy Statement F-1).

The policy states in part:

The Board of Directors recognizes that participation in litigation by the Synod, including by an agency of the Synod, may have a deleterious effect on the Synod as a church organization, and that litigation must, therefore, be entered into only when it has been responsibly determined that such is likely to serve the best interests of the Synod, and when all synodical avenues for conflict resolution have been exhausted.

and further states:

The Synod's general counsel shall obtain the approval of the Board of Directors, or in case of injunctive relief as to which time does not permit obtaining a decision by the full board, by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, in all situations in which the Synod commences litigation against another party.

The committee finds that this policy meets the needs of the Synod.

Resolved, That the Synod in convention reaffirm the policy of the Board of Directors as it applies to litigation.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Address Increased Funding for Church-Worker Students

RESOLUTION 4-09

Overtures 6-06-09, 6-11-12 (CW, pp. 270-72)

WHEREAS, Implementation of our Synod's *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties* may create a shortage of synodically educated pastors, teachers; and other professional church workers; and

WHEREAS, Enrollments of church-work students in synodical schools have decreased significantly, due in part to the high cost of such education and dramatic reductions

in our Synod's financial support for schools and seminaries; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education Services be charged with the responsibility to further develop and communicate a financial support plan which (a) clearly compensates educational institutions of the Synod in proportion to the total enrollment of church-work students and which (b) offers substantial financial assistance to individual students preparing for church-work careers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors give consideration to additional measures which may provide opportunity for further financial support to the higher-education system of our Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That these boards report their actions in regard to this resolution to the Synod at its 1995 convention.

Action: Adopted (12).

(In the second resolve the word *will* was replaced by *may*.)

To Encourage Endowments for Higher Education

RESOLUTION 4-10

Overture 6-11 (CW, pp. 271-72)

Rationale:

The Wichita convention considered similar overtures and responded to them with Wichita Res. 4-01, 4-05A, 4-06, 4-10, and 4-11. These resolutions continue to point to the proper plan of action. Individuals and congregations have and continue to respond to this need. Yet an expanding need exists with the seminaries, universities, colleges, and high school for endowment to provide operating support and financial aid.

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education Services and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation continue to work with the seminaries, universities, colleges, and high school to increase endowments to provide financial aid and unrestricted support; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations and individuals creatively seek to provide gifts to endowments established for financial aid and unrestricted support of the seminaries, universities, colleges, and high school.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Encourage Biblical Principles of Stewardship

RESOLUTION 4-11

Overtures 4-10-11, 4-20 (CW, pp. 222, 224-25)

Rationale:

Overtures to this convention have stressed a need to review biblical principles of proportionate, liberal, and "firstfruit" giving. The Wichita convention also encouraged the practice of biblical stewardship in Res. 4-03.

Resolved, That congregational leaders and pastors of the Synod lead their members in responding to God's love

in Jesus Christ through "firstfruit," proportionate, and liberal and cheerful giving; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations and pastors are asked and encouraged to use the *New Horizons in Stewardship* materials which have been used successfully by many congregations in the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations practice "firstfruit," proportionate, and liberal and cheerful giving in their corporate stewardship process.

Action: Adopted as amended (12).

(An amendment to add the word *tithing* after "firstfruit" was defeated. By common consent the words *and cheerful* were added after "liberal.")

To Address Concerns on Designated Giving via Direct Mail and Telemarketing

RESOLUTION 4-12A

Report R4-02 (CW, pp. 75-81); Overtures 4-09, 4-11-12, 4-20 (CW, pp. 222, 224-25)

WHEREAS, While the motivation of an individual's giving is a response to Christ's sacrifice and love, the experience and interests of individuals prepare them to respond to particular needs and programs of our Synod; and

WHEREAS, The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians to prepare gifts before he came to them (2 Cor. 9:5), we, as the Synod, communicate our opportunities and needs for designated giving to our members using all modern means, such as telemarketing, direct-mail, fax, and others; and

WHEREAS, Telemarketing and direct-mail development for the Joint Seminary Program, LCMS World Relief, and the Board for Mission Services is done by the Department of Stewardship; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention support the 1989 synodical convention action which affirmed "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" (Res. 4-01, 1989 Proceedings); and be it further

Resolved, That individual concerns be addressed to the Department of Stewardship or to the appropriate board or entity sponsoring the development.

Action: Declined (12).

To Report Operating and Capital Expenditures for Implementing Resolutions Proposed to the 1992 Pittsburgh Convention

RESOLUTION 4-13A

(This schedule is prepared to comply with Bylaw 9.53g. It reflects estimates contained in budget requests or developed in consultation with appropriate department heads but without consultation with other floor committees or the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors. It is therefore subject to change after such consultation.)

Resolution No.	Title	Board or Commission Affected	Funds Included in Approved Tentative Operating Budgets for Fiscal Years			Potential Operating Budget Increases for Fiscal Years		
			1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95
1-01	To Accept and Apply the Mission Blueprint For The Nineties	Missions and Various Other	Small beginning.			Great potential as resources become available.		
1-02	To View the United States as a World Mission Field	Missions	337,000	337,000	337,000	Great potential as resources become available.		
1-04	To Strengthen Public Recognition of LCMS Mission	Communications				Costs not identified. Resolution provides for seeking outside support.		
1-05	To Respond to Renewed Mission Opportunities in Eastern Europe and Russia	Missions				Being funded through restricted funds received from an "outreach appeal."		
1-06	To Encourage Congregational Witness to Ethnic Groups	Evangelism	Accommodate within budget.					
1-08	To Intensify Witness Among Moslems	Missions & Evangelism	Increased emphasis to be within the allocated budget.					
1-10	To Provide Materials for Witnessing to Unchurched Family Members	Evangelism	Accommodate within budget.					
2-02	To Address Worship Needs Within The Synod	Worship	Part-time staff budgeted. 43,000 43,000 43,000			Return to full-time staff w/offices. 80,000 80,000 80,000		
2-03	To Make Family History A High Priority	Parish Services	Project funded through an outside grant.					
2-05	To Resume Publishing Obituaries of Professional Church Worker	Communications				Resumption of UPDATE bulletin 17,000 17,000 17,000		

Resolution No.	Title	Board or Commission Affected	Funds Included in Approved Tentative Operating Budgets for Fiscal Years			Potential Operating Budget Increases for Fiscal Years		
			1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95
3-02	To Encourage Formation of an International Missions Association	Church Relations Department	Initial implementation through present Church Relations budget					
			97,000	97,000	97,000			
3-07	To Reaffirm The Synod's Position and Resolve Related Issues Re Lay Ministry	President	Church Relations budget allows for Committee					
			5,000	5,000	-			
4-02	To Integrate and Expand The Synod's Method for Mission and Ministry Planning and Implementation	Planning Council Board of Directors Congregational Ministries	Cost reduction from 1991/92 budget					
	-Mission and Ministry Council		(116,000)	(116,000)	(116,000)			
	-Conference of Congregational Services		Cost of conference meetings					
			30,000	30,000	30,000			
4-03	To Restructure The Department of Stewardship and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation	Stewardship Foundation	Cost reductions from 1991/92 synodical budget—(Part of costs transferred to the Foundation)					
			(714,000)	(964,000)	(1,214,000)			
4-04	To Continue Expanding The Circle Process	ETC Working Team	Increase from 1991/92 budget					
			153,000	103,000	103,000			
4-05	To Levy Districts for Convention Expenses of Required Attendees	Convention	Reduction in synodical budget					
			(75,000)					
5-01	To Adopt a New Process for Conflict Resolution		The administration of this program will be funded through the reassignment of \$16,000 presently allocated to the budgets of the Commission on Adjudication and Appeals. Should also reduce legal costs.					
5-15	To Eliminate Commission on Structure	Structure	Reduction of \$13,000 already anticipated in tentative budget.					
6-04	To Initiate and Implement the Establishment of Concordia University System, Inc.	Higher Education	Will be accommodated within the tentative budget for the Board of Higher Education Services. Proposal should result in substantial operating economies for the schools.					

Resolution No.	Title	Board or Commission Affected	Funds Included in Approved Tentative Operating Budgets for Fiscal Years			Potential Operating Budget Increases for Fiscal Years		
			1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95
6-07	To Establish Deaconess Colloquy Program	Higher Education	No impact on synodical budget.					
6-19	To Study Feasibility of Practical Seminary in Southwest	Higher Education				10,000		
7-04	To Encourage the Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the Church's Life and Ministry	Social Ministry	Assume in present budget.					
			3,000	3,000	3,000			
7-05	To Support Housing Ministries	Social Ministry				Any funding to be from restricted or board designated funds (Keys for Christ and proceeds from Nehemiah project).		
7-06	To Expand Older Adult Ministries	Social Ministry	Project funded through an outside grant.					
7-08	To Train and Identify Lutheran Counselors	Social Ministry & Higher Education				Outside funding will be sought.		
7-09	To Encourage Environmental Stewardship	Stewards of God's Earth Committee	Promote in various publications. Already in budget.			Outside funding will be sought.		
7-18	To Continue Concern for Synodical Retirees and Widows of Retired Workers	Board of Directors	Budget based on actuarial projections.					
			1,333,000	1,240,000	1,139,000			
8-09	To Appoint a Task Force to Study and Develop a Strategic Plan regarding Regionalization of Synodical and District Staff	Mission and Ministry Council	Added Funding Required: 22,000					
			\$100,000 redirected AAL Grant from District/Synod Function Study					

CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS:

The only resolution requesting capital expenditures was 6-17 - To Provide Additional Married Student Housing. This request was not submitted by the Board for Higher Education Services and no estimated projections are available. However, the resolution provides for costs to be repaid from rent.

Add to the report appearing in *Today's Business Section* 1A, page 85, the following:

Res. no. 8-09

Title—To Appoint a Task Force to Study and Develop a Strategic Plan Regarding Regionalization of Synodical and District Staff

Board or commission affected—Mission and Ministry Council (or Board of Directors if Res. 4-02 fails)

Funds Included in Approved Tentative Operating Budgets for Fiscal Years—1992/93—1993/94—1994/95—would redefine "District/Synod Functions Study" being conducted through a \$100,000 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans to include much of this request. Added annual funding of \$22,100 required for meetings of special Task Force.

Action: Report received (14).

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 4-14

Overtures 4-23, 4-31. (CW, pp. 226-27, 229)

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
4-23	Establishing District Budgets	More appropriately handled by Districts
4-31	Synodical Salaries	Being handled through proper channels

Action: Adopted (14).

5. Structure and Organization

To Adopt New Process for Conflict Resolution

RESOLUTION 5-01B

Overtures 5-01-21, 8-44 (CW, pp. 231-44, 308)

Preface. Since early 1980 the Synod has attempted in numerous ways to clarify procedures that it felt would be most useful in resolving conflicts at various levels within the Synod. In recent years our present system of adjudication and appeals has proven to be extremely costly with regard to the expenditure of money and time. In January of 1990 the President of the Synod appointed a task force to study the matter of conflict resolution and to make appropriate recommendations. The task force, consisting of members of the Council of Presidents, the Commission on Appeals, the Commission on Adjudication, and the Commission on Constitutional Matters, has worked to develop a process for conflict resolution that is based upon the scriptural principles of reconciliation (Matt. 18 and 2 Cor. 5).

The Floor Committee on Structure and Organization believes that the process presented by the task force offers the Synod a new procedure for conflict resolution that:

- a. is thoroughly biblical;
- b. stresses the reconciliation of members within the family of God (encouraging a win-win rather than win-lose resolution of conflict);
- c. presents a positive witness to the secular community as to how Christians resolve their conflicts;
- d. provides for final resolution of disputes in a timely manner;
- e. is less costly in terms of money and time;
- f. discourages the secular approach of adversarial litigation; and
- g. requires a face-to-face meeting of the complainant and respondent in a spirit of Christian reconciliation.

Therefore, the following revision of chapter VIII of the Synod's Bylaws is presented for adoption and implementation.

Resolved, That the following Bylaws be adopted as a complete revision of chapter VIII.

PROPOSED WORDING

VIII. Synodical Dispute Resolution

Preamble

When disputes, disagreements, or offenses arise among members of the body of Christ, it is a matter of grave concern for the whole church. Conflicts which occur in the body should be resolved promptly (Matt. 5:23-24; Eph. 4:26-27). Parties are urged by the mercies of God to proceed with one another with "the same attitude that was in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). In so doing, individuals, congregations, and various entities within the Synod are urged to reject a "win-lose" attitude that typifies secular conflict. For the sake of the Gospel, the church should spare no resource in providing assistance.

The Holy Scriptures (1 Cor. 6:1-7) urge Christians to settle their differences by laying them before the "mem-



Committee 5 Chairman Loren T. Kramer

bers of the brotherhood." Therefore, the Synod in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 6 calls upon all parties to a disagreement, accusation, controversy or disciplinary action to rely exclusively and fully on the Synod's system of reconciliation and conflict resolution. The use of the Synod's conflict resolution procedures shall be the exclusive and final remedy for those who are in dispute. Fitness for ministry and other theological matters must be determined within the church. Parties are urged, in matters of a doctrinal nature, to follow the procedures as outlined in Bylaw 2.39 c.

The words of Jesus in Matt. 18:15-20 provide the basis for church discipline for the local congregation. The same passage also grants Christ's guidance to all Christians in seeking to settle other disputes, many of which fall outside the purview of church discipline involving the congregation. In either case, the steps of Matthew 18 should be applied lovingly in both formal and informal settings. The parties and others attempting to effect resolution of a dispute must always remain mindful that the church has been given the "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:18). Hence, conflict resolution in the church is to lead to reconciliation, restoring the erring member in a spirit of gentleness (Gal. 6:1). Its aim is to avoid the adversarial system practiced in society.

The heart and center of all Christian conflict resolution is the justification of the sinner through grace in Christ Jesus. Biblical reconciliation of persons in conflict begins with God's truth that we are all sinners who have been reconciled to God through the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus. Christ's "ministry of reconciliation" is one of the church's foremost priorities.

Christian conflict resolution seeks to resolve disputed issues in a manner pleasing to God. Those in conflict are urged to proceed prayerfully in good faith and trust. Disputes are more likely to be resolved harmoniously if those involved in the conflict recognize one another as redeemed children of God.

Christians involved in conflict must always stand ready to ask for or extend forgiveness in accordance with Scripture. As the church endeavors to help bring about peace, truth, justice, and reconciliation, it always seeks

to do so with a proper distinction between Law and Gospel, that is, in the context of God's judgment and mercy. We are ever to be mindful that it is God who judges the hearts of sinful men and grants His gracious word of forgiveness to us all.

When there is repentance and reconciliation, the body of Christ rejoices in its oneness with Christ and with one another.

8.01 Purpose and Objectives

This procedure is established to resolve, in a God-pleasing manner, disputes that involve as parties, members of the Synod, the Synod itself, a District or an organization owned and controlled by the Synod, persons involved in excommunication or lay members of congregations of the Synod holding positions with the Synod itself or with Districts or other organizations owned and controlled by the Synod and shall be the exclusive remedy to resolve such disputes. It is applicable whether the dispute involves only a difference of opinion without personal animosity or is one which involves ill will and sin which requires repentance and forgiveness. No person or entity to whom or to which the provisions of this chapter are applicable because such person or entity is a member of the Synod may render the provisions of this chapter inapplicable by terminating that membership.

8.02 Exceptions

This chapter does not prescribe an exclusive remedy in the following matters unless they involve theological, doctrinal, or ecclesiastical issues:

1. Disputes concerning property rights (e.g., real estate agreements, mortgages, fraud, or embezzlement);
2. Disputes arising under contractual arrangements of all kinds (e.g., contracts for goods, services, or employment benefits).

8.03 Definition of Terms As Used in This Chapter

Complainant—a party to a dispute who initiates action to settle conflict under the provisions of the Synod's dispute resolution process.

Dispute Resolution Panel—three persons who are reconcilers selected by blind draw, who shall hear matters in dispute between parties and assist in reconciliation or provide for a resolution of the dispute by rendering a final decision.

May—as used in this chapter the word may is permissive, expressing ability, liberty, or the possibility to act.

Reconciler—as used in this chapter, a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or of an LCMS congregation who is appointed to be available to assist parties to a dispute with a view to reconciling them or enabling them to adjust or settle their dispute and has completed the synodical training program.

A reconciler does not judge or take sides but rather, with the help of God, assists both parties to find their own resolution to the dispute.

Reply of respondent—a written response issued by a party to a dispute containing factual assertions that answer a complainant's statement of the matter in dispute.

Respondent—one who is a named party to a dispute brought by a complainant.

Shall—as used in this chapter the word shall is a word of command that must always be given an imperative or compulsory meaning.

Statement of the matter in dispute—a written concise statement containing factual assertions involving contended or conflicted issues between one or more parties. The statement may also contain a request for the type of relief to be granted.

8.05 Informal Efforts toward Reconciliation

Before any matter is submitted to the formal reconciliation process, the parties involved in a dispute must meet together, face to face, in a good faith attempt to settle their dispute (Matt. 18:15).

8.07 Procedure for Reconcilers

a. If the complainant is of the opinion that such informal reconciliation efforts have failed, the complainant shall submit a request to the Secretary of the Synod or District, as appropriate, that a reconciler be appointed to assist in seeking reconciliation. Such request shall be accompanied by (a) a written statement of the matter in dispute and (b) a written statement setting forth, in detail, the efforts that have been made to achieve informal reconciliation.

b. The Secretary of the Synod or District, as appropriate, shall promptly select the reconciler in the manner hereinafter set forth and then notify the parties to the dispute as to the name and address of the reconciler. He shall also forward to the chosen reconciler and the respondent the statement of the matter in dispute and the written statement of informal reconciliation efforts.

c. If the reconciler determines that informal reconciliation efforts have been inadequate, the reconciler shall direct the parties to engage in further informal reconciliation efforts. Such additional time shall not exceed 60 days.

d. If informal reconciliation efforts do not resolve the matter, the reconciler shall direct the respondent to submit to the reconciler and the complainant a written reply responding to the statement of the matter in dispute. The reconciler shall simultaneously arrange a formal reconciliation meeting with the parties to the dispute. Such meeting shall be scheduled by the reconciler at the earliest reasonable date possible, at a location which will minimize travel for the parties to the dispute.

e. At the formal reconciliation meeting, the reconciler shall listen to the facts as presented by the parties to the dispute and seek to reconcile their differences on the basis of Christian love and forgiveness. With the approval of the reconciler, each party may, in the manner described in Matt. 18:16, bring one or two persons to the meeting "so that every matter may be established by their testimony." Such meeting shall not be open to the public, nor shall any formal record be made thereof.

f. Upon conclusion of the formal reconciliation meeting or meetings, the reconciler shall prepare a written report which contains the actions of the reconciler, the facts agreed to, the facts remaining in dispute and whether reconciliation has been achieved. Attached to the report shall be

1. the statement of the complainant as to informal reconciliation efforts;
2. the statement of the matter in dispute;
3. any reply by the respondent.

The report and the attachments shall be forwarded to the parties to the dispute and the Secretary of the Synod or District as appropriate.

g. If the parties with the assistance of the reconciler have been unable to achieve reconciliation, the complainant shall notify the Secretary of the Synod within 30 days after receiving the report from the reconciler whether the matter is to be presented to a Dispute Resolution Panel.

h. If the complainant requests formation of a Dispute Resolution Panel, the Secretary of the Synod shall within 10 days select such a panel in the prescribed manner and then forward to each panel member a copy of the report of the reconciler with its attachments.

8.09 Procedure of Dispute Resolution Panel

a. The Dispute Resolution Panel shall meet in person, or by telephone conference, within 30 days after its appointment for the purpose of selecting a chairman and secretary. After the chairman confers with the parties to the dispute, the Dispute Resolution Panel shall choose a location and a date for the formal hearing of the matter.

b. The formal hearing before the Dispute Resolution Panel shall take place within 60 days after the date of final selection of the panel members unless there is unanimous consent by the panel members for a short delay beyond such 60 days for reasons the panel deems appropriate.

c. The following rules for the Dispute Resolution Panel shall apply:

1. It shall be private, attended only by the parties and the witnesses who can substantiate the facts relevant to the matter in dispute. The panel shall establish the procedure to be followed in the hearing and the relevancy of evidence so that each party shall be given an opportunity fully to present its respective position. In performing its duty, the panel shall continue efforts to reconcile the parties on the basis of Christian love and forgiveness.

2. Within 60 days after the final hearing, the panel shall issue a written decision which shall state the facts determined by the panel and the reasons for its decision.

3. The panel shall forward a copy of its decision to
- a) each party to the matter in dispute;
 - b) the Secretary of the Synod;
 - c) the President of the Synod;
 - d) the President of the respective district.

d. Within 30 days after receiving the decision of the Dispute Resolution Panel, any party to the dispute; or the President of the Synod if a question of doctrine or practice is involved (Art. XI B 1-3), may request a reconsideration by the panel. The President may also request that an opinion of the CCM or CTCR be obtained. Such request for a reconsideration shall be mailed to each member of the Dispute Resolution Panel and the other parties to the dispute, and shall be accompanied by a written memorandum stating the basis for the request, identifying the doctrine or practice with which the decision is in conflict. Within 30 days after receipt, the panel shall issue in writing its decision as to the request. If a reconsideration is granted, the procedure shall be the same as that followed in the prior hearing before the panel, except that the panel may decide to issue its decision on reconsideration without a further formal hearing.

e. The final decision of a Dispute Resolution Panel shall

1. be binding upon the parties to that dispute and not be subject to further appeal;
2. have no precedential value;
3. be carried out by the appropriate person, group, or member of the Synod;
4. be publicized as deemed appropriate under the circumstances by the District or synodical President.

8.11 Congregation's Right of Self-Government

The congregation's right of self-government shall be recognized. However, when a decision of a congregation is at issue, a Dispute Resolution Panel may review the decision of the congregation according to the Holy Scriptures and shall either uphold the action of the congregation or advise the congregation to review and revise its decision. If the congregation does not revise its decision, the other congregations of the Synod shall not be required to respect this decision, and the District involved shall take action with respect to the congregation as it may deem appropriate.

8.13 District Reconcilers

a. Within three months after the synodical convention, each District Board of Directors shall appoint a District roster of four reconcilers, no more than two of whom shall be pastors, from a list supplied by the Circuit Counselors of the District. The term of service shall be six years, renewable once. They shall be people "of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3). Vacancies for an unexpired term shall be filled in the same manner by the Board of Directors within 30 days following their occurrence.

b. One of the four shall be chosen by blind draw by the Secretary of the District to serve as reconciler in the following situations arising in the District:

1. Procedural questions involved in excommunication cases
2. Cases in which a member of the Synod shall have been removed from the position which that member holds in a congregation which is a member of the Synod
3. Cases in which a person, whether or not a member

of the Synod, is removed from the position which is held in the District

4. Cases involving differences between congregations within the same District or between a congregation and its District

c. The members of the District roster of reconcilers of all the Districts shall comprise the synodical roster of reconcilers. One of the synodical roster of reconcilers shall be chosen by blind draw by the Secretary of the Synod in all disputes except those (a) enumerated in section 8.13 b above, or (b) cases under Art. XIII of the Constitution which shall follow the procedure set forth in 2.27 Bylaw.

d. Limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply to reconcilers.

8.15 Dispute Resolution Panels

a. The synodical roster of reconcilers shall comprise the list from which Dispute Resolution Panel members will be selected.

b. Each Dispute Resolution Panel shall consist of three persons, at least one of whom shall be a pastor and one a layman, selected as follows:

1. Nine names shall be selected by a blind draw from the Dispute Resolution Roster.

2. No member of a panel shall be from the District in which the dispute arose or, if it is a synodical question, from any District in which a party holds membership.

3. The list shall be mailed simultaneously to each party, who shall be entitled to strike three names and return the list to the Secretary of the Synod within one week.

4. The Secretary of the Synod will correct any problem in the panel membership by a further blind draw for removals or additions, which shall then constitute the panel.

c. The panel shall elect a chairman and secretary.

8.17 Disqualification

a. The standard for disqualification of a reconciler or panel member shall be actual partiality or the appearance thereof. Any party to a dispute shall have the right to request disqualification of a reconciler or a panel member. If that individual does not agree to the disqualification, the decision shall be made by a separate three-member panel of reconcilers drawn for that purpose.

b. In the event that a reconciler or panel member is disqualified, another individual shall be chosen by blind draw.

8.19 Decisions

a. **Quorum:** A majority of the panel members shall be involved in all stages of the decision-making process.

b. **Majority vote:** If the parties cannot settle their dispute and be reconciled, the Dispute Resolution Panel shall issue a decision based on a majority vote of the panel. In the event that a majority decision cannot be reached, a new panel shall be formed immediately in accordance with the Bylaws and the matter be reheard.

8.21 Rules of Procedure

a. Reconcilers and Dispute Resolution Panels shall be governed in all their actions by Holy Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

b. In the interest of promoting the reconciliation process, any member of the Synod, officer of a congregation, or officer of any organization owned or controlled by the Synod shall, when called upon by the Dispute Resolution Panel to do so, testify or produce records related to the dispute.

c. Each party to a dispute shall assume its own expenses. The expenses of reconcilers and Dispute Resolution Panels shall be borne by the Synod except for those which arise under Bylaw 8.13 b, which shall be borne by the District.

d. No party to a dispute nor anyone on the party's behalf, shall either directly or indirectly communicate

with the reconciler or any member of the Dispute Resolution Panel without the full knowledge of the other party to the dispute.

e. While a matter in dispute is still undecided or while an appeal is contemplated or pending, publicity shall not be given to the issues in the matter by any of the parties involved.

f. Advisors. Any party may seek, at its own personal expense, the assistance of individuals familiar with the issues involved in the dispute. They may actively participate in research and the preparation of necessary documents. At the hearing, however, each party shall represent itself without the presence of any advisors. If a party is a board or commission of the Synod or its Districts, it shall be represented by its chairman or designated member.

g. The Dispute Resolution Panel shall determine the number of witnesses necessary for a full and complete understanding of the facts involved in the dispute. It shall question parties and witnesses directly and may also permit the parties to do so.

h. All records of disputes in which a final decision has been rendered by the Dispute Resolution Panel shall be placed in the custody of Concordia Historical Institute. All such records shall be sealed and shall be opened only for good cause shown and only after permission has been granted by a Dispute Resolution Panel selected by blind draw for that purpose.

i. If any part of the dispute involves a specific question of doctrine or doctrinal application, each party shall have the right to an opinion from the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. If it involves questions of Constitution or Bylaw interpretation, each party shall have a right to an interpretation from the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The request for an opinion must be made through the Dispute Resolution Panel, which shall determine the wording of the question(s). The request for an opinion must be made within four weeks of the final formation of the Dispute Resolution Panel. If a party does not request such an opinion within the designated time, such a request may still be made to the Dispute Resolution Panel which shall, at its discretion, determine whether the request shall be forwarded. The Dispute Resolution Panel shall also have the right, at any time, to request an opinion from the Commission on Theology and Church Relations or the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Any opinion so requested shall be rendered within 30 days or such greater time as the Dispute Resolution Panel may allow. When an opinion has been requested, the time limitations will not apply until the opinion has been received by the parties. Any opinion received must be followed by the Dispute Resolution Panel;

and be it further

Resolved, That all cases currently in the adjudication or appeals process be concluded under the existing Bylaws governing adjudication and appeals;

and be it further

Resolved, That the provisions of these Bylaws be implemented immediately by the various Districts and the Secretary of the Synod;

and be it further

Resolved, That this new procedure shall apply to all dispute resolutions initiated after the date of adoption of this amendment without regard to the date of onset of the dispute;

and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage that the procedures outlined in chapter VIII be adapted and used by congregations and individuals in resolving controversies which may arise at the local level.

Action: Adopted (6).

(During discussion, a motion to refer the resolution back to the original task force was defeated. A motion was made to amend 8.21 by deletion of section i. An effort to end debate first failed but later was agreed to by common consent and the amendment was then defeated. In session 6, although 30 minutes of debate had elapsed, delegates declined the automatic call to cease debate by a vote of 66.1%, a two-thirds vote being required for doing so. A motion to refer the matter back to the task force and congregations was declared out of order since this action had already been declined previously. After agreeing to cease debate, the resolution was adopted by a vote of 725-368, a 66.3% majority.)

To Clarify and Protect All Individual Workers' Rights

RESOLUTION 5-02A

Overture 5-17 (CW, pp. 240-41)

WHEREAS, The current method for dealing with restricting, suspending and expelling congregations or individuals from membership in the Synod does not provide explicit criteria for placing a worker on restricted status, does not provide a time limitation for being on such status, does not provide provision for review or appeal when placed on such status, and does not provide a requirement for ministering to that individual, it becomes advisable to provide a broader protection for the individual worker's rights; therefore be it

Resolved, That proposed Bylaws 2.23, 2.25, 2.27 and 2.29 be adopted replacing current *Handbook* 2.23, 2.25, 2.27 and 2.29.

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

2.23 Restricted Status

a. If information with respect to an individual member of the Synod is made known to or becomes known by the President of the District who has ecclesiastical supervision of the member, and the District President, after a reasonable investigation, believes, given the nature of the circumstances, that the information may have a bearing on the qualifications of the person to remain an active member in good standing, the District President may restrict that person's membership status until the matter is satisfactorily resolved.

b. In cases in which the adjudication and appeals procedures as set forth in these Bylaws, that may lead to termination of membership (expulsion) in conformity with Constitution Article XIII, 8, are begun, Bylaw 2.26 shall apply and the person's restricted membership shall become suspended membership.

c. During the period that the restriction is in effect, the member shall have "restricted status," that is, shall be ineligible (1) to perform functions of ministry except in the position of service, if any, held at the inception of the restricted status and otherwise only if approved by the appropriate District President and (2) for accepting a call to any other position of service in the Synod.

d. The records maintained by the respective District President shall reflect the restriction. In addition, the District President shall notify the President of the Synod and all other District Presidents in writing of the restriction of the affected person's membership status.

a. An individual member of the Synod may be placed on restricted status by the District President of the District who has ecclesiastical supervision of the member. The District President may take this action if information with respect to such member provides a substantial basis to conclude that such member

1. has engaged in conduct which could lead to expulsion from the Synod under Art. XIII of the Constitution;

2. is incapable of performing the duties of the office or position because of a physical, mental, or emotional disability;

3. neglects or refuses to perform the duties of the office or position.

b. An individual member of the Synod on restricted status is ineligible to

1. perform functions of ministry except in the position of service, if any, held at the inception of restricted status and otherwise only if approved by the District President; and

2. accept a call to any other position of service in the Synod.

c. An individual member of the Synod shall be notified in writing as to the specific reasons for having been placed on restricted status. Such restricted status shall continue for a period of one year or a lesser period if the matter is satisfactorily resolved. In order to extend the restricted status beyond one year, the District President shall annually thereafter notify the member in writing as to the reasons for such continuance of restricted status.

d. An individual member of the Synod who is placed on restricted status shall have the right to appeal the placement on, or continuance of, restricted status by filing a Petition for Removal of Restricted Status with the Council of Presidents. A party on restricted status may petition for removal therefrom no more than once in a 12-month period. Such Petition for Removal of Restricted Status shall be addressed solely to the Council of Presidents through the office of the President of the Synod. The Council of Presidents shall rule on such petition within six months from the date of the receipt.

e. While a member is on restricted status, the District President shall minister to that member either directly or through others, concern himself with the spiritual well-being of that member, and continue efforts to resolve those matters which led to the imposition of restricted status.

f. The records maintained by the respective District President shall reflect the restricted status. In addition, the District President shall notify in writing the President of the Synod and all other District Presidents of such restricted status.

2.25 Suspended Status

While a congregation or an individual whose membership in the Synod is subject to proceedings under these Bylaws that may lead to termination of membership (expulsion), the member shall have "suspended status." This status will continue until membership is duly terminated or the proceedings are completed favorably to the member. During the period of suspension, an individual member shall be ineligible for service in the Synod. The records maintained by the respective District President shall reflect the suspension, and the District President shall notify the President of the Synod and all other District Presidents in writing of the affected person's suspended membership status.

a. When formal proceedings have been commenced against a member of the Synod (individual or congregation), under the procedure set forth in Bylaw 2.27, which may lead to expulsion from the Synod under Art. XIII of the Constitution, the member shall have suspended status. If such member was on restricted status at the commencement of formal proceedings, the restricted status shall become suspended status.

b. Suspended status shall continue until membership is duly terminated or the formal proceedings are completed favorably to the member. While on suspended status, the member shall continue to hold all rights under the Constitution and Bylaws subject to the limitations set forth herein.

c. An individual member of the Synod on suspended status shall

1. be relieved of duties as a member of the Synod (e.g., as a delegate to a District or synodical convention, as a member of any District or synodical board or commission);

2. be relieved of the duties and responsibilities which the member holds with the Synod, District, or other agency of the Synod;

3. be ineligible to accept a call to any other position of service in the Synod;

4. continue to be eligible to perform those duties and responsibilities of any other position held by the member, including a position with a member congregation, which such member held at the time when placed on suspended status.

d. When a member is placed on suspended status, the District President who has ecclesiastical supervision of the member shall

1. reflect the suspended status in the records maintained by him;

2. notify, in writing, the President of the Synod and all other District Presidents of the affected member's suspended status;

3. notify the congregation or other entity being served by the individual member of the suspended status to take appropriate action so that the rights of both the member and congregation or other entity are preserved.

e. While a member is on suspended status, the District President shall minister to that member either directly or through others, concern himself with the spiritual well-being of such member, and continue efforts to resolve those matters which led to imposition of the suspended status.

2.27 Commencing an Action to Terminate Congregational or Individual Membership

a. When all informal efforts fail to resolve a disagreement, accusation, or controversy which is of such a nature that it could lead to expulsion of a congregation or individual as a member of the Synod under Article XIII of the Constitution, a statement of the case shall be presented in writing by the complainant to the President of the District who has ecclesiastical supervision of the member. The District President shall investigate the situation. The District President may initiate an action on the basis of his own knowledge of such matters as could lead to termination of membership. In either case, a copy of the written statement of the case shall be sent to the involved member by the District President.

b. The District President shall decide whether the information concerning the matters which could lead to termination of membership preliminarily appear to be able to be substantiated. If he determines that it does not so appear, he shall decline to suspend the member. If he determines that it does, and if the complainant wishes to pursue the matter, the involved member shall be informed by the District President in writing 15 days prior to the effective date that the member shall be placed on suspended status (Bylaw 2.26).

c. If the District President suspends the member, he shall present the case to the Commission on Adjudication of his District within seven days after the effective date of the suspension. However, the District President may elect to defer such adjudication if the case involves a separate proceeding which the District President determines should first be resolved, in which event the member shall be placed on restricted status (2.23) and not suspended. In all other events, and in all cases when the member so requests, the case shall be processed promptly by the Commission on Adjudication which shall, subject to any appeal, make the decision as to whether the membership of the individual or congregation shall be terminated or whether membership in good standing shall be restored. It shall be the responsibility of the Commission on Adjudication to give direction to those individuals and congregations that appear to be necessary participants in the proceedings, to the end that all evidence and testimony that may have a bearing on the issues can be presented in an orderly manner.

d. When the District President sends a copy of the charges to the involved member, he shall also then give written notice that the involved member has 15 days to notify the chairman of the Commission on Adjudication;

through the office of the District President, if the member wishes the matter to be adjudicated, subject to deferral as provided in Bylaw 2.27 c. If the involved member decides that it or he wishes the matter to be adjudicated, the member shall have a minimum of 30 days after giving that notice within which to prepare its or his case prior to any hearing. Failure to file such notice in writing within the prescribed time will be regarded as consent to termination of membership effective at the end of the 15-day period.

e. In the event that the District President is disqualified because he is a party to the case or is unable to act, the First Vice-President or the next qualified District officer is 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 Praesidium of the Synod.

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:

a. When, either by a written complaint of any person or by his own personal knowledge, facts, which could lead to the expulsion of a member from the Synod under Art. XIII of the Constitution, are made known to the District President who has ecclesiastical supervision of such member, the District President shall

1. thoroughly investigate whether the allegations can be substantiated. In the event the District President is disqualified because he is a party to the matter in dispute, has a conflict of interest, or is unable to act, the First Vice-President or the next qualified District officer to function in this instance shall act 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 Praesidium of the Synod.

2. require compliance with Matt. 18:15-16 and may appoint a small committee to assist in reconciliation efforts.

b. If the District President declines to suspend the member or fails to act within 90 days after receipt of the written complaint, the complainant may present the written complaint to the Praesidium of the Synod, which consists of the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Synod. If after investigation the Praesidium concludes that the facts form a basis for expulsion of the member under Art. XIII of the Constitution, the Praesidium shall proceed in the same fashion as hereafter required of the District President. If the Praesidium determines not to proceed, it shall in writing so inform the complainant and the involved member, which shall terminate the matter.

c. If the District President concludes that the facts form a basis for expulsion of the member under Art. XIII of the Constitution, the District President shall

1. prepare a written statement of the matter in dispute which sets forth the alleged facts and states that he is requesting expulsion of the member from the Synod in accord with Art. XIII of the Constitution;

2. provide the member with

a) a copy of the written statement of the case;

b) a written notification of the member's suspended status under Bylaw 2.25;

c) written notification that the member has 15 days from the date of receipt of the statement of the case to advise the Secretary of the Synod of the desire for the matter to be heard and resolved. Failure by the member to file such written request for hearing and resolution within the 15-day period shall be deemed to be consent to termination of membership in the Synod.

d. If the request is made, the Secretary of the Synod shall inform the District President and form a Dispute Resolution Panel in accordance with the Bylaws. At that time, the District President shall forward to the Secretary of the Synod the statement of the matter in dispute and a written memorandum describing the manner in which there was compliance with the mandate of Matt. 18:15-16.

e. The District President shall take those steps necessary to assure that the spiritual needs of the member are attended to and continue efforts to resolve those matters which led to the commencement of the formal action against such member.

f. When the matter has been formally presented to the Dispute Resolution Panel, it shall promptly undertake a hearing of the matter in accord with the provisions of chapter VIII of these Bylaws.

2.29 Duration and Effect of Suspension Procedure to Consider Petition for Removal of Restricted Status

a. The suspension of a member shall remain in effect until a decision is reached by the Commission on Adjudication, provided that in the event the decision of the Commission on Adjudication is duly appealed, the suspension shall remain in effect until a final decision is reached by the Commission on Appeals. During the period of suspension a member shall not be relieved of any rights under the Constitution and Bylaws, but an individual member shall be relieved (1) of his duties as a member of the Synod (e.g., to serve as a delegate to a District or synodical convention, membership on District or synodical boards and commissions) and (2) of the duties and responsibilities of any position he or she holds with the Synod or with a District or other agency of the Synod, and shall be ineligible for accepting a call to any other position of service in the Synod. Suspension, however, shall not, of itself, act to relieve an individual member of duties and responsibilities of any other position held by the member, including a position with a congregation which is a member of the Synod; but the District President shall notify the congregation or other entity being served of the suspension so that the congregation or other entity may take action as it deems appropriate.

b. The Commission on Adjudication shall keep all parties to the case and the District President informed as to the procedural progress it is making in the case and shall endeavor to bring the case to a conclusion within three months from the effective date of suspension except (1) where a longer time is deemed necessary to guarantee the rights of all parties, (2) as permitted under Bylaw 2.27 c, or (3) for other good cause.

c. A complainant, the member whose membership is subject to termination, and the appropriate District President shall each have the right to appeal the decision of the Commission on Adjudication. Notice of intent to appeal to the Commission on Appeals must be filed within 30 days after receipt of the decision of the Commission on Adjudication.

d. In any case in which a Commission on Adjudication or the Commission on Appeals shall decide that the suspension of a pastor or teacher of the Synod should be set aside, the commission shall, as part of its decision, determine the extent to which and the manner in which the individual shall be reimbursed for any loss of income suffered during the period of suspension. This determination shall be binding on all parties. If the decision is appealed, the Commission on Appeals shall also re-

view the decision concerning reimbursement for loss of income:

a. A hearing on the petition for removal of restricted status shall be conducted by a hearing panel consisting of three District Presidents selected as follows:

1. One District President selected by the petitioner.
2. One District President selected by the District President who imposed restricted status (hereinafter referred to as the involved District President). The involved District President may not choose himself.
3. The third District President selected by the other two hearing panel members. If the two hearing panel members cannot agree on the third hearing panel member, then such third member shall be chosen by blind draw from among the remaining District Presidents.

b. Upon receipt of a petition for removal of restricted status, the chairman of the Council of Presidents (COP) shall promptly notify the petitioner and the involved District President of their respective right to choose one hearing panel member and direct that the identity of their selection be transmitted to the chairman of the COP within one month from the date of such notice. If either party declines to make a selection within such one-month period, such selection shall then be made by the chairman of the COP.

c. When two hearing panel members have so been chosen, the chairman of the COP shall promptly notify them of their selection to the hearing panel and direct that they select the third member of the hearing panel and notify the chairman of the COP of their selection.

d. After the hearing panel is constituted, it shall select one of its members as chairman, who shall then, after conferring with the petitioner and the involved District President, select a date and location where the hearing panel will consider the petition.

e. The hearing before the panel shall be private, attended only by the parties and the witnesses who can substantiate the facts relevant to the matter in dispute. The panel shall establish the procedure to be followed in the hearing and the relevancy of evidence so that each party shall be given an opportunity fully to present its respective position. Upon completion of the hearing, the hearing panel shall deliberate and then issue its written decision within 60 days, a copy of which shall be mailed to the petitioner, the involved District President and the chairman of the COP. The decision of the hearing panel shall be the decision of the COP and shall be final with no right of appeal.

Action: Adopted as amended (10).

(The amendments to this resolution were adopted by common consent. They included addition of the words *declines to suspend the member or in 2.27 b* and deletion of the words *If the praesidium takes no action within 180 days, the complaint shall be deemed denied and the matter terminated in the same section.*)

To Clarify Faculty Rights

RESOLUTION 5-03B

Overture 5-17 (CW, pp. 241-43)

WHEREAS, The following Bylaws relating to faculty rights are found to be adequate, namely 6.39, 6.41, 6.43-44:

6.39 Evangelical Discipline and the Right of Appeal

a. Each faculty shall develop policies worthy of the Christian faith for personal conduct and community life applicable to students, faculty and staff members, and other employees while on the campus.

b. Each Board of Regents, on recommendation of the faculty, shall adopt a comprehensive policy statement committing the school to the principles of Christian discipline, evangelical dealing, and good order governing the students individually and collectively.

c. Each student shall be informed regarding the disciplinary policy and procedure and under what conditions and to whom an appeal from a disciplinary decision may be made. There shall be no right of appeal under the provisions of Bylaw 8.01ff.

6.41 Controversies among Faculty Members

Controversies and disagreements among members of the faculty (other than those set forth in Bylaw 6.43) shall be submitted to the president of the institution for mediation. If this proves unsuccessful, he shall report the matter to the Board of Regents for arbitration. After hearing the parties the board will render its decision, which shall be final, without the right of appeal under the provisions of Bylaw 8.01ff. A record of the proceedings shall be filed with the Board for Higher Education Services.

6.43 Removal from Office

a. The Board of Regents may decline to renew the appointment of a faculty member without permanent tenure at the time of the expiration of the term of the appointment in accordance with paragraph 6.23 e.

b. No member of the faculty who has been granted permanent tenure and no member of the faculty without permanent tenure at times other than the expiration of the term of his appointment shall be removed from the faculty either by ecclesiastical authority or by the Board of Regents except for causes hereinafter enumerated and by procedures hereinafter described.

c. The only causes for which members of a faculty may be removed from office (within the definitions of a and b above), other than honorable retirement, are:

1. professional incompetency;
2. incapacity for the performance of duty because of physical, mental, or emotional disabilities;
3. refusal to cooperate;
4. neglect of or refusal to perform duties of office;
5. conduct unbecoming a Christian;
6. advocacy of false doctrine (Constitution, Article II) or failure to honor and uphold the doctrinal position of the Synod as defined further in Bylaw 1.09 c.

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 6 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;

and

WHEREAS, The remaining provisions of chapter VI relating to disagreement, discipline, and controversies, involving faculties need clarification to decrease potential problems and provide for faster and more economical settlement; and

WHEREAS, The proper exercise of governing responsibilities come under the Board of Regents; therefore be it

Resolved, That proposed Bylaws 6.45, 6.47, and 6.49 be adopted to replace current Bylaws 6.45, 6.47, and 6.49.

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

6.45 Board Supervision

a. The Board of Regents shall have the sole prerogative to investigate charges of professional incompetency, incapacity for the performance of duty because of physical, mental, or emotional disabilities; refusal to cooperate; or neglect of or refusal to perform duties of office. The president of the institution or another administrator shall present the charges.

b. Through procedures hereinafter set forth, the Board of Regents shall also have responsibility to investigate charges of conduct unbecoming a Christian, false doctrine, or failure to honor and uphold the doctrinal position of the Synod.

a. The Board of Regents shall have authority to investigate, hear, and act on any complaint arising out of Bylaw 6.43 c 1-6.

b. Any decision, made pursuant to Bylaw 6.47, shall be final and binding on the parties involved with no right of further appeal except as set forth in Bylaw 6.47 g.

6.47 Procedures for Exercising Board Supervision

a. When the Board of Regents or the president of an educational institution of the Synod receives a charge against any member of that institution's faculty, in the spirit of Christian love the complainant shall be advised to communicate directly with the person against whom he has a complaint and attempt to find a peaceful and amicable resolution to the matter.

If subsequently the complainant desires to pursue the matter, he shall so notify the Board of Regents and present the charge in writing, formulated with reasonable definiteness, and the evidence. The Board of Regents shall then direct the president of the institution to attempt to deal with it to the satisfaction of all concerned. Charges against the president of the institution shall be dealt with by the chairman of the Board of Regents.

b. If in such a given case the board decides that the charge is serious enough and of a nature that it is deemed to be in the best interest of the institution that he not continue to perform his duties as a member of the faculty, the board may suspend the faculty member from his teaching and/or administrative duties; contractual obligations of the institution, however, shall continue until the charge is resolved.

If the complainant does not notify the Board of Regents that such initial efforts have failed and does not resubmit the charge in writing together with substantive evidence within 60 days from the initial receipt of the charge by the Board of Regents, the Board of Regents may rule that the matter has been resolved to the complainant's satisfaction.

c. If the board fails to initiate further action within 60 days, and if the complainant is dissatisfied and the charge involves conduct unbecoming a Christian or advocacy of false doctrine (Constitution, Article II), the complainant may take his complaint to the District

President. If he finds the action of the District President unacceptable, he may take his complaint to the synodical President under the pertinent provisions of Bylaw 6.49.

d. If the board should decide to proceed, and if the charge is of a theological nature, the board shall submit the theological question at issue to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations for an advisory theological opinion.

e. Furthermore, if the Board of Regents has decided to proceed, it shall also direct an ad-hoc hearings committee to hold a hearing with respect to the validity of the charge that been made. The hearings committee shall consist of three faculty members selected by the faculty and two other persons selected by the Board of Regents. The committee shall hold its first hearing no later than eight weeks after the Board of Regents has served notice that the committee is to be constituted. The goal shall be that a decision shall be rendered within three months of the time that the Board of Regents has determined that there shall be a hearings committee.

The notification of the hearing, approved and issued by the board through the president of the institution at least four weeks in advance and sent to the chairman of the committee, to the complainant, and to the accused, shall contain (1) a statement of the charge or charges, (2) a summary of the evidence on which the charges are based, (3) a statement that the hearings committee will conduct a hearing and that the time and the place thereof shall be determined by the hearings committee, (4) a formal invitation to the complainant and the accused to attend the hearing, (5) a statement to the complainant and the accused that they are entitled to counsel, and (6) the opinion of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations if a theological issue is involved.

f. No less than two weeks prior to a suitable date set for the hearing, the accused shall submit to the president, the hearings committee, and the complainant his written answer to the charge or he shall state that he desires no hearing to be held.

g. If the accused fails to answer the statement of charges or declares that he desires no hearing to be held, the hearings committee shall consider whether the grounds stated constitute adequate cause for removal from office and in its discretion may independently investigate the truth of the charge.

h. If a hearing is held, each party shall have the right to select not more than two advisers (cf. Bylaw 8.51 j). The hearing shall be private. However, the president or his representative and the complainant, the accused, and their advisers, shall have the right to be present at the hearing at all times. Opportunity for cross examination and for presenting testimony by competent witnesses shall be afforded.

i. The hearings committee shall forward its findings to the complainant, the accused, the president, and the Board of Regents.

j. After the findings of the hearings committee have been conveyed to the Board of Regents, the board, after hearing whatever additional witnesses it may desire to hear and considering all pertinent evidence, including, if it is a theological issue, the opinion of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, shall render a decision. The decision shall in no case be rendered without having given the complainant and the accused an opportunity to appear before the Board of Regents.

k. If the decision of the Board of Regents is that the accused is to be removed from the faculty, the Board of Regents shall notify the accused in writing that his appointment to the faculty is being terminated and shall specify the effective date of the termination.

l. If the charge sustained against the individual is of such a nature that it could disqualify him from further membership in the Synod under Article XIII, the District President of the accused shall be so notified and a transcript of the proceeding shall be forwarded to the District President. The District President shall then

proceed in the manner prescribed in the Constitution and Bylaws:

m. If the faculty member has lost his membership in the Synod through the ecclesiastical route (Bylaw 6.49), he shall automatically forfeit his membership on the faculty after the appeals procedure has been applied or after he has failed to file an intent to appeal within 30 days and the appeal itself within a second 30-day period. During the period allowed for appeal and during the appeals procedure, if an appeal is made, the Board of Regents shall suspend him from teaching activity but shall continue to meet its contractual obligations.

n. Bylaw 6.61-m shall apply also to these procedures.

6.47 Procedures for Exercising Board Supervision

a. If the Board of Regents receives a complaint against a member of that institution's faculty or administration concerning any matter, including those specified under Bylaw 6.43 c 1-6, it shall direct the complainant first to meet face to face with the respondent in an attempt to resolve the issue (Matt. 18:15). The president of the institution shall assist in this attempt. If the president himself is the respondent, the chairman of the board shall act in his stead.

b. If the complainant is of the opinion that such informal reconciliation efforts have failed and he wishes to pursue the matter, he shall prepare a written statement of the matter in dispute and a written statement setting forth, in detail, the efforts that have been made to achieve informal reconciliation and forward such statements to the Board of Regents and to the respondent.

c. Within 21 days after receipt of the written statement of the matter in dispute, the respondent shall submit a written reply to the Board of Regents and the complainant. If the respondent fails to reply, the allegations of the statement of the matter in dispute shall be deemed accepted.

d. Upon receipt of a reply from the respondent or if no reply is received, and the Board of Regents determines that all informal reconciliation efforts have failed, the Board of Regents shall form a Review Committee of five persons (Matt. 18:16) which shall be chosen as follows:

1. Each party shall select one faculty member and one regent.

2. The fifth member shall be selected by blind draw from the synodical roster of reconcilers and shall serve as chairman.

3. The selection shall be completed within one month of the date on which the board decides to form the Review Committee.

e. If the board decides that the matter is of such a nature that the interests of the institution will best be served, it may limit the activities of the respondent. It may do so by relieving the respondent of teaching and/or administrative duties pending final resolution of the conflict. However, contractual obligations of the institution shall continue until the matter is resolved.

f. The Review Committee shall proceed as follows:

1. The committee shall hold its first hearing no later than 60 days after the last committee member has been appointed.

2. The chairman of the committee shall notify the complainant and the respondent, at least 28 days in advance, of the date, time, and place of the said hearing.

3. If any part of the dispute involves a specific question of doctrine or doctrinal application, each party shall have the right to an opinion from the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. If it involves questions of Constitution or Bylaw interpretation, each party shall have a right to an interpretation from the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The request for an opinion must be made through the Review Committee, which shall determine the wording of the question(s). The request for an opinion must be made within four weeks of the final formation of the Review Committee. If a party does not request such an opinion within the designated time, such a request may still be made to the Review Committee, which shall, at its discretion, determine whether the request shall be forwarded. The Review

Committee shall also have the right, at any time, to request an opinion from the Commission on Theology and Church Relations or the Commission on Constitutional Matters. When an opinion has been requested, the time limitations will not apply until the opinion has been received by the parties. Any opinion received must be followed by the Review Committee.

4. All hearings shall be private, attended only by the parties and the witnesses who can substantiate the facts relevant to the matter in dispute. The Review Committee shall establish the procedure to be followed in the hearing and the relevancy of evidence so that each party shall be given an opportunity to fully present its respective position. In performing its duty, the Review Committee shall continue efforts to reconcile the parties on the basis of Christian love and forgiveness. If a party is a board or commission of the Synod or its Districts, it shall be represented by its chairman or a designated member.

5. Within 60 days after completion of the final hearing, the Review Committee shall issue a written decision which shall state the facts determined by the committee and the reason for its decision and forward them to the parties and the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents shall then take appropriate action, which shall be final.

g. However, if the complaint involves conduct under Bylaw 6.43 c 5-6, the complainant may take the complaint to the District President, who shall follow the procedure set forth in Bylaw 2.27.

h. If the committee decides there is a valid complaint (1) regarding matters under Bylaw 6.43 c 1-4, it may take whatever action it deems appropriate, including recommendation for termination of the employment contract, (2) regarding matters under Bylaw 6.43 c 5-6, it must refer the complaint to the District President, who shall follow the procedure set forth in Bylaw 2.27.

i. At every stage of the above described procedure, all parties must be furnished copies of all documents filed.

6.49 Ecclesiastical Supervision

A faculty member who is on a roster of the Synod is under the ecclesiastical supervision of the Synod. In cases in which such a faculty member is charged with false doctrine or conduct unbecoming a Christian and in which the complainant finds unacceptable the decision of the Board of Regents not to pursue the charge, he may be dealt with by the District President or the synodical President and be removed from membership in the Synod and therefore from office in harmony with the provision of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod (e.g., Constitution, Articles III, 8-9; VI, XI, B, XII, 6-9; XIII; Bylaws 1.05, 2.36, 3.101, 4.73, 4.77, 6.47-c; chapter VIII). The written decisions of the Commission on Adjudication and the Commission on Appeals required under Bylaw 6.67, including the finding of fact, the conclusions, and the reasons for such conclusions, shall be conveyed in writing to the Board of Regents of the faculty member involved.

6.49 Ecclesiastical Supervision

A faculty member who is on a roster of the Synod is under the ecclesiastical supervision of the Synod. In the event a member is removed from membership in the Synod pursuant to procedure established in these Bylaws, then that member is also considered removed from the position held and shall be terminated forthwith by the Board of Regents.

Action: Adopted (10).

(An amendment calling for deletion of 6.47d was declined.)

To Adopt Revised Procedure for Selection of Commission on Constitutional Matters

RESOLUTION 5-04

Overtures 5-22-28B (CW, pp. 244-46)

WHEREAS, The selection of the members of the Com-

mission on Constitutional Matters is a significant responsibility; and

WHEREAS, The selection of the CCM should be made from the widest and most qualified cross-section of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The role of the synodical Secretary is vital because of his knowledge, familiarity with relevant information and resources, as well as providing continuity in research; and

WHEREAS, It would be wise to involve the Districts of the Synod in the process; therefore be it

Resolved, That the candidates for the four appointive positions on the CCM be nominated only by the District boards of directors acting singly and be presented by them through the office of the Secretary of the Synod to the Council of Presidents, which shall elect five candidates for each vacant position and present them through the office of the Secretary of the Synod to the President of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the appointments to the commission be made by the President of the Synod in consultation with the Vice-Presidents of the Synod from the list presented by the Council of Presidents; and be it further

Resolved, That the appointments to the commission become effective upon ratification by the Council of Presidents through a majority vote; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Synod continue to be a voting member of the commission and its secretary; and be it finally

Resolved, That vacancies on the commission be filled by use of the procedures set forth above.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Revise Bylaws re Certified Church Workers, Lay

RESOLUTION 5-05

Overture 5-54 (CW, pp. 251-52)

WHEREAS, As a consequence of Res. 3-05B (1989 Proceedings), the Bylaws contained in chapter VII of the Handbook require extensive amendment; therefore be it

Resolved, That chapter VII of the Bylaws be replaced by the following:

A. ELIGIBILITY AND CLASSIFICATION

7.01 General

Congregations that are members of the Synod, and other eligible entities, in addition to calling ordained and commissioned ministers of religion, may also wish to appoint one or more certified church workers, lay (hereafter referred to as consecrated lay workers), with the knowledge that the Synod seeks to help the congregations and other entities as they utilize these consecrated lay workers. For purposes of these Bylaws, other eligible entities shall be Districts, seminaries, colleges, and other agencies of the Synod (Bylaw 2.15), church-affiliated social ministry organizations, recognized educational institutions, auxiliaries, and other recognized service organizations.

7.03 Eligibility

Men and women who have completed courses of study

prescribed or approved by the Board for Higher Education Services and offered by one of the Synod's colleges and who have been certified for service by their respective college are eligible for receiving appointments from congregations or other eligible entities as consecrated lay workers.

7.05 Classification

The classification of consecrated lay workers applies to the following positions or titles currently in use in the church:

1. Lay minister
2. Parish worker
3. Parish assistant
4. Director of Christian outreach
5. Lay teachers (teachers opting not to join the Synod)
6. Director of parish music
7. Lutheran social worker

B. INITIAL ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSION OF INDIVIDUALS

7.21 General

1. Consecrated lay workers are individuals who have been declared qualified for a first appointment and assigned first appointments, in accordance with Bylaws 7.23 and 7.25 and received by the rites of both consecration and installation. There is no inherent right to this position in the Synod, and the decision as to qualification for a first appointment and the assignment of first appointments shall be in the sole discretion of the Synod.

2. Each individual shall evidence an intent to accept the supervision of the Synod promptly after the assignment of first appointment and prior to consecration and installation. This is to be done by signing and filing with the President of the District in which this position will be initially held, a statement, to be supplied by the District President, which acknowledges subscription to the Constitution of the Synod. Upon installation following consecration, the signing of that statement shall be deemed equivalent to the consecrated lay worker placing himself/herself under the supervision of the Synod.

7.23 Eligibility

1. A graduate of an authorized synodical institution must be declared qualified for a first appointment and recommended by the faculty of the respective synodical institution before the effective date of the first appointment to service in the church, as assigned by the Board of Assignments as provided in Bylaw 7.25.

2. Candidates who may be declared qualified for first appointments are those who, before the effective date of the first appointment, will have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of studies and will have received diplomas from their respective institutions. In addition, they must have indicated complete dedication to their ministry and evidenced a readiness for service in the church. Finally, to be declared qualified and recommended by the faculties for their specific types of service in the church, the appropriate faculty must be satisfied that the individual will meet all personal, professional, and the theological requirements of those who hold this position to which the individual aspires.

7.25 Assignment of First Appointments

1. The Council of Presidents, acting as the Board of Assignments, shall regularly assign to qualified graduates of synodical educational institutions as "first appointments" those appointments that have been duly extended by authorized congregations and synodical entities for consecrated lay workers if positions for which candidates are qualified are available.

2. Congregations and other eligible entities seeking to employ consecrated lay workers are encouraged to contact the appropriate placement officers of the colleges where the programs are housed.

3. The President of the District in which a candidate

is to be placed shall be consulted, and his suggestions and recommendations shall be part of the final recommendation to the Board of Assignments.

7.27 Consecration and Initial Installation

1. Prerequisites

A candidate for one of the positions for which a consecrated lay worker is eligible may be consecrated and installed in a specific position when the following prerequisites have been met:

a. The individual shall have satisfactorily completed a course of study prescribed or approved by the Board for Higher Education Services and have received an appropriate degree, diploma, or certificate from a synodical college.

b. The individual shall have given evidence of a readiness and desire to serve a congregation or other eligible entity.

c. The individual shall have received endorsement by the proper faculty as a consecrated lay worker.

d. The individual shall have received and accepted an appointment from a congregation or other eligible entity.

2. Rites of Consecration and Installation

The President of the District of which the appointing congregation is a member or in which the eligible appointing entity is located or with which it is otherwise identified shall be responsible for the rite of consecration of candidates. The rite of consecration will take place in the presence of the congregation or other entity to which the candidate has been appointed. The District President shall issue a diploma of consecration.

3. Initial Installation

Acting under the authority provided in the Bylaws, the District President shall be responsible for initial installations of consecrated lay workers appointed to positions with congregations which are members of his District or with other eligible calling bodies subject to his ecclesiastical jurisdiction. The rite of installation shall always take place in the presence of the appointing congregation or other appointing body, except that in the case of lay missionaries appointed by the Synod, members of a faculty of a synodical institution, or institutional church workers, the rite shall take place in a setting approved by the District President.

4. Forms and Practices

The rites of consecration and rites of installation should be in accordance with forms and practices developed by the Synod for that purpose, and in all events the consecrated lay worker shall be solemnly pledged to the Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God and the Symbolical Books of the Lutheran Church as a true exposition of the Scriptures.

C. ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION

7.41 Supervision

The consecrated lay worker shall be under the ecclesiastical supervision of the President of the District in which he/she is serving.

7.43 Certified Church Workers, Lay, Listing

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws, the District President shall be responsible for the initial placement of the names of all consecrated lay workers on the certified church workers, lay, listing of the Synod and also for their removal. A consecrated lay worker accepting an appointment to a congregation in a sister District, shall immediately report such decision to his/her District President and ask for a transfer. 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 Form from the consecrated lay worker, the District President of the sister District shall install or authorize installation of such consecrated lay worker. The District President shall be responsible for maintaining records of transfers into and out of his District.

7.45 Seeking Certified Church Workers, Lay, for Appointment

1. Congregations shall seek the advice of the respective District President when appointing consecrated lay workers.

2. If congregations which are members of the Synod shall desire to appoint and be served by consecrated lay workers, they shall appoint and be served only by consecrated lay workers who have been admitted to these respective ministries in accordance with the rule and regulations set forth in these Bylaws.

3. Congregations which violate this requirement and persist in such violation shall, after due admonition, forfeit their membership in the Synod.

4. Workers who violate the requirements for eligibility for listing as consecrated lay worker and persist in such violation shall, after due admonition, be removed from the listing of consecrated lay workers and shall no longer be eligible to serve in that capacity.

5. Notification of ineligibility for service shall be sent to the Council of Presidents;

and be it further

Resolved, That all those who meet the eligibility requirements and who have been serving in this capacity be recognized as Certified Church Workers, Lay.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Refer Term Limitation to Board of Directors

RESOLUTION 5-06

Overtures 5-39-49, 8-34 (CW, pp. 248-50, 303-304)

WHEREAS, Floor Committee 5 carefully looked at the subject of term limitation for synodical President and Vice-President; and

WHEREAS, There is wide divergence of opinion on the subject; and

WHEREAS, This matter has been presented to several previous conventions; therefore be it

Resolved, That this matter be referred to the Board of Directors (Council on Mission and Ministry, if adopted) of the Synod for study and report to the next synodical convention.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Transfer Fountain of Life from English to Pacific Southwest District

RESOLUTION 5-07

Overture 5-74 (CW, p. 263)

Resolved, That Fountain of Life Lutheran Church, Tucson, Ariz., at its request, be transferred from the English District to the Pacific Southwest District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Action: Adopted (11).

To Transfer St. Matthew, Smithville, Ont., to East District of Lutheran Church—Canada

RESOLUTION 5-08

Overture 5-75 (CW, p. 263)

Resolved, That at its request St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Smithville, Ont., Canada, be transferred from the SELC District to the East District of the Lutheran Church—Canada.

Action: *Adopted* (11).

To Adopt Procedure for Implementation of Amending Bylaws

RESOLUTION 5-09

Overtures 5-64, 5-65A-E (CW, p. 261)

WHEREAS, Time constraints and other considerations sometimes make it impossible to present to the convention the specific Bylaws which implement convention resolutions; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable to provide a formal procedure for the preparation of such Bylaws following the convention; and

WHEREAS, It is understood that such practice shall be followed only in exceptional circumstances and upon the express direction of the convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 15.01 be amended to read in its entirety as follows:

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made

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; or*

2. *by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors, in exceptional circumstances and upon the express direction of the convention, incorporating into the Handbook of the Synod amendments to the Bylaws that are necessary to implement resolutions adopted by the synodical convention. Such amendments shall be drafted by the Secretary of the Synod and shall be reviewed by the Commission on Constitutional Matters.*

Action: *Adopted* (12).

(A motion to add the words *subject to the approval of the next synodical convention* to the resolve was declined.)

To Approve Procedural Guidelines for Committee for Convention Nominations

RESOLUTION 5-10

Overtures 5-56A-5-58, 5-61 (CW, pp. 253-60)

WHEREAS, In 1989 by the adoption of Res. 8-12, the

convention asked the Board of Directors to "develop procedural guidelines and policies for future Committees for Convention Nominations to be presented for adoption at the next convention"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following procedural guidelines for carrying out Bylaws 3.941 and following by the Committee for Convention Nominations be approved:

I. Committee Membership, Tenure, and Structure

A. Bylaw 3.941 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. District Committee Member Elections

I—1991	II—1994	III—1997	IV—2000
Atlantic—PCW*	Eastern—L	Atlantic—L	Eastern—L
CNH—L**	English—L	CNH—PCW	English—PCW
C. Illinois—PCW	Iowa East—PCW	C. Illinois—L	Iowa East—L
FL-GA—L	Kansas—L	FL-GA—PCW	Kansas—PCW
Indiana—PCW	Michigan—PCW	Indiana—L	Michigan—L
Iowa West—L	Mid-South—L	Iowa West—PCW	Mid-South—PCW
MN South—PCW	MN North—PCW	MN South—L	MN North—L
Missouri—L	Montana—L	Missouri—PCW	Montana—PCW
Nebraska—PCW	New England—PCW	Nebraska—L	New England—L
N. Wisconsin—L	New Jersey—L	N. Wisconsin—PCW	New Jersey—PCW
N. Illinois—PCW	N. Dakota—PCW	N. Illinois—L	N. Dakota—L
Northwest—L	Ohio—L	Northwest—PCW	Ohio—PCW
Oklahoma—PCW	Rocky Mt.—PCW	Oklahoma—L	Rocky Mt.—L
SELC—L	S. Wisconsin—L	SELC—PCW	S. Wisconsin—PCW
S. Dakota—PCW	Southeastern—PCW	S. Dakota—L	Southeastern—L
Southern—L	Pacific SW—L	Southern—PCW	Pacific SW—PCW
Wyoming—PCW	S. Illinois—PCW	Wyoming—L	S. Illinois—L
	Texas—L		Texas—PCW

* Professional Church Worker (Pastor, Teacher, DCE, Deaconess)

** Layperson

C. Term of Office—Bylaw 3.941 c

The Committee for Convention Nominations shall take office on or about Sept. 1, following the District conventions.

D. Limitation of Membership—Bylaw 3.941 g

The Committee for Convention Nominations is to be regarded as an ad hoc convention committee to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.

E. Committee Organization—Bylaw 3.941 f

The committee shall elect its own chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary and shall organize its work in whatever way it deems necessary.

II. Meeting Preparation

A. Function of the Secretary

1. Bylaw 3.941 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.

2. Bylaw 3.941 d

The Secretary of the Synod shall begin to solicit names of potential nominees from officers,

boards, commissions, and agencies of the Synod and its Districts at least 24 months prior to the convention.

3. Bylaw 3.945

a. 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 suggested are to be submitted together with the names. All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered for nominations. 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, including the congregations, 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 nine months prior to the synodical convention.

4. Call the initial meeting.

5. Be available for consultation.

B. Preliminary Work

1. Recording candidate information

- a. Listing by position
- b. Listing by District
- c. Alphabetical listing

2. Securing candidate agreement, if proposed for nomination

3. Securing of at least three evaluations

- a. District President
- b. Circuit Counselor
- c. Congregation officer
- d. Pastor
- e. Other

4. Alphabetic filing by board, combining nominating form, agreement form, evaluations.

III. Timetable for Committee Work

A. Final submission of names for consideration plus necessary information ~~12~~ nine months prior to the convention.

B. Earliest date for initial committee meeting—10 months prior to the convention.

C. Determination of final list of nominees and alternates, secure consent of nominees, transmit final report to the Secretary of the Synod five months prior to the convention.

IV. Committee Organization and Work Process

A. Election of officers (review respective responsibility)

B. Review of Bylaws on terms and tenure

C. Familiarization as to duties and requirements of each position to be filled

1. Be guided by duties and requirements in selection of nominees

2. Consult with Board for Higher Education Services and receive their recommendations for Boards of Regents

D. Formation of Subcommittees

1. Election of chairman-secretary (review respective responsibility)

2. Assignment

a. 3 comparable groups

b. 2 candidates for each position

c. Selection of alternates (at least one for each position)

d. Review representative character of nominees

1) Geographic

2) Ethnic

3) Gender

4) Qualification

E. Subcommittee reports offered to plenary

F. Approval of nominations by plenary

G. Consent to appear on ballot

1. Personal statement, if desired

2. Picture, if desired

3. Preparation of biographical information

H. Forwarding of final report to synodical Secretary

V. *Personal Report to Convention*

A. Function of chairman

B. Receipt of additional nominations for positions—Bylaw 3.949

1. Names must have been previously offered to Committee for Convention Nominations unless otherwise determined by majority convention vote.

2. Required information and consent to nomination must be available

3. Preparation of ballot

C. Recommendations for future committee

VI. *Forms for Candidate Nomination, Evaluation, Consent to Nomination* (1992 Convention Workbook, pp. 255–59)

Action: Adopted (12).

To Establish Deadline for Synodical Nominations

RESOLUTION 5-11

Overtures 5-59–60 (CW, p. 260)

WHEREAS, The Committee for Convention Nominations has found that the time constraints of Bylaw 3.945 b cause difficulties for the committee in securing the names of candidates for nomination for boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, Districts elect committee members and the District convention cycle is not yet complete prior to the 12-month period called for in the Bylaw; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.945 b be changed to read as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

All suggested names and information for consideration by the Committee for Convention Nominations shall be submitted to the committee no later than ~~12~~ nine months prior to the synodical convention.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Change Time of Induction and Appointments

RESOLUTION 5-12A

Overtures 5-68—69 (CW, p. 262)

Rationale:

For some time it has become apparent that too much time passes between election of officers and boards by the national convention and their installation on the last Sunday in September. In the interim, newly elected members are not able to act since they have not yet assumed office and members leaving office are expected not to take actions that would bind others who will shortly replace them. It is desirable that the time between election to office and the assumption of it be reduced.

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.65 a be amended as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

~~a. The elected officers, the Board of Directors, and all other elected boards and commissions shall be jointly inducted into their office at a location in the St. Louis area on the fourth Sunday of September. The place and time shall be determined by the Board of Directors and shall be announced at the close of the convention. Arrangements for the induction service shall be made in consultation with the newly elected President and by a committee appointed by the Board of Directors.~~ a. All those elected at convention and present shall be inducted into office at the convention. Those not present or those appointed by the President or Board of Directors shall be inducted into office at the determination of the synodical President.

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.59 b be amended as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

b. The President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, [Vice-President—Finance] Treasurer, and members of all elected boards shall assume office on ~~the fourth Sunday of September~~ September 1 following their election. The members of all appointed boards and commissions shall begin their service on ~~Jan. 1 Sept. 1~~ following each convention. Incumbents shall serve until their successors have been ~~qualified~~ appointed;

and be it finally

Resolved, That these changes take effect with the 1992 convention.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Amend Bylaw 5.33 re Functions of Circuit Forum

RESOLUTION 5-13

Overture 5-73 (CW, pp. 262—63)

Resolved, That Bylaw 5.33 be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

Among the functions which the Circuit Forum may perform are the following:

- a. To study the Scriptures and the Confessions in order to promote an evangelical spirit in our walking together
- a. b. To develop and adopt within existing policies of the respective District complementary and sometimes joint plans for mission outreach in the Circuit area
- b. c. To devise and develop programs and services relevant to the needs of Circuit congregations, lay leaders, teachers, and pastors
- c. d. To receive and respond as appropriate to advice, guidance, resolutions, and programs in other sections of the Synod as such may be addressed to it from other Circuits, the respective District, and the general Synod
- d. e. To serve as a setting to review and evaluate programs, plans, and long-range directions of the District and Synod

Action: *Adopted (14).*

(A proposed amendment to add a resolve stating, "Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to designate a Circuit, District, synodical representative," was declined.)

To Clarify and Designate Listing of Advisory Members of Synod

RESOLUTION 5-14A

Overture 1-39A—B, 5-70 (CW, pp. 165, 262); (TB, Res. 5-14, p. 113)

WHEREAS, Since 1983 DCEs have been accepted as members of the synodical roster under the teacher classification, but no *Handbook* changes have been made to reflect that classification; and

WHEREAS, The office of director of Christian outreach (DCO), formerly called Director of Evangelism, is a recent ministry career developed in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, Congregations continue to diversify their outreach and assimilation programs, and Directors of Christian Outreach provide a distinctive and specialized component of mission and ministry sorely needed in the church to fulfill the Great Commission, Matt. 18—20, and to be a witness, Acts 1:8; and

WHEREAS, Directors of Christian Outreach receive a five-year baccalaureate degree from either Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., or Christ College Irvine, Irvine, Calif., with a theology or discipleship major of at least 79

quarter hours that includes one year of internship; and

WHEREAS, We thank God for the office of Director of Christian Outreach and for the men and women who have faithfully served this office; and

WHEREAS, It is helpful and desirable that synodically certified Directors of Christian Outreach be declared eligible for membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and that they be placed in the category of *Ministers of Religion—Commissioned*; therefore be it

Resolved, That all references in the *Handbook* of the Synod be changed to Director of Christian Outreach; and be it further

Resolved, That Art. V and VI of the Constitution be amended to read in their entirety as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

Article V Membership

Membership in the Synod is held and may be acquired by congregations, ministers of religion—ordained, and ministers of religion—commissioned, such as teachers, *directors of Christian education*, *directors of Christian outreach*, 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 the Evangelical Lutheran Church;
6. *Directors of Christian education*;
7. *Directors of Christian outreach*;
8. Deaconesses;
9. Candidates for the office of the ministry, or for that of a teacher of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, for director of Christian education, for director of *Christian outreach*, or for deaconesses.

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, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, 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, hymn-books, 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, *directors of Christian education*, *directors of Christian outreach*, deaconesses, 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 finally

Resolved, That the foregoing amendments concerning directors of Christian education and directors of Christian outreach be submitted to the congregations of the Synod for ratification in conformity with Art. XIV of the Constitution.

Action: Adopted (14).

(Adopted as amended by Committee 5.)

To Eliminate Commission on Structure

RESOLUTION 5-15

Overtures 4-28, 5-35-38 (CW, pp. 228, 247-48)

Rationale:

Following a major revision of the *Handbook* in 1981, the convention established a Commission on Structure, which was asked "to present brief Bylaws governing the commission's work to the next convention and suggestions regarding modifications in the Constitution, Bylaws, or structure of the Synod to the next and succeeding conventions" (Res. 2-22, 1981). Having now proposed a Mission and Ministry Council, which would be responsible for many of the functions presently carried out by the Commission on Structure, that commission and the Board of Directors believe the commission's existence is no longer necessary. They also believe that special ad hoc committees appointed by the Mission and Ministry Council could provide more representative groups to better consider the restructuring of the Synod.

Resolved, That since Res. 4-02A is adopted, the Commission on Structure (Bylaw 3.581 and 3.583) be eliminated as a commission of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the Bylaws be amended accordingly.

Action: *Adopted as amended (11).*

(The first resolve was changed from "if Overture 4-01 is adopted" to "since Res. 4-02A is adopted" by common consent, since action on Res. 5-15 took place after the adoption of Res. 4-02A. Because of action taken on 4-02A, the second resolve was deleted.)

To Eliminate Human Care Coordinating Committee

RESOLUTION 5-16

Overture 5-67 (CW, p. 262)

WHEREAS, By adopting Res. 5-14 in 1986 the convention established a Human Care Coordinating Committee; and

WHEREAS, Members of the committee have concluded that its functions are now being assumed by other entities and personnel; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Human Care Coordinating Committee cease to exist as an entity and that Bylaw 3.741, "Council on Human Resources," section c, "Membership," be amended to include the executive director of Worker Benefit Plans and the director of Ministerial Health/Health and Healing Ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention express its appreciation to those individuals who have served so faithfully on the Human Care Coordinating Committee.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Delete Bylaws Relating to Specific Standing Committees

RESOLUTION 5-17

Overture 5-66 (CW, pp. 261-62)

WHEREAS, The 1981 convention created standing committees of various boards and listed their names in the synodical *Handbook*; and

WHEREAS, The need for standing committees and their reporting relationships change from time to time and some flexibility is needed between conventions to alter standing committees to meet current needs; and

WHEREAS, Some boards have not appointed standing committees or have appointed them but not convened them; and

WHEREAS, Others have appointed new committees to meet current needs; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.51 c and 3.70 be deleted from the *Handbook* of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.69 be amended by addition of subparagraph n as follows:

- n. *Boards and commissions may appoint standing committees of specialists to provide professional or technical assistance to the board or commission and may delegate certain responsibilities to such committees while retaining supervision. The creation of standing committees shall be reported to the President and Board of Directors;*

and be it finally

Resolved, That with the exception of the Colloquy Committees and a Pastoral Ministry Committee responsible to the Board for Higher Education Services as provided by Bylaw 3.215, all listing of specific standing committees under boards or commissions be deleted from the *Handbook*.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Address Civil Action

RESOLUTION 5-18

Report R1-8 (CW, p. 10)

Resolved, That in response to the recommendation of President Ralph Bohlmann regarding civil action (CW, p. 10), we strongly urge that all synodical officers, board members, staff persons or members of the Synod make use of the procedure in Res. 5-01B (Overture 5-17).

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 5-19

Overtures 5-32A-34, 5-62-63, 5-72, 8-19 (CW, pp. 246-47, 260, 262, 298-99)

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
5-32A-B	CCM Opinion Void	Inaccurate information
5-33	CCM Opinion re 13 Questions	The opinions rendered are consistent with the synodical Constitution and Bylaws and are written by the authority given in Bylaw 3.533 d
5-34	Board/Committee Vacancies	Current bylaw covers the concern
5-62	Floor Committee Overtures	Bylaw 3.19 f
5-63	Current Bylaws	Action already taken
5-72	Corporate Mentality	Since May 1992, the Board of Directors' policy applies to employees only
8-19	Floor Committee Overtures	Bylaw 3.19 f

Action: *Adopted (14).*

To Transfer Calvary Lutheran Church, Thunder Bay, Ont., Canada, to Central District of Lutheran Church—Canada

RESOLUTION 5-20

Overture L5-77 (TB, pp. 167-68)

WHEREAS, Calvary Lutheran Church, Thunder Bay, Ont., Canada, at a regularly called voters' meeting held on May 13, 1992, voted unanimously to apply for membership in the Lutheran Church—Canada; therefore be it

Resolved, That Calvary Lutheran Church, Thunder Bay, Ont., Canada, be granted her request to transfer to the Central District, the Lutheran Church—Canada.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Study Classification of Professional Church Workers

RESOLUTION 5-21

Overture 5-70 (CW, p. 262)

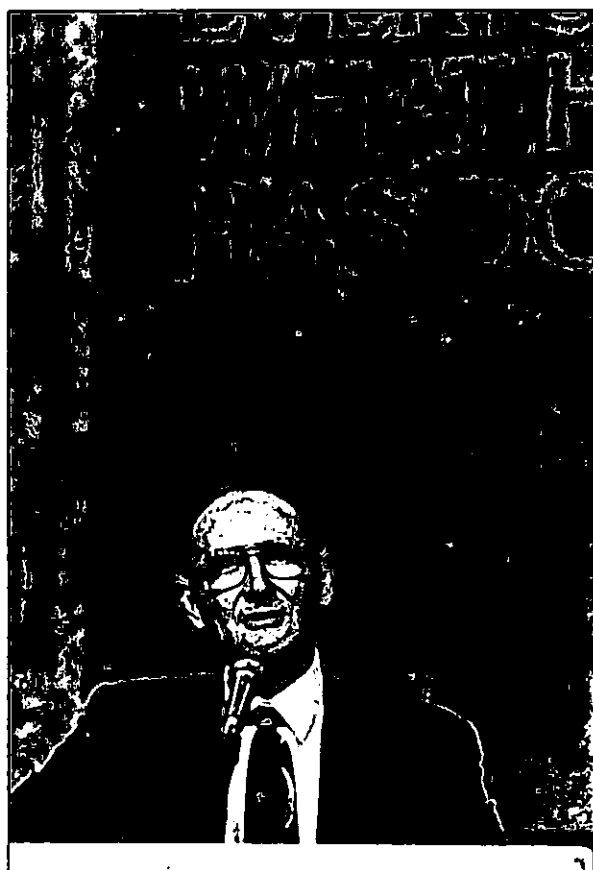
WHEREAS, There is concern expressed about the classification of a variety of professional church workers; and

WHEREAS, The church needs an orderly process for determining such classifications; and

WHEREAS, The doctrine of the ministry and all areas of service in the church are vital; therefore be it

Resolved, That the synodical President appoint a special committee to study roster classification in light of the doctrine of the ministry and bring appropriate recommendations to the next synodical convention.

Action: *Adopted (14).*



6. Higher Education

To Commend Faculty of Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, Ind.

RESOLUTION 6-01

Overture 6-10 (CW, p. 271)

WHEREAS, The faculty of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., has rendered faithful and laudable service to the church during these recent years of great institutional difficulty; therefore be it

Resolved, That we give thanks to God for this courageous and consecrated faculty and ask God for continuing blessings on their ministries.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Observe Centennial of Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn.

RESOLUTION 6-02

WHEREAS, Concordia College, St. Paul, has served The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as an institution for the preparation of students for the pastoral ministry, teachers, directors of Christian education, Christian outreach, parish music, and a variety of other occupational vocations; and

WHEREAS, Concordia, St. Paul, has provided a model for Christian scholarship and service to church and society through its programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, Concordia, St. Paul, offers church leadership in various areas of its life, including the Oswald Hoffmann School of Christian Outreach; therefore be it

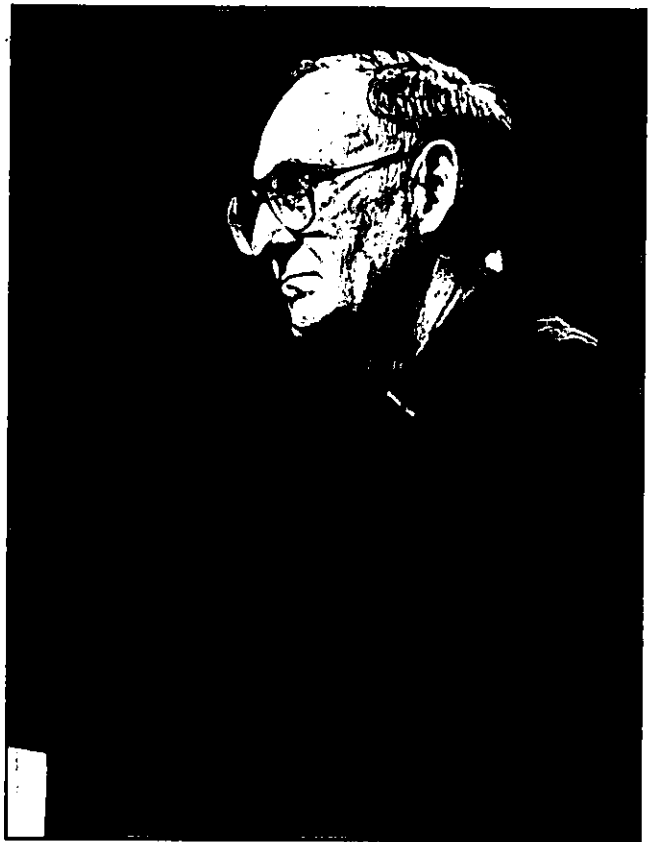
Resolved, That the Synod recognize, with thanksgiving to God, the 100 years of faithful service by Concordia, St. Paul, in providing workers and servants for the church and in training its students for service to God, as they exercise their callings from God in their homes, occupations, communities, and congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Synod be requested to issue a proclamation to all its congregations setting aside Nov. 1, 1992, as "Concordia, St. Paul, 100th 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 the Concordia, St. Paul "Building on Commitment" capital fund drive, in order that the college may continue its work in God's kingdom; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention offer its special thanksgiving to God for His continued blessing on Concordia, St. Paul; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod pause from its business to sing the common doxology and offer thanksgiving to God for His continued blessings on Concordia College, St. Paul,



Committee 6 Chairman Roger D. Pittelko

and commend it to His continuing care during the coming years.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Observe Centennial of Concordia College, Seward, Nebr.

RESOLUTION 6-03

Overtures 6-41A—B (CW, pp. 280—81)

WHEREAS, Concordia College, Seward, Nebr., will celebrate its centennial in 1994, commemorating one hundred years of God's blessings upon this Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod institution as it has carried out its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of sons and daughters of the LCMS received all or part of their formal Christian higher education at Concordia College—Seward, many now serving the Synod as pastors, teachers, and directors of Christian education, as well as lay leaders in numerous congregations; and

WHEREAS, Many congregations and Christian day schools in the LCMS have been served faithfully by graduates of Concordia College—Seward for many decades; and

WHEREAS, Concordia College—Seward continues to excel in educating and training full-time professional church workers, with approximately two-thirds of its student body

enrolled in church worker programs, supplying over one-fourth of all the Synod's teacher and director of Christian education graduates annually; and

WHEREAS, Concordia College—Seward, the Synod's only small-town institution of higher education, serves the Synod at large by emphasizing rural ministry through its Institute for Rural Ministry and serves the Synod's aging population through its Lutheran Institute on Aging and Family; and

WHEREAS, Concordia College—Seward has major endowment needs for student scholarships and faculty development; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention thank our gracious God for the nearly one hundred years of His rich blessings upon Concordia College—Seward; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations of the LCMS continue to encourage their young men and women to enroll at Concordia College—Seward, to receive a Christ-centered education; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS give its heartfelt support to the upcoming Concordia College—Seward Centennial Campaign and encourage member congregations to support financially a thank offering in commemoration of Concordia's 100th 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 business to sing the common doxology and offer thanksgiving to God for His continued blessings on Concordia College—Seward and commend it to His continuing care during the coming years.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Establish Concordia University System, Inc.

RESOLUTION 6-04

Overtures 6-01-02 (CW, pp. 265-68)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been blessed for many years with quality colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, Many recommendations of the President's Commission on Synodical Higher Education were adopted at the 1986 synodical convention; and

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod appointed a subsequent task force in 1990 to build upon the work of 1986; and

WHEREAS, The report of the 1990 task force has been approved by the presidents of the colleges and universities and adopted by the Board for Higher Education Services and the Board of Directors; therefore be it

Resolved, That the congregations of the Synod praise God for the contributions which the colleges and universities have made to the life and ministry of the congregations and to the communities which they serve; and be it further

Resolved, That the report and recommendations of the Task Force on Higher Education to support the establish-

ment of a Concordia college and university system be accepted and implemented; and be it further

Resolved, That the following Bylaws be adopted for immediate implementation of the plan for the Concordia University System/Board for Higher Education Services:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

Board for Higher Education Services/Concordia University System

3.211 Membership

The Board for Higher Education Services shall consist of nine members who shall be elected by the national convention of the Synod: three ordained ministers, three commissioned ministers, three laypersons:

a. The Board for Higher Education shall consist of 13 members composed of the President or his representative, the Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and three ordained ministers of religion who are parish pastors and two commissioned ministers of religion who are teachers elected by the Synod in convention and six lay persons with financial or academic expertise elected by the members of the corporation. No more than one elected director can be from the same District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The Board for Higher Education shall also serve as the Board of Directors of the Concordia University System.

b. Concordia University System, as a corporate entity under the laws of the State of Missouri, is operated by its members and Board of Directors in accordance with its articles of incorporation and corporate bylaws to further the objectives and duties of the Board for Higher Education within the Synod. Any amendments to the articles of incorporation shall be subject to approval by the members. The members of Concordia University System shall consist of two groups, one group consisting of individuals appointed by the Synod's Board of Directors and the Council of Presidents, and the other group consisting of individuals representing the colleges and universities as established by the corporation's bylaws; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention adopt the proposed wording of Boards of Regents 6.01:

A. BOARDS OF REGENTS

6.01 Membership

Each college, university, and seminary of the Synod shall be governed, subject to general policies set by the Synod, by a Board of Regents.

b. The Board of Regents of each college and university shall consist of ~~11~~ 13 voting members, ~~10~~ 12 of whom shall be elected for 3-year terms renewable twice: 2 ordained ministers, 2 commissioned ministers, and 6 8 laypersons. The President of the District in which the college or university is located or a District Vice-President as his standing representative shall serve as an ex officio member.

1. One ordained minister, one commissioned minister, and three laypersons elected by the synodical convention;

2. One ordained minister, one commissioned minister, and one layperson elected by the geographical District in which the institution is located;

3. Two Four laypersons elected by the Board of Regents in a nonconvention year.

c. All members must hold membership in a member congregation of the Synod, and not more than two of the elected members shall be members of the same congregation. They shall not be on the salaried staff of a synodical educational institution or enter into any gainful business, contracts, or transactions with the institution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors incorporate the

Concordia University System as it is authorized to do in Bylaw 3.188 and that Bylaw 3.188 be amended as follows:
PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

3.188 Powers and Duties with Respect to the Property of the Synod

The Board of Directors, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, shall have such authority and responsibility with respect to the property of the Synod as is generally vested in and imposed upon the board of directors of a corporation. The Board of Directors (1) shall, however, delegate to District boards of directors the authority to buy, sell, and encumber real and personal property in the ordinary course of performing the functions which the District carries on for the Synod, consistent, however, with general policies (which shall be applicable to all Districts) established from time to time by the Synod in convention, and (2) may delegate to any agency engaged in furthering the objectives of the Synod powers and duties with respect to property for which such agency has direct supervisory responsibility. (Such delegation of powers and duties shall be in writing and shall be subject to change ~~at any time~~ by the Board of Directors *as provided in the document(s) by which such delegation was made.*) For the purposes of this section 3.188,

a. "Synod" includes every agency engaged in furthering the objectives of the Synod;

b. "agency engaged in furthering the objectives of the Synod" is any instrumentality other than a congregation, whether or not separately incorporated, which the Synod or one of its agencies has caused to be formed to further the Synod's objectives, and includes without limitation each board, commission, seminary, college, and District, and Concordia Publishing House, Concordia Historical Institute, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation; and

c. "property of the Synod" includes all property, real or personal, tangible or intangible, and wherever situated (whether in the United States or elsewhere), and regardless of whether title to such property is held in the name of the Synod or its nominee or one of its agencies, provided, however, such shall not include any assets of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, and provided further that property held by an agency in a fiduciary capacity (including, for the purposes of example, the pension, retirement, and welfare funds administered by the Board of Managers, and certain funds held by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation) shall not be considered or treated as the property of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the transitional Board for Higher Education (Corporation Directors of the Concordia University System) be comprised of incumbent Board for Higher Education Services members plus those elected at this convention; and be it finally

Resolved, That unfilled seats on the Board of Directors of the Concordia University System as specified in the task force report (CW, p. 267) be filled by the Council of Members of the Concordia University System.

Action: Adopted (8).

To Amend Bylaw re Admission Requirements for Pastoral Colloquy Program

RESOLUTION 6-05A

Overtures 6-28-29 (CW, pp. 276-77)

WHEREAS, The Bylaws governing admission to the pastoral ministry by colloquy have been too limiting for certain individuals; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 6.91 5 requires that only communicant members in good standing who have graduated from an accredited college may be admitted to the Colloquy Program; and

WHEREAS, The Association of Theological Schools allows accredited seminaries to enroll a certain percentage of students who are not graduates of accredited colleges; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 6.91, Eligibility for Admission to the Colloquy Program, currently makes no such provision; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 6.91 5 be amended to read as follows:

5. communicant members in good standing of a synodical congregation who are mature, ~~and have long years of experience in church work and have at least 10 years of significant service at the congregational, District, or synodical level,~~ and have ordinarily graduated from an accredited college.

Action: Adopted (8).

(Amendments calling for deletion of the words "at least ten years of" and "are mature" from the resolve were declined.)

To Change Requirement for Teacher Colloquy Program

RESOLUTION 6-06

Overture 6-30 (CW, p. 277)

WHEREAS, Several new theological education delivery systems have been developed, namely Theological Education by Extension (TEE) and Provisional Endorsement for Lutheran Teaching (PELT), which have proven to be effective; and

WHEREAS, Extension sites have been successfully established by many colleges of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to bring colloquy and/or graduate or degree completion programs to many different areas far removed from the home campus; and

WHEREAS, Modern technology (such as videotapes) has made possible the delivery of much of the on-campus experience at numerous sites; and

WHEREAS, An important reason given by teachers for not colloquizing is the on-campus requirement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the *Handbook* Bylaw 6.109 b requirement of two on-campus courses be eliminated.

Action: Adopted (10).

(A substitute motion asking that the resolve of Overture 6-30

be substituted for the proposed resolve was declined. It would have reduced the two on-campus course requirement to one.)

To Establish Deaconess Colloquy Program

RESOLUTION 6-07

Overtures 6-31—32 (CW, pp. 277—78)

I. Purpose of Deaconess Colloquy

The Synod desires to equip professional servants of the church. One such vocation is the deaconess ministry. It is a unique, historically rich office in which competent women with a caring heart serve the Lord and His people. To facilitate admission to this professional office, the Synod provides the deaconess colloquy.

I. ADMISSION TO THE DEACONESS MINISTRY BY COLLOQUY

6.125 Colloquy Committees

a. The Colloquy Committee for the Deaconess Ministry shall consist of a Vice-President of the Synod, the president of the synodical institution offering a bachelor's degree leading to deaconess certification and any advisory members deemed necessary. All members shall be appointed by the President of the Synod. The Vice-President shall be chairman of the committee.

b. The synodical institution offering a bachelor's degree leading to deaconess certification shall have a colloquy examining committee consisting of the director of deaconess colloquy, the chairman of the theology department, the dean of the College of Continuing Education, a member selected by its faculty and two active deaconesses appointed, to two-year terms, by the synodical institution president.

When a nonsynodically certified deaconess is the applicant, a representative of the applicant's agency shall be appointed by the synodical institution president as an advisory member to the committee.

c. The Colloquy Committee for the Deaconess Ministry and the institution's colloquy examining committee shall have the authority and responsibilities described below.

6.127 Functions of the Committees

a. The Colloquy Committee for the Deaconess Ministry shall

1. direct the synodical activity in matters of colloquy for the deaconess ministry.

2. establish and monitor academic and theological standards for admission to the deaconess ministry by colloquy, and in the establishment of these standards; the committee shall consult the faculty of the institution offering a bachelor's degree leading to deaconess certification.

3. approve for admission to the deaconess colloquy program those applicants who have been recommended for admission by the institution's colloquy examining committee and to which no valid objection is made pursuant to 6.133.

b. The institution's deaconess colloquy examining committee shall

1. initially receive and review applications to the deaconess colloquy program as described in 6.131C.

2. set a specific course of study for each colloquy student as described in 6.135.

3. upon completion of the student's course of study, conduct a written and an oral examination of competency and readiness for admission to the deaconess ministry.

4. recommend to the institution's faculty for endorsement those colloquy students who have satisfactorily completed the program and passed the written and oral examinations.

6.129 Eligibility

The applicant shall be a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the Synod and shall be able to meet the following academic and theological requirements, comparable to the regular synodical deaconess program, before her final examination:

a. The satisfactory completion of certain required courses or their equivalent in deaconess ministry, doctrine, biblical interpretation, biblical studies, church history, and churchly practice so as to meet the academic and theological standards established by the Colloquy Committee, of which normally a minimum of eight regular program courses shall be taken with the faculty of a synodical institution which offers a bachelor's degree leading to deaconess certification.

b. Internship under the supervision of a synodical institution offering a bachelor's degree leading to deaconess certification or one year of successful deaconess ministry in a church or agency recognized by the Synod.

c. A college program culminating in a bachelor's degree; or in the case of an applicant who has a college-level education and considerable experience in church work and who has successfully completed a and b above but has no bachelor's degree, the institution colloquy committee, in accord with the committee's good judgment and after consultation with the Colloquy Committee for Deaconess Ministry, is authorized to grant two-year renewable approval for deaconess ministry, contingent upon the applicant actively seeking to obtain a bachelor's degree.

6.131 Applications for Admission to the Program

a. Applications for admission to the deaconess colloquy program shall be directed to the deaconess colloquy examining committee of the synodical institution offering a bachelor's degree leading to deaconess certification.

b. The application shall be accompanied by the following:

1. An autobiographical statement setting forth clearly the applicant's background, religious affiliation, education, and reason for wishing to qualify for the deaconess ministry in the Synod.

2. Official transcripts of the applicant's collegiate education.

3. A recommendation from the District President (or his designee) of the District in which the applicant holds communicant membership.

4. Testimonials to Christian character and life, personality, ability, and previous service from the applicant's pastor and two references from previous employers or people who have known and observed the applicant for at least two recent years.

c. The institution's deaconess colloquy examining committee shall determine whether an applicant meets the requirements for admission and shall forward the application, together with all required documents and its recommendation for disposition, to the following: the president of that institution, the President of the District in which the applicant holds communicant membership, and the chair of the Deaconess Colloquy Committee of the Synod.

6.133 Publication of Notice

After the Deaconess Colloquy Committee has received an application, the committee shall publish notice of the application in an official periodical of the Synod. If no valid objection is received by the Deaconess Colloquy Committee within four weeks after the publication of such notice, the applicant shall be accepted into the program. The committee, in its sole discretion, shall decide whether an objection is valid. Its decision shall not be subject to any appeal.

6.135 Program of Instruction

a. The institution's deaconess colloquy examining committee shall determine the course of study for each colloquy student on the basis of her needs and ecclesiastical background, determined by the student's ap-

plication materials and an oral interview. In general, the course of study shall include items mentioned in 6.129 a and b.

b. In exceptional cases and in cases of nonsynodically certified deaconesses, the colloquy examining committee may regard prior learning, educational attainments, or church work experience as meeting portions of the aforementioned requirements, provided that the Synod's high professional standards for the deaconess's ministry are maintained.

c. The institution's director of deaconess colloquy shall supervise the appropriate qualifying program and, when all requirements have been met, recommend the student to the institution's colloquy examining committee for the final oral review outlined in 6.127 b 3.

6.137 Certificate of Eligibility

The institution's faculty shall receive the deaconess colloquy examining committee's recommendation of a colloquy student as outlined in 6.127 b 4. Upon the institution faculty's endorsement of the colloquy student, the institution shall

a. issue a certificate of eligibility to the colloquy student,

b. report its action to the chair of the Deaconess Colloquy Committee and the appropriate District President, and

c. publish a report of its favorable action in an official periodical of the Synod.

6.139 Placement

Every colloquy student declared eligible for the deaconess ministry shall be assigned her first call by the Council of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments.

6.141 Report to the Convention

The Deaconess Colloquy Committee shall render a full report on deaconess colloquy activities to each convention of the Synod.

Action: Adopted (10).

To Provide for Special Certification for Valparaiso University Teacher Education Graduates

RESOLUTION 6-08

Overture 6-35 (CW, p. 279)

WHEREAS, Some teacher education graduates of Valparaiso University have accepted positions in Lutheran schools, early childhood education, elementary, and secondary for many years; and

WHEREAS, The 1989 synodical convention (Res. 6-20) referred the matter of alternate certification procedures for Valparaiso University graduates to the Board for Higher Education Services with a request to report to the 1992 convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention approve the following addition to Bylaw 6.109:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

d. Graduates of the teacher education program of Valparaiso University need not meet the age requirement to apply for admission to the LCMS teacher colloquy program.

Action: Adopted (13).

To Exempt Geographical District President from Membership on the Seminary Boards of Regents

RESOLUTION 6-09

Overtures 6-26, L6-51 (CW, p. 276; TB, p. 11)

WHEREAS, The geographical District President has both a pastoral and supervisory role to all the called workers within his District; and

WHEREAS, According to Bylaw 6.01 a 3, the President of a District in which a seminary is located is by virtue of his office a member of the Board of Regents of the seminary; and

WHEREAS, Being a part of the Board of Regents could put the geographic District President into a possible position of conflict of interest (i.e., President and pastoral responsibilities to District-called workers vs. his role as synodical administrator); and

WHEREAS, Conflicts of interest can arise that could place the geographic District President into an adversarial position among church workers in the District; and

WHEREAS, Seminaries serve the entire Synod and not merely the Districts in which they are located; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod change Bylaw 6.01 a 3 to exclude the geographic District President from membership on the Board of Regents of a seminary located within his District; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod change Bylaw 6.01 a 3 to direct that one member of the Board of Regents for each seminary be a District President elected by the synodical Council of Presidents.

Action: Adopted (11).

(An amendment to delete the final resolve in its entirety was declined. A motion for reconsideration in session 12 was defeated.)

To Provide for Five-Year Renewable Terms of Office for LCMS College, University, and Seminary Presidents

RESOLUTION 6-10A

Overture 6-20 (CW, pp. 274—75)

WHEREAS, The Synod has created positions to which an ordained or commissioned minister may be elected, called, or appointed for a specific period of time; and

WHEREAS, The presidency of a seminary or church-owned college or university is a church-created office to which a man is elected in a manner similar to the above-mentioned positions; and

WHEREAS, The president of a synodical seminary, college, or university is elected to a specific administrative position similar to the election or appointment of other academic administrators such as vice-presidents and deans; therefore be it

Resolved, That the BHES establish a five-year renew-

able term of office for the presidents of the Synod's seminaries, colleges, universities, and high school effective Sept. 1, 1992, by revising the *Handbook* as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

6.11 Election

h. The initial 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.

6.12 Term of Office

The president of each seminary, college, or university shall serve a five-year renewable term of office, under the terms set forth herewith under 6.13 and 6.14, beginning with the date of his assumption of his responsibilities as president.

6.13 Evaluation

The president and Board of Regents shall develop mutually agreed upon institutional goals and priorities that give direction to the individual as he carries out the duties of the office of the presidency. The Board of Regents will annually evaluate presidential effectiveness based on these goals and priorities.

6.14 Renewal

Nine months prior to the end of each five-year term the Board of Regents will conduct a formal review of the president's effectiveness in the current term of office. The president shall then be eligible for another five-year term by majority action of the Board of Regents, voting with a ballot containing only the current president's name. In addition to considering the evaluation report, the Board of Regents shall consult with the President of the Synod and the chairman of the Board for Higher Education Services. The regents may consult with other boards, commissions, and councils of the Synod as they deem wise.

6.15 Non-Renewal Procedure

In the event that a president's term is not renewed, the office of the president shall be considered vacant as of the end of the term of the incumbent. If the president is tenured, lack of renewal shall not affect tenure status in an academic department. A president whose term is not renewed shall be offered a one-year sabbatical at full salary with health and welfare benefits.

and be it further

Resolved, That those individuals presently serving as presidents of the Synod's colleges, universities, and seminaries continue under the terms of their election.

Action: Adopted (11).

(An amendment calling for replacement of the words presidential effectiveness based on these goals and priorities with the president's faithfulness to God's Word in 6.13 and the word effectiveness with faithfulness to God's Word in 6.14 was declined. An amendment to change the reviewable term from 5 to 10 years was also declined as was an amendment to delete references to seminary presidents from the resolution.)

To Increase Size of Seminary Board of Regents

RESOLUTION 6-11

Overture 6-27 (CW, p. 276)

WHEREAS, The Boards of Regents have so structured themselves to effectively direct the work of their respective seminaries; and

WHEREAS, The extent of the board's responsibilities requires an increasing diversity of capabilities on the board for greater efficiency and effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, The 1986 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has increased the size of the college Boards of Regents to 11 members (Res. 6-05, 1986 *Proceedings*, p. 190); and

WHEREAS, The seminary Boards of Regents are currently comprised of only nine members (three ordained ministers, one commissioned minister, and three laypersons elected by the convention of the Synod; a vice-president of the Synod designated by the President of the Synod; and the president of the District in which the seminary is located) (Bylaw 6-01 a); and

WHEREAS, It is felt that additional laymembers would increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Boards of Regents; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, shall consist of 11 members:

1. Three ordained ministers, one commissioned minister, and five laypersons, three laypersons to be elected by the convention of the Synod and two laypersons to be elected by the Boards of Regents in a nonconvention year

2. A vice-president of the Synod designated by the President of the Synod

3. A district president of the Synod elected in accord with 6.01 a 3

and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Regents of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, remain at nine members.

This resolution amends Bylaw 6.01 a 1.

Action: Referred to Board for Higher Education Services (13).

(During discussion, after introduction of the resolution in session 12, an amendment was adopted deleting the words *Concordia Seminary, St. Louis*, from the first resolve and a final resolve was added stating, "Resolved, That the Board of Regents of Concordia Seminary remain at nine members." Also, the word *laypersons* was added after "two" in point 1 of the first resolve and point 3 was changed to read, "A District President of the Synod elected in accord with 6.01 a 3." A motion to delete, "three laypersons" and "and two persons to be elected by the Boards of Regents in a nonconvention year" was introduced. A motion to refer the entire matter back to the committee was sustained. In session 13, delegates supported the committee recommendation that the resolution be referred to the Board for Higher Education.)

To Support and Expand Recruitment within the Synod

RESOLUTION 6-13

Overture 6-04 (CW, p. 269)

WHEREAS, Our Lord has commissioned His church to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20); and

WHEREAS, The Synod in 1986 adopted a mission statement which stated "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. Central to the system of synodical higher education is the preparation of those who are called

to serve through preaching, teaching, and related vocations. Strongly committed to the Lutheran concept of vocation, synodical colleges are also liberal arts institutions which provide a Christ-centered and value-oriented environment for men and women who will be Christians at work in the church and in secular occupations" (CW, p. 265); and

WHEREAS, This statement of mission requires the recruitment of students for professional church vocations which was further supported by the resolve "that recruitment for church vocations be made the concern for our entire Synod" (Res. 6-15, 1986 *Proceedings*); and

WHEREAS, This statement further invites the recruitment of young men and women to the excellent programs of general education available at our synodical colleges; and

WHEREAS, These concerns have continued since 1986; therefore be it

Resolved, That all pastors, teachers, and other church workers be reminded of their crucial role both in modeling church vocations and in encouraging young men and women to consider them; and be it further

Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to establish an intentional recruitment program, including financial support for those entering full-time church work; and be it further

Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to participate in the Student Search project by which names, addresses, phone numbers, birth dates, and year of high school graduation are solicited by the Board for Higher Education Services for recruitment purposes; and be it further

Resolved, That the *Lutheran Witness* and District newsletters highlight the recruitment strategies of congregations from which church work students consistently come; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Districts of the Synod be encouraged to train congregational recruitment committees to organize trips to synodical campuses and to arrange for young people to observe a variety of professional church workers in action.

Action: Adopted (12).

(A motion to delete the third resolve was declined.)

To Commend Scholarship Support for Church Workers' Children

RESOLUTION 6-14

Overtures 6-34, 6-38A-B (CW, pp. 279-80)

WHEREAS, The colleges and universities of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continue to fulfill their mission of preparing workers for the church; and

WHEREAS, Our colleges and universities provide substantial scholarship monies for students of church worker families; therefore be it

Resolved, That our colleges and universities be commended for their contributions in educating lay leaders and professional church workers; and be it further

Resolved, That they be commended for providing this benefit to those who serve in the professional ministries of the church; and be it finally

Resolved, That they be encouraged to continue this substantial commitment of scholarship support for the church's professional workers and their families.

Action: Adopted (13).

To Identify Linkages from Mission Blueprint for the Nineties

RESOLUTION 6-15

App. III (CW, pp. 359-68)

WHEREAS, The *Mission Blueprint for the Nineties* reveals the connection between the new mission opportunities in the U.S. and our ongoing commitment to train and educate workers; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education Services identify linkages of support with the Board for Mission Services in order that our historic commitment to higher education may directly serve the increasing need of supplying workers for the newly defined, culture-specific ministries in the mission of the church.

Action: Adopted (13).

To Amend Art. III to Include Congregational Support of Colleges and Universities

RESOLUTION 6-16

Overture 6-13 (CW, p. 272)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod supports the ministry of Christian higher education (Art. III 5); and

WHEREAS, The commitment to the values of elementary and secondary Christian education cited in Art. III 5 should be extended to the level of colleges, universities, and seminaries to meet the changing needs of today's youth; therefore be it

Resolved, That Art. III 5 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be amended to read, "Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools and to support synodical colleges, universities, and seminaries."

Action: Adopted (13).

To Provide Additional Married Student Housing

RESOLUTION 6-17

Overture 6-14 (CW, p. 272)

WHEREAS, Married students at our seminaries now outnumber single students; and

WHEREAS, Finding adequate and affordable housing off campus for married students and their families is difficult and often places a burden on all family members; and

WHEREAS, Students who live on campus have more opportunity for interaction with fellow students, which contributes to spiritual and social maturity; and

WHEREAS, These students and their families would benefit from mutual support of a Christian community; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Church Extension Fund could finance construction of housing for married students; and

WHEREAS, Rental fees would be used to repay the Lutheran Church Extension Fund loan; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention encourage both seminaries to provide additional housing on campus for married students.

Action: Adopted (13).

To Remove Tenure Percentages

RESOLUTION 6-18

Overture 6-18 (CW, p. 273-74)

WHEREAS, It has been recommended that a Concordia University System be established; and

WHEREAS, The consideration of Bylaws and procedures will be a part of this consideration; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the formation of the Concordia University System all university, college, and seminary academic personnel policies and procedures be reviewed in consultation with college, university, and seminary presidents.

Action: Adopted (13).

To Study Feasibility of Seminary in Southwest

RESOLUTION 6-19

Overture 6-22 (CW, p. 275)

WHEREAS, The Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry is conducting a Seminaries Futures Study; therefore be it

Resolved, That this committee include the issue referenced in this overture in its deliberations.

Action: Adopted (13).

To Maintain Two Synodical Seminaries

RESOLUTION 6-20

Overture 6-21 (CW, p. 275)

WHEREAS, No overtures have been received recommending less than two seminaries; therefore be it

Resolved, That the committee respectfully decline this resolution.

Action: Adopted (13).

To Correct Report of BHES

RESOLUTION 6-21

Report R6-01 (CW, p. 116)

WHEREAS, The Executive Committee of the Board for Higher Education Services has reviewed the Board for Higher Education Services report of their goals adopted for the 1989-1992 triennium; and

WHEREAS, Item d of financial matters is misleading and inaccurate; therefore be it

Resolved, That the corrected statement be received as follows: "Goal partially achieved, however, a significant portion of students still graduate owing large debts."

Action: Received as Report (13).

To Consolidate and Better Subsidize Church-Worker Programs and to Support Fewer Colleges Preparing Church Workers

RESOLUTION 6-22

Overtures 6-15, 6-23 (CW, pp. 273-75)

WHEREAS, Overture 6-01 deals with better fiscal management and efficiency in the Synod's colleges and universities; therefore be it

Resolved, That these overtures be deferred to a consideration of the formation of the Concordia University System.

Action: Adopted (13).

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 6-23

Overtures 6-19, 6-33, 6-36-37, 6-43 (CW, pp. 274, 279, 281)

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
6-19	To Affirm Tenure	Already in practice in Handbook
6-33	To Delineate Responsibility for Development of Spiritual Life Programs at Colleges and Universities	Already practiced
6-36	To Establish Chairs of Theology at Valparaiso University	Not an entity of the Synod
6-37	To Remove Synodical Endorsement of Valparaiso University	Not an entity of the Synod
6-43	To Declare Ruling on Presidential Retirement to Be of No Effect	Erroneous premise about Handbook and Policy Manual

Action: Adopted (13).

7. Human Care

To Change Name of Board for Social Ministry Services

RESOLUTION 7-01

Report R7-01 (CW, pp. 137-42), Overture 7-01 (CW, p. 283)

WHEREAS, The Board for Social Ministry Services of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is concerned with the spiritual, emotional, and physical, as well as the social needs and problems of people; and

WHEREAS, To better describe the inclusive nature of the functions of this board; therefore be it

Resolved, That the name of the Board for Social Ministry Services of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be changed to the Board for Human Care Ministries.

Action: Adopted (3).

To Continue Concordia Health Plan Study and Encourage Congregational Assistance to Workers in Meeting Health Costs

RESOLUTION 7-02

Overtures 7-16A-C, 7-20-22B, 7-25, 7-27 (CW, pp. 287-89)

Preamble:

The rising cost of health care throughout the United States has been a major problem for all health plans, employers, and individuals. Medical care prices continue to rise at a much greater rate than the general inflation rate. The reasons behind these soaring prices include overuse of services, overexpansion of hospitals, technological advances involving expensive equipment, lack of competition, malpractice insurance costs, and unnecessary medical procedures. Some of these factors are controllable by the individual, e.g., law suits, duplicate charges, failure to compare costs, unhealthy lifestyles.

The Concordia Health Plan was specifically designed and established for workers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. No insurance company is involved; the plan is funded by the participating employers and members and is administered "in house" at the Synod's Worker Benefit Plans office. The contribution rates, established by the Board of Managers (who are appointed by the Board of Directors of the Synod to oversee the administration of the Plan), simply reflect the benefits paid and administrative costs. No profit is involved as would be true for an insurance company!

The Board of Managers uses an outside health care consulting firm to review the "experience" of the Concordia Health Plan each year to determine whether the estimated contributions for the coming year will cover the estimated benefits and administrative costs. Additionally, the Board of Managers utilizes outside resources to review the overall health plan program to determine its ability to meet the needs of the members.



Committee 7 Chairman John M. Petersen

In an effort to contain costs while providing quality health care, the Board of Managers has implemented various measures over the past years:

- A Hospital Preadmission Certification Program is used to help members consider alternate forms of treatment (other than a hospital stay) and minimize the length of a hospital stay.
- Large hospital bills are audited to eliminate erroneous charges.
- A "Case Management Program," for those situations of very large, catastrophic illnesses, helps the member make sure that the highest quality and most appropriate, cost-effective care is provided.
- Coverage for "preventive care" was added in the hope that money will be saved by early detection and treatment of illness.
- A mail order service for purchase of long-term prescription drugs was implemented in order to capture the savings possible through purchasing at wholesale costs versus retail costs.
- Managed mental health/substance abuse care is provided through a specified network of providers to assure that appropriate, quality treatment is provided in a cost-effective manner.
- The Plan maintains an administrative cost of one-half the other health care providers.

By Board of Managers' direction the staff has met and is meeting with representatives from the health plans of other major church bodies to discuss ways that, as a group, the church plans could use combined purchasing power to develop managed care programs, hospital bill audits, and

to take other steps to lower costs while maintaining individual program autonomy and quality services.

It is a good idea for employers to compare the Concordia Health Plan with other health plans to find out what kind of coverage they have now versus what else is available. Anyone can, of course, purchase less coverage at a lower cost. However, many congregations and other entities of the Synod have found it difficult to find comparable coverage at equal or less cost. When making such a comparison, it is important to compare plans on an equal basis so nothing is overlooked. Key and unique elements of the LCMS plan are

- waiver of contributions while a worker is disabled;
- portability when transferring from one LCMS employer to another;
- dental coverage, particularly orthodontic coverage;
- comprehensive coverage for mental health care and substance abuse care;
- continued coverage available to the worker after retirement and to surviving dependents after the worker's death.

WHEREAS, The Board of Managers of the Concordia Health Plan is involved in a comprehensive study of health care delivery alternatives which is expected to be completed with results in place by Jan. 1, 1994; and

WHEREAS, The committee on Human Care, Floor Committee 7, is concerned that workers have been negatively impacted through increased deductibles; and

WHEREAS, There is concern that some congregations are requiring the workers to absorb a greater portion of the insurance premium (e.g., paying for dependent coverage); and

WHEREAS, Workers' salaries have not increased sufficiently to offset these additional costs; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention commend the Board of Managers for its past cost containment initiatives and encourage them to continue their approach to reducing health care costs while retaining the quality of care for the workers; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to be sensitive to the impact of increased health care costs on workers' spendable income; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations be urged to review their present compensation packages in order to limit the cumulative effect of rising health care cost to the worker.

Action: Adopted as amended (6).

(In the second resolve, the words "be encouraged to" were added by common consent. An effort to amend the resolution by adding several whereases and a resolve stating, "Resolved, That seminarians be included in the Concordia Health Plan" was declared out of order as not being germane to the thrust of the resolution which dealt with containing costs of the Concordia Health Plan. An amendment calling for a final resolve to state, "Resolved, That the Synod direct the Concordia Health Plan Board of Managers to develop policies which will enable all congregations of the LCMS in the spirit of Galatians 6:2 to share the responsibility for health care and protection of those among us who labor in the Lord" was declined. Also declined was an amendment which would direct the Board of Directors to seek other means of providing health and welfare benefits to the church's workers.)

To Assist Professional Church Workers and Congregations

RESOLUTION 7-03

Overtures 2-28, 2-31, 7-16A-C (CW, pp. 178-79, 287)

WHEREAS, God has given to His church "some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Eph. 4:11-12); and

WHEREAS, Acts of affirmation and expressions of thanks to God for fellow members of the body of Christ are not only biblical and needed, but also instrumental in "building up the body of Christ," as well as one means of "speaking the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15); and "the elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" (1 Tim. 5:17); and

WHEREAS, The 1979, 1981, 1983 and 1989 synodical conventions and the Board for Human Care Ministries, Standing Committee on Ministerial Health/Health and Healing Ministries have identified the necessity of focusing on the needs of the Synod's professional church workers so that we might be better stewards of God's various gifts to His church; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations express their love and concern for professional church workers, their families, and the congregational community by directing congregational entities responsible for personnel matters (1) to inquire into the demands on the skills and emotional life of professional church workers and their families; (2) to discuss, encourage, and monitor a healthy balance between the professional, personal, and family life of professional church workers; (3) to encourage continuing education by supporting this education with time and money allocations; and (4) to encourage professional church workers' participation in professional support groups; and be it further

Resolved, That with the aid, encouragement, direction, and support of the Board for Human Care Ministries, Standing Committee on Ministerial Health/Health and Healing Services, the Council of Presidents, Circuit Counselors, and the individual Districts' Ministerial Health Committee/Commission, congregations and their lay leadership be urged to plan and observe "Church Worker Affirmation Sunday" on an annual basis, using materials provided through the entities listed above and that, in consultation with the BHE, a church worker recruitment emphasis be incorporated in the Affirmation Sunday observance; and be it further

Resolved, That pastors and their wives be encouraged to participate in the "Uplifting Pastors' Families" retreats designed by the Synod's Joint Committee on Family Renewal and that congregations be encouraged to support their pastor and wife's participation by making necessary weekend arrangements and by considering financially supporting their pastor and wife's attendance; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Human Care Ministries, Standing Committee on Ministerial Health/Health and

Healing Ministries be encouraged to design a retreat module for other married professional church workers and a second module addressing the unique circumstances and needs of single professional church workers; and be it finally

Resolved, That we give thanks to God the Father for all His gifts, especially His grace in Jesus Christ, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and all those who serve Him as professional church workers.

Action: Adopted as amended (12).

(In the second resolve, the words "and that, in consultation with the BHE, a church worker recruitment emphasis be incorporated in the Affirmation Sunday observance" were added after the words "using materials provided through the entities listed above.")

A motion to add two whereases stating,

"WHEREAS, An ever-increasing number of our congregational professional church workers' time is devoted to counseling an ever enlarging number of the members on a wide range of topics; and

WHEREAS, A majority of these servants of the church have minimal, or no, familiarity with the topic and little, or no, guidance material for use in counseling situations; therefore be it"

and a fourth resolve stating,

"*Resolved*, That the 58th convention of LCMS request the appropriate boards, standing committees, or commissions and CPH to

1. conduct a literature search to identify the existing material which is in consonance with the LCMS theological position and useable in counseling situations for such topics as abortion; abnormal sexual behavior; incest; AIDS; substance, fellow human, and sexual abuse; euthanasia; and other similar topics; and

2. cause to be prepared, published, and publicized to the professional church workers the materials available or needed to assist a counselor in serving and showing loving compassion for the hurting fellow Christian" was ruled not germane to the resolution.)

To Encourage the Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the Church's Life and Ministry

RESOLUTION 7-04A

Overture 7-04 (CW, pp. 283-84)

WHEREAS, Congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Districts, and the Synod benefit from and need the efforts, talents, and services of all members; and

WHEREAS, There is a large untapped resource of persons who are physically, sensory, developmentally, and/or mentally disabled, who are not given the opportunity fully to participate in the life of the church using their gifts to serve others; therefore be it

Resolved, That each District of the Synod appoint a disability resource team to facilitate inclusive ministries by congregations, clergy, and other church professionals by

a. developing awareness of the abilities and needs of

persons with disabilities and their families and/or care givers within congregations;

b. seeking out and including people with disabilities in the full life and ministry of the congregations, Districts, the Synod itself, and its schools and agencies; and be it further

Resolved, That the disability resource team should

a. address, but not be limited to, the following areas of concern:

- Chronic mental illnesses
- Emotional/behavioral disorders
- Hearing impairments
- Learning disabilities
- Mental retardation
- Physical disabilities
- Visual impairments

b. involve persons with one or more of these disabilities to serve as resource persons; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations of our Synod be encouraged to advocate

a. the tearing down of attitudinal barriers which propagate our own fears;

b. the elimination of architectural barriers;

c. the availability of adequate forms of communication for individuals with disabilities;

d. the inclusion of all people in as many aspects of the church's life and ministry as possible;

e. the establishment of support groups, as appropriate, for each congregation.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Support Housing Ministries

RESOLUTION 7-05

Report R7-01 (CW, p. 138)

WHEREAS, The needs of the homeless and those poorly housed in rural and urban areas of the United States continue to be a matter of critical urgency; and

WHEREAS, The opportunity to share the Gospel in word and deed is abundantly manifest in targeted housing and shelter ministry; and

WHEREAS, The Lord richly blessed synodical involvement in the Nehemiah Plan, not only in the establishment of a housing ministry which has proven exemplary in the U.S. (witness the Nehemiah Housing Act of 1987) and not only in its financial success (a return of \$1,750,000 on a \$1,000,000 loan), but also in a harvest of souls for the kingdom in New York; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Housing Task Force continues to identify and support locally developed housing/mission projects throughout the country; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS assembled in convention thank and praise God for the realized mission and ministry potential of the Nehemiah Plan in New York; and be it further

Resolved, To support the efforts of the LCMS Board for Human Care Ministries' Housing Task Force to encourage

mission-oriented housing and shelter ministries by congregations, Districts, agencies, and entities.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Expand Older Adult Ministries

RESOLUTION 7-06

Report R7-01 (CW, p. 138)

WHEREAS, Projections indicate the number of older adults in America will double in the next 35 years; and

WHEREAS, The church has become more sensitive to the gifts, talents, wisdom, and needs of older persons; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Human Care Ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has responded to this growing area of service opportunities through the establishment of a Task Force on Older Adult Ministries; and

WHEREAS, Most Districts have initiated or expanded programs which utilize the gifts of older adults as well as responding to their needs; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Human Care Ministries expand its ministry by, with, and for older adults by

1. encouraging congregations to intentionally address older-adult ministries within their congregations and communities;

2. training volunteer consultants in all Districts with the goal of working among congregations which desire to develop or improve their older-adult ministries.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Encourage Education of and Involvement in Ethical, Moral, Social, and Political Issues

RESOLUTION 7-07A

Overture 7-31 (CW, p. 290)

WHEREAS, We Christians greatly appreciate and thank God for the freedoms we enjoy as citizens of this country; and

WHEREAS, There is great confusion and misinformation on the rights, limits, and involvement of individual Christians, pastors, and congregations in ethical, moral, social, and political issues of the day; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations plans to issue a study document on the relationship between church and state; therefore be it

Resolved, That individual Christians, pastors, and congregations study this document; and be it further

Resolved, That basic ethical training be encouraged for pastors, teachers, and lay persons; and be it further

Resolved, That we, likewise, thank God for the work of the synodical Washington Office of Government Information in conveying vital information on church-state and moral issues to our public officials, churches, and others; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the development of congregational public affairs committees (such as exemplified by St. Lorenz Lutheran Church, Frankenmuth, Mich.):

a. to assist individual members in becoming informed about issues and candidates;

b. to better equip members to fulfill their responsibilities as Christian citizens;

c. to impact ethical, moral, social, and political issues when possible;

and be it finally

Resolved, That individual Christians, pastors, and congregations support and pray for those entrusted with elected and appointed responsibility at all levels and in all branches of government.

Action: *Adopted as amended (14).*

(A new third resolve was added to this resolution.)

To Train and Identify Lutheran Counselors

RESOLUTION 7-08

Overture 7-15 (CW, pp. 286-87)

WHEREAS, There are more than 90 Lutheran social ministry organizations recognized by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod which are involved in human care ministries on behalf of our congregations and Districts; and

WHEREAS, Many Lutheran social ministry organizations have difficulty locating and hiring Lutheran counselors since, in part, there is no structured way to identify them; and

WHEREAS, There are minimal opportunities for training which meet necessary accreditation standards at our synodical schools, especially at the graduate level; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod's Board for Human Care Ministries and/or Board for Higher Education encourage and financially support its educational system in making social work and counseling programs, including work with the mentally ill, especially at the graduate level, a higher priority; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod's Board for Human Care Ministries develop a method of identifying and making available a list of Lutheran counselors to assist the Lutheran social ministry organizations in their hiring process; and be it finally

Resolved, That we continue to encourage support in our "partnership in ministry" with the Lutheran social ministry organizations recognized by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Action: *Adopted as amended (8).*

(The words "including work with the mentally ill" were added to the first resolve after the words "social work and counseling programs." An amendment calling for an additional resolve was declined. It would have stated, "*Resolved*, That these counselors be trained in biblical Law and Gospel approaches to counseling rather than secular-humanistic or new age philosophies.")

To Encourage Environmental Stewardship

RESOLUTION 7-09A

Overture 7-05 (CW, p. 284)

WHEREAS, We have been entrusted by God to manage responsibly and live in harmony with all of His creation; and

WHEREAS, In response to the love of God in Christ Jesus, our stewardship is reflected in our lifestyle and priorities; and

WHEREAS, Responsible biblical stewardship of natural resources needs to be emphasized urgently today; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Stewards of God's Earth Committee has provided materials for assisting congregations and members in the continued promotion of environmental stewardship; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage the Synod in the promotion of a greater awareness of biblical stewardship in environmental concerns; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage all educational agencies of synodical, District, and local levels to make every effort to teach biblical stewardship principles in the areas of environmental concerns to equip people to respond to Christ's love with God-pleasing management of the environment; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage congregations and their members to be involved in community environmental efforts through ongoing messages about our stewardship responsibilities concerning our environment in church bulletins, sermons, Bible classes, and other opportunities; and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage all Districts and congregations to present these issues at least annually by utilizing the worship and educational helps provided annually by the Synod's Stewards of God's Earth Committee.

Action: Adopted as amended (14).

(The words "stewardship in" were added by common consent to the first resolve after the words "greater awareness of biblical.")

To Expand and Utilize Resources That Exist for Dealing with Substance Abuse

RESOLUTION 7-10

Overtures 7-06-07 (CW, p. 284)

WHEREAS, Alcohol and substance abuse, one of the three major health problems in our country, reaches into every congregation and into the lives of both lay people and professional church workers of our Synod; and

WHEREAS, Such abuse causes pain, illness, and family suffering as well as public endangerment and economic hardships; and

WHEREAS, Such abuse directly affects the ministry of both lay people and professional church workers; and

WHEREAS, October has been designated as Alcoholism Awareness Month with the third week being designated as Red Ribbon Week; and

WHEREAS, District and the Synod have church workers and boards ready to provide assistance to congregations and individuals; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations and professional church workers utilize personnel and board resources such as the Board for Human Care Ministries, Standing Committee on Ministerial Health/Health and Healing Ministries, Preferred Health Care, and available District resources; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations and professional church workers take advantage of materials that now exist, such as *A Manual for Lutheran Support Teams Ministry*, the AAL video *Now You're Talking*, the LWML video *Carefully Hidden*, the Board for Human Care Ministries' *Aide to Recovery*, and other available resources; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod present a unified and visible commitment toward the creation of a drug-free America by incorporating alcoholism awareness messages into the sermon, prayers, litanies, and the distribution of literature and red ribbons, in the month of October; and be it further

Resolved, That our seminaries and colleges continue to provide instruction and expanded field work training in counseling and treatment of such abuse; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Human Care Ministries, Standing Committee on Ministerial Health/Health and Healing Ministries and the Task Force on Alcohol and Substance Abuse continue to lead our Synod toward expanding programs and treatment in this area.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Encourage Responsible Christian Sexual Behavior

RESOLUTION 7-11A

Overtures 7-09A-B (CW, p. 285)

WHEREAS, Sexual activity apart from Christian values is often portrayed in the media as behavior which is acceptable, with the emphasis on "safe sex"; and

WHEREAS, Surveys indicate increasing numbers of youth and adults engage in sexual activity without consideration of responsibility and accountability to God and others; and

WHEREAS, Such activity clearly abuses the intent of our Creator who made us male and female for responsible expression of mutual affection within the marriage relationship; and

WHEREAS, These attitudes and behaviors are an indication of the sexual idolatry of our present day society; and

WHEREAS, Sinful, selfish choices always bring an ever-increasing pyramid of consequences, such as teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, abortion, lack of respect for marriage, and complex issues related to guilt and shame; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention affirm the God-given responsibility of parents, teachers, pastors, and leaders to encourage and teach

in every way possible the blessings of reserving sexual relations for marriage; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage such behavior because it has as its motivation and power our relationship in faith as a new creation in Christ Jesus.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Address Sexual Abuse in Society and the Church

RESOLUTION 7-12

Overture 7-08 (CW, p. 285)

WHEREAS, The Word of God clearly teaches the sacredness of God's gift of sexuality to each individual (Gen. 1:27, 31; 2:21-25) as well as under what circumstances a God-pleasing expression of this gift can take place (Matt. 19:4-6; 1 Cor. 7:2-4); and

WHEREAS, There is a growing awareness in today's society of numerous cases of sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, Even within the church itself cases of sexual abuse are becoming apparent both among members and professional church workers; and

WHEREAS, Instances of sexual abuse are not only contrary to the Word but also have a lasting effect on those victimized by such acts; and

WHEREAS, The church through its Spirit-guided ministry can offer unique help and leadership to today's society and its own professional workers in addressing these ministry needs; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod, Districts, and congregations use every opportunity to address all forms of sexual abuse; and be it further

Resolved, That Districts intensify their efforts to minister to both the victims and the abusers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Human Care Ministries, working with the Districts, take a leadership role in addressing these sexual abuse issues at the congregational and professional church worker level; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education Services work with the colleges and seminaries in developing and implementing curricula on sexual abuse.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Heighten Understanding of AIDS and Compassion toward People with AIDS

RESOLUTION 7-13

Overture 7-10 (CW, p. 285)

WHEREAS, The Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) infection is reaching into all segments of our society and affecting families and communities in epidemic proportions; and

WHEREAS, Many congregations are presently experiencing the impact of this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, Jesus has set up before us His standard of

compassion, care, and unconditional love of the afflicted; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Christians are called to witness His grace and love by the example of service; and

WHEREAS, Both the Boards for Human Care Ministries and Parish Services have produced biblically sound educational resources on both prevention and response to people with AIDS; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations be urged to increase their commitment to Christ-centered care to those who have tested HIV positive or who suffer from AIDS and that they give personal assistance and support to their families and care-givers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Human Care Ministries identify materials that the Synod and auxiliary organizations have produced on AIDS for use within congregations; and be it finally

Resolved, That all congregations respond to those affected by AIDS with God's love.

Action: Adopted as amended (14).

(The words "have tested HIV positive or who" were added in the first resolve after the words "Christ-centered care to those who," and the words "as taught in both the Law and the Gospel" were deleted from the last resolve. A motion to delete the entire last resolve as proposed by the committee was defeated.)

To Give Support to Lutheran World Relief, New York

RESOLUTION 7-14

Overture 7-13 (CW, p. 286)

WHEREAS, Millions of people in today's world, including thousands of children, suffer and die from lack of food, shelter, and medical care; and

WHEREAS, Christ our Lord in the 25th chapter of the gospel of St. Matthew calls us to feed the hungry, to shelter the stranger, and to clothe the naked; and

WHEREAS, For 47 years Lutheran World Relief, New York, has answered this call by supporting the poor and oppressed of less developed nations in their efforts to meet their basic human needs and by alleviating human suffering resulting from natural and manmade disasters; therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continue their strong support of Lutheran World Relief, New York, through contributions to LCMS World Relief; and be it further

Resolved, That we ask God's continued blessing on the efforts of Lutheran World Relief, New York, to bring Christ's love to a world of need in this decade of the '90s and beyond.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Express Concern and Compassion for Haitian Refugees

RESOLUTION 7-15

WHEREAS, The nation of Haiti is undergoing tumultuous political, economic, and social upheaval; and

WHEREAS, This situation has caused thousands of Haitian people to flee their country in search of safety and security; and

WHEREAS, The difficulties which have arisen concerning their resettlement has placed thousands of Haitians in desperate straits regarding their lives and future; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention commend and encourage efforts toward the reestablishment of these refugees; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the Board for Human Care Ministries and our congregations to respond to this situation as they are able, so that our commitment to share the compassion and love of Christ for hurting people might be evident.

Action: Adopted (8).

To Give Assistance and Support to Refugees

RESOLUTION 7-16

Overtures 7-11-12 (CW, pp. 285-86)

WHEREAS, Millions of people in countries all around the world are victimized by violence, oppression, war, and political-economic strife resulting in their flight to North America in increasing numbers seeking refuge and peace; and

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture directs Christians to show love, care, hospitality, and assistance toward the strangers and foreigners in our lands; and

WHEREAS, The ministries of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) offer ways in which we can show greater compassion for the uprooted, both here and abroad; therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continue their strong support for LIRS in resettlement and ongoing support of refugees; and be it further

Resolved, That individuals and congregations be strongly encouraged to continue to grow in compassion and love through Bible study, prayer, monetary contributions to LCMS World Relief, and local resettlement efforts.

Action: Adopted (8).

To Support Programs to Alleviate Domestic Poverty and Homelessness

RESOLUTION 7-17

Overture 7-14 (CW, p. 286)

WHEREAS, Domestic poverty and homelessness have continued to increase dramatically and present a growing problem in a country of great wealth; and

WHEREAS, Much of the support for homeless families and individuals must be provided by churches and other nongovernment and private agencies and individuals; and

WHEREAS, A number of congregations and other Lutheran entities, some of them with the assistance of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod World Relief domestic

grants, have successfully assisted many poverty-stricken and homeless people in a variety of ways and continue to do so; therefore be it

Resolved, That individuals and congregations of the Synod and Lutheran social ministry organizations be encouraged to establish more programs independently or in cooperation with other agencies that assist those who are impoverished or homeless; and be it further

Resolved, That individuals and congregations of the Synod be encouraged to financially support the work of LCMS World Relief in order that it may increase its support of congregational programs to alleviate domestic poverty and homelessness.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Continue Concern for Synodical Retirees and Widows of Retired Workers

RESOLUTION 7-18

Overtures 7-28-30 (CW, p. 290)

WHEREAS, There have been numerous initiatives at this and prior conventions addressing the issue of the impact medical cost is having on the older retired workers and widows; and

WHEREAS, The committee on Human Care, Floor Committee 7, revisited and restudied the content of such initiatives; and

WHEREAS, During the last triennium seven extra benefit checks were issued to the older retired workers and widows of such retired workers (and the practice is continuing); and

WHEREAS, Providing either partial or full subsidization of the cost of medical coverage to retired workers and widows would require an annual amount between \$4 million and \$15 million, depending upon the level of subsidy provided; and

WHEREAS, Providing the funding for retired workers and widows health coverage from the Concordia Retirement Plan could not be accomplished without violating the terms of the Trust and certain IRS requirements; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Synod and the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans continue to show active concern for retired workers and surviving spouses, especially those experiencing economic hardship; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention affirm the action taken in Res. 7-10 (1989 *Proceedings*), "To Continue Concern for Synodical Retirees and Their Spouses," and encourage the Board of Directors of the Synod and the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans to continue assisting retired workers and widows with exceptional financial hardship.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 7-19

Overtures 7-02A-B, 7-17-18, 7-23, 7-27 (CW, pp. 283, 287, 289)

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
7-02A-B	Social Ministry Expenditures	Designated gifts cannot be reallocated
7-17	To Change Child Care Worker Requirements for Concordia Plans	Under federal regulations this overture would establish a plan that would be discriminatory in nature

7-18	To Provide Reciprocal Retirement/Health Plan Agreement between Synods
7-23	To Pursue Revision of Concordia Health Plan Policies
7-27	To Express Concern re Deterioration of Health Plan Coverage

Reciprocity arrangements already exist, and if the LCMS plan admits non-LCMS employers, the LCMS plan cannot retain its tax exempt status

The Board of Managers has satisfactorily dealt with the situation from which this overture arose

Supplemental insurance coverage would only be a cost transfer to the individual, and the Board of Managers is already moving toward managed care as a means to reduce out-of-pocket costs in a more cost-effective way for the employee

Action: Adopted (14).

8. Planning and Administration

To Clarify Role of Board of Directors and Various Corporate and Legal Entities

RESOLUTION 8-01A

Overture 8-02 (CW, pp. 291-94)

Rationale:

The Synod was incorporated in 1894 and in 1917 it formed its first Board of Directors. Prior to 1920, the Board for Higher Education had the responsibilities of the Board of Directors. With the exception of Concordia Publishing House, which was separately incorporated, all synodwide operations were conducted within the corporate entity The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc. The Synod at its 1967 convention, on advice of counsel, resolved to accept the provisions of the Missouri "General Not-for-Profit Corporation Act" enacted in 1959. Over the years, the Synod has, for business and legal reasons, established a number of other synodwide corporations, each with a board of directors or comparable group. Each of these boards has responsibilities similar to those of the synodical Board of Directors. Under the Missouri "General Not-for-Profit Corporation Act" each has responsibilities for planning, personnel, finances, accounting, budgets, audits, capital expenditures, and property. The synodical Bylaws, however, are written as though the synodical Board of Directors has these responsibilities for all corporate entities and, thus, need to be clarified. Since the board of each corporation has certain common functions, and since all such corporations operate out of St. Louis, it is desirable that, wherever feasible, they have common policies. The proposed Mission and Ministry Council, appearing in a separate overture, provides the vehicle for such common policies. The following provides bylaws applicable to all corporate boards with board of directors' responsibilities under the Missouri "General Not-for-Profit Corporation Act" and unincorporated boards operating under "trust" laws. The Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc. is also responsible under this act for all other unincorporated boards, commissions, and departments unless the synodical Bylaws assign such responsibilities to others.

Resolved, That the following Bylaw amendments be adopted to replace Bylaws 3.181-3.187 and 3.189-3.191:
PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

D. Boards of Directors

3.181 Role

Each synodwide corporate or legal entity shall have a board of directors or comparable board (board of trustees, board of managers, or board of governors) which shall function as a servant of and to the congregations and the Synod in their assigned area of responsibility. These entities are

- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc.
- Concordia Publishing House
- Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod
- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation
- Worker Benefit Plans



Committee 8 Chairman Richard G. Kapfer

- Concordia University System
- Concordia Historical Institute

3.182 Officers of the Boards

Each board of directors shall elect its own chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and such operating officers of the board as may be necessary. The election of the chief operating or executive officer shall have the approval of the President of the Synod, in accordance with Bylaw 3.69 e.

3.183 Functions of the Boards

a. Each board of directors shall have such powers and duties as have been accorded it by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, have been established in their respective Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, or have been requested by resolutions of the delegate conventions of the Synod. Within such limitations, each shall operate within the applicable federal and state laws. Each is vested with the supervision of the business, financial, property, personnel, and legal affairs the Synod has assigned to that entity and each shall develop policies governing its operations. Each shall have an independent audit and shall provide for insurance and fidelity bonding using common policies with the other boards of directors whenever possible. Each shall assist the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc. (or the Synod's Mission and Ministry Council, if adopted) in developing, when agreed to be beneficial, common policies applicable to all corporate and legal entities, and each shall operate under such policies.

b. Within the context of the Synod's mission and ministry plan, each board of directors shall establish and monitor long- and short-range plans and operating and capital budgets to carry out such plans. Each board of directors shall be accountable to the national convention of the Synod for the discharge of its duties in compliance with the mission and ministry plan, policies, and directives of the Synod, in consultation with the Board of

Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc. to ensure coordination and implementation of said plan (or the Synod's Mission and Ministry Council, if approved). Each shall also be accountable to the President of the Synod for doctrinal faithfulness.

3.185 Governing Instruments

(Replaces 3.600.)

The articles of incorporation and bylaws (or other appropriate governing instruments) of the synodical entities listed in this chapter III of the Handbook shall be in conformity with the Synod's Constitution, Bylaws, and applicable convention resolutions. Such conformity shall be assured through review of those instruments, and any changes therein, by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc. (or the Synod's Mission and Ministry Council, if approved) and Commission on Constitutional Matters. Negative decisions on the part of these two bodies shall be appealable to the convention, which shall also retain the right on its own initiative to require amendments to the governing instruments of these entities. Such governing instruments shall be filed with the Secretary of the Synod and shall be made available by the entities to every member of the Synod (congregation, ordained, or commissioned minister) upon request.

1. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc.

3.190 The Corporation

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc. shall be maintained as the corporate entity of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod out of which is conducted those programs, business, and legal affairs of the Synod not specifically delegated in the Bylaws to other officers or corporations. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Bylaws, all boards, commissions, councils, and departments not separately incorporated or operated under trust law shall be conducted within this corporation. This corporate entity shall be operated by a Board of Directors elected by a convention of the Synod. The board shall consist of 13 voting members serving a maximum of two six-year terms: four ordained ministers; one commissioned minister; and eight laypersons. No more than one of the ordained ministers or laypersons may be elected from any one District. The President and Secretary of the Synod by virtue of their office shall also serve as voting members of the board; the First Vice-President and the Treasurer of the Synod shall be non-voting members of the board by virtue of their office. No person (other than one serving by virtue of his office) salaried by the Synod or by a District or other corporation organized by the Synod shall be an elective member of the board. The principal staff person of the board shall serve in an advisory capacity, and those members of the Council of Administrators who are staff persons shall be available for consultation.

3.191 Functions of the Board

a. The Board of Directors shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the business, financial, property, personnel, and legal affairs of that portion of the Synod operated under the corporate entity known as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc. It shall also be authorized to take, on behalf of the Synod, any actions not expressly or by reasonable implication delegated to other officers, corporations, councils, boards, or commissions of the Synod. The Board of Directors shall have the right to call up for review, criticism, or suggestion any policy of boards or commissions of the Synod operated under this corporate entity.

b. The Board of Directors shall allocate available funds to the various boards, commissions, and departments operating under this corporation and shall hold them accountable for use of such funds.

c. The Board of Directors shall receive periodic reports on the operations of the various boards, commissions, and departments operating under this corporation.

3.192 Powers and Duties with Respect to the Property of the Synod

(Presently Bylaw 3.188.)

The Board of Directors, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, shall have such authority and responsibility with respect to the property of the Synod as is generally vested in and imposed upon the board of directors of a corporation. The Board of Directors (1) shall, however, delegate to District boards of directors the authority to buy, sell, and encumber real and personal property in the ordinary course of performing the functions which the District carries on for the Synod, consistent, however, with general policies (which shall be applicable to all Districts) established from time to time by the Synod in convention, and (2) may delegate to any agency engaged in furthering the objectives of the Synod powers and duties with respect to property for which such agency has direct supervisory responsibility. (Such delegation of powers and duties shall be in writing and shall be subject to change at any time by the Board of Directors as provided in the document(s) by which such delegation was made.) For the purposes of this section 3.188-3.192,

a. "Synod" includes every agency engaged in furthering the objectives of the Synod;

b. "agency engaged in furthering the objectives of the Synod" is any instrumentality other than a congregation, whether or not separately incorporated, which the Synod or one of its agencies has caused to be formed to further the Synod's objectives, and includes without limitation each board, commission, seminary, college, and District, and ~~Concordia Publishing House, Concordia Historical Institute, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation~~ each synodwide corporate or 406a1 entity, as defined in Bylaw 3.181; and

c. "property of the Synod" includes all property, real or personal, tangible or intangible, and wherever situated (whether in the United States or elsewhere), and regardless of whether title to such property is held in the name of the Synod or its nominee or one of its agencies, provided, however, such shall not include any assets of ~~Concordia Publishing House, Concordia Historical Institute, or the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod~~, and provided further that property held by an agency in a fiduciary capacity (including, for the purposes of example, the pension, retirement, and welfare funds administered by the Board of Managers, and certain funds held by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation) shall not be considered or treated as the property of the Synod.

3.193 Capital-Fund Borrowing Authority (Presently Bylaw 3.187 d.)

1. The Board of Directors shall be empowered to authorize the synodical Treasurer to borrow capital funds after the board has determined the amounts and the conditions under which these capital funds shall be borrowed, for capital-fund outlay, for site acquisition, and for construction projects which are authorized by synodical conventions.

2. The Board of Directors and the responsible officers of the Synod are empowered to do all things necessary to effect such capital-fund borrowings if and when required, including the pledging of real and other property belonging to the Synod in order to secure loans to obtain the necessary funds.

3. The borrowed capital funds shall not be used for any operating expenditures and shall be subject to provision for amortization.

2. Concordia Publishing House

(Move from 3.611 and following.)

3.194 The Corporation

a. Concordia Publishing House shall be maintained and controlled by the Synod as a corporate entity organized under the laws of the State of Missouri and shall be operated by a board of directors elected by the con-

vention of the Synod: one ordained minister, one commissioned minister, and seven laypersons, *four with business management experience and three at large*. The directors shall serve a maximum of two six-year terms. ~~The Board of Directors of the Synod shall at least triennially appoint a representative who shall attend the meetings of the board of directors of Concordia Publishing House and serve as a liaison between the two boards. The President of the Synod or an officer designated by him from the clergy roster and the chairman of the Board for Parish Services or his designated representative will also serve as voting members.~~

~~b. Its operation shall be in accordance with the provisions of its articles of incorporation and bylaws. Any amendment of these documents shall have the prior consent of the Board of Directors of the Synod. (Included in bylaws applicable to all corporations.)~~

~~c. b. The purpose of Concordia Publishing House is to serve the Synod by publishing and producing and distributing resources designed to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ for all synodical entities unless this is deemed detrimental to the entity involved. This includes developing, producing, marketing, and distributing products for use by members of the Synod, other Christians, and the public in general, and by supplying publishing services for the entities of the Synod as required. Unless otherwise instructed by the Synod, the board of directors of Concordia Publishing House shall determine what is to be published by the corporation. Concordia Publishing House shall, however, consult with representatives of the Synod's Board for Parish Services on the publishing of curriculum materials, and other boards when materials are produced in concert with them. All manuscripts materials of a religious or theological nature shall be approved through the Synod's prescribed procedure for doctrinal review before publication.~~

~~c. Surplus funds, when not needed in the operation of the publishing house, as determined by the Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors, may be ordered paid to the Synod The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc. by the Concordia Publishing House board of directors at any regular or special meeting.~~

~~d. The board of directors shall be represented at the conventions of the Synod by its president and one board member. A written report of the financial condition and operation of the corporation for the previous three-year period shall be submitted to the convention. (Applicable to all boards.)~~

3. Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod

3.xxx

Move Bylaws 3.621–3.627 in their entirety to this location in the *Handbook*.

4. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation

3.xxx

Move Bylaws 3.641–3.647 as amended by separate overture to this location in the *Handbook*.

5. Worker Benefit Plans

3.xxx

Move Bylaws 3.651–3.658 to this location in the *Handbook* and change references to the Board of Directors to add the words of *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc.*

6. Concordia University System

3.xxx

Add Bylaws from separate overture, if passed.

7. Concordia Historical Institute

3.xxx

Move Bylaws 3.601–3.607 in their entirety to this location in the *Handbook*, deleting the words from 3.605 a “and as such shall operate under the budget and personnel policies and procedures of the Synod.”

3.69 General Regulations

In accord with relationships referred to in Chapter 1 of these Bylaws, especially section 1.07 d, the following general regulations will apply to all corporations, councils, boards and commissions (entity):

a. All members of all boards and commissions entities shall be members of member congregations of the Synod.

b. Every board and commission entity shall organize itself as to officers and subcommittees every three years at its initial meeting after election or appointment and shall conduct its business in accordance with accepted parliamentary procedures.

c. Every board and elected commission entity shall meet at least quarterly unless otherwise stipulated in the Bylaws; exceptions require the approval at least annually of the synodical President.

d. Executive committees may be employed by boards and commissions entities to act in times of emergency between plenary meetings of the board entity and to act on delegated assignments. Executive committees may not perform acts specifically required by statute or by synodical legislation to be performed by the board or commission entity, nor may they overturn actions of the board or commission entity. All executive committee actions shall be reported to plenary sessions of the board or commission entity. Boards and commissions The entities may also delegate a specific assignment for a limited time to a committee composed of its own members.

e. Every entity shall operate under human resources policies provided in the *Handbook* or by the Board of Directors reached by mutual agreement of the several corporate entities (or Mission and Ministry Council, if approved). Such policies may recognize the unique operations of the respective corporate entities. board or commission and Every entity may create officer and executive staff positions with the approval of the President and the Board of Directors and fill the same in accordance with such policies. The executive officer of each entity must also be approved by the President of the Synod.

f. The principal staff person shall normally attend all board or commission meetings of the entity except when his own position is being considered. Other staff may attend upon request of the board or commission entity.

g. The board or commission under which salaried executives serve shall draft, in consultation with the Director of Human Resources, the necessary position descriptions, which shall be submitted to the President and to the Board of Directors for review and approval. (Included in e.)

h. Clerical help may be employed according to policies adopted by the Board of Directors. (Included in e.)

g. 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 entity under which they serve, nor shall any such executives or staff be members of any other board or commission entity of the Synod, as identified in Bylaws 3.55 and 3.57.

h. The Each Board of Directors shall develop policy statements regarding the relations between boards and staffs. These shall be supplemented as required by the respective boards and commissions entities.

i. Program boards Entities shall make available upon request and at a reasonable price a verbatim copy of the minutes of their meetings except for their executive sessions.

j. Administrative and programmatic conflicts between ~~entities boards or between a board and its staff~~ shall be handled by the parties concerned in a Christian manner with the assistance of the President of the Synod. If these efforts fail, ~~shall be decided by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc. (or Mission and Ministry Council, if approved) shall provide for resolution. Conflicts between an entity and its staff shall be handled in accordance with the corporation's grievance policies.~~

k. All ~~entities between conventions of the Synod boards and commissions~~ shall be responsible and accountable for their activities to the President of the Synod (Art. XI, B, 1-4) and to the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc. (or the Synod's Mission and Ministry Council, if approved) for the implementation of their portion of the Synod's triennial mission and ministry plan. Each entity is ~~and~~ ultimately accountable to the Synod in convention (Art. XI, A, 1-2).

J. STAFF

3.801 Tenure and Termination

Unless otherwise specified by the Board of Directors of the respective corporate entity, all employees shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authorities. 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 positions requiring called ministers shall be filled in consultation with the President of the Synod subject to all appropriate provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws as well as the ~~synodical~~ respective Board of Directors' policy manual.

3.803 Common Functions

Staff, in accord with relationships referred to in Chapter I of these Bylaws, especially Section 1.07 e, through the respective principal staff person shall

a. implement decisions of its respective board or commission in accordance with its policies and those of the its Board of Directors;

b.—e. Retain present Bylaws;

f. provide for reports to the board or commission and President of the Synod on staff activities and implementation of assignments;

g.—m. Retain present Bylaws.

Action: Adopted (6).

(A motion to table discussion until completion of action relating to establishment of a Council on Mission and Ministry was declined. An amendment to delete from 3.182 the words "the election of the chief operating or executive officer shall have the approval of the President of the Synod, in accordance with Bylaw 3.69 e" and the word "programs" from 3.190 was declined. After delegates agreed to cease debate, an amendment calling for reinsertion of the words "the Synod's Board for Parish Services on the publishing of curriculum materials and," in 3.194 e was declined.)

To Extend 1989 Convention Action re Auxiliaries

RESOLUTION 8-02

Overture 8-32 (CW, pp. 302-3)

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 that the President and Board of Directors continue to work

with 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 convention appropriate recommendations. On Jan. 1, 1989, the LCC became a partner church of the LCMS. The 1989 LCMS convention in Res. 5-10 stated that, "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." The convention then amended Bylaw 14.01 a 6 on an interim basis until 1992 and requested that the President and Board of Directors continue to work with the LLL and LWML on a long-term plan regarding the relationship of the leagues with auxiliaries of partner churches and present to the 1992 convention appropriate recommendations. The convention asked that the position of the LCC and other partner churches be considered in developing its recommendations. Discussions are continuing with both auxiliaries and the LCC on this matter.

The LCC invited the auxiliaries to consider becoming official auxiliaries of the LCC. In 1988 the Canadian LWML membership responded affirmatively and with the desire to maintain a close working and sharing relationship with the International LWML, whose bylaws provide for partnership relationships with auxiliaries of LCMS partner churches. These bylaws allow for representatives of partner church auxiliaries, at their discretion and expense, to send representatives to International LWML conventions, with voice but not vote.

A protocol agreement was drawn by the LWML—Canada Founding Committee which has been adopted by both the five Canadian LWML Districts and by the International LWML at their 1991 convention. The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws have been drafted and will be ratified by the 1992 Canadian LWML district conventions. At the close of the 1993 International LWML convention, the LWML—Canada will hold its founding convention and become a separate autonomous organization of the LCC. The LCC Bylaws regarding auxiliaries provide that "membership is made up of persons who are baptized members of congregations that are members of the Lutheran Church—Canada or that are members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod located in Canada." The LLL in Canada is moving to be somewhat autonomous, but at this time wants to retain membership in the International LLL. A separate Canadian corporation has been established with a board controlled by Canadians. More discussions are necessary between the LLL, LCC, and LCMS regarding permanent arrangements with the church bodies.

In January 1992 discussions with representatives of the leagues, consideration was given to the need for developing guidelines as to where integrated planning and implementation are necessary and where individual entities might better proceed on their own. Such guidelines might include the relationships of LCMS recognized auxiliaries with LCMS sister churches, other Lutheran churches, and LCMS mission fields, including North America, as well as

relationships between the boards and staffs of the auxiliaries and the LCMS, which also need to be clarified. Because more time is needed to address such questions, the President and Board of Directors have asked that the provisions of 1989 convention Res. 5-10 be extended until 1995, and that they, in consultation with the LLL and LWML and sister churches, bring an appropriate recommendation to the 1995 convention.

Resolved, That Bylaw 14.01 a 6 adopted by the 1989 convention on an interim basis until 1992 be retained until the 1995 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 the auxiliaries of sister churches and present to the 1995 synodical convention appropriate recommendations; and be it finally

Resolved, That the President and Board of Directors consider the position of the LCC and other sister churches in developing such recommendations.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Provide for Other Vice-Presidents Not in Line of Succession

RESOLUTION 8-03

Overture 8-09 (CW, pp. 295-96)

Background information:

The Synod's Constitution presently provides for Vice-Presidents and other officers as prescribed by the Bylaws and stipulates that the Vice-Presidents must be ministers of the church. The Bylaws provide for five Vice-Presidents in line of succession.

In dealing with the church and the public, it would be helpful to have other vice-presidents, not in the line of succession, with assigned areas of financial, administrative, or operating responsibility. The seminaries, colleges, universities, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, and Concordia Publishing House have such vice-presidents with typical titles being vice-president—finance, vice-president—administration, vice-president—operations, vice-president—marketing, and vice-president—editorial. These titles are helpful in working with the financial community, governments, and other organizations. It would also be helpful in relating to one another and to the church if people holding similar responsibilities had similar titles. The corporate entity of the Synod has not been able to use such titles because of the Constitution requiring that all vice-presidents be ministers in line of succession.

Vice-presidents, as officers of the respective corporations, also have signature authority recognized by others, particularly on legal and financial instruments. Since the corporate entity of Synod has only one full-time Vice-President and he, as well as the President, is frequently traveling, from time to time there have been problems having

an available signature on a timely basis. Additional vice-presidents working full-time would rectify this situation. Also, it would be helpful in dealing with banks and financial institutions if the Treasurer of the Synod also carried the title of Vice-President—Finance.

WHEREAS, The corporate Synod in dealing with the public often deals with banks, other corporations, and title and trust companies which will only accept the signature of a corporate president or vice-president; and

WHEREAS, Seminaries, colleges, and other entities, such as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, and Concordia Publishing House also deal with these entities and have solved the problem by creating vice-presidential officers; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable in relating to the Synod that positions in the various corporate entities with similar responsibilities have similar vice-presidential titles; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following amendment to the Constitution be adopted:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

Article X Officers

2. Vice-presidents, in line of succession, as prescribed by the Bylaws;
4. A Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer, not in line of succession.
6. Other officers, as specified in the Bylaws.

B

1. The President, the Vice-Presidents in line of succession, and the Secretary must be *ordained* ministers of The ~~church~~ Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and, like the Vice-President Finance—Treasurer, other officers, and the members of the Board of Directors, members of voting congregations.

and be it further

Resolved, That the following Bylaw amendments be adopted:

3.53 Officers Elected by the Convention

The officers of the Synod elected by the convention shall be a President, five Vice-Presidents (in line of succession), a Secretary, and a Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer, who shall also be designated as Chief Financial Officer.

3.77 Assistant Other Officers

The Board of Directors, subject to the approval of the President of the Synod, ~~shall~~ may appoint vice-presidents not in line of succession, ~~such~~ assistant officers, and ~~such other staff as may be~~ required from time to time to carry out the business and legal affairs of the Synod.

3.161 Nomination and Election

Change title of Treasurer to Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer.

3.163 General Duties

Change title of Treasurer to Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer.

3.165 Specific Duties

Change title of Treasurer to Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Include Centennial of LCMS World Mission Outreach in Commemoration of 150th Anniversary of Founding of the LCMS

RESOLUTION 8-04

Overture 8-01 (CW, p. 291)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention in 1989 authorized the observance of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Synod in 1847; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has also enjoyed the blessing of a world mission outreach since 1895; and

WHEREAS, Scripture is replete with encouragement for Christians to celebrate God's blessings in their lives; and

WHEREAS, It would be well to incorporate the commemoration of 100 years of LCMS world mission work and the need to continue to pursue an aggressive mission outreach along with the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Past commemorations of such milestones in the life of the Synod have provided opportunities to inform, inspire, and involve people, resulting in the enrichment of lives, the strengthening of faith, and the expansion of outreach; therefore be it

Resolved, That the planning for the 150th anniversary of the Synod include the celebration of the centennial of LCMS world mission outreach; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Synod, in consultation with the executive director of the Board for Mission Services, appoint appropriate leadership for the planning and implementation of a combined commemoration of these two important milestones in the life of the Synod.

Action: Adopted (6).

To Hold 1998 Synodical Convention and Celebrate Its 150th Birthday in Chicago

RESOLUTION 8-05

Overture 8-27 (CW, p. 301)

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Northern Illinois District has extended a formal invitation (Dec. 16, 1991) to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to hold its 1998 convention in the city of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, The agreement to form the Synod was first signed at First St. Paul Lutheran Church, Chicago, in 1847; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 1997; and

WHEREAS, The Council of Presidents has endorsed this invitation and is recommending that the 1998 convention be held in the Chicago area; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod acknowledge the significance of its birth, remember with joy and thanksgiving its history, and accept the invitation of the Northern Illinois District to hold the 1998 synodical convention in Chicago; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod request that appropriate plans be made and steps taken by members of the Northern Illinois District to recognize this significant event in our Synod's history as they prepare to host the convention.

Action: Adopted (8).

To Evaluate Nature and Purpose of Synodical Conventions

RESOLUTION 8-06

Overtures 8-13A-14, 8-16 (CW, pp. 297-98)

WHEREAS, Considerable interest has been shown concerning the time allocation of synodical conventions (length of convention, time spent on resolutions, guest speakers, etc.); and

WHEREAS, Other questions have been asked on the format and best use of time; therefore be it

Resolved, That the elected officers of the Synod (President, First Vice-President, Secretary, and Vice President—Finance—Treasurer), in consultation with the Board of Directors, the Vice-Presidents, the Council of Presidents, and any other entities they may choose, evaluate opportunities "for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information" (Bylaw 3.01), as presented in this convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the results and study of this evaluation be utilized in the development and planning of the 1995 synodical convention.

Action: Adopted (8).

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 8-07

Overtures 5-72, 8-03A-08, 8-12, 8-15, 8-17-18B, 8-20-26, 8-28-31, 8-40, 8-42-43, (CW, pp. 262, 294-95, 297-302, 306-07)

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
5-72	To Avoid Corporate Mentality in Synodical Structure	The "Conflict of Interest" document is not used as the overture suggests. Officers, boards, and commission members who are covered under Bylaw 3.71 are not required to sign such a "conflict of interest" statement. However, employees not covered by Bylaw 3.71, especially those involved in business and financial matters of the Synod, do sign such a document.
8-03A-B	To Study Doctrinal Matters at Professional Church Worker's Conferences	Adequately addressed in Bylaw 5.63
8-04	To Return to Pre-1989 Election Process for Circuit Counselors	Adequately addressed in Bylaw 5.11
8-05A-B	To Amend Bylaw 5.13—Function of Circuit Counselors	Adequately addressed in Bylaws 5.13, 5.15 b, and 5.21.
8-06	To Amend Bylaw 5.13 i	Inconsistent with Bylaw 2.39 a-b
8-07	To Amend Responsibilities of Circuit Counselors	Adequately addressed in Bylaws 5.13, 5.15 b, and 5.21
8-08	To Regionalize Circuit Counselors' Conferences	There is value in national celebration of our shared ministry
8-12	To Reduce Synodical Costs	Based on inaccurate information

8-15	To Provide Opportunity to Respond to Resolutions	Opportunity already exists for response
8-17	To Deal with Resolutions in Order of Priority in Postering Mission Work	All convention items should be part of our mission and Bylaw 3.25 requires the president to set the convention schedule
8-18A-B	To Revise Procedure for Adoption of Overtures and Consideration of Tentative Resolutions	Would unduly restrict the president's discretion in the publication of overtures
8-20	To Reform Selection of Convention Floor Committees	Present system includes representative consultation between synodical President, District President, and if necessary, Circuit Counselor
8-21	To Change Appointment of Members of Convention Floor Committees	Present system includes representative consultation between synodical President, District President, and if necessary, Circuit Counselor
8-22	To Revise Procedures for Selection of Members and Chairmen of Convention Committees	Present system includes representative consultation between synodical President, District President, and if necessary, Circuit Counselor
8-23	To Publish Names and Addresses of All Delegates and Alternates as Soon as Possible	Adequately addressed in Bylaw 3.19
8-24	To Provide Guidelines for Selecting Delegates to District Conventions	Obstructs and interferes with autonomy of congregations and Bylaws of Districts
8-25	To Avoid Sundays for District and Synodical Conventions	Such limitations impose undue restrictions on convention business and accelerate costs
8-26	To Celebrate Two Millennia in Our Lord with a Convention	Not recommended by the Council of Presidents
8-28	To Provide Equal Amount of Time for Presidential Candidates Prior to Election	Impractical, simply from the standpoint of time
8-29	To Allow Nominees for President and Vice-Presidents to Address the Synod	Impractical, simply from the standpoint of time
8-30A-D	To Reject Conflict of Interest Document	The "Conflict of Interest" document is not used as the overtures suggest. Officers, boards, and commission members who are covered under Bylaw 3.71 are not required to sign such a "conflict of interest" statement. However, employees not covered by Bylaw 3.71, especially those involved in business and financial matters of the Synod, do sign such a document.
8-31	To Cease Use of Conflict of Interest Document	The action already taken by the synodical President, Vice-President, and the public statement made by the Vice-President in a letter to the District presidents (10/18/89) and the 12/11/89 <i>Reporter</i> ALIVE is adequate
8-40	Unionism on the Part of Vice-President	Will be recognized in a different manner
8-42	To Give Thanks for 50 Years of Service to the Synod by Dr. Olsen	The 1986 convention Res. 5-28, "To Reaffirm 1979 Resolution 6-07" accorded Pastor Otten the means to attain certification—"either to reapply to the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, for certification if he so desires, or to seek certification by way of colloquy..." These opportunities for certification remain available to Pastor Otten.
8-43	To Accept Herman Otten into LCMS Ministry	

Action: Adopted (14).

To Urge Certification Process for Uncertified Pastors

RESOLUTION 8-08

Report R1-8 (CW, p. 10)

WHEREAS, The Bylaws of the Synod (2.07-2.13 and 6.87-6.103) provide specific procedures for certification into the pastoral ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, There are Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations currently being served by pastors who are not officially certified by the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That these congregations be counseled by their District Presidents on how they may rectify this anomaly at the earliest possible date; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm its willingness to welcome into the pastoral ministry all who have met the requirements for certification.

Action: Adopted (11).

To Appoint Task Force to Study and Develop Strategic Plan re Regionalization of Synodical and District Staff

RESOLUTION 8-09

Reports R1-8, R5-04 (CW, pp. 6, 8-10, 91; TB, pp. 67-68)

WHEREAS, The 1989 synodical convention, in Res. 8-02A, asked the whole LCMS to "involve itself in a coordinated planning and decision-making process to assure more effective and better coordinated services to congregations" (TB, p. 67), and

WHEREAS, The LCMS through the 1989 Colarelli, Meyer and Associates study, as well as the Synod's Research Advisory Group, has identified the following as "valued elements" to our existence as a church body:

"2. The continued centrality of the congregation."

"4. A synodical leadership group that has an overall understanding of the life of the church in today's changing world."

"6. Effectiveness of implementation [through] accountability [and] efficiency."

"7. Provision of some services from the national office, including: . . . Administration and support services."

"8. For Districts to know congregations on an individual basis and to network among congregations to meet mutual needs."

(TB, pp. 67-68); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Structure believes "future consideration . . . of the size and structure of Districts of the Synod" needs to be undertaken and the commission suggests a "special ad hoc committee could better deal with this issue, a committee which would include District, parish and Board of Directors representation" (CW, p. 91); and

WHEREAS, President Bohlmann has stated in his report to this convention that "organizational effectiveness" has been identified as one of the top 10 priorities for the synodical leadership (CW, pp. 6 and 8); and

WHEREAS, President Bohlmann has recommended in his report to this Convention that "the convention encourage appropriate District and national leaders to consider regional approaches to staffing, including the use of trained volunteers, to assist the congregations of the Synod in vision, networking, and compatible relations in support of the mission and ministry of the entire Synod" (CW, p. 10); and

WHEREAS, The continued reduction of financial resources available to District and national staffs is creating a growing crisis in the provision of services, resources, and support to congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Mission and Ministry Council (or the Board of Directors should Res. 4-02 fail) appoint a task force to study and evaluate, in consultation with the Districts, the following issues:

1. The configuration of Districts
2. The regionalization of District staffs
3. The regionalization of national staff
4. The development of new categories or positions for staffing based on the changing needs of our congregations and be it further

Resolved, That the task force complete the initial study and propose a strategic plan for review by the Mission and Ministry Council (or Board of Directors) and that the plan be brought to the 1995 synodical convention; and be it further

Resolved, That should the Mission and Ministry Council (or Board of Directors) and the 1995 synodical convention accept the proposed strategic plan the following timeline be used to encourage input and ownership by the congregations, Circuits, and Districts of the Synod:

1. Year 1—Congregational study and feedback to the task force

2. Year 2—Circuit study and feedback to the task force
3. Year 3—District study and feedback to the task force and be it further

Resolved, That upon completion of this process of study, input, and feedback the Task Force will prepare a final strategic plan for action by the Mission and Ministry Council (or Board of Directors) and the 1998 synodical convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the strategic plan, if adopted, be operational by the year 2000; and be it finally

Resolved, That the task force consist of two representatives each from the Mission and Ministry Council (or Board of Directors), the Council of Presidents, commissioned ministers serving a parish, parish pastors, and laypersons, together with appropriate advisory members.

Action: Adopted (8).

(An amendment calling for omission of the English and SELC Districts from the study while permitting their representatives to participate in the discussions was declined.)

9. Nominations

To Clarify Bylaw 3.949 a re Nominations from the Floor

RESOLUTION 9-01

Overture 9-01 (CW, p. 309)

WHEREAS, The LCMS *Handbook* clearly establishes a procedure for the timely submission of candidates for the various synodical offices, commissions, and Boards of Regents (Bylaw 3.945); and

WHEREAS, Floor nominations of persons *not* submitted per Bylaw 3.945 require convention approval and since Bylaw 3.949 a does not state whether this approval is carte blanche or requires approval for *each* candidate not previously submitted; and

WHEREAS, The floor nomination of candidates not pre-

viously submitted precludes the voting delegates from reviewing and evaluating candidate qualifications and experience; and

WHEREAS, Carte blanche approval or approval of board or commission by board or commission nominations would appear to undermine the intention of the delegates in adopting the provision contained in 3.949 a; therefore be it

Resolved, That *each* candidate nominated from the floor, whose name had not been previously submitted in accordance with Bylaw 3.945, requires the approval of the convention as well as the written consent of the nominee and pertinent written information concerning the person as designated in Bylaw 3.947 e.

Action: Adopted (3).



Committee 9 Chairman Harvey Wilkening (Left) and Committee Member Charles Gierke (Right)

10. Credentials, Registration, and Elections

(See the minutes of this convention, as well as the election results, for information about the work of committee 10. See also the list of registered delegates and representatives and the tabular survey in the front of this *Proceedings*.)



Committee 10 Chairman Donald W. Sandmann



11. SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Report of Special Committee

RESOLUTION 11-01

A special committee was appointed by the synodical President under the provisions of Bylaw 3.103 d, which clearly states that the President may exercise his executive function by appointing special committees whenever "conditions arising in the course of time demand such action." After considerable study and evaluation, the committee presented a number of questions to the delegates in the communication of June 24, 1992. The committee now brings its recommendations to the convention for discussion and action. It is the sincere desire of the Special Committee that the convention will adopt this resolution as a means of bringing healing and peace to our beloved Synod; therefore be it

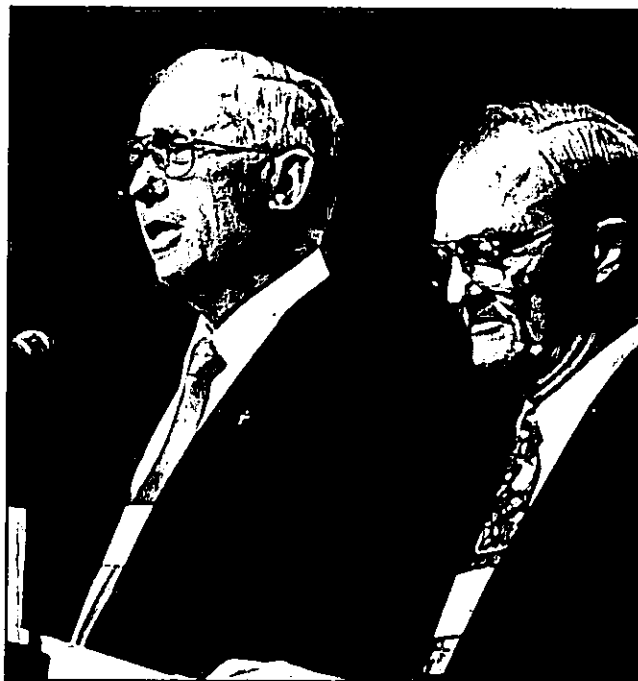
Resolved, That the Synod in convention declare that Bylaw 8.69 is final for all decisions of the Commission on Appeals of the Synod and all unappealed decisions of a commission on adjudication, provided that such decision is consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and/or is in accord with clearly established doctrinal positions of the Synod. Should either party to a dispute challenge the interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws or the doctrinal position set forth in the decision, an appeal may be made to the synodical Board of Directors under Bylaw 3.183, which shall either affirm the decision or return it for rehearing; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention declare that Bylaw 8.51 f requires advisory opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, when requested by either party to a proceeding, and that such advisory opinion is to be followed by a commission in arriving at a final decision; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention declares that the interpretation of any Bylaw, including Bylaw 8.69, cannot be made without regard for other references in the Constitution and Bylaws. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod require accountability of all commissions to the Synod for their actions (Bylaw 3.51 d, 3.69 m, 3.73). The several provisions of the *Handbook* state a clear and consistent intention that all commissions of the Synod, including the Commission on Appeals, are to be held accountable to the Synod in convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention rejects the position stated in the "Response of the Commission on Appeals" that "the ultimate authority over the LCMS adjudication processes are the secular courts" (page 3 of the document distributed to the Board of Directors and Council of Presidents by the Commission on Appeals, entitled "Response of the Commission on Appeals to the Report of the Special Committee and the Council of Presidents of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod" (dated 6/27/92); and be it finally

Resolved, That the provisions of this resolution apply to all cases now pending before the Commission on Appeals and any commissions on adjudication.



Special Committee Chairmen Henry L. Koepchen (Left) and John Helms (Right)

Action: Adopted (9)

(During consideration, a motion made to delete the second-last resolve was declined. Motion to delete the second resolve or to change the sense of the direction so that advisory opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations "may be followed" rather than "are to be followed" were tabled.)

Agreement

RESOLUTION 11-02

1. That Dr. Robert D. Preus serve as President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, until May, 1993, or until a new President is installed, whichever comes first.
2. That the call process for a new President will recommence.
3. That as of this date an Administrative Officer, acceptable to the President, Board of Regents and the Board for Higher Education, is in place. All academic and administrative functions of the Presidential office as defined in Bylaw 6.15 are delegated by the President to this Administrative Officer.
4. That President Preus devote himself in great measure to the Special Anniversary Offering and to recruitment.

July 16, 1992 Approved by:

(Date)

s/ Orvil M. Roetman

Chairman, Board of Regents
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana

s/ Richard J. Ungrodt
Chairman, Board for Higher Education
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

s/ Robert Preus
President
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Action: *Ratified by the convention. (12)*

To Decline Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 11-03

Overtures 6-42—49, L8-46—49 (CW, pp. 281—282; TB, pp. 12—17)

WHEREAS, The Special Committee 11 having considered all overtures assigned to it, concludes that by the ratification of the clarification of Bylaw 8.69 etc., and the ratification of the Agreement between Dr. Robert D. Preus, the Board of Regents of the Fort Wayne Seminary, and the Board for Higher Education, that Overtures 6-42, 6-43, 6-44, 6-45, 6-46, 6-47, 6-48, 6-49, L8-46, L8-47, L8-48, and L8-49 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (14).*

12. REFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

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. 1-02	Reexamine Missionary Qualifications	Board for Mission Services
Ov. 1-08	Renew Commitment to Worldwide Mission	Board for Mission Services
Ov. 1-09	Increase Number of Missionaries	Board for Mission Services
Ov. 1-28	Video Training Materials	Board of Directors
Ov. 1-29	20th Anniversary of OAFEC	Board of Directors
Ov. 1-31	Evangelism	Board of Directors
Ov. 1-38A-B	Give Thanks to Margaret Kemp	Board for Mission Services
Ov. 1-39A-B	Synodical Membership of DCOs	Mission and Ministry Council or Board of Directors
L1-43	Support the Urban Mission Field through Lutheran Schools	Board for Mission Services and Board for Parish Services
Ov. 2-02	God's Word to the Nations	Board for Parish Services and CTCR
Ov. 2-04	Lord's Supper a Testament	Board for Parish Services and CTCR
Ov. 2-06	Traditional Bible Version	Board for Parish Services and CTCR
Ov. 2-12	Family Worship	Board for Parish Services
Ov. 2-15A-B, 2-17	Communion Every Sunday	Commission on Worship
Ov. 2-21	Humanistic Religion	Board for Parish Services
Ov. 2-32	Year of Outdoor Ministry	Board of Directors
Ov. 2-33	Altenburg, MO	Board of Directors
Ov. 3-01A-B	Amend Art. VI 2	CTCR
Ov. 3-02	Inter-Christian Relationships	CTCR
Ov. 3-04A-B	LWF	Synodical President and CTCR
Ov. 3-05-06	Doctrinal Issues	Synodical President and Council of Presidents (COP)
Ov. 3-07	Similarities and Differences	CTCR and Synodical President
Ov. 3-08	Comity	CTCR
Ov. 3-09	Overseas	Committee on Lutheran Cooperation (CLC)
Ov. 3-22	Lay Ministry	Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry
Ov. 3-30	Art. XIV AC	COP and Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry
Ov. 3-55A-M	Close Communion	Council of Presidents
Ov. 3-60	Close Communion	CTCR
Ov. 3-65	Role of Women in the Church	CTCR
Ov. 3-95	Entanglement	CTCR
Ov. 3-97	Social Ministry	CTCR
Ov. 3-104	Scouting	Board for Youth Services
Ov. 3-107	20th Century Formula of Concord	CTCR
Ov. 3-108	Unionism	CTCR
Ov. 4-17	Exceeding Budget Expenditures	Board of Directors
Ov. 4-32	Honorarium Policy	Board of Directors
Ov. 4-34	Convention Costs	Board of Directors
Ov. 5-50	Election of Lower VPs	Mission and Ministry Council
Ov. 5-51-53	Voting Status	Mission and Ministry Council
Ov. 5-55	Teacher Convention Attendance	Mission and Ministry Council
Ov. 5-76	Clarification of Bylaws	Board of Directors
Ov. 6-03	Synodically Trained Work Force	Board for Parish Services
Ov. 6-05	Number of Male Teachers	Planning and Research
Ov. 6-25A-C	Women Presidents of Colleges	CTCR
Ov. 6-39	First Priority to Biblical Studies	Board for Higher Education Services
Ov. 6-40	Flexibility in Seminary Training	Seminary Board of Regents, Board for Higher Education Services
Ov. 7-19, 7-24 L7-33	Initiate Partial Disability Plan To Provide Housing Benefits for Retired Pastors and Spouses	Worker Benefit Plans
L7-34	New Models in Health Care	Board for Social Ministry Services
L7-35	Wholeness and Health Models	Worker Benefit Plans
L7-36	Ministerial Growth and Support	Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support
Ov. 8-10	Evaluation of Staff Needs	Board for Social Ministry Services
Ov. 8-11	Full-Time District Presidents	Board of Directors and COP
Ov. 8-33	Title of Chief Synodical and District Official	Board of Directors and COP

Ov. 8-36	LWML President Serve on President's Commission on Women	PCW
Ov. 8-37	Focus on Responsibility of LCMS Members	Council of Presidents
Ov. 8-38	Report on Spiritual Conditions in Synod	Council of Presidents
Ov. 8-39A-B	Doctrinal Discipline	Council of Presidents
Ov. 8-41	Guidelines for Clergy	Council of Presidents
Ov. L8-50	Unassigned Candidates	Council of Presidents

Action: Adopted as amended (2)

(During consideration of Res. A the following, which were included in the original motion, were deleted by amendment and referred to the appropriate floor committee:

Ov. 1-39A-B	Synodical Membership of DCOs	Mission and Ministry Council or Board of Directors
Ov. 3-09	Overseas Churches	Committee on Lutheran Cooperation (CLC)
Ov. 5-50	Election of Lower VPs	Mission and Ministry Council or Presidium
Ov. 5-51-53	Voting Status	Mission and Ministry Council

Motions to delete the following were declined:

Ov. 3-22	Lay Ministry	Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry
Ov. 2-15A-B, 2-17	Communion Every Sunday	Commission on Worship
Ov. 3-55A-M	Close Communion	CTCR
Ov. 6-39	First Priority to Biblical Studies	Board for Higher Education Services
Ov. 8-11	Full-time District Presidents	Board of Directors and Council of Presidents

In the final session of the convention the delegates agreed to restore Overture 3-09 to Res. A and refer it to the Committee on Lutheran Cooperation and to restore Overtures 5-50 and 5-51-53 for referral to the Mission and Ministry Council.)

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 these 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. 1-35	Latter-Day Saints	Anaheim, 1975, Res. 1-12
Ov. 2-03A-B	Translation Other Than NIV	Wichita, 1989, Proceedings, p. 171
Ov. 3-03	Membership	Detroit, 1965, Res. 3-03
		Denver, 1969, Res. 3-04
		Milwaukee, 1971, Res. 3-06
		St. Louis, 1983, Proceedings, p. 211
		Wichita, 1989, Proceedings, p. 172
Ov. 3-39	Suborders	Wichita, 1989, Res. 3-14
Ov. 3-53-54, 3-56A-59	Close Communion	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 3-08
Ov. 3-61-62	Women's Suffrage	Denver, 1969, Res. 2-17
Ov. 3-67A-76	Ordination of Women	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 3-09
		Denver, 1969, Res. 2-17
		Milwaukee, 1971, Res. 2-04
		Dallas, 1977, Res. 3-15
		Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 3-09-10
Ov. 3-101A-B	Teaching on Scriptures	New York, 1967, Res. 2-16
		New Orleans, 1973, Res. 3-01
		Dallas, 1977, Res. 3-11
Ov. 3-103	CTCR Theses on Justification	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 3-03
Ov. 5-29, 5-31	Opinions of CCM	Wichita, 1989, Res. 5-14
Ov. 5-30	Commissions in Doctrinal Matters Decisions	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 5-34
Ov. 6-24A-D	To Add Faculty Electors	Wichita, 1989, Res. 5-24A
		Wichita, 1989, Res. 6-09

RESOLUTIONS

Ov. 7-03 Social Ministry Affirmations
Ov. 7-26 Rate-Setting Procedures of WBP
Ov. 8-35 Allow "Political Activities"

New Orleans, 1973, Res. 9-18
Anaheim, 1975, Res. 3-28A
St. Louis, 1981, Res. 8-03
Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 7-23
Wichita, 1989, Res. 7-11B
Already Addressed in the
Ministry of Influence
Document prepared by the
COP

Resolved, That this convention once again affirm the above mentioned action of our Synod at previous conventions.

Action: Adopted (2)

(Amendments calling for the deletion of Ov. 7-26, Ov. 3-53-54 and Ov. 3-56A-59 were declined.)

and be it further

LATE REPORTS AND OVERTURES

Bylaw 3.19 2 b provides that reports and overtures must be submitted not later than 18 weeks prior to the opening day of the convention. March 6, 1992, 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):

Identical or similar:

L1-04B

Pacific Southwest District
Loren T. Kramer, *President*

L1-42

To Study Change of Synod Name

WHEREAS, The communication of the Gospel is the essential mission of the Christian church; and

WHEREAS, The identity of Christians who are attempting to communicate the Gospel should also be clear; and

WHEREAS, The present name of our church body, viz., "The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod" does not clearly identify who we are for the following reasons:

a. The word *Lutheran*, although an integral part of our identity which cannot be dropped, needs to be explained.

b. Our church is an international church, with many members overseas, and which seeks to share Christ with foreign nationals in this country, but the word "Missouri" implies parochialism and geographic limitations.

c. The word *Synod* is incomprehensible to 98 percent of all people; therefore be it

Resolved, That the New Jersey District in convention recommend to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at its 1992 Pittsburgh triennial convention that a committee be established to study this issue and make recommendations, and that this committee report back to the 1995 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

New Jersey District
Donald W. Sandmann, *President*

L1-43

To Support the Urban Mission Field through Lutheran Schools

WHEREAS, The urban conditions in the nation's cities have provided a breeding ground for poverty, hatred, crime, and drugs; and

WHEREAS, The children of our inner cities are embroiled in these deplorable conditions with little chance of escape; and

WHEREAS, Many of the children attending our synodical schools have a tremendous lack of family supported spiritual life; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran schools within the inner cities

are continuously in danger of closing due to rising costs, a fluctuating economy, and other financial difficulties; and

WHEREAS, The Lord has instructed us to "suffer the little children"; and

WHEREAS, Our Lutheran schools are often the only contact children have with the Lord; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod affirm its position as a leader in Christian education and turn its attention to the mission opportunities presented in the urban setting; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod encourage financially sound congregations not affiliated with schools to look at our nation's cities as prime targets for mission outreach; and be it further

Resolved, That the Christian education of our nation's children—particularly children in urban, inner city neighborhoods—become a priority of *all* members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the promotion of Lutheran education as a viable alternative to the non-Christian public schools become a priority of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod on a national level; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod recognize the severity of these conditions and consider this a priority resolution.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
New York, NY
Diana Schrader, *President*

L3-111

To Clarify Doctrine of the Call

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod accepts the Bible as the inspired Word of God; and

WHEREAS, Paul in 1 Tim. 2:11-15 reminds us of the order of creation and instructs us that women are not to be "ministers of religion"; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has changed the nature of the term "divine call" to include both men and women; and

WHEREAS, Certain individuals in the name of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have lobbied the Internal Revenue Service to include women under the title "minister of religion"; and

WHEREAS, The Internal Revenue Service now lists all synodically trained and certified teachers as "ministers of religion"; and

WHEREAS, The result of the efforts by these certain individuals in the name of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are in direct contradiction to Holy Writ; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod refuse to acknowledge women as "ministers of religion"; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod develop a call and contract policy consistent with doctrine as shown in God's Word concerning the office of Christian teacher; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Theology and Church Relations be required to present a biblical and confessional basis for the doctrine of the divine call by the 1995 synodical convention; and be it finally

Resolved, That unless these issues are addressed, this congregation will withdraw its financial support of the Synod and will solicit others to follow suit.

Lutheran Church of Messiah
Grand Junction, CO
Bernard R. Pacini, *Chairman*
David B. Gruner, *Secretary*

L5-77

To Transfer Calvary Lutheran Church, Thunder Bay, Ont., Canada to Central District of Lutheran Church Canada

WHEREAS, Calvary Lutheran Church, Thunder Bay, Ont., Canada, at a regularly called voters' meeting held on May 13, 1992, voted unanimously to apply for membership in the Lutheran Church—Canada; therefore be it

Resolved, That Calvary Lutheran Church, Thunder Bay, Ont., Canada, be granted its request to transfer to the Central District of the Lutheran Church—Canada.

Board of Directors
Minnesota North District
LeRoy F. Mueller, *Secretary*

L6-51

To Exempt District President from Membership on Seminary Board of Regents

WHEREAS, The District President has a pastoral and supervisory role to all the called workers in the District; and

WHEREAS, The District President is, by virtue of his office, a member of the Board of Regents of the seminary; and

WHEREAS, Being a part of the Board of Regents would put the President into a possible position of a conflict of interest (i.e., presidential and pastoral responsibilities to District called workers and his role as synodical administrator); and

WHEREAS, In the past two years severe conflicts of interest have arisen that placed the District President in an

adversarial position with several professional church workers in the District; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod change Bylaw 6.01 a 3 to exclude the District President from membership on the Board of Regents; and be it further

Resolved, That the District President who sits on the Board of Regents be elected by the synodical convention.

Board of Directors
Indiana District
Timothy E. Sims, *President*
Donald W. Biester, *Secretary*

L7-33

To Provide Housing Benefits for Retired Pastors and Spouses

WHEREAS, Parsonages have and continue to be blessings for pastors and spouses; and

WHEREAS, Parsonages have been considered part of the salary benefit package for pastors; and

WHEREAS, Worker Benefit Plans computes the parsonage benefit as a percentage in the salary structure; and

WHEREAS, In the future pastors and spouses will have greater difficulty securing housing in retirement after they have lived in congregational parsonages; and

WHEREAS, Pastors and spouses will experience greater stress concerning housing both prior to retirement and during retirement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Missouri Synod with its Districts and Circuits in a network fashion, address this concern of housing for pastors and spouses; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod and Districts be directed to assume ownership and maintenance of suitable housing for retired pastors and spouses who have lived in parsonages and have no housing equity, and where such housing is necessary because ministry was performed where financial resources were limited and where ministry was needed for the mission of the church; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Social Ministry Services be directed to take an active role in this "pressure point" by providing for the retired pastor's "personal well-being and professional growth."

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
Chicago, IL

Richard Lerne, *Chairman*
Bernhard J. Bralëshski, *Secretary*

L7-34A

To Develop New Models in Health Care

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has maintained the well-run Concordia Health Plan; and

WHEREAS, In recent years the cost of medical care has escalated rapidly and is expected to continue to rise unpredictably in the future; and

WHEREAS, Many congregations are finding the rising cost of the Concordia Health Plan to be an increasingly greater financial burden; and

WHEREAS, The Concordia Health Plan, with its primary focus on reimbursing costs of illness, continues to rise in cost while at the same time increasing deductible provisions and decreasing benefits (dental care for retirees totally eliminated in 1991); and

WHEREAS, New national and organizational models on primary preventive health care are emerging to control costs (e.g., "Healthy People 2000: National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives"; "The Church's Challenge in Health"; church-based family health centers; and parish nurses); and

WHEREAS, There is a growing urgency to balance the medical care model (taking care of sick people) with a primary preventive health care wellness model (keeping healthy people healthy); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Concordia Health Plan Board review its present policy of reimbursement for illness costs alone and establish a policy for reimbursement of preventive health care services and healthy lifestyle incentives by allocating funds for research and development which emphasize prevention and education and by using comprehensive health risk data and medical services research methods; and be it further

Resolved, That the new preventive health care policy support and reward personal health quality improvement and family health maintenance practices which reduce Concordia Health Plan medical premiums and medical care costs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Concordia Health Plan Board (a) collaborate with the LCMS Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support and the LCMS Standing Committee on Health and Healing to develop a preventive health care research and development management plan and (b) in direct collaboration with Districts and congregations jointly craft a policy on health quality which includes preventive health objectives and a health support structure at the District level; and be it further

Resolved, That preventive health care program development include seed money for pilot or demonstration projects with District applicants and District-level continuing education and ministerial health linkages; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Concordia Health Plan report to the 1995 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod convention (1) the research and development study results; (2) the inclusion of healthy lifestyle incentives in policies and procedures; (3) a new preventive health policy in addition to its present medical model that includes three measurable goals: (a) reducing health risks, (b) reducing premature morbidity and mortality, and (c) continuing health quality improvement.

Circuit Counselors Conference
Southeastern District
Richard T. Hinz, *President*

Identical or similar:

L7-34B and C

Prince of Peace, Springfield, VA
Harold Stults, *President*
Redeemer, Hyattsville, MD
Eric G. Peterson, *Pastor*

L7-35A

To Develop Wholeness and Health Models for Congregations

WHEREAS, God defends the cause of the healthy and the sick and calls upon Christians to demonstrate stewardship and express compassion (Deut. 10:18); and

WHEREAS, Christ healed the sick, and God wills through the Gospel that people should be whole; and

WHEREAS, 34 to 37 million Americans cannot obtain medical care or preventive health care; and

WHEREAS, Preventive care and health lifestyle changes—consistent with God's will to preserve, protect, and enhance the gift of life—can significantly impact personal health; and

WHEREAS, We, as Lutheran Christians and American citizens, have individual and collective responsibilities to improve the health of individuals in Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations and in our nation; therefore be it

Resolved, That LCMS congregations, church leadership, and church professionals promote personal wholeness and health consistent with Christian stewardship; and be it further

Resolved, That as Lutheran Christian citizens our members speak to the reform and improvement of medical care policies and the health care delivery system to better reflect biblical stewardship; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Standing Committee on Health and Healing provide health information and health program models of Christian action to LCMS congregations and Districts; and be it further

Resolved, That health model development for congregations and Districts be based on the theologies of wholeness, health, and healing to serve as a unifying and empowering vision for focused health promotion implementation plans; and be it further

Resolved, That models be developed to support a goal of continuous health quality improvement; and be it further

Resolved, That during 1992 the LCMS Standing Committee on Health and Healing collaborate with the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations for developing (1) a theology of wholeness, (2) a theology of health, and (3) a theology of healing; and be it further

Resolved, That during 1992 the LCMS Standing Committee on Health and Healing collaborate with the Concordia Health Plan for developing a strategic information profile of preventable illnesses; and be it further

Resolved, That during 1992 the LCMS Standing Committee on Health and Healing collaborate with the LCMS Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support to develop a management plan that inserts programs which support preventive health concepts and health quality improvement into the continuing education of church professionals, as well as increasing professional skill levels; and be it finally

Resolved, That during 1993 the LCMS Standing Committee on Health and Healing be the focal point for de-

veloping a report to the 1995 LCMS convention on these collaborations.

Circuit Counselors Conference
Southeastern District
Richard T. Hinz, *President*

L7-35B

Prince of Peace, Springfield, VA
Harold Stults, *President*

L7-36A

To Expand Ministerial Growth and Support

WHEREAS, The Wichita convention, to continue to improve church worker skills and effectiveness, created the LCMS Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support (CMGS) as a quality enhancement strategy for continuing education and training; and

WHEREAS, The Wichita convention directed the CMGS to address the continuing professional education and well-being requirements of church workers and their families; and

WHEREAS, In response, the CMGS has committed resources to a ministerial growth and support concept of quality which includes both professional competence and preventive health/wellness development for church professionals; and

WHEREAS, The CMGS, in effect, is an action team supporting professional competency and personal health process development through continuing education and preventive health services; and

WHEREAS, In the development of professional competence and personal health skills, using the quality improvement process of prevention, improvement comes not with detection and correction of deficiencies, but with the ability and foresight to prevent problems through education, training, and care; therefore be it

Resolved, That, as its primary strategy to deliver professional growth and preventive health services for professional church workers, the Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support focus implementation through the quality improvement (both professional competence and preventive health/wellness development) and continuing education process; which implies self-assessment and self-direction, self-improvement, self-empowering to promote personal health and skills improvement; and be it further

Resolved, That, to support the preventive health/wellness component of its strategy, the CMGS initiate high priority collaboration with the Commission on Theology and Church Relations and the Standing Committee on Health and Healing to develop before 1993 three key theologies: a theology of wholeness, a theology of health, and a theology of healing; and be it further

Resolved, That the CMGS develop a five-year organization-wide strategic implementation plan for professional and health quality improvement which includes a vision statement that can serve the future, a mission statement, and strategic and operational goals; and be it further

Resolved, That the CMGS articulate and communicate its strategic quality vision, mission, goals, and objectives by translating these into guidelines that Districts would execute as partners in quality improvement; and be it further

Resolved, That, in pursuit of continuous quality improvement education and training, the Districts be supported by CMGS in developing pilot, demonstration, or prototype projects, process action teams, and quantitative databases and software technology to measure and evaluate CMGS outcomes and impact; and be it further

Resolved, That CMGS encourage and solicit District-level growth and support training and education plans that (a) establish a framework from which a District can measure its effectiveness in professional growth and preventive health goals achieved; (b) include a strategy designed to encourage continuous quality improvement across a spectrum of validated continuing education needs; (c) include an evaluation component; and be it further

Resolved, That, in facilitating and implementing preventive health and education services, CMGS collaborate with the LCMS Standing Committee on Health and Healing and the Concordia Health Plan Board to develop a comprehensive health information software system which would support decision-making at congregational, District, and LCMS levels; and be it further

Resolved, To put CMGS problem-solving into perspective, that the corporate CMGS give priority to the following values as decision-making criteria: (1) quality growth, (2) church professional effectiveness, (3) ministry requirements, (4) congregational and organizational support, (5) productivity, and (6) cost; and be it finally

Resolved, That CMGS, in collaboration with the Standing Committee on Health and Healing and the Concordia Health Plan, report its progress, constraints, and recommendations to the 1995 LCMS convention.

Circuit Counselors Conference
Southeastern District
Richard T. Hinz, *President*

L7-36B

Prince of Peace, Springfield, VA
Harold Stults, *President*

L8-46A

To Remove from Office the President and First Vice-President for Violating Oath of Office

WHEREAS, Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, answered affirmatively to the following oath of office: "Do you solemnly promise that you will perform the duties of your office in accordance with these [Lutheran] Confessions, or Symbols, and in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to the glory of Christ, our Lord, and in service to His holy Church?"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. August Mennicke, First Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, answered affirmatively to the following oath of office: "Will you en-

deavor faithfully to perform all duties of your office as stipulated in the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and in accordance with the doctrines of Holy Scripture as set forth in the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and will you adorn the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?"; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Bylaw 6.01 a 2 one of the members of the Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne includes "a Vice-President of the Synod designated by the President of the Synod" and pursuant to this Bylaw Dr. Bohlmann appointed Dr. Mennicke to the Board of Regents (BOR) of Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne (CTS); and

WHEREAS, The BOR of CTS adopted a resolution by majority vote on July 27, 1989, forcibly retiring the Rev. Dr. Robert D. Preus from his position as president of CTS; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Preus challenged this decision of the majority members of the BOR by presenting the matter to the synodical adjudicatory bodies; and

WHEREAS, The synodical Commission on Appeals (COA), pursuant to its authority under chapter VIII of the Bylaws, concluded that "the BOR majority had sinned against Dr. Preus and had taken from Dr. Preus his good name, his honor, and his position by show of right, all in violation of the Eighth and Ninth Commandments" and that Dr. Preus was not properly retired as president of CTS, and that if Dr. Preus is reinstated to membership in good standing on the clergy roster of the LCMS, he is to be restored at that time to the office and duties of president of CTS; and

WHEREAS, Both the synodical Commission on Adjudication (SCA) and COA noted in their decisions regarding this matter that Dr. Preus had called President Bohlmann on July 27, 1989 before the BOR took its action forcibly retiring Dr. Preus and asked Dr. Bohlmann for his help, but "President Bohlmann said there was nothing he could do for him" (SCA decision, p. 4; COA decision of Oct. 19, 1991, p. 5); and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 8.69 provides that "all final decisions of the Commission on Appeals of the Synod and all unappealed decisions of the Commission on Adjudication shall be binding upon all parties to the case and not subject to review, reversal, amendment, or modification, any provision to the contrary in the Bylaws notwithstanding"; and

WHEREAS, The decision of the COA concluding that Dr. Preus was not properly removed as president of CTS and that Dr. Preus shall be restored to his position and duties as president of CTS upon being restored to good standing in the clergy roster of the LCMS is a final and binding decision pursuant to Bylaw 8.69; and

WHEREAS, A majority of the BOR, including First Vice-President August Mennicke, adopted a resolution stating that it will not "honor or obey the ruling of the synodical Commission on Appeals purporting to reinstate Dr. Preus"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bohlmann has never committed to honoring or obeying the final and binding decisions of the COA regarding Dr. Preus and has implied he concurs with the statement of the majority of the BOR that it will not "honor or obey the ruling" of the COA; and

WHEREAS, The refusal of Dr. Mennicke and Dr. Bohlmann to "honor or obey" the final and binding decisions of the COA is in violation of the Bylaws of the LCMS, including Bylaws 8.07, 8.69, and 8.75, as well as the objectives of the Synod as expressed in Art. III and XI of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 1.05 d provides, in part, "individual members, commit themselves as members of the Synod to act in accordance with the synodical Constitution and Bylaws under which they have agreed to live and work together and which the congregations alone have the authority to adopt or amend through conventions"; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 2.39 a provides, "The Constitution, Bylaws, and all other rules and regulations of the Synod shall apply to all congregational and individual members of the Synod. The Synod expects [all members] to honor its rules and regulations"; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 2.39 c provides, in part, "While retaining the right to brotherly dissent, members of the Synod are expected as part of the life together within the synodical fellowship to honor and to uphold the resolutions of the Synod"; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 2.35 provides, "Every member of the Synod shall diligently and earnestly promote the purposes of the Synod by word and deed"; and

WHEREAS, Chapter VI of the Bylaws provides that the Boards of Regents are "subject to general policies set by the Synod" (Bylaw 6.01) and are to "become familiar with and develop an understanding of pertinent synodical and Board for Higher Education Services policies, standards, and guidelines" (Bylaw 6.03 a); and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.69 m provides, "All boards and commissions shall be responsible and accountable for their activities to the President of the Synod (Art. XI, B, 1-4) between conventions of the Synod and ultimately to the Synod in convention (Art. XI, A, 1-2)"; and

WHEREAS, Art. XI, B, 2 provides, "It is the President's duty to see to it that all the aforementioned act in accordance with the Synod's Constitution, to admonish all who in any way depart from it, and, if such admonition is not heeded, to report such cases to the Synod"; and

WHEREAS, Art. XI, B, 3 of the Constitution provides, "The President has and always shall have the power to advise, admonish, and reprove. 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

WHEREAS, Art. XI, B, 4 provides, "The President shall see to it that the resolutions of the Synod are carried out"; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 1.07 b provides, "Elected officers serve the Synod in accordance with duties assigned to them or otherwise authorized by the Constitution and appropriate Bylaws. Primary responsibility is given to each officer, to the extent of his jurisdiction, for implementing specific decisions of the appropriate conventions, boards, and commissions and for supervising and coordinating the day-to-day activities of the respective staffs"; and

WHEREAS, Despite repeated requests, both Dr. Bohlmann and Dr. Mennicke have failed to carry out their re-

sponsibilities under Art. XI of the Constitution and applicable Bylaws, including Bylaw 1.07 b and have refused to comply with and enforce the final and binding decisions of the COA and have further refused to carry out their responsibilities of ensuring that other members of the Synod, including the majority of the BOR, comply with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.73 provides, in part, "All officers, boards, and commissions shall be accountable to the Synod for all their actions . . ."; and

WHEREAS, The refusal of Dr. Bohlmann and Dr. Mennicke to comply with the Constitution and Bylaws of the LCMS and to honor and obey the final and binding decisions of the COA has caused and continues to cause division, distrust, dishonor, and conflict and great damage to CTS and the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bohlmann and Dr. Mennicke cannot effectively or properly carry out their duties and responsibilities, and the welfare and unity of the LCMS cannot be maintained if Dr. Bohlmann and Dr. Mennicke remain in office but refuse to comply with the Constitution and Bylaws of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, Art. XI, A, 2 of the Constitution of the LCMS provides, "The Synod at all times has the right to call its officers to account and, if circumstances require it, to remove them from office in accordance with Christian procedure"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention condemn the action of Dr. Bohlmann and Dr. Mennicke refusing to honor or obey the final and binding decisions of the COA and thus openly and publicly violating the Constitution and Bylaws of the LCMS and refusing to carry out their duties of ensuring that all other members of the Synod comply with the Constitution and Bylaws and admonishing those that do not; and be it further

Resolved, That Dr. Bohlmann and Dr. Mennicke be removed from office, effective immediately; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Second Vice-President of the Synod advance to the position of President of the Synod until the expiration of his term of office and the Third Vice-President of the Synod advance to the position of First Vice-President of the Synod until the expiration of his term of office, pursuant to Art. XI, C of the Constitution.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Crookston, MN
Jerome Wendorff, *Chairman*
Daniel Weber, *Secretary*

Identical or similar:

L8-46B and C

Christ, Mason City, IL
David Bergman, *Chairman*
Pilgrim, Decatur, IL
Phil Beach, *Chairman*

L8-47A

To Remove from Office Members of Fort Wayne Board of Regents for Violating Their Oath of Office

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents (BOR) of Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne (CTS) adopted a resolution by majority vote on July 27, 1989 forcibly retiring the Rev. Dr. Robert D. Preus from his position as president of CTS; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Preus challenged this decision of the majority members of the BOR by presenting the matter to the synodical adjudicatory bodies; and

WHEREAS, The synodical Commission on Appeals (COA), pursuant to its authority under Art. VIII of the Bylaws, concluded that "the BOR majority had sinned against Dr. Preus and had taken from Dr. Preus his good name, his honor, and his position by show of right, all in violation of the Eighth and Ninth Commandments" and that Dr. Preus was not properly retired as president of CTS, and that if Dr. Preus is reinstated to membership in good standing on the clergy roster of the LCMS, he is to be restored at that time to the office and duties of president of CTS; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 8.69 provides, "All final decisions of the Commission on Appeals of the Synod and all unappealed decisions of a Commission on Adjudication shall be binding upon all parties to the case and not subject to review, reversal, amendment, or modification, any provision to the contrary in the Bylaws notwithstanding"; and

WHEREAS, The decision of the COA concluding that Dr. Preus was not properly removed as president of CTS and that Dr. Preus shall be restored to his position and duties as president of CTS upon being restored to good standing in the clergy roster of the LCMS is a final and binding decision pursuant to Bylaw 8.69; and

WHEREAS, A majority of the BOR including members Orvil Roetman, Stuart Tietz, Melvin W. Bredemeier, William F. McNally, and August Mennicke, has adopted a resolution stating that it will not "honor or obey the ruling of the synodical Commission on Appeals purporting to reinstate Dr. Preus"; and

WHEREAS, The refusal of the majority of the BOR to "honor or obey" the final and binding decisions of the COA is in violation of the Bylaws of the LCMS, including Bylaws 8.07, 8.69, and 8.75, as well as the objectives of the Synod as expressed in Art. III of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 1.05 d provides, in part, "individual members, commit themselves as members of the Synod to act in accordance with the synodical Constitution and Bylaws under which they have agreed to live and work together and which the congregations alone have the authority to adopt or amend through conventions"; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 2.39 a provides, "The Constitution, Bylaws, and all other rules and regulations of the Synod shall apply to all congregational and individual members of the Synod. The Synod expects [all members] to honor its rules and regulations"; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 2.39 c provides, in part, "While re-

taining the right to brotherly dissent, members of the Synod are expected as part of the life together within the synodical fellowship to honor and to uphold the resolutions of the Synod"; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 2.35 provides, "Every member of the Synod shall diligently and earnestly promote the purposes of the Synod by word and deed"; and

WHEREAS, Chapter VI of the Bylaws provides that the Boards of Regents are "subject to general policies set by the Synod" (Bylaw 6.01) and are to "become familiar with and develop an understanding of pertinent synodical and Board for Higher Education Services policies, standards, and guidelines" (Bylaw 6.03 a); and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.69 m provides, "All boards and commissions shall be responsible and accountable for their activities to the President of the Synod (Art. XI, B, 1-4) between conventions of the Synod and ultimately to the Synod in convention (Art. XI, A, 1-2)"; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.73 provides, in part, "All officers, boards, and commissions shall be accountable to the Synod for all their actions . . ."; and

WHEREAS, The refusal of the majority members of the BOR to comply with the Constitution and Bylaws of the LCMS and to honor and obey the final and binding decisions of the COA has caused and continues to cause division and conflict and great damage to CTS and the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, The BOR cannot effectively or properly carry out its function and responsibilities, and the welfare of CTS and its faculty, staff, and students cannot be maintained if individuals remain members of the BOR but refuse to comply with the Constitution and Bylaws of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, Article XI, A, 2 of the Constitution of the LCMS provides, "The Synod at all times has the right to call its officers to account and, if circumstances require it, to remove them from office in accordance with Christian procedure"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention condemn the action of the majority of the BOR which refused to honor or obey the final and binding decisions of the COA and thus openly and publicly violated the Constitution and Bylaws of the LCMS; and be it further

Resolved, That all members of the BOR (Orvil Roetman, Stuart Tietz, Melvin W. Bredemeier, William F. McNally, and August Mennicke) who voted for the resolution stating that the BOR would not honor and obey the final and binding decisions of the COA be removed as members of the BOR, effective immediately; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod, by convention, accept nominations and elect individuals to complete the terms of those members of the BOR removed from office.

First Lutheran Church
Manhattan Beach, CA
Malcolm Heib, *President*
Janet Owen, *Secretary*

Identical or similar:

L8-47B-H

Grace, Platte Center, NE Ernest Mueller, *President*
St. Peters, Platte Center, NE Donald W. Sjuts, *President*
Redeemer, St. Clair Shores, MI Earl Hildebrandt, *President*

Christ, Mason City, IL David Bergman, *Chairman*
Our Savior, Crookston, MN Jerome Wendorff, *Chairman*
Christ, Oak Park, IL Robert Failing, *Chairman*
Pilgrim, Decatur, IL Phil Beach, *Chairman*

L8-48

To Ratify the Honorable Retirement of Dr. Robert D. Preus

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., resolved to honorably retire Dr. Robert D. Preus as president of the institution on July 27, 1989; and

WHEREAS, The honorable retirement of Dr. Preus has been the subject of litigation and adjudication within the synodical Commission on Adjudication and Commission on Appeals of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The dispute concerning the honorable retirement of Dr. Preus has caused considerable pain, suffering, and dissension within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of Dr. Preus, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., and the Synod at large, that this dispute be laid to rest; therefore be it

Resolved, By the Synod in convention that the honorable retirement of Dr. Robert D. Preus from the presidency of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., by resolution of the Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., is hereby ratified and approved in its entirety, any decision of any other boards or commissions of the Synod notwithstanding.

Board of Regents
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, IN
Stuart D. Tietz, *Secretary*

L8-49

To Refuse to Debate CTS Board of Regents/Dr. Robert Preus Case on Convention Floor

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention is incapable of functioning in any way as a tribunal due to limitations of time, legal expertise, and availability of all pertinent and necessary data; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention recognize the authority of Bylaw 8.69 and refuse to debate the CTS Board of Regents/Dr. Robert Preus case on the convention floor.

Decatur Circuit
Indiana District
Daniel J. Brege, *Circuit Counselor*

L8-50

To Allow Unassigned Candidates to Receive and Consider Properly Issued Calls

Rationale:

Our doctrine of the call places the final authority of issuing a call on the congregation. If a congregation chooses to call a specific candidate, that call should be honored. Likewise, the final decision of accepting or declining a call rests on the person being called. If a candidate is truly certified as eligible to be a member of the Synod and has gone through all aspects of the placement process without receiving a call, he should be free to consider a specific call without the permission or direction of the Board of Assignments. The practice of placing candidates was developed for the sake of the candidates and their inauguration into the ministerium of the Synod, not to restrict congre-

gations or candidates. The elected officials of the Synod are servants of its members.

Resolved, That the Synod in convention adopt the following addition to Bylaw 2.11 as point e:

2.11 Assignments of First Calls

e. Legitimate candidates not initially assigned by the Board of Assignments will normally be assigned in subsequent action of the Board of Assignments. However, any certified candidate who does not receive placement through the initial placement process is eligible to receive and consider properly issued calls. An unassigned candidate will immediately inform and consult with his/her respective placement director upon receipt of a call and will inform the placement director of his/her ultimate decision in regard to the call.

Decatur Circuit
Indiana District

Daniel J. Brege, *Circuit Counselor*

REPORTS AND OVERTURES CORRELATED WITH RESOLUTIONS

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ENTERED INTO REST

Pastors

Abel, Albert P.
 Adam, William
 Aurich, Vernold W.
 Bartell, Theodore R.
 Bauerkemper, Elton F.
 Bauermeister, John F.
 Baumgaertner, Martin
 Baumgartel, Clarence
 Baumgartner, Walter
 Behling, Martin H.
 Beiderwieden, Geo. Jr.
 Beisel, Reuben C.
 Bekemeier, R. H.
 Bellamy, Lavern R.
 Bensene, Carl H.
 Bentrup, Edmund A.
 Berner, Martin A.
 Bernthal, Harold C.
 Bertram, Arnold H.
 Beto, George J.
 Boehne, H. Paul
 Bohnert, Oscar A.
 Bohrer, Erhard H.
 Bornemann, Theo W.
 Bornhoeft, Theodore
 Boye, Clarence C.
 Boyer, Herman D.
 Brammer, Martin G.
 Braun, Elmer W.
 Bremer, Clarence C.
 Bremer, John W.
 Bringewatt, Arnold H.
 Bronsted, Roger L.
 Brott, Edward J.
 Brustat, August W.
 Brutlag, Allen H.
 Buchholz, Gordon O.
 Buenger, Paul M.
 Chambers, John W.
 Charles, Lester L.*
 Chaveriat, Charles H.
 Clausen, Walter P.
 Clausing, Christoph
 Cloeter, Arnold E.
 Cloeter, Richard T.
 Cruppenink, R. P.
 Dale, Leonard A. Sr.
 Damerow, Ronald D.
 Dehnke, Robert K.
 Delventhal, Richard
 Dick, Alan D.
 Doering, Walton W.
 Dohrman, Clarence E.
 Dommer, Marxen W.
 Dorn, Henry W.
 Drevlow, Otto
 Droutz, Harry H.
 Eggold, Elmer F.
 Elfman, Henry E.
 Enders, Alfred L.
 Engelking, Edgar R.
 Enns, Henry
 Erber, Ronald
 Ernst, Alfred H.
 Evers, Karl H.
 Fedder, Allen H.
 Ferber, Waldemar O.
 Firchau, Albert
 Fleischer, Edward J.
 Freiberg, Herbert H.

Frese, Edgar F.
 Fritze, Edwin J.
 Fus, Donald W.
 Gade, Edward H. Jr.
 Garchow, Al
 Gardels, Norman
 Gebauer, A. O.
 Geiger, Carl H.
 Gerken, Walter C.
 Gesell, George G.
 Giese, Raymond A.
 Glahn, Paul
 Graeber, Charles L.
 Greene, Elmer E.
 Gross, Moritz H.
 Grotelueschen, Elmer
 Grugel, Earl C.
 Grunau, Herman C.
 Guenther, Ernest F.
 Gutekunst, Carl C.
 Haak, William Paul
 Hafner, Milton
 Halboth, Victor Sr.
 Hansel, William H.
 Harper, Curtis D.
 Haupt, Robert C.
 Heck, Donald E.
 Heckmann, Carl A.
 Heddrich, Walter E.
 Hein, Paul A.
 Heinicke, Edward F.
 Heino, Emil A.
 Heins, Norbert G.
 Hellmann, Carl
 Hemmeter, Bernard H.
 Henrichs, Karl H.
 Hess, J. Ralph
 Hesse, Armin W.
 Hiebert, Herman E.
 Hinrichs, Everard W.
 Hinrichs, Otto F.
 Hoffmann, Otto E.
 Holoien, Kenneth W.
 Huras, Mervin D.
 Ilten, William H.
 Jacobsen, John C.
 Janke, Wilfred H.
 Jankens, Edward G.
 Janz, Philip
 Jenkins, Bradley P.
 Jenson, J. Bardon
 Joost, Ernest H.
 Joss, Virgil H.
 Juengel, Martin H.
 Juergensen, James E.
 Kahre, Robert W.
 Karpinsky, Gustav A.
 Kasper, Carl E.
 Kautz, George W.
 Kavasch, John A.
 Keller, Martin E.
 Kergis, Edward
 Kieschnick, Louis H.
 Kilian, Kenneth J.
 Klees, Theodore C.
 Kleindienst, Henry J.
 Koch, Julius E.
 Kohn, Gerard
 Kohtz, Albert L.
 Korris, Albert J.
 Kostizen, Leo

Kramer, Fred
 Kraus, George R.
 Krentz, Elmer W.
 Kroll, Paul J.
 Krueger, Albert E.
 Krueger, Harvey A.
 Kruger, Ralph C.
 Kurth, Erwin W.
 Kurth, Woodrow W.
 Lammers, Richard W.
 Larson, Leland R.
 Lassanske, Karl F.
 Leege, Robert J.
 Leininger, Jacob W.
 Leischner, Paul E.
 Liefer, Myron F.
 Lindemann, Robert F.
 Lochmann, Walter C.
 Loomis, Richard V.
 Lootsma, Ernest
 Ludwig, William H.
 Luecke, Gerhard L.
 Luoma, Robert P.
 Lutz, Arnold J.
 Lutz, Paul H.
 Malinsky, Walter G.
 Martin, Leonard A.
 Maschoff, Elmer E.
 Mattil, Frederick A.
 May, Hubert
 Meyer, Aldolph R.
 Meyer, Clarence G.
 Meyer, Herbert J.
 Meyer, Walter A.
 Michels, W. Harvey
 Miller, George L.
 Miller, Oscar L.
 Moffitt, Timothy R.
 Moll, Paul M.
 Moore, Kittrell O.
 Morgal, Louis F.
 Mueller, Alvin A.
 Mueller, Ernst G.
 Mueller, Ewald H.
 Mueller, Otto A. I.
 Mueller, Paul G. Sr.
 Mueller, Walter F.
 Neibacher, Albert L.
 Ness, Hugo H.
 Nessett, Norman M.
 Nickel, Edmund J.
 Nickodemus, Albert R.
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April 1, 1989–March 19, 1992

* Deceased prior to March 31, 1989, but information received too late to be included in prior list.

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