

Overture 15-1

To Realign the Circuits of the New Jersey District

WHEREAS, The 2013 LCMS *Handbook* Bylaw 3.1.2(a) on pg. 81 states that an electoral circuit must have a minimum of 7 congregations with an aggregate confirmed membership of 1,500; and

WHEREAS, The aggregate communicant membership of Circuit Number Three and Circuit Number Six each fall below the minimum, necessitating District President Dr. Anthony Steinbronn to ask for exemptions for the 2013 Synodical Convention; and

WHEREAS, The 2012 New Jersey District Convention, through Resolution 3-01, tasked the District Board of Directors to study the composition of the Circuits with the Circuit Counselors (now Visitors); and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors established a committee to develop a plan, and solicited input from the Circuit Counselors (now Visitors) through the Growth Council; and

WHEREAS, The Reconfiguration Plan was presented to the congregations for examination and comments primarily through the Day with the Presidents and other workshops with pastors and leader; therefore be it

Resolved, That the District in Convention establish Visitation Circuits coterminous with the proposed Electoral Circuits; and be it further

Resolved, That Circuit Number One remain the same with the congregations of Trinity-Cliffside Park, St. Paul-Closter, Immanuel-East Rutherford, Holy Cross-Mahwah, Zion-Maywood, St. Matthew-New Milford, Bethlehem-Ridgewood, Zion-Westwood; and be it further

Resolved, That Circuit Number Two be reconfigured with the congregation of St. John-Bloomfield, St. John-Clifton, Our Savior-Fair Lawn, St. John-Harrison, Tumaini Kristo-Jersey City, Grace-Livingston, St. Matthew-Lyndhurst, Redeemer & Christ Assembly-Newark, Grace & St. Matthew-Union, Calvary-Verona, Redeemer-Westfield; and be it further

Resolved, That Circuit Number Three be reconfigured with the congregation of Good Shepherd-Blairstown, Gethsemane-Hackettstown, Prince of Peace-Hamburg, Emmanuel-Milford PA, Redeemer-Newton, Holy Faith-Oak Ridge, St. Paul's-Pompton Lakes, Christ the King-Ringwood, Our Savior-Stanhope; and be it further

Resolved, That Circuit Number Four be reconfigured with the congregations of Somerset Hills-Basking Ridge, St. Paul-Flemington, Holy Spirit-Montville Trinity-Morris Plains, King of Kings-Mountain Lakes, Good Shepherd-Randolph, Holy Trinity-Somerset; and be it further

Resolved, That Circuit Number Five remain the same with the congregations of Luther Memorial-Blackwood, Holy Cross-Bordentown, St. John's-Bridgeton, Trinity-Carney's Point, St. Peter-Hopewell, Village-Lanoka Harbor, Holy Trinity-Lawrenceville, Calvary-Medford, Rose of Sharon-New Egypt; and be it further

Resolved, That Circuit Number Six be reconfigured with the congregations of Faith-Dayton, Christ Memorial-East Brunswick, Our Redeemer-Fords, Prince of Peace-Howell, St. Thomas-

Manalapan, Good Shepherd-Old Bridge, Good Shepherd-Point Pleasant, Luther Memorial-Tinton Falls; and be it further

Resolved, That the Circuits be given new names: Circuit One - Hudson, Circuit Two - Passaic River, Circuit Three - Highlands, Circuit Four - Central Jersey, Circuit Five - South Jersey, Circuit Six - Raritan Valley; and be it finally

Resolved, That District Bylaw 3.20 a be changed to reflect the new Circuit names as follows:

3.20 Number of and Duties of the Vice President

- a. There shall be three Vice – Presidents representing these areas:
 1. Region #1 – Hudson ~~North~~ and ~~Paterson~~ Passaic River Circuits
 2. Region #2 – ~~Newark/Elizabeth~~ Highlands and ~~Delaware Valley~~ North Central Jersey Circuits
 3. Region #3 – ~~Delaware Valley~~ South Jersey and Raritan Valley Circuits

New Jersey District Board of Directors

Overture 15-2

To Request the NJD Convention to Provide District-owned Pastoral Housing

WHEREAS, It goes without saying that the New Jersey is an expensive state in which to reside and many of the members of our own congregations have found it more desirable to live elsewhere, especially in their retirement years; and

WHEREAS, Many of the pastors of the New Jersey District live in church-owned housing, usually referred to as the Parsonage; and

WHEREAS, Most of the reverend clergy, when they retire, find that the high price of housing in New Jersey means they are forced to move out of state, away from family and friends among whom they have spent many, if not most, of their lives serving; and

WHEREAS, There is a genuine need for active but retired pastors to continue to reside within New Jersey in order to fill a growing number of vacant parishes, and to serve in intentional interim ministry situations, visit in hospitals and homes, and fill pulpits when called pastors have or need a Sunday off; and

WHEREAS, Older clergy are in many cases the living memory of the District's history; and

WHEREAS, Older clergy can provide wisdom, insight and encouragement to younger pastors at Circuit meetings, conferences and District gatherings; and

WHEREAS, We enjoy having our senior brothers continue in our presence as a sign of God's goodness and blessing as much as we appreciate having seminary graduates; and

WHEREAS, A number of the brothers might like the opportunity to serve even in retirement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the New Jersey District in convention encourage its Board of Directors to investigate the possibility of purchasing housing, perhaps a building containing four two-bedroom apartments, which would be used to house retired pastors with their spouses. These units would be owned by the NJD, and paid for in part by some form of rent commensurate with ability to pay and with the understanding that they are expected to be active in District functions and congregations according to their abilities and gifts.

Prince of Peace, Hamburg

Overture 15-3

To Perpetuate CHEF Funds in New Jersey

Explanation & history The New Jersey District's Christian Heritage Endowment Fund came into existence in 1983. It began as a financial gift to the Atlantic District, a generous financial gift from a Lutheran family in New Jersey. It was given to the old Atlantic District before it was divided in three: the New England District, the Atlantic District, and the New Jersey District. At that time the assets of the gift were divided and the New Jersey District leaders created CHEF as a way of preserving the gift as an endowment fund for future projects. The idea was to use the interest and preserve the gift. In the course of time we understand that the Atlantic District and the New England District spent their portion of the fund. CHEF is all that remains of the original gift. If anytime the NJD ceases to exist (which can happen at any Synod convention) its assets revert to the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

WHEREAS, At this time the matter of regionalizing and reforming the Synod's 35 districts into larger regions remains unresolved and an open question; and

WHEREAS, Such regionalization, if and when it occurs in New Jersey, will swallow up the assets of the combined districts and spend them according to the wishes of the new regional organization; and

WHEREAS, In that new organization the New Jersey congregations will be in a minority; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey District has among its assets the Christian Heritage Endowment Fund; and

WHEREAS, This Fund has proven itself a blessing to the many congregations of the NJD over its lifetime, providing financial resources and incentives for various projects and church plans, not the least of which is encouraging our own members to greater financial generosity; and

WHEREAS, This Fund exists to benefit the New Jersey District congregations, the majority of which also happen to be within the state of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, It was the intention of CHEF's founders to perpetuate the gift so as to be a blessing to the congregations of this state (and District) in the future; and

WHEREAS, We, the members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who reside in the State of New Jersey, would like the Fund to remain available to our Synod's congregations that continue within the Garden State in the future; therefore be it

Resolved; That the New Jersey District in convention request the District Board of Directors to work with the Trustees of CHEF and a lawyer so as to incorporate CHEF in manner that would preserve it from the proposed regionalization of the Synod's districts. Thus, the CHEF will not be, in fact, part of the District's assets but independent. It should be stated that CHEF's assets are to serve the congregations and schools of the Missouri Synod which are located within the State of New Jersey. Exceptions to this rule would be the congregations such as the one in Milford, PA.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Hamburg

Overture 15-4

To Amend Convention Balloting

WHEREAS, The New Jersey District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod seeks to be good stewards and be more efficient in use of time at its District Conventions; and

WHEREAS, The Synod in Convention and certain other district utilize electronic and other methods of voting; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey District in Convention be allowed to conduct elections in the best manner possible; therefore be it

Resolved, That the District in Convention not be restricted to only one method of balloting; and be it finally

Resolved, That District Bylaw 2.30.b. be amended to the following by removal of the word "printed":

2.30 Elections Committee

- b. The Convention Elections Committee shall conduct all elections by ~~printed~~ ballots.

New Jersey District Board of Directors

Overture 15-5

To Process Board of Directors Voting by Email

WHEREAS, The New Jersey District Board of Directors has regularly scheduled meetings four times a year, and

WHEREAS, There are situations that come up from time to time that require immediate action and cannot wait for a regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors has a provision in the bylaws that allows an emergency Board of Directors meeting to be called, either face to face or by telephone, but the meeting cannot take place until at least seven days have elapsed from the time the meeting is called; and

WHEREAS, Some actions cannot wait even for seven days to elapse; and

WHEREAS, Holding a virtual meeting by email is an efficient way to handle matters that are of such an urgent nature that they cannot wait seven days; and

WHEREAS, When such virtual meetings are held, it is important that these meetings be held in conformity with a uniform practice, including the provision for all the Board members to participate in discussing the topic at hand; therefore be it

Resolved, The New Jersey District, meeting in Convention, amend its bylaws as follows to allow for virtual email meetings:

5.02

- c. If a motion is required and cannot wait the prescribed seven days for a special meeting, then a special e-mail discussion/vote may take place in the following manner.
 1. The e-mail motion may be initiated by the District President, the Chairman of the Board, or by a member of the Board. If it is initiated by a member of the Board, he/she shall have contacted three other Board members and, at the beginning of the e-mail, state that the email is coming at the request of the four Board members.
 2. The beginning of the email shall state the purpose of the motion/vote, and why this action must be done quickly, rather than waiting the prescribed seven days for a special meeting.
 3. There must be a full business day of discussion on the motion. All board members must be included in the ensuing discussions, replies and votes. During this time, members may vote on the motion and, if they wish, may change their vote during that time.
 4. Once a full business day has passed, the secretary will announce the vote tally up to that point. Once the motion is either passed or defeated by a majority of the board members, then the motion shall be considered either passed or defeated. Voting may continue, but it will not affect the outcome of the vote.
 5. The motion and outcome must be recorded in the minutes at the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors' meeting.

;and be it finally

Resolved, That this amendment would take effect at the close of this 2015 New Jersey District Convention.

New Jersey District Board of Directors

Overture 15-6

To Use Resources for the Sale of Closed NJ District Churches for Word and Sacrament Ministry

WHEREAS, The Polity of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS) is derived from and normed by Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS, We know from Holy Scripture the Jesus mandated and defined the primary mission of the Church when he commanded the Apostles to *go therefore and make disciples* by baptizing and teaching (Matt. 28:19-20), and that *faith comes by hearing* the preached Word (Romans 10:14-17); and

WHEREAS, The Augsburg Confession Article VII defines the Church as "the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered..." affirming the local congregation engaged in Word and Sacrament ministry as the primary location of God's mission; and

WHEREAS, When a congregation of the New Jersey District is in crisis it consults with the District President and staff of the New Jersey District of the LC-MS; and

WHEREAS, When a congregation of the New Jersey District closes, it ceases Word and Sacrament ministry and the property, building, and resources are usually ceded to the New Jersey District of the LC-MS; and

WHEREAS, Money is derived by the New Jersey District of the LC-MS from the sale of the property, buildings, and resources of the closed congregation; and

WHEREAS, It is prudent to avoid even the appearance of evil and conflict of interest; therefore be it

Resolved, That at least 90% of the money and resources derived from the past and future sale of closed New Jersey District congregations, all assets including but not limited to their property, buildings, and resources be distributed without discrimination by the New Jersey District Board of Directors equally among the remaining active New Jersey District congregations on the LC-MS roster, which are by their very nature engaged in Word and Sacrament ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, That not more than 10% of the money and resources derived from the past and future sale of closed New Jersey District congregations be retained by the New Jersey District of the LC-MS for administrative, operational, and/or discretionary use.

Christ Memorial Lutheran Church
East Brunswick

Overture 15-7

To Increase Nominations for District President

WHEREAS, To foster a robust ballot for district president; and

WHEREAS, To more easily create a ballot with five (5) names for District President as called for in District Bylaw 2.20.e; and

WHEREAS, Synodical bylaw 3.12.2 (a) allows for each congregation to nominate two (2) ordained ministers for Synodical President, therefore be it

Resolved, That the New Jersey District allow congregations to nominate two (2) ordained ministers for District President, and be it finally

Resolved, That District Bylaw 2.20.b be amended to read "Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate as a candidate for President, ~~one~~ two ordained ministers from the clergy roster of the Synod."

Resolutions Committee

Resolution 15-01

To Amend Convention Balloting

Ov. 15-4

WHEREAS, The New Jersey District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod seeks to be good stewards and be more efficient in use of time at its District Conventions; and

WHEREAS, The Synod in Convention and certain other district utilize electronic and other methods of voting; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey District in Convention be allowed to conduct elections in the best manner possible; therefore be it

Resolved, That the District in Convention not be restricted to only one method of balloting; and be it finally

Resolved, That District Bylaw 2.30.b. be amended to the following by removal of the word "printed":

2.30 Elections Committee

- b. The Convention Elections Committee shall conduct all elections by ~~printed~~ ballots.

Resolution15-02

To Realign the Circuits of the New Jersey District

Ov. 15-1

WHEREAS, The 2013 LCMS *Handbook* Bylaw 3.1.2(a) on pg. 81 states that an electoral circuit must have a minimum of 7 congregations with an aggregate confirmed membership of 1,500; and

WHEREAS, The aggregate communicant membership of Circuit Number Three and Circuit Number Six each fall below the minimum, necessitating District President Dr. Anthony Steinbronn to ask for exemptions for the 2013 Synodical Convention;and

WHEREAS, The 2012 New Jersey District Convention, through Resolution 3-01, tasked the District Board of Directors to study the composition of the Circuits with the Circuit Counselors (now Visitors); and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors established a committee to develop a plan, and solicited input from the Circuit Counselors (now Visitors) through the Growth Council; and

WHEREAS, The Reconfiguration Plan was presented to the congregations for examination and comments primarily through the Day with the Presidents and other workshops with pastors and leader; therefore be it

Resolved, That the District in Convention establish Visitation Circuits coterminous with the proposed Electoral Circuits; and be it further

Resolved, That Circuit Number One remain the same with the congregations of Trinity-Cliffside Park, St. Paul-Closter, Immanuel-East Rutherford, Holy Cross-Mahwah, Zion-Maywood, St. Matthew-New Milford, Bethlehem-Ridgewood, Zion-Westwood; and be it further

Resolved, That Circuit Number Two be reconfigured with the congregation of St. John-Bloomfield, St. John-Clifton, Our Savior-Fair Lawn, St. John-Harrison, Tumaini Kristo-Jersey City, Grace-Livingston, St. Matthew-Lyndhurst, Redeemer & Christ Assembly-Newark, Grace & St. Matthew-Union, Calvary-Verona, Redeemer-Westfield; and be it further

Resolved, That Circuit Number Three be reconfigured with the congregation of Good Shepherd-Blairstown, Gethsemane-Hackettstown, Prince of Peace-Hamburg, Emmanuel-Milford PA, Redeemer-Newton, Holy Faith-Oak Ridge, St. Paul's-Pompton Lakes, Christ the King-Ringwood, Our Savior-Stanhope; and be it further

Resolved, That Circuit Number Four be reconfigured with the congregations of Somerset Hills-Basking Ridge, St. Paul-Flemington, Holy Spirit-Montville Trinity-Morris Plains, King of Kings-Mountain Lakes, Good Shepherd-Randolph, Holy Trinity-Somerset; and be it further

Resolved, That Circuit Number Five remain the same with the congregations of Luther Memorial-Blackwood, Holy Cross-Bordentown, St. John's-Bridgeton, Trinity-Carney's Point,

St. Peter-Hopewell, Village-Lanoka Harbor, Holy Trinity-Lawrenceville, Calvary-Medford, Rose of Sharon-New Egypt; and be it further

Resolved, That Circuit Number Six be reconfigured with the congregations of Faith-Dayton, Christ Memorial-East Brunswick, Our Redeemer-Fords, Prince of Peace-Howell, St. Thomas-Manalapan, Good Shepherd-Old Bridge, Good Shepherd-Point Pleasant, Luther Memorial-Tinton Falls; and be it further

Resolved, That the Circuits be given new names: Circuit One - Hudson, Circuit Two - Passaic River, Circuit Three - Highlands, Circuit Four - Central Jersey, Circuit Five - South Jersey, Circuit Six - Raritan Valley; and be it finally

Resolved, That District Bylaw 3.20 a be changed to reflect the new Circuit names as follows:

3.20 Number of and Duties of the Vice President

- a. There shall be three Vice – Presidents representing these areas:
 1. Region #1 – Hudson ~~North~~ and ~~Paterson~~ Passaic River Circuits
 2. Region #2 – ~~Newark/Elizabeth~~ Highlands and ~~Delaware Valley North~~ Central Jersey Circuits
 3. Region #3 – ~~Delaware Valley~~ South Jersey and Raritan Valley Circuits

Resolution 15-03

To Process Board of Directors Voting by Email

Ov. 15-5

WHEREAS, The New Jersey District Board of Directors has regularly scheduled meetings four times a year, and

WHEREAS, There are situations that come up from time to time that require immediate action and cannot wait for a regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors has a provision in the bylaws that allows an emergency Board of Directors meeting to be called, either face to face or by telephone, but the meeting cannot take place until at least seven days have elapsed from the time the meeting is called; and

WHEREAS, Some actions cannot wait even for seven days to elapse; and

WHEREAS, Holding a virtual meeting by email is an efficient way to handle matters that are of such an urgent nature that they cannot wait seven days; and

WHEREAS, When such virtual meetings are held, it is important that these meetings be held in conformity with a uniform practice, including the provision for all the Board members to participate in discussing the topic at hand; therefore be it

Resolved, The New Jersey District, meeting in Convention, amend its bylaws as follows to allow for virtual email meetings:

5.02

- c. If a motion is required that cannot wait the prescribed seven days for a special meeting, then a special e-mail discussion/vote may take place in the following manner.
 1. The e-mail motion may be initiated by the District President, the Chairman of the Board, or by a member of the Board. If it is initiated by a member of the Board, he/she shall have contacted three other Board members and, at the beginning of the e-mail, state that the email is coming at the request of the four Board members.
 2. The beginning of the email shall state the purpose of the motion/vote, and why this action must be done quickly, rather than waiting the prescribed seven days for a special meeting.
 3. There must be two full business days of discussion on the motion. All board members must be included in the ensuing discussions, replies and votes. During this time, members may vote on the motion and, if they wish, may change their vote during that time.
 4. Once the two full business days have passed, the Secretary will announce the vote tally up to that point. Once the motion is either passed or defeated by a majority

of the board members, then the motion shall be considered either passed or defeated. Voting may continue, but it will not affect the outcome of the vote.

5. The motion and outcome must be recorded in the minutes at the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors' meeting.

;and be it finally

Resolved, That this amendment would take effect at the close of this 2015 New Jersey District Convention.

Resolution 15-04

To Encourage Investigation of Means to Encourage and Assist Pastors to Remain in New Jersey Upon Their Retirement

Ov. 15-2

WHEREAS, It goes without saying that the New Jersey is an expensive state in which to reside and many of the members of our own congregations have found it more desirable to live elsewhere, especially in their retirement years; and

WHEREAS, Many of the pastors of the New Jersey District live in church-owned housing, usually referred to as the Parsonage; and

WHEREAS, Most of the reverend clergy, when they retire, find that the high price of housing in New Jersey means they are forced to move out of state, away from family and friends among whom they have spent many, if not most, of their lives serving; and

WHEREAS, There is a genuine need for active but retired pastors to continue to reside within New Jersey in order to fill a growing number of vacant parishes, and to serve in intentional interim ministry situations, visit in hospitals and homes, and fill pulpits when called pastors have or need a Sunday off; and

WHEREAS, Older clergy are in many cases the living memory of the District's history; and

WHEREAS, Older clergy can provide wisdom, insight and encouragement to younger pastors at Circuit meetings, conferences and District gatherings; and

WHEREAS, We enjoy having our senior brothers continue in our presence as a sign of God's goodness and blessing as much as we appreciate having seminary graduates; and

WHEREAS, A number of the brothers might like the opportunity to serve even in retirement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the New Jersey District give thanks and honor to the service of our pastors; and be it further

Resolved, The District President converse with pastors as they retire to ascertain their ministry situation, and be it further

Resolved, That the New Jersey District in convention encourage its Board of Directors to investigate various means by which the District may assist retired pastors to remain within the District that they may continue to serve in part-time, *ad hoc* or advisory capacity, as needs arise within the District. Such assistance might include housing in available vacant church properties, (unused parsonages), housing allowance, or other financial support. As consideration for such

support and assistance, retired pastors would continue to be active in District functions and assist the District and congregations according to their abilities and gifts.

Resolution 15-05

To Perpetuate CHEF Funds in New Jersey

Ov. 15-3

Explanation & history The New Jersey District's Christian Heritage Endowment Fund came into existence in 1983. It began as a financial gift to the Atlantic District, a generous financial gift from a Lutheran family in New Jersey. It was given to the old Atlantic District before it was divided in three: the New England District, the Atlantic District, and the New Jersey District. At that time the assets of the gift were divided and the New Jersey District leaders created CHEF as a way of preserving the gift as an endowment fund for future projects. The idea was to use the interest and preserve the gift. In the course of time we understand that the Atlantic District and the New England District spent their portion of the fund. CHEF is all that remains of the original gift. If anytime the NJD ceases to exist (which can happen at any Synod convention) its assets revert to the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

WHEREAS, At this time the matter of regionalizing and reforming the Synod's 35 districts into larger regions remains unresolved and an open question; and

WHEREAS, Such regionalization, if and when it occurs in New Jersey, will swallow up the assets of the combined districts and spend them according to the wishes of the new regional organization; and

WHEREAS, In that new organization the New Jersey congregations will be in a minority; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey District has among its assets the Christian Heritage Endowment Fund; and

WHEREAS, This Fund has proven itself a blessing to the many congregations of the NJD over its lifetime, providing financial resources and incentives for various projects and church plans, not the least of which is encouraging our own members to greater financial generosity; and

WHEREAS, This Fund exists to benefit the New Jersey District congregations, the majority of which also happen to be within the state of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, It was the intention of CHEF's founders to perpetuate the gift so as to be a blessing to the congregations of this state (and District) in the future; and

WHEREAS, We, the members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who reside in the State of New Jersey, would like the Fund to remain available to our Synod's congregations that continue within the Garden State in the future; therefore be it

Resolved; That the New Jersey District in convention request the District Board of Directors to work with the Trustees of CHEF and a lawyer so as to structure CHEF in manner that would preserve its intended purpose of serving NJ District congregations even in the event of merger or dissolution of the NJ District.

Resolution 15-06

To Increase Nominations for District President

Ov. 15-7

WHEREAS, To foster a robust ballot for district president; and

WHEREAS, To more easily create a ballot with five (5) names for District President as called for in District Bylaw 2.20.e; and

WHEREAS, Synodical bylaw 3.12.2 (a) allows for each congregation to nominate two (2) ordained ministers for Synodical President; and

WHEREAS, Synodical bylaws 3.12.2 (a) and 3.12.2.78 (a) allows for each congregation to nominate two (2) ordained ministers for Synodical Vice Presidents and District bylaw 2.21 (a) allow each congregation to nominate two (2) ordained ministers for District Area Vice President; therefore be it

Resolved, That the New Jersey District allow congregations to nominate two (2) ordained ministers for District President; and be it finally

Resolved, That District Bylaw 2.20.b be amended to read "Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate as a candidate for President, ~~one~~ two ordained ministers from the clergy roster of the Synod."

Resolution 15-07

To Update District Bylaws from Convention Resolutions and to Bring into Compliance With Synod Language.

Res. 15-01, 15-02, 15-06, CCM feedback

Selected overtures proposed to the District requested changes in the District Bylaws. These overtures are required to be sent to the Committee on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of the Synod, for veracity and compliance with the synodical *Handbook*, which contains the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The overtures were generally accepted with only one receiving recommended adjustments. However, in reviewing our District Bylaws, the CCM made notes in other areas to standardize language and bring our Bylaws into conformity with Synod Bylaws. At times the District President and the Board of Directors have read the *Handbook* for guidance in particular areas of application. In general, these changes bring synodical advice into the District's governing document to help clarify procedures, without requiring to look outside for Synod procedure. The updated District Bylaws codifies appropriate action already taken by district leadership.

WHEREAS, To incorporate action of the District in Convention regarding updating New Jersey District Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, The 64th Synodical Convection in 2013 passed Resolution 7-02A, and ratified by the congregations of Synod, changing the title of Circuit Counselor to Circuit Visitor; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has noted other areas of the New Jersey District Bylaws that need improvement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the New Jersey District in Convention incorporate Bylaw changes approved in resolutions; and be it further

Resolved, That the New Jersey District in Convention approve CCM recommendations to bring the District Bylaws into harmony with the Synod Constitution and Bylaws; and be it finally

Resolved, That District Bylaws be ratified according to the changes presented in the attached Bylaws document.

Omnibus

Resolution A

WHEREAS, Certain overtures request action that is the responsibility of various boards commissions, or individuals to study and to implement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overtures be referred to the designated board, commission, or individual:

Number	Subject	Board, Commission, Individual
Ov. 15-6	To Use Resources for the Sale of Closed NJ District Churches for Word and Sacrament Ministry	Board of Directors