



To Address Future Church Leadership Needs in Light of Current and Future Challenges

RESOLUTION 13-03

**REPORTS R62, R64 (CW, PP. 235, 268) ;
OVERTURES 6-14-15, 13-01-07, 13-09, 13-11-12,
13-14-19, 13-21-24, 13-27-29, 13-31, 13-38-42, 13-50
(CW, PP. 360-362, 437-442, 444-457, 460-461, 464)**

WHEREAS, In its history, the Lutheran Church has in various ways prepared men for the Office of the Public Ministry; and

WHEREAS, The church in every era requires pastors who are “able to teach” (in a manner appropriate to the situation), of good character (“above reproach”), properly called, faithful to the Scriptures and the Confessions, and recognized by the wider church; and

WHEREAS, Congregations and missions will continue to experience financial, geographic, and demographic challenges, and the Synod must address the need to provide the ministry of Word and Sacrament in such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Long-term concerns of mission and ministry have raised questions about how the divinely instituted pastoral office may be preserved, while remaining faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions even in unique and exceptional circumstances; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) faces a declining pool of candidates for pastoral ministry, while there is a simultaneous increase in the ethnic diversity of the American population that is not reflected in the current membership of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention establish a task force to be convened by the Council of Presidents (COP) to include five members of the COP who are representative of the geographic diversity of the Synod, two persons appointed by each seminary, two non-ordained individuals appointed by the Concordia University System (CUS) board, and four lay persons appointed by the Synod Board of Directors

- To help the Synod address the needs of small, rural, urban, ethnic, immigrant, financially challenged, and geographically isolated congregations
- To recommend ways to identify candidates to address future needs in the LCMS

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Task force membership: The task force is to include five members of the LCMS Council of Presidents who are representative of the geographic diversity of the Synod, two persons appointed by each seminary, two non-ordained individuals appointed by the Concordia University System board, and four lay persons appointed by the Synod Board of Directors.

Justin Benson

president, Wittenberg Academy

Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan

president, LCMS Missouri District

Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy

president, LCMS English District

David Hawk

LCMS Commission on Handbook

Rev. Shawn Kumm

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Board of Regents

Dr. Leo Mackay Jr.

*Concordia Theological Seminary,
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Rev. Dr. Scott Murray

LCMS second vice-president

Rev. Dr. Robert Newton

president, LCMS California-Nevada-Hawaii District

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Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Board of Regents

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Rev. Dr. Larry Rast Jr.

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Mark Stern

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Dr. Bradd Stucky

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Rev. Dr. Anthony Steinbronn

president, LCMS New Jersey District

Rev. Kevin Robson

LCMS chief mission officer

Rev. Dr. James Baneck

executive director, LCMS Pastoral Education

***Chairman**

- To provide strategies for reaching the increasingly diverse population of the U.S and Canada
- To establish minimal standards for pastors (while keeping the optimum in view)
- To explore alternative methods for ministerial preparation in light of changing needs
- To recommend avenues to finance preparation of pastors
- To explore the possibility of providing free seminary education
- To consider relevant recommendations in the 4-06A and 5-14A task force reports
- To consider other matters relevant to their task as may be identified

and be it further

Resolved, That the task force provide a report to the next regular convention of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That in its work the task force encourage the ongoing work of the district lay training programs and the CUS programs for evangelism and outreach in order to identify, equip, encourage, and empower men and women for mission, witness, and service to Christ and His Church; and be it finally

Resolved, That the LCMS thank and commend the Res. 4-06A and Res. 5-14A Task Forces for their work and reports.

Action: Adopted (5)

(During discussion, friendly amendments were offered to add “and Canada” to the third bullet of the first resolve, and to add a new bullet to the same resolve: “• To explore the possibility of providing free seminary education.” The chair tested the will of the assembly to close debate. With debate closed, Res. 13-03 was adopted as changed [Yes: 874; No: 147].)

