

ministries which support congregations and schools (Bylaw 1.2.1 [m]). These policies shall embrace and apply the mission and ministry emphases adopted by the national convention. Under the leadership of the President of the Synod, pursuant to Bylaw 3.3.1.1.1, the board shall assist in identifying the specific goals for the Office of National Mission. Policies determined by the board (implemented by staff) may include but not be limited to:

- strong national mission leadership
- Lutheran school ministries and accreditation
- human care and domestic mercy efforts
- stewardship
- evangelism
- church planting and revitalization
- youth ministry

Upon recommendation of the Office of National Mission, the Board for National Mission shall serve as a calling agency for institutional and agency chaplains and other non-foreign specialized ministers (e.g., Veterans Administration chaplains, Bureau of Prison chaplains, hospital chaplains, pastoral counselors, and teachers of chaplaincy and pastoral counseling) after consultation with the appropriate district president(s) (cf. Bylaw 2.12.1.4).

### 3.8.2.1

The Board for National Mission shall have oversight of the implementation of policies adopted by the board and implemented by the Office of National Mission for the coordination of and in support of district ministries which support congregations and schools. The board shall be under the ecclesiastical supervision of the President of the Synod regarding doctrine and administration consistent with the President's responsibility under Constitution Art. XI B 1-4 (also Constitution Art. XI B 7; Bylaws 3.3.1.1-3.3.1.3) between conventions of the Synod and ultimately shall be responsible to the Synod in convention (Constitution Art. XI A 1-2).

### 3.8.2.2

The Board for National Mission shall be comprised of eleven members:

1. Five laypersons and five individual members of the Synod (one of each from each region of the Synod) elected in the same manner as are regional members of the Board of Directors of the Synod (Bylaws 3.12.1 and 3.12.2.8)
2. The President of the Synod or his representative

## Office of National Mission

### 3.8.2.3

The Office of National Mission implements the policies of the Board for National Mission under the supervision of the Chief Mission Officer and shall be responsible for domestic ministries that especially serve congregations and schools through the districts of the Synod. Such district ministries may include but not be limited to:

- Lutheran school ministries and accreditation
- human care and domestic mercy efforts
- stewardship
- evangelism

- church planting and revitalization
- youth ministry

### 3.8.2.4

In carrying out its mission responsibilities, the Office of National Mission shall receive its primary focus from the mission and ministry emphases developed triennially by the national Synod in convention and from the policies developed and determined by the Board for National Mission. Through the Chief Mission Officer, it shall also receive direction from the President of the Synod on all aspects of its responsibilities.

### 3.8.2.5

The President's supervisory responsibilities under Constitution Art. XI B and Bylaws 3.3.1.1-3.3.1.3 will assure that the Office of National Mission incorporates the doctrine, mission, and vision of the Synod in its service to the Synod. All staff shall be responsible and accountable for their activities to the President of the Synod (Constitution Art. XI B 1-4) between conventions of the Synod and ultimately to the Synod in convention (Constitution Art. XI A 1-2).

### 3.8.2.6

The staff of the Office of National Mission shall assume a coordinative role for ministry areas in response to directives from the Synod in convention or upon the request of two-thirds of the members of the Council of Presidents on behalf of the districts.

### 3.8.2.7

The Office of National Mission shall be responsible for granting recognized service organization status to organizations providing services primarily within the United States that are independent of the Synod, engage in program activity that is in harmony with the programs of the Synod, and warrant recognition by the Synod according to section 6.2 of these Bylaws.

## Board for International Mission

### 3.8.3

The Board for International Mission is charged with developing and determining policies in support of mission and ministry in foreign countries for the Office of International Mission (Bylaw 1.2.1 [m]). These policies shall embrace and apply the mission and ministry emphases adopted by the national convention. Under the leadership of the President of the Synod, pursuant to Bylaw 3.3.1.1.1, the board shall assist in identifying the specific goals for the Office of International Mission. Policies determined by the board (implemented by staff) may include but not be limited to:

- strong mission leadership
- training of missionaries
- ministry for all of the Synod's military personnel
- safeguarding the rights of partner churches
- ministry for all civilians and their dependents overseas
- international human care
- liaison with the colleges, universities, and seminaries of the Synod
- liaison with the chief ecumenical officer of the Synod
- international schools

Upon the recommendation of the Office of International Mission, the board shall serve as the only sending agency through which workers and funds are sent to the foreign mission areas of the Synod, including the calling, appointing, assigning, withdrawing, and releasing of

missionaries (ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned) and other workers for the ministries in foreign areas.

The Board for International Mission shall have oversight of the implementation of policies adopted by the board and implemented by the Office of International Mission for the coordination of and in support of ministries of the Synod in foreign countries. The board shall be under the ecclesiastical supervision of the President of the Synod regarding doctrine and administration consistent with the President's responsibility under Constitution Art. XI B 1-4 (Constitution Art. XI B 7; Bylaws 3.3.1.1-3.3.1.3) between conventions of the Synod and ultimately shall be responsible to the Synod in convention (Constitution Art. XI A 1-2).

3.8.3.2 The Board for International Mission shall be comprised of eleven members:

1. Five laypersons and five individual members of the Synod (one of each from each region of the Synod) elected in the same manner as are regional members of the Board of Directors of the Synod (see Bylaws 3.12.1 and 3.12.2.8)
2. The President of the Synod or his representative

### **Office of International Mission**

3.8.3.3 The Office of International Mission implements the policies of the Board for International Mission under the supervision of the Chief Mission Officer and shall be responsible for the work of the Synod in foreign countries. Such responsibilities may include but not be limited to:

- placement and support of foreign missionaries
- establishment and maintenance of international schools
- coordination of international relief efforts
- policy recommendations to the Board for International Mission
- support and encouragement of international partner churches in conjunction with the office of the President

3.8.3.4 In carrying out its mission responsibilities, the Office of International Mission shall receive its primary focus from the mission and ministry emphases developed triennially by the national Synod in convention and from the policies developed and determined by the Board for International Mission. Through the Chief Mission Officer, it shall also receive direction from the President of the Synod on all aspects of its responsibilities.

3.8.3.5 The President's supervisory responsibilities under Constitution Art. XI B and Bylaws 3.3.1.1-3.3.1.3 will assure that the Office of International Mission incorporates the doctrine, mission, and vision of the Synod in its service to the Synod. All staff shall be responsible and accountable for their activities to the President of the Synod (Constitution Art. XI B 1-4) between conventions of the Synod and ultimately to the Synod in convention (Constitution Art. XI A 1-2).

3.8.3.6 The Office of International Mission shall be responsible for granting recognized service organization status to organizations that provide services primarily outside of the United States, are independent of the Synod, engage in program activity that is in harmony with the programs

of the Synod, and warrant recognition by the Synod according to section 6.2 of these Bylaws.

### **3.9 Commissions**

3.9.1 The commissions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are the following:

1. Commission on Constitutional Matters
2. Commission on Doctrinal Review
3. Commission on Handbook
4. Commission on Theology and Church Relations

3.9.1.1 Commissions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall meet as they deem necessary but at least two times per year to carry out their assigned responsibilities.

### **Commission on Constitutional Matters**

3.9.2 The Commission on Constitutional Matters exists to interpret the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod and ensure that the governing instruments of the Synod and its agencies are in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

3.9.2.1 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall consist of six voting members:

1. Three ministers of religion—ordained, whose terms shall be for six years renewable once
2. Two attorneys, whose terms shall be for six years renewable once
3. The Secretary of the Synod, who shall serve as the secretary of the commission

3.9.2.1.1 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall be appointed in the following manner:

Other than the Secretary of the Synod, candidates shall be nominated only by the district boards of directors and shall be presented to the Council of Presidents through the Office of the Secretary.

- (a) The Council of Presidents shall select five candidates for each vacant appointed position and present them through the office of the Secretary of the Synod to the President of the Synod.
- (b) The President of the Synod, in consultation with the vice-presidents of the Synod, shall appoint the members of the commission from the list presented by the Council of Presidents.
- (c) Thereafter, the appointments shall become effective upon ratification by a majority vote of the members of the Council of Presidents.
- (d) Vacancies in appointed positions shall be filled by following the procedure set forth above.

3.9.2.2 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall interpret the Synod's Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions upon the written request of a member (congregation, ordained or commissioned minister), official, board, commission, or agency of the Synod.

- (a) A request for an opinion may be accompanied by a request for an appearance before the commission.