

*New Jersey District — LCMS
District Convention 2018
June 1-2, 2018
DoubleTree Guest Inn and Suites
Mt. Laurel, NJ*

*Wise Disciples Train for the Kingdom
Matthew 7:24-27; 13:52*

Session 1 (6/1/18, 10:00 AM — 12:30 PM)

Opening Devotion

The 18th regular Tri-annual meeting of the New Jersey District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was called to order on Friday, June 1, at 10:00 AM by President Anthony J. Steinbronn. He announced the theme of the Convention, “A Wise Disciple: Trained for the Kingdom,” based on Matthew 7:24-27 and Matthew 13:52. Rev. Rick Vossler led the convention in Responsive Prayer I (LSB 282-84) with a homily based on Matthew 7:24-27.

President Steinbronn introduced and thanked the Convention Committee, as well as Rev. Robert Holsten, Convention Chaplain.

Report on Registration and Announcements

Convention Manager Brad Hildebrandt reported the registration numbers as of 10 AM on Friday morning: 31 pastoral delegates and 36 voting lay delegates, representing 41 congregations, along with 11 advisory delegates, 11 guests, 4 staff, and 4 vendors. Rev. Hildebrandt also made announcements regarding the caucus of advisory delegates during lunch to elect a district representative to the 2019 Synodical Convention and transportation to evening worship.

Opening of Convention

With 41 congregations present, Steinbronn declared the convention to be opened.

Adoption of Parliamentary Guidelines

Rev. Richard Serina, district secretary, directed the convention to the distributed sections from the Workbook on basic Parliamentary Procedures and the Proposed Standing Rules. A new rule, number 13, was added to the standing rules: “Electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, tablets and computers) must be in an airplane mode and used only to refer to the Bible, Lutheran Confessions, the Convention Workbook, or for taking notes. No unauthorized communications

are allowed with or between the delegates within the convention hall.” Secretary **moved** to adopted the standing rules; motion **passed**.

Adoption of Agenda

Rev. Hildebrandt noted in the presentation of the agenda that rolling elections with printed ballots would be necessary due to malfunction of the electronic voting system. Hildebrandt **moved** to adopt the agenda; motion **passed**.

Introduction of Guests

President Steinbronn introduced the guests: Rev. Dr. Herb Mueller, 1st Vice President of Synod; Rev. Christopher Esget, 6th Vice President of Synod and our Regional Vice President; and Dr. Mark Seifrid, Assoc. Professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Seminary, the convention essayist.

Introduction of New Workers

President Steinbronn directed the delegates to the list of new church workers and introduced each worker in turn.

Nominations Report

Rev. Steve Gewecke introduced the members of the nominations committee: Charlotte Visbeck, Caren Vogt, Ken French, and Rev. Chris Schonberg. Rev. Gewecke directed the assembly to the nominations section in the workbook, described the nominations process, and presented the slate of nominees from Section 8 of the Convention Workbook. Gary Hall **moved** to adopt slate; motion **passed**.

Election Procedures and Elections (Floor Committee on Elections)

Rev. Serina directed the assembly to information from bylaws 2.30 and 2.31 regarding the elections process and advised that all nominations from the floor would be taken before the beginning of the elections and require *at that time* the submission of biographical information and written acceptance of nomination by nominee. After a failed attempt to use the electronic voting system, the chair decided to proceed with paper balloting. The elections ballots were distributed for District President and for Vice Presidents of regions 1 and 2. Ballots were counted and the assembly proceeded to Missions Floor Committee Resolutions.

Resolutions Committee

Rev. Dick Izzard introduced the members of the resolutions committee: Rev. Deric Taylor, Rev. Andrew Dinger, Rev. Paul Huneke, Rev. Craig Lutz, and Rev. John Grieg. Rev. Huneke then introduced **Resolution 1-01**, to assist congregation outreach. Huneke **moved** adoption. Motion **passed** unanimously by raising of hands.

Huneke introduced **Resolution 1-02**, to reaffirm the urgency to make disciples. Huneke **moved** adoption. Rev. David Behm proposed an amendment that, after line 20, adds the following: “Resolved, That the Outreach Council gather information on congregation outreach efforts.” Amendment approved unanimously. Amended motion then **passed** unanimously.

Huneke introduced **Resolution 1-03**, to explore new models of congregational ministry. Huneke **moved** adoption and **motion** passed unanimously.

Huneke introduced **Resolution 1-04**, to overrule CCM Opinion 14-2724. Huneke **moved** adoption and motion **passed** with 5 votes against and 1 abstention.

Report of the District President

Rev. Steinbronn presented and expanded on the district president's report that was printed in the workbook. He addressed a lack of biblical literacy in churches and explained his dissent to Walther's *Church and Ministry*, inviting response from fellow clergy. He also addressed the question of ecclesiastical supervision with respect to Resolution 2-01. See the Workbook for more detailed information.

Report of Long Range Planning

Rev. Serina presented a report from the Board of Directors Long-Range Planning Team proposing different models for church organization and ministry as a way to assist distressed congregations.

Result of Elections

Elections were held intermittently over the course of the convention due to printed ballots. Chair of Elections, Mr. Bill Schmidt, conducted the proceedings. Rev. Steinbronn was reelected as President on the first ballot, 57-14. Deric Taylor was reelected as Region-1 Vice President, 52-19. Region-2 Vice President, Andrew Dinger, was reelected with 50 votes. The chair of elections also advised that four voters had not been registered when initial announcement of registration was made, but have since been registered and credentialed, and thus were eligible to vote. The chair also requested that the secretary cast a single ballot for Region-3 Vice President, Stephen Gewecke, who was unopposed, and moved for ratification of slate of circuit visitors with a voice vote.

District President:

Stephen Gewecke	14
Anthony Steinbronn	57

Vice Presidents:

Region 1

Richard Vossler	19
Deric Taylor	52

Region 2

Andrew Dinger	50
Brian Handrich	3
Stephen Vogt	18

Region 3

Stephen Gewecke	1
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Circuit Visitors:

The circuit visitors were elected at the respective circuits' forums before the convention. The vote at the convention is to approve the slate as it is presented.

- #1 — Rev. Robert Holsten
- #2 — Rev. Gary Timm
- #3 — Rev. Daniel Merz
- #4 — Rev. David Behm
- #5 — Rev. Dan Sparling
- #6 — Rev. Chris Schonberg

Steinbronn recessed the convention at 12:30 PM

1 Resolution 1-01
2 To Assist Congregation Outreach

3 WHEREAS, Congregations may need assistance in finding ways to engage their communities; and

4 WHEREAS, Members of our congregations would like to interact with their community in caring
5 ways; and

6 WHEREAS, Many congregations do not have the resources available to engage in outreach;
7 therefore be it

8 *Resolved*, The New Jersey District establish a fund to assist congregations with seed money to
9 impact their communities; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That this fund would be managed by the Outreach Council in consultation with the
11 New Jersey District Board of Directors; and be it finally

12 *Resolved*, That results of all outreach projects be published through the Grapevine and Servant to
13 Servant so as to encourage other congregations' outreach activities.

1 Resolution 1-02
2 To Reaffirm the Urgency of Making Disciples

3 WHEREAS, Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore
4 go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and
5 of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am
6 with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matt. 28-18-20); and

7 WHEREAS, The LCMS adopted the following statement in Convention in 1995, “In grateful
8 response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the
9 mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of
10 Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world;” therefore

11 *Resolved*, That the New Jersey District reaffirm the urgency of making disciples and the Mission
12 Statement of the LCMS; and further

13 *Resolved*, That every congregation that God has strategically placed throughout the State of New
14 Jersey, rededicate themselves to join with Jesus in mission as “ambassadors for Christ,” finding
15 ways to boldly engage their communities; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That every congregation will engage their communities by studying and understanding
17 the demographics of their communities; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That all Circuit Visitors encourage the congregations of their Circuits to be more
19 incarnational and missional, reporting at their respective Circuit meetings the efforts of each
20 congregation and sharing the results with the Outreach Council of the District; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Outreach Council and member congregations of the New Jersey District aid
22 and support those congregations that are requesting assistance; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That all congregations will use their God given creativity to find way to impact their
24 communities with the love of Jesus; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the congregations of the New Jersey District will join together to give prayerful
26 and financial support to those missionaries working within the District in the areas of church
27 plants, urban ministry, restarts, etc.; and be it finally

28 *Resolved*, That the New Jersey District commit itself to hastening the day when “at the name of
29 Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue
30 confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:10-11).

1 Resolution 1-03
2 To Explore New Models of Church Ministry In Order to Continue to Reach Our
3 Communities

4 WHEREAS, Many of our congregations are continuing to decline in membership and financial
5 stability; and

6 WHEREAS, Many of these same congregations and pastors are highly engaged in creative
7 outreach, Learning Communities, Transforming Churches Network, Kairos Network, etc.; and

8 WHEREAS, This dissonance of effort and results can produce high anxiety and so lower levels of
9 creativity which affects our ability to continue reaching our communities; and

10 WHEREAS, Our pastors are highly gifted in various tasks of pastoral ministry, but none in every
11 task; and

12 WHEREAS, The New Jersey District has many rostered and trained DCEs that were raised in NJ
13 and moved back to NJ in a desire for the ministry in NJ but are unable to be called by our smaller
14 congregations

15 WHEREAS, It would benefit our pastors to have a colleague to work with in a shared ministry;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, At every church closing, many of those current members become disengaged from
18 congregational life, no longer receive pastoral care, and cease attending worship; and

19 WHEREAS, When a church closes we cease to have a Gospel-centered presence in that
20 community; and

21 WHEREAS, One of the roles of a district is to support the members of Synod, both congregations
22 and workers to be effective at reaching their community; and

23 WHEREAS, The Preamble Synod reads, “Our Lord’s will that the diversities of gifts should be
24 for the common profit 1 Cor 12:4-31”; therefore be it

25 *Resolved*, That the NJ District explore, promote and facilitate new ministry options for
26 congregations to yoke together in dual parish ministries, combined ministries, regional parish
27 models, city parish, missional communities, multi-site, church planting, church replanting and
28 church mergers that would be served by multi-pastorates, deaconesses, DCEs, other church
29 workers, and missionaries, along with the priesthood of all believers so as to make full use of the
30 giftedness of the church; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the NJ District help congregations in developing creative ways to manage the
32 resource of land and facilities, including the sale of said properties so that the Gospel would
33 continue to go out in that community and thrive in a new way; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the NJ District use current trained local leaders and promote and train new local
35 leaders for the work of ministry; and be it further

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36 *Resolved*, That the NJ District use the current rostered and trained workers in NJ who desire to
37 use their gifts for the ministry in NJ but are unable to be called by our smaller congregations; and
38 be it finally

39 *Resolved*, That the NJ District partner with other districts which are currently involved in this
40 type of work in order to learn the best practices of the church models.

1 Resolution 1-04
2 To Overrule CCM Opinion 14-2724

3 WHEREAS, Overture 2-04 (To Overrule CCM Opinion 14-2724) was not brought forward for
4 debate at the 2016 LCMS National Convention which was submitted by four LCMS districts,
5 three district boards of directors, one circuit, and seventeen LCMS congregations and two other
6 overtures (2-07, 2-09) were submitted to the 2016 LCMS Convention that also requested that
7 CCM Opinion 14-2724 also be overruled; and

8 WHEREAS, LCMS Bylaw 3.9.2.2(c) regarding the CCM says, in part: “An opinion rendered by
9 the commission shall be binding on the question decided unless and until it is overruled by a
10 convention of the Synod. Overtures to a convention that seek to overrule an opinion of the
11 commission shall support the proposed action with substantive rationale from the Constitution,
12 Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod. All such overtures shall be considered by the floor
13 committee to which they have been assigned and shall be included in a specific report to the
14 convention with recommendations for appropriate action;” and

15 WHEREAS, No such report was given to the 2016 convention of the Synod; and

16 WHEREAS, the Word of God (Acts 13) clearly reveals that in the first century of the New
17 Testament, a local congregation of believers in the Lord Jesus, assembled in Antioch, after much
18 prayer and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, freely consecrated and sent missionaries,
19 notably Barnabas and Saul, into mission fields; and

20 WHEREAS, Article III.2 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
21 identifies an objective of the Synod as to “Strengthen congregations and their members in giving
22 bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and
23 extend that Gospel witness into all the world;” and

24 WHEREAS, Article VII of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states, “In
25 relation to its members, the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or
26 coercive powers, and with respect to the individual congregation’s right of self-government it is
27 but an advisory body”; and

28 WHEREAS, Article XIV of the Constitution states, “The Synod in convention may adopt bylaws
29 that are consistent with and do not contradict the Constitution of the Synod, which controls and
30 supersedes such bylaws and all other rules and regulations of the Synod”; and

31 WHEREAS, 2010 Synod Convention Res. 8-32B encourages the Synod to study Article VII of
32 the Constitution, including study of “Congregations and Synod, Background Material on the
33 Advisory Nature of the LCMS” along with opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters
34 related to this topic (including CCM Opinion 09-2573 listed in a “Whereas” paragraph in
35 Resolution 8-32B); and

36 WHEREAS, 1983 Synod Convention Res. 5-10A in a “Resolved” clause states that The Lutheran
37 Church—Missouri Synod reaffirms that its synodical polity is essentially and principally
38 congregational in nature; and

39 WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 09-2573 states in part that “. . . there is a common understanding that
40 a congregation exercises its self-government . . . in carrying out . . . its own ministry programs
41 and financial affairs . . .”; and

42 WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 3.8.3 deals only with who has authority to send ministers of religion
43 and other workers into Synod foreign mission fields, and prior bylaws have been careful not to
44 restrict congregational activity specifically relating to whom congregations could send funds
45 overseas, and nothing in the current bylaws restrict or could restrict the right of member
46 congregations to (a) fund ministries in foreign countries, or (b) send/fund congregation members
47 for service with organizations seeking to share the Gospel; and

48 WHEREAS, 1983 Synod Convention Res. 5-37 amending the bylaws only dealt with who on
49 behalf of Synod as a whole could send missionaries at the expense of the Synod, and where the
50 restriction applied, it being a sending bylaw only, clearly not applicable to congregations in any
51 event; and

52 WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 14-2724 referring to 2013 Synod Convention Res. 1-08, “To Work
53 Together in Mission,” called for a two-fold response: First, “Resolved, That the Synod, by the
54 next convention, develop and provide a mission best practices policy document for districts and
55 congregations engaged in mission projects to assist them to better carry out their mission and
56 their life together”, indicating that districts and congregations have and are recognized to have
57 mission work and practices of their own, and because they have their own mission work and
58 practices, the Synod should assist and support those efforts by developing a best-practices policy;
59 and second, “that these best practices include encouragement to districts and congregations to
60 communicate their international mission activities to the Synod’s Director of Church Relations
61 and Offices of National and International Mission for the purposes of healthy coordination and
62 stewardship” (underlined portions indicate emphasis added), indicating that districts and
63 congregations can have their own mission activities and when they do they are encouraged to
64 communicate these activities to the Synod for coordination and good stewardship; and

65 WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 14-2724 states in part, “Congregations may not send funds to mission
66 societies and non-Synod entities for work in foreign areas without taking into consideration
67 policies developed and determined for this purpose by the Board of International Mission as the
68 only sending agency;” and

69 WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 14-2724 incorrectly restricts the mission outreach of congregations
70 and others to give bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God the Father, Son,
71 and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world; therefore be it

72 *Resolved*, That the congregations of the New Jersey District and of The Lutheran Church—
73 Missouri Synod be encouraged, with much prayer and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to
74 send missionaries to foreign areas; and be it further

75 *Resolved*, That the New Jersey District affirms and encourages congregations, auxiliaries,
76 recognized service organizations, districts, and individual members of the Synod, in their efforts
77 to give bold witness by word and deed, to the love and work of God the Father, Son and Holy
78 Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness to all the world; and be it further

79 *Resolved*, That nothing in the bylaws of Synod should ever be interpreted to limit efforts by

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80 congregations, auxiliaries, recognized service organizations, districts, and individual members of
81 the Synod, to give bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God the Father, Son
82 and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness to all the world, but only be interpreted as
83 requesting information which might allow Synod to support (and to assist in connecting potential
84 support for) congregations and individual members, to assist in connecting potential mission
85 partners, and to provide best practices information which could assist the efforts; and be it further

86 *Resolved*, That the New Jersey District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to
87 adopt this resolution and to overrule CCM Opinion 14-2724, to be thereby declared null and void
88 and of no effect; and be it further

89 *Resolved*, That the President of Synod be directed to assure that the provisions of Bylaw
90 3.9.2.2(c) are followed with respect to this resolution and any other resolution that becomes an
91 overture to the Synod asking for a CCM opinion to be overruled; and be it finally

92 *Resolved*, That also in our agreements in how we will work together in the LCMS, things “be
93 done in a fitting and orderly way” (1 Cor. 14:40).

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Session 2 (6/1/18, 1:30 PM — 3:00 PM)

Rev. Hildebrant called the convention back into session at 1:30 PM. He announced that Rev. Art Doring (ordained) and Ms. Shirley Carpenter (lay), with Caren Vogt as alternate (lay), were elected to be district advisory delegates to the 2019 Synodical Convention in Tampa.

Elections (cont.)

Balloting continued for 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Board of Directors Lay Representative (Circuit 3), and Board of Directors Clergy-at-Large (2). No candidate received a majority of votes for 1st Vice President; Dinger (10) was removed. On the second ballot, Gewecke was elected, 37-32. Taylor was elected 2nd Vice President on the first ballot, 47-23, making Dinger 3rd Vice President. Since Dinger accepted his election as Vice President, he removed his name from the slate for secretary; chair motioned for the secretary to cast a single ballot for the sole candidate, Richard Serina. Chris Koerner received a majority of votes on the first ballot, 47-28, and was reelected district treasurer. Jason Kiefer was elected Circuit-3 Lay Representative, 36-31. No nominee received a majority of votes (36) for either Clergy-at-Large seat; Handrich (8) and Gary Timm (conflict as circuit visitor) were removed, and second ballot distributed. No nominee received a majority of votes for Clergy-at-Large on the second ballot; Uphoff was removed (15).

Ranking of the Vice-Presidents

1st Vice President

Andrew Dinger	10
Stephen Gewecke	34
Deric Taylor	27

1st Vice President

Stephen Gewecke	37
Deric Taylor	32

2nd Vice President

Deric Taylor	47
Andrew Dinger	23

The ranking is as follows:

1st Vice President Stephen Gewecke
2nd Vice President Deric Taylor
3rd Vice President Andrew Dinger

Board of Directors:

District Secretary
Richard Serina **1**

District Treasurer
Maggie Bowe 28
Christopher Koerner **47**

Lay Circuit #3
Jason Kiefer **36**
David Pry 31

Clergy-at-Large (Ballot One)

John Grieg	18
Brian Handrich	8
Anthony Iovine	13
Dick Izzard	21
Phil Ressler	15
Dan Schmalz	12
Bruce Smith	16
Gary Timm	22
Aaron Uphoff	12

Clergy-at-Large (Ballot Two)

John Grieg	21
Anthony Iovine	18
Dick Izzard	24
Phil Ressler	24
Dan Schmalz	16
Bruce Smith	23
Aaron Uphoff	15

Report of the New Jersey District Treasurer

Mr. Chris Koerner shared the financial report of the district. Report is on file.

Convention Essay, Part One: *Who Am I? Justification as Gift of Identity in Galatians*

Rev. Dr. Mark Seifrid made his presentation on the convention theme. He provided the following summary:

Bonhoeffer's poem, "Who Am I?" introduces the modern form of the question of identity: Am I what others say of me? Or am I what I know of myself? This twofold form of the question of identity, corresponds in a remarkable way to Paul's letter to the Galatians. Paul there tells the story of his pursuit of identity in his progress in Judaism that was brought to an end by his encounter with Christ. In a similar way, he corrects Cephas' misunderstanding of Christian identity in his confrontation with him in Antioch. Our new identity is given to us as a gift in Christ. In the conclusion of the letter, Paul warns the Galatians against surrendering this gift and the freedom it brings. They are to live as the community in which the freedom of love of the neighbor is present.

Hildebrandt recessed the convention at 3:00 PM.

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***Wise Disciples Train for the Kingdom
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Session 3 (3:30-5:15) — June 1, 2018

Rev. Hildebrandt called the convention back into session at 3:20 PM.

Elections (cont.)

Rev. Hildebrandt moved that the secretary cast a single vote for the offices that had only one candidate: Board of Directors Lay Representative-Circuit 1 (William Schmidt); Board of Directors Lay Representative-Circuit 5 (Norm Klesat); and Commissioned Minister-at-Large (Allison Johnson). Balloting continued for Clergy-at-Large (2) and CHEF Trustee (Region 1). No nominee received a majority of votes for Clergy-at-Large on third ballot; Schmalz was removed (17). No nominee received a majority of votes for CHEF-Region 1; Shine was removed (14).

Clergy-at-Large (Ballot Three)

John Grieg	21
Anthony Iovine	25
Dick Izzard	24
Phil Ressler	18
Dan Schmalz	13
Bruce Smith	17

CHEF Trustees-Region 1 (Ballot One)

Shirley Carpenter	28
Alan Fields	15
Terry Shine	14

Convention Essay, Part Two: *What Went Wrong in Corinth? Reflections on the Word of the Cross*

Rev. Dr. Mark Seifrid made his second presentation on the convention theme. He provided the following summary:

The problem behind all the problems in Corinth was the Corinthian worship of power, in which they misunderstood the gifts that God had given them in Christ and in their own hearts and minds turned them into possessions. This problem is on display in 1 Cor 1-4, where Paul addresses the issue of the factions that have arisen in the church. Each one had a favorite apostle based on their own understanding of the power that they expected to be displayed there. Their choice of an apostle was based in their own ideal of the Christian life. Paul seeks to teach them that it is not they who interpret the cross by their own empty and self-seeking standards, but God who has interpreted them in Christ's cross: their salvation rests outside themselves in the crucified and risen Christ, whose power is present in weakness (2 Cor 12:9-10). It is not that power removes our weakness or that weakness may be made into power. God hides himself in our weakness in order that his power might be manifest in us as his power. Here, too, we are removed from ourselves—our false imaginations about ourselves -- and given a new identity. The letters to the Corinthians are a warning against the temptations of power. They bring the consolations of weakness given in Christ.

Elections (cont.)

Balloting resumed for Clergy-at-Large (2) and CHEF Trustee-Region 1. No nominee received a majority of votes for Clergy-at-Large on fourth ballot; Smith was removed (21). Carpenter received a majority of votes, 43-22, for CHEF Trustee-Region 1. Balloting resumed for Clergy-at-Large (2) and CHEF Trustee-Region 2 and CHEF Trustee-Region 3. Three candidates received a majority for Clergy-at-Large (2), but by rule [Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, (11th edition) page 441, lines 11-2], the two candidates with the most votes—Ressler (36) and Iovine (35)—were elected. No candidate received a majority for CHEF Trustee-Region 2; Czebotar (7) and Van Etten (7) were dropped. Charlotte Visbeck received a majority of votes, 36-25, for CHEF Trustee (Region 3) and was elected.

Report of the Synodical President (Part One)

Dr. Steinbronn introduced the Rev. Dr. Herb Mueller, 1st Vice-President of the LCMS. After a video presentation, Dr. Mueller took questions from the assembly.

Clergy-at-Large (Ballot Four)

John Grieg	23
Anthony Iovine	28
Dick Izzard	26
Phil Ressler	29
Bruce Smith	21

Clergy-at-Large (Ballot Five)

John Grieg	28
Anthony Iovine	35
Dick Izzard	33
Phil Ressler	36

CHEF Trustees-Region 1 (Ballot Two)

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Shirley Carpenter	43
Alan Fields	22

CHEF Trustees-Region 2 (Ballot One)

Sharon Czebotar	7
Brian Handrich	15
Christa Piper	12
Erik Rieker	24
Gay Van Etten	7

CHEF Trustees-Region 3 (Ballot One)

Charlotte Visbeck	36
William Zak	25

Rev. Hildebrandt recessed the convention at 5:20 PM.

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Session 4 (7:30-12:30) — June 2, 2018

Rev. Hildebrandt convened the session at 7:40 AM. Rev. Matt Peebles gave the morning devotion on the basis of Luke 15.

Elections (cont.)

Rev. Schmidt moved that the secretary cast a single vote for the nominees that are unopposed: District Convention Nominations Committee-Commissioned Minister (Allison Johnson and Caren Vogt). Balloting resumed for CHEF Trustee-at-Large, District Convention Nominations Committee-Clergy (2), District Convention Nominations Committee-Lay, and Synodical Convention Nomination Committee-Lay. Gewecke received a majority of votes (34) to be elected as District Convention Nominations Committee-Clergy, but no other candidate received a majority for the second seat; Holsten was dropped (15). No candidate received a majority of nominations for Synodical Convention Nomination Committee-Lay; Loeber (4) and Onder (1) were dropped, since neither earned 15% of the votes.

2021 District Convention Nominations-Clergy (Ballot One)

Stephen Gewecke	34
Phillip Ressler	18
Chris Sadlo	16
Stephen Vogt	16
Chris Schonberg	27
Bob Holsten	15

2019 Synod Convention Nominations-Lay (Ballot One)

Larry Chenault	7
Rob Loeber	4
Jason Kiefer	15
Paul Onder	1
Bill Schmidt	20

Report of the Synodical President (Part Two)

Rev. Herb Mueller, 1st Vice-President of the LCMS, delivered the second part of the president's report, taking as its starting point the theme for the 2019 Synodical Convention, "Joyfully Lutheran." Vice President Mueller specifically related the theme to Luther's understanding of the Gospel and urged those present to renew their commitment to biblical study and to read the Lutheran confessions with an eye toward the Gospel. He concluded with a summary of Synod's finances, noting that overall debt and annual borrowing are both down significantly.

Report on Registration

34 pastoral delegates and 37 lay delegates, for a total of 71 voting delegates, in addition to 11 advisory delegates, 11 guests, 4 staff, and 4 vendors.

Elections (cont.)

Balloting resumed for CHEF Trustee-Region 2, CHEF Trustee-at-Large (3), District Convention Nominations Committee-Clergy (1), District Convention Nominations Committee-Lay, and Synodical Convention Nomination Committee-Lay. No candidate received a majority of votes for CHEF Trustee-at-Large; Dahnshaw (15) was removed. No candidate received a majority of votes for District Convention Nominations Committee-Clergy (1); Ressler (9) was removed. Bill Schmidt received a majority of 27 votes to be elected as Synodical Convention Nomination Committee-Lay. Carol Pry (29) and Jason Kiefer (28) earned a majority of votes cast to be elected as District Convention Nominations Committee-Lay. Rev. Erik Rieker received a majority of votes (26) to be elected as CHEF Trustee-Region 2. Larry Schumann (40) and William Zak (35) each received sufficient votes to be elected to the first two seats of CHEF Trustee-at-Large.

2021 District Convention Nominations-Clergy (Ballot Two)

Philip Ressler	9
Chris Sadlo	10
Stephen Vogt	19
Chris Schonberg	16

2021 District Convention Nominations-Lay (Ballot One)

Charles Carter	10
Jason Kiefer	28
Carol Pry	29
Charlotte Visbeck	24

2019 Synod Convention Nominations-Lay (Ballot Two)

Larry Chenault	12
Jason Kiefer	14
William Schmidt	27

CHEF-Region 2 (Ballot Two)

Brian Handrich	6
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Christa Piper	18
Erik Rieker	26

CHEF Trustee-at-Large (Ballot One)

Tettie Addy	20
Zoe Dahnshaw	15
Douglas Montone	19
David Rocker	20
Larry Schumann	40
William Zak	35

Guest Presentations

Lutheran Church Extension Fund — Rev. Bart Day, President of LCEF, described the existing relationships of the LCEF with the NJD, the opportunities for grant money available to congregations and ministries, and LCEF's current work here and abroad.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League — Ms. Arlene Price, President of the NJ District LWML, gave a report to the convention. A video presentation had been prepared but the system was not working. In lieu of that, she shared the mission projects they would be supporting this year. Congregational chapters were encouraged to support these missions with their mites. Others were invited to give toward these worthy projects as well. A Pastors' Appreciation Dinner is planned for Saturday, August 18, 2018. All District Pastors are invited to attend.

Kairos — Rev. Matt Peeples introduced the Kairos Church Planting Network, and described its strategy and plan to plant 10 churches in 10 years, partner with 10 congregations, and raise 300 leaders. He also introduced the planting work of Matt Lytikainen and Dan Fenco.

Elections (cont.)

Balloting resumed for CHEF Trustee-at-Large (1) and District Nominations-Clergy. No candidate received a majority of votes for CHEF Trustee-at-Large; Montone (9) was dropped. Schonberg received a majority (29) and was elected District Nominations-Clergy

CHEF Trustee-at-Large (Ballot Two)

Tettie Addy	22
Douglas Montone	9
David Rocker	21

2021 District Convention Nominations-Clergy (Ballot Three)

Chris Sadlo	10
Chris Schonberg	29
Stephen Vogt	15

Resolutions (cont.)

Dinger introduced **Resolution 3-06** on behalf of the Resolutions Committee. The secretary explained to the assembly that 3-06 resolves to update the NJ District Bylaws approved at the 2012 District Convention as reviewed by CCM in May 2015 with suggested terminological changes and the insertion of 5.02.c regarding board electronic communications. Motion **made** and **passed** by voice vote to ratify changes.

Dinger introduced **Resolution 4-01**, to address sexual integrity of ministers and care for victims of abuse. Motion made to adopt; **passed** by unanimous voice vote.

Dinger introduced **Resolution 4-02**, to denounce ethno-nationalism and supremacy as beliefs contrary to the Gospel. Motion made to adopt. Discussion ensued regarding breadth and accuracy of motion, as well as implementation. Amendment made to change line 52 from “nationalism” to “white nationalism.” Motion to amend **passed** unanimously. Amended motion **passed** with 4 votes against.

Dinger introduced **Resolution 4-03**, to engage in ministry to transgendered persons. Amendment proposed to line 44 to read “that we strongly counsel against all efforts.” Amendment seconded; amendment passed, 29-23, after discussion. Amended motion went to the floor. Amendment proposed to line 40 to strike “as they repent and believe in Christ.” Amendment failed. Previously amended motion **passed**.

Dinger introduced **Resolution 3-02** regarding best practices in data privacy. Motion **made** and **passed**.

Dinger introduced **Resolution 3-03** to insure timely and transparent financial reporting in the Synod. Motion **made** and **passed**.

Dinger proposed that convention move **Resolution 3-01** and **Resolution 3-04** to Omnibus A for board action. Motion **made** and **passed**.

Dinger introduced **Resolution 2-01**, to overrule BOD May 2017 resolution regarding ecclesiastical supervision under Bylaw 7.1.2. After discussion, motion **made** and **passed**.

Dinger introduced **Resolution 2-02**, to direct Synod President to insure synod bylaw 3.9.3.3(c) is followed, specifically with respect to overruling a CCM resolution. Motion **made** and **passed** with a vote of 34 for and 14 against.

Articles of Incorporation

President Steinbronn presented revised Articles of Incorporation as reviewed by CCM and amended in accordance with their review in order to bring district articles into conformity with synodical articles of incorporation. Motion **made** and **passed**.

District President invited Dan Schmalz to discuss a 2020 trip to the Holy Land.

Elections

Balloting resumed for CHEF Trustee-at-Large. Rucker received a majority, 32-26, and was elected CHEF Trustee-at-Large.

CHEF at Large

Tettie Addy	26
David Rucker	32

Installation of Officers

President Steinbronn installed first the Vice-Presidents and Circuit Visitors, then Board of Directors.

Final Report on Registration

34 pastoral delegates and 37 lay delegates, for a total of 71 voting delegates, in addition to 11 advisory delegates, 11 guests, 4 staff, and 4 vendors.

President Steinbronn thanked the assembly and the convention committee for their efforts, as well as office secretary, Elaine Schleifer.

Rev. Dr. Eric Moeller delivered a closing devotion based on Mark 10:17-27.

President Steinbronn declared the 18th Regular Convention of the New Jersey District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to be adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Resolution 3-06

- 1 Resolution 3-06
- 2 To Update the New Jersey District Bylaws

- 3 WHEREAS, the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters has reviewed the New Jersey
- 4 District's bylaws of May 2015, and proposed the following changes; therefore be it

- 5 *Resolved*, That the New Jersey District in Convention approve the proposed changes to the New
- 6 Jersey District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Bylaws as follows: **(See appendix)**

1 Resolution 4-01

2 To Address the Sexual Integrity of Ministers and the Care for Victims of Abuse

3 WHEREAS, God calls His people to holiness and Christ has specifically summoned His
4 followers to sexual purity (Matt. 5:27–28; 1 Thes. 4:3–5); and

5 WHEREAS, Sexual sin robs us of our joy in God and is especially grievous to our souls (1 Cor.
6 6:18); and

7 WHEREAS, Many church bodies are seeking to address the scandal of sexual abuse by members
8 of their clergy; and

9 WHEREAS, We acknowledge our own fallenness and the need to prevent such appalling sins
10 from happening within our own ranks; and

11 WHEREAS, The Bible calls ministers of the gospel—whether they are pastors, counselors,
12 educators, missionaries, chaplains, or others—to be above reproach morally, both within the body
13 of Christ and in the larger community (1 Tim. 3:1-13); and

14 WHEREAS, Scripture commands that believers are to be restrained even in their speech (Eph.
15 4:29); and

16 WHEREAS, Sexually demeaning speech of any kind normalizes the denigration of others; and

17 WHEREAS, Believers are the salt of the earth and the light of the world so that our actions will
18 glorify our Father in heaven (Matt. 5:13-14); and

19 WHEREAS, The holiness of our triune God and the gospel of Jesus Christ require the highest
20 levels of integrity in personal, family, ministerial, and business relations; and

21 WHEREAS, Ministers serve as trusted members of the community, in public ministry, in
22 personal and family counseling contexts, and as private citizens; and

23 WHEREAS, The erosion of moral fidelity has reached crisis proportions in our society; and

24 WHEREAS, Sexual infidelity and other violations of ministerial integrity always have tragic
25 consequences for those who are victimized and for others indirectly impacted by those
26 transgressions, especially in their relationship with our loving God; and

27 WHEREAS, Tragically, accusations of sexual abuse and harassment have been made within
28 LCMS congregations, and other LCMS ministries; and

29 WHEREAS, Victims of sexual abuse and harassment are often dismissed and told that they are
30 responsible at least in part for the sin perpetrated against them; therefore be it

31 *Resolved*, That the New Jersey District in convention call on one another to build and maintain
32 relationships and practices of integrity and fidelity to God and others in that we are to be people

33 above reproach (1 Tim 3:2; Col 1:22; Titus 1); and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That we urge all our spiritual leaders redouble their efforts to hold one another
35 accountable to the highest standards of Christian moral practice; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That we urge our seminaries and other related educational institutions to make
37 ministerial integrity a major emphasis in the training of pastors, missionaries, educators, and other
38 ministers; and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That we call on our churches to discipline those guilty of any sexual abuse in
40 obedience to Matt. 18:6-17 as well as to cooperate with civil authorities in the prosecution of
41 those cases; and be it further

42 *Resolved*, That we pray for those who have been harmed as a result of sexual abuse and urge our
43 churches to offer support, compassion, and biblical counseling to them and their families; and be
44 it further

45 *Resolved*, That we commit ourselves as disciples of Christ to lives of purity in thought, word, and
46 deed; and be it further

47 *Resolved*, That we call on New Jersey District to continue and to expand efforts to teach the
48 whole counsel of God regarding sexual purity, human dignity, and the dangers of pornography;
49 and be it further

50 *Resolved*, That we remind all our congregations of their moral responsibility to implement any
51 appropriate church discipline and restoration processes; and be it further

52 *Resolved*, That we encourage pastors and congregations to develop and implement sound policies
53 and procedures to protect our children and staff from sexual abuse and harassment; and be it
54 finally

55 *Resolved*, That we urge all our people to pray for victims of abuse and harassment, to stand for
56 their protection from abuse, and to support safe and healthy children's ministries in our churches
57 and communities.

1 Resolution 4-02

2 To Denounce Ethno-Nationalism and Supremacy as a Belief that is Anti-Gospel

3 WHEREAS, Scripture teaches, “God made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all
4 the face of the earth,” (Acts 17:26); and

5 WHEREAS, All people are created in the same image of God, no matter what human
6 distinguishing identifiers might be (Gen. 1:26-27; 9:6; cf. Acts 17:25, 26); and

7 WHEREAS, Central to the doctrine of creation is the truth of the equal value of all humans
8 grounded in the unsurpassable worth that God places in them, demonstrated by the unsurpassable
9 price he paid for each individual person; and

10 WHEREAS, In Jesus, God became a human and so identifies fully with every human (Heb. 2:17),
11 and his mission embraces all of humankind (Matt. 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38); and

12 WHEREAS, Any claim that there is something about the nature of another human being as such
13 that renders that person to be of inferior value not only denies the biblical doctrine of creation, but
14 also calls into question what the Scriptures teach about the incarnation of Jesus Christ;¹ and

15 WHEREAS, The Apostle Peter said, “God doesn’t show favoritism, but in every nation the
16 person who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him” (Acts 10:34–35); and

17 WHEREAS, The Book of Concord teaches that all Christians will make the will of Christ
18 supreme in their own lives and in human society, and so opposing all forms of racism (AC Ap V
19 1-3); and

20 WHEREAS, Racism and racial superiority is idolatry²; and

21 WHEREAS, Racism is a blatant denial of the unity of the body of Christ, into which all who have
22 been baptized into his name have been incorporated (1 Cor. 12:13) for Jesus Christ has removed
23 all barriers between all human beings, making peace through His cross (Eph. 2:13-16); and

24 WHEREAS, James says, “If you really fulfill the royal law, according to the scripture, ‘You shall
25 love your neighbor as yourself,’ you do well. But if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are
26 convicted by the law as transgressors” (James 2:8-9); and

27 WHEREAS, Christians of differing national or ethnic origins must not claim Christ as exclusively
28 their own, as if to say that their view of him most closely approximates the biblical portrayal of

¹ As a human, Jesus descended from Adam, whom God created (Luke 3:38), and whom all human beings have as progenitor. To deny the full humanity of any fellow human being is at the same time to compromise the apostolic truth that in Christ “the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily” (Col. 2:9), that is, that he truly “was made man” (Nicene Creed)

² “That to which your heart clings and entrusts itself,” Dr. Martin Luther wrote in the Large Catechism, is “really your God.” “If any one boasts,” he continued, “of great learning, wisdom, power, prestige, family, and honor, and trusts in them, he also has a god, but not the one, true God.” If anyone should claim superiority over others and treat them as inferior because of racial origin or characteristics, we may add, that person, too, has a god, but not the one true God.

29 him.

30 WHEREAS, the Synod in convention has passed the following resolutions
31 **1971 — Res. 9-32:** To Encourage Christian Action to Combat Racism
32 **1973 — Res. 9-22:** To Continue Efforts to Combat Racism
33 **1977 — Res 10-18A:** To Make Every Effort to Eliminate Racism
34 **1979 — Res 4-11:** To Reaffirm Efforts to Combat Racism
35 **1981 — Res 8-07:** To Oppose Racism and Violence
36 **1983 — Res 3-09:** To Clarify Position on Anti-Semitism
37 **1992 — Res 3-03:** To Combat All Racism
38 **1995 — Res 2-05A:** To Commend for Study the CTCR Document *Racism and the*
39 *Church*, and

40 WHEREAS, As the 1992 resolution states, “racism is contrary to God’s Word and a sin against
41 Him.” Synod by-law 2.3.1 (a) states: “It shall be the policy of the Synod to decline membership
42 to congregations whose constitutions deny membership or other congregational privileges to any
43 Christian because of race or ethnic origin;” therefore be it

44 WHEREAS, In what is sometimes known as white nationalism or separatism, alt-right, British
45 Israelism, Evropa Identity, Nation of Islam, Zionism and others, the worth of an individual or
46 group is determined principally by genetic origins, biological characteristics, or cultural heritage,
47 which becomes the primary basis for drawing conclusions about the comparative worth of an
48 individual³

49 *Resolved*, That the New Jersey District of the LCMS, denounce every form of racism, including
50 alt-right white supremacy, white separatists, British Israelism, and Evropa Identity, et. al., as
51 antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and be it further,

³ For example,

“Any white person who brought the element of civilization had the right to take over this continent”, Ayn Rand, “To the Graduating Class of West Point”, 1974;

“Our new government is founded upon exactly the opposite ideas; its foundations are laid, its cornerstone rests, upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery, subordination to the superior race, is his natural and normal condition. This, our new government, is the first, in the history of the world, based upon this great physical, philosophical, and moral truth.. look with confidence to the ultimate universal acknowledgement of the truths upon which our system rests? It is the first government ever instituted upon the principles in strict conformity to nature, and the ordination of Providence, in furnishing the materials of human society. Many governments have been founded upon the principle of the subordination and serfdom of certain classes of the same race; such were and are in violation of the laws of nature. Our system commits no such violation of nature’s laws.” Alexander Stevens, Vice President to the Confederacy, “Cornerstone Address” March 21, 1861;

“To be white is to be a striver, a crusader, an explorer and a conqueror. We build, we produce, we go upward ... For us, it is conquer or die. This is a unique burden for the white man, that our fate is entirely in our hands. And it is appropriate because within us, within the very blood in our veins as *Children of the Sun*, lies the potential for greatness. That is the great struggle we are called to. We are not meant to live in shame and weakness and disgrace. We were not meant to beg for moral validation from some of the most despicable creatures to ever populate the planet. We were meant to overcome—overcome all of it. Because that is natural and normal for us. Because for us, as Europeans, it is only normal again when we are great again...the concepts that are now designated “problematic” and associated with whiteness—power, strength, beauty, agency, accomplishment. Whites do and other groups don’t ... We don’t exploit other groups. We don’t gain anything from their presence. They need us, and not the other way around.” Richard Spencer, “Hail Trump Speech”, November 2016

New Jersey District Convention 2018
Minutes (6/1-6/2)

52 *Resolved*, That we repent of our own sins of the idolatry of [inserted: “white”] nationalism and
racism and denounce
53 and repudiate white supremacy and every form of racial and ethnic hatred as a scheme of the
54 devil intended to bring further suffering and division to the world and to hinder the Gospel; and
55 be it further

56 *Resolved*, That we reaffirm the resolution the Synod in convention of 1992, “It shall be the policy
57 of the Synod to decline membership to congregations whose constitutions deny membership or
58 other congregational privileges to any Christian because of race or ethnic origin;” and be it
59 further

60 *Resolved*, That it shall be the policy of the New Jersey District of the LCMS to deny membership
61 any member of Synod who espouses racists ideology such as is found in ethno-
62 nationalist/separatists, etc. groups, and to suspend the membership of any member who refuses to
63 repent of such ideology as it denies the Confessions and the Scriptures to which we subscribe;
64 and be it further

65 *Resolved*, That we acknowledge that we still must make progress in rooting out any remaining
66 forms of intentional or unintentional racism in our midst; and be it finally

67 *Resolved*, That we earnestly pray, both for those who advocate racist ideologies and those who
68 are thereby deceived, that they may see their error through the light of the Gospel, repent of these
69 hatreds, and come to know the peace and love of Christ through redeemed fellowship in the
70 Kingdom of God, which is established from every nation, tribe, people, and language.

1 Resolution 4-03

2 To Engage in Ministry to Transgendered Persons

3 WHEREAS, All persons are created in God’s image and are made to glorify Him (Gen. 1:27; Isa.
4 43:7); and

5 WHEREAS, God’s design was the creation of two distinct and complementary sexes, male and
6 female (Gen. 1:27; Matt. 19:4; Mk 10:6;) which designate the fundamental distinction that God
7 has embedded in the very biology of the human race; and

8 WHEREAS, Distinctions in masculine and feminine as ordained by God are part of the created
9 order and should find expression in every human heart (Gen 2:18, 21–24; 1 Cor 11:7–9; Eph
10 5:22–33; 1 Tim 2:12–14); and

11 WHEREAS, The Fall of man into sin has introduced brokenness and futility into God’s good
12 creation (Gen 3:1–24; Rom 8:20); and

13 WHEREAS, According to a 2016 study from the UCLA School of Law, about 1.4 million
14 Americans identify as transgender; and

15 WHEREAS, Transgenderism differs from hermaphroditism or intersexualism in that the sex of
16 the individual is not biologically ambiguous but psychologically ambiguous; and

17 WHEREAS, The state of New Jersey prohibits licensed counselors from any attempt to change a
18 child’s “gender expression”; and

19 WHEREAS, the church does not have a good history of ministering to transgendered persons
20 often due to our uncomfortability with the topic or to the harsh, unloving, hypocritical manner in
21 which we speak often while refusing to speak publicly against other sexual sins such as divorce,
22 remarriage, pornography, sexual harassment, coarse language, etc, and

23 WHEREAS, the CTCR has produced a 2014 paper entitled, “Gender Identity Disorder or Gender
24 Dysphoria in Christian Perspective” which begins to address this topic; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved*, That the NJ District in convention affirm God’s good design that gender identity is
26 determined by biological sex and not by one’s self-perception—a perception which is often
27 influenced by fallen human nature in ways contrary to God’s design (Eph. 4:17–18); and be
28 it further

29 *Resolved*, That we commend the CTCR for their current work and request they produce a full
30 study on practical ministry to transgendered persons, and be it

31 *Resolved*, That we grieve the reality of human fallenness which can result in manifestations of
32 sexuality outside of the teaching of Scripture and point all to the redemption of our bodies in
33 Christ (Rom. 8:23); and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That we extend love and compassion to those whose sexual self-understanding is
35 shaped by a distressing conflict between their biological sex and their gender identity; and be it

36 further

37 *Resolved*, That we invite all transgender persons to trust in Christ and to experience renewal in
38 the Gospel (1 Tim 1:15–16); and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That we love our transgender neighbors, seek their good always, welcome them to our
40 churches and, as they repent and believe in Christ, receive them into church membership
41 (2 Cor. 5:18–20; Gal. 5:14); and be it further

42 *Resolved*, That we regard our transgender neighbors as image-bearers of God and therefore
43 condemn acts of abuse or bullying committed against them; and be it further

44 *Resolved*, That we oppose efforts to alter one’s bodily identity (e.g., cross-sex hormone therapy,
45 gender reassignment surgery) to refashion it to conform with one’s perceived gender identity; and
46 be it further

47 *Resolved*, That we continue to oppose steadfastly all efforts by any governing official or body to
48 validate transgender identity as morally praiseworthy (Isa. 5:20); and be it further

49 *Resolved*, That our love for the Gospel and urgency for the Great Commission must include
50 declaring the whole counsel of God, proclaiming what Scripture teaches about God’s design for
51 us as male and female persons created in His image and for His glory (Matt. 28:19–20; Acts
52 20:27; Rom. 11:36);

53 *Resolved*, That the New Jersey District provide resources and training on this topic to help pastors
54 and congregations minister to those struggling with sexual sins; and be it finally

55 *Resolved*, That the New Jersey District memorialize the Synod in convention to request the
56 CTCR to study this issue in more depth and provide Gospel-centered resources on how to engage
57 in ministry to transgendered persons.

1 Resolution 3-02
2 To Adopt Data Privacy Best Practices

3 WHEREAS, The District and Synod collect personal identity and contact information from
4 convention delegates and from those who vote for President of Synod; and

5 WHEREAS, Best practices for data privacy include the safeguarding of such personal
6 information, its use only in the official conduct of business, and strict limitations on its
7 disclosure; and

8 WHEREAS, Our delegates in convention take positions at odds with the culture, making
9 disclosure of their personal information a security concern. For example, the Family Research
10 Council in DC and donors to California Prop 8 were attacked professionally and personally for
11 the same positions on marriage that our delegates enacted in 2016 14-02A, 14-03A, and 14-04;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, LCMS Bylaw 3.12.2.3 now prohibits non-official use or distribution of the list of
14 congregation-selected voters for President of Synod; and

15 WHEREAS, The Synod openly publishes the street addresses of national delegates as part of the
16 Convention Workbook, which is posted on the Internet and easily downloaded; and

17 WHEREAS, The Secretary of Synod's office sells copies of this list to interested parties, which
18 use them mainly for political ends (In 2016, some of those distributions disclosed national
19 delegate e-mail addresses without prior consent); and

20 WHEREAS, LCMS districts have used their access to voters lists to send advocacy-type mailings
21 and e-mails directly to those who vote for synod officials; therefore be it

22 *Resolved*, That the New Jersey District affirms its commitment to data privacy best practices,
23 including protection of identity and contact information for its district convention delegates, and
24 the use or distribution of that information only for official business and with consent of the
25 persons involved; and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the New Jersey District adopts a practice, consistent with LCMS Bylaw 3.12.2.3,
27 which prohibits the use of private voter contact information in connection with synod-level
28 elections; and be it finally

29 *Resolved*, That the New Jersey District memorialize the Synod in convention to adopt best
30 practices that stop the public disclosure of delegate personal information other than name and
31 congregational membership such as but not limited to street addresses and email addresses, and
32 require prior consent for any distribution of their personal contact information.

1 Resolution 3-03

2 To Ensure Timely and Transparent Financial Reporting in the Synod

3 WHEREAS, A principle of Biblical stewardship is to be accountable with the resources with
4 which one has been entrusted, as expressed in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14 ff.); and

5 WHEREAS, Much is required of those to whom God has entrusted his gifts. As Jesus said,
6 “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they
7 entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b, ESV); and

8 WHEREAS, The Scriptures teach “it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1
9 Corinthians 4:2, ESV); and

10 WHEREAS, The Synod has historically recognized its responsibility of accountability and
11 faithfulness in the handling of the finances entrusted to it by its members, as is witnessed in
12 Bylaw 1.5.4, “The Synod and each of its agencies shall fully disclose their financial books and
13 records to any member congregation of the Synod;” and

14 WHEREAS, The Synod in previous conventions has expressed its opinion that such
15 accountability and faithfulness be found additionally in regular reporting of such financial
16 disclosure by adopting 2010 Convention Resolution 4-03, “To Broadly Communicate the
17 Statement of Financial Position of LCMS,” which reads in its totality:

18 “WHEREAS, It is helpful to understand the Synod’s financial position and communicate
19 it to the members of the congregations of Synod; therefore be it

20 *Resolved*, That each November, the Vice-President–Finance—Treasurer of the Synod use
21 widely available means, (i.e., The Lutheran Witness, Reporter, the LCMS Website) to
22 state the financial position of the Synod in a format easily understood by persons
23 unfamiliar with financial terminology.” (2010 Convention Proceedings, p. 120); and

24 WHEREAS, The members of the Synod expressed even further the need for full transparency in
25 all areas of financial disclosure by adopting 2016 convention RESOLUTION 9-04A, “To
26 Improve Disclosures Related to Financial Gifts from God’s Stewards for Special Appeals,” which
27 reads in part,

28 “... WHEREAS, Monies for special appeals requested by corporate Synod (e.g.,
29 following natural disasters) are reported only in part in Synod publications (e.g., Reporter
30 and The Lutheran Witness) and sometimes only annually; and ...

31 WHEREAS, Donors and members of the Synod are interested in the impact of funds
32 raised for special appeals and will appreciate improved disclosure of results; therefore be
33 it

34 *Resolved*, That the financial offices of corporate Synod continue to recognize the desire
35 of donors and members of the Synod to improve processes of reporting and work to
36 provide clear, timely, and transparent accounting for all funding and special appeals, so
37 that the Body of Christ may experience the joy of Gospel-centered mission and ministry
38 beyond the local context or community.” (2016 Convention Proceedings, p. 189); and

39 WHEREAS, It was reported to the 2013 Convention of the Synod by the Board of Directors in its
40 Report on the Disposition of Funding the Mission Recommendations (R6-03-01) that “the decline
41 in the Synod’s annual unrestricted revenue continues... The board believes that congregations will
42 respond through better, open, and honest communication about the great things God is able to
43 accomplish for His kingdom when we work together. Numerous conventions have passed
44 resolutions calling on congregations to maintain and increase unrestricted support for district and
45 Synod ministries, yet the unrestricted support passed through our districts to the Synod has
46 continued to decline at the average rate of \$1 million each year.” (2013 Convention Workbook
47 2013, p. 114-115); and

48 WHEREAS, In 2016, the Chief Financial Officer of the Synod, in reporting to the Synod about
49 offerings received, stated, “This sharing from God’s bounty continues to decline. Although the
50 amount of decline in the past three years has not been as severe as the average decline of the
51 previous 20 years, it is still trending negatively. In the face of continued declining unrestricted
52 revenues, the ability of Synod, Inc. to respond quickly and nimbly to mission and ministry
53 opportunities and challenges laid before us by our Lord also declines, as does our ability to “fill in
54 the gap” when restricted revenues, needed to fund much of our mission and ministry activities,
55 fall short of their goals. The financial challenges facing our beloved Synod persist. I believe that
56 these challenges are of our own making, a product of how we distribute the resources provided by
57 our loving Father.” (2016 Convention Workbook, pp. 61-62); and

58 WHEREAS, There have been few tangible reports about the financial struggles of the Synod,
59 such as the need to trim \$4 million dollars from the budget of the Synod (ref. July 7, 2017
60 Reporter, <https://blogs.lcms.org/2017/international-national-mission> and the May 19-20, 2017
61 Synod Board of Directors Minutes <https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=4769>),
62 these reports are less than sufficient to keep the members of the Synod regularly informed about
63 the financial condition of the Synod; and

64 WHEREAS, It has been widely reported that the Synod has only minimal days of operating
65 capital in its cash reserves, which would seemingly place the synod in a precarious financial
66 position (ref. Paragraph 45, Financial Reports of the February 17-18, 2017 LCMS Board of
67 Directors Minutes <https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=4659>), which stated that
68 without funds held on behalf of the two Seminaries, Synod had only a 5 day reserve of cash
69 available); and

70 WHEREAS, In the face of such challenging financial times, transparency and regularity in the
71 reporting of the financial situation of the Synod is of upmost importance to the members and
72 constituency of the Synod who have a vested interest in the financial viability of the Synod and
73 who merit clear, concise, and timely reports; and

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74 WHEREAS, The President of the Synod recommended in his report to the Synod in 2016 that the
75 Synod have “Uniform Financial Reporting.” (2016 Today’s Business, p. 28); therefore be it

76 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention direct the Chief Financial Officer to report quarterly in
77 the Synod’s official publications about the financial position of the Synod in a format easily
78 understood by persons unfamiliar with financial terminology, such reporting to include, but not
79 limited to income and expenses, budget versus spending, cash reserves and cash position, etc.;
80 and be it further

81 *Resolved*, That these quarterly reports include information about the regular Synod budget and the
82 reporting on special appeals as stipulated in 2016 Resolution 9-04A; and be it further

83 *Resolved*, That the Synod be shrewd managers with the resources God has given it; and be it
84 finally

85 *Resolved*, That the Synod give thanks to God for the resources He has entrusted to us, recognizing
86 “That the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof” (Psalm 24:1, ESV).

1 Resolution 2-01

2 To Overrule LCMS Board of Directors' May 2017 Resolution 12-14, re Bylaw 7.1.2

3 WHEREAS, The 2016 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in its Resolution
4 12-14 [*“Regarding the Right of an Accuser to Appeal When a District President or President of*
5 *the Synod Fails to Act or Declines to Suspend”*] and according to Bylaw 7.1.2, deferred its
6 rightful and legislative authority regarding the development of ecclesiastical supervision bylaws
7 with respect to and inclusion of the President of the Synod, the decision given to Synod’s Board
8 of Directors; and

9 WHEREAS, Resolution 12-14, in accordance with Bylaw 7.1.2, set forth a specific path and
10 timeline for consideration, negotiation and counsel to be conducted with the Council of
11 Presidents, with any proposed amendments to the bylaws to be reviewed by the Commission on
12 Constitutional Matters and the Commission on Handbook; and

13 WHEREAS, Resolution 12-14 states that the Commission on Constitutional Matters in Op. 16-
14 2791 “has indicated portions of the expulsion processes of Synod’s Bylaws are presently in an
15 unconstitutional state with respect to Const. Art. XI B 1–3 and Const. Art. XIII 2”; and

16 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors, acting under Bylaw 7.1.2 and at the express direction of the
17 2016 Resolution 12-14, in May of 2017 adopted changes to the bylaws of the Synod regarding
18 ecclesiastical supervision; and

19 WHEREAS, The Constitution of Synod defines clearly, precisely, and fully the supervisory role
20 of the President of Synod, wherein the President of Synod has “the supervision regarding the
21 doctrine and the administration of a. All officers of the Synod; b. All such as are employed by the
22 Synod; c. The individual district of the Synod; d. All district presidents” (XI.B.1); and

23 WHEREAS, The President of Synod, as ecclesiastical supervisor, is limited in the exercise of said
24 power, assuming “only such rights as have been expressly conferred” (XI A.1), which are
25 expressly conferred to be “the power to advise, admonish, and reprove...conscientiously use all
26 means at his command to promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all the districts
27 of the Synod” (XI.B.3); and

28 WHEREAS, Synod’s Constitution expressly confers upon the District Presidents the duty to
29 “*exercise supervision over*” their district’s ministers and to “visit and...hold investigations in the
30 congregations” (XII.7), including the District Presidents being empowered “to suspend from
31 membership” their district’s ministers (XII.8); and

32 WHEREAS, Prior to the year 2016 and CCM Op. 16-2791, numerous CCM opinions (to wit Ag.
33 1970, Op.15-2750, 13-2669, 10-2581, 03-2354, and 03-2338, A and C) interpreted the President
34 of Synod’s scope of ecclesiastical supervision do not include supervision over individual workers
35 and congregations expressed in Article XII.7,8; therefore, be it

36 *Resolved*, That Synod in convention, as the ultimate legislative body of Synod⁴ considers the

⁴Bylaw 1.4.1: “*The delegate convention of the Synod is the legislative assembly that ultimately legislates policy, program, and financial direction to carry on the Synod’s work on behalf of and in support of the member congregations. It reserves to itself the right to give direction to all officers and agencies of the Synod. Consequently, all officers and agencies, unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws, shall be accountable to the*

37 following to be steps to the resolution of this matter; and be it further

38 *Resolved*, That changes, subsequent to 2016 Convention Resolution 12-14, made under Bylaw
39 2.14 “Expulsion of Congregations or Individuals from Membership in the Synod,” Bylaw 2.15
40 “Expulsion of a District President or Officer from Membership in the Synod”, Bylaw 2.16
41 “Expulsion of a President of Synod from Membership in the Synod”, and Bylaw 2.17 “Expulsion
42 of Individuals from Membership in the Synod as a Result of Sexual Misconduct or Criminal
43 Behavior”, as a result of 2016 Convention Resolution 12-14, as adopted by the Board of Directors
44 (May 2017) be overruled and of no effect; and be it further

45 *Resolved*, That Bylaws 2.14, 2.15, 2.16 and 2.17 be returned to and replaced by the same
46 corresponding Bylaws as set forth in the 2013 Synod Handbook; and be it further

47 *Resolved*, That a Blue Ribbon Task Force of seven members, with four members appointed by the
48 35 District Presidents, three of whom shall be District Presidents, and three members appointed
49 by the President of Synod, be authorized and formed to conduct a thorough study of the
50 ecclesiastical supervision matter, including Articles III, VI, VII (studies of Articles VI and VII
51 were previously resolved by the 2010 Convention), XI, XII, and XIII, and make
52 recommendations to the 2022 Synod Convention, including any necessary revisions of
53 constitutional provisions, with the purpose of evangelically resolving the current difficulty and
54 division among us; and be it further

55 *Resolved*, That all relevant CCM opinions such as 16-2791, 16-2793, 16-2794, 16-2797, 17-2822,
56 17-2828 and 17-2836 be placed in abeyance until the 2022 Convention and any necessary action
57 at the 2022 convention; and be it further

58 *Resolved*, That Synod in convention affirm the powers provided to the Synod President “to
59 advise, admonish and reprove...conscientiously use all means at his command to promote and
60 maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all the districts of the Synod” do not include direct
61 supervisory responsibilities of individual members of Synod, since such individuals are under the
62 ecclesiastical supervision of District Presidents; and be it finally

63 *Resolved*, That the convention pray for peace and harmony in the Synod as it moves forward in
64 mission and ministry.

Synod for all their actions, and any concerns regarding the decisions of such officers or agencies may be brought to the attention of the Synod in convention for appropriate action. This provision does not apply to specific member appeals to the Concordia Plans, which has its own appeal process for such cases.”

1 Resolution 2-02
2 To Direct the President of Synod to Assure the Provisions of Bylaw 3.9.2.2 (c) Are
3 Followed

4 WHEREAS, Overture 2-04 (To Overrule CCM Opinion 14-2724)⁵ was not brought forward for

⁵ TO OVERRULE CCM OPINION 14-2724

WHEREAS, the Word of God (Acts 13) clearly reveals that in the first century of the New Testament, a local congregation of believers in the Lord Jesus, assembled in Antioch, after much prayer and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, freely consecrated and sent missionaries, notably Barnabas and Saul, into mission fields; and

WHEREAS, Article III. 2 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod identifies an objective of the Synod as to “Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;” and

WHEREAS, Article VII of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states, “In relation to its members, the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or coercive powers, and with respect to the individual congregation’s right of self-government it is but an advisory body;” and

WHEREAS, Article XIV of the Constitution states, “The Synod in convention may adopt bylaws that are consistent with and do not contradict the Constitution of the Synod, which controls and supersedes such bylaws and all other rules and regulations of the Synod;” and

WHEREAS, 2010 Synod Convention Res. 8-32B encourages the Synod to study Article VII of the Constitution, including study of “Congregations and Synod, Background Material on the Advisory Nature of the LCMS” along with opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters related to this topic (including CCM Opinion 09-2573 listed in a “Whereas” paragraph in Resolution 8-32B); and

WHEREAS, 1983 Synod Convention Res. 5-10A in a “Resolved” clause states that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod reaffirms that its synodical polity is essentially and principally congregational in nature; and

WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 09-2573 states in part that “. . . there is a common understanding that a congregation exercises its self-government . . . in carrying out . . . its own ministry programs and financial affairs . . .”; and

WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 3.8.3 deals only with who has authority to send ministers of religion and other workers into Synod foreign mission fields, and prior bylaws have been careful not to restrict congregational activity specifically relating to whom congregations could send funds overseas, and nothing in the current bylaws restrict or could restrict the right of member congregations to (a) fund ministries in foreign countries, or (b) send/fund congregation members for service with organizations seeking to share the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, 1983 Synod Convention Res. 5-37 amending the bylaws only dealt with who on behalf of Synod as a whole could send missionaries at the expense of the Synod, and where the restriction applied, it being a sending bylaw only, clearly not applicable to congregations in any event; and

WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 14-2724 referring to 2013 Synod Convention Res. 1-08, “To Work Together in Mission,” called for a two-fold response: First, “Resolved, That the Synod, by the next convention, develop and provide a mission best practices policy document for districts and congregations engaged in mission projects to assist them to better carry out their mission and their life together”, indicating that districts and congregations have and are recognized to have mission work and practices of their own, and because they have their own mission work and practices, the Synod should assist and support those efforts by developing a best-practices policy; and second, “that these best practices include encouragement to districts and congregations to communicate their international mission activities to the Synod’s Director of Church Relations and Offices of National and International Mission for the purposes of healthy coordination and stewardship” (underlined portions indicate emphasis added), indicating that districts and congregations can have their own mission activities and when they do they are encouraged to communicate these activities to the Synod for coordination and good stewardship; and

WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 14-2724 states in part, “Congregations may not send funds to mission societies and non-Synod entities for work in foreign areas without taking into consideration policies developed and determined for this purpose by the Board of International Mission as the only sending agency;” and

WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 14-2724 incorrectly restricts the mission outreach of congregations and others to give bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world; therefore be it

5 debate at the 2016 LCMS National Convention; and

6 WHEREAS, Overture 2-04 was submitted by four LCMS districts, three district boards of
7 directors, one circuit, and seventeen LCMS congregations; and

8 WHEREAS, Two other overtures (2-07, 2-09) were submitted to the 2016 LCMS Convention
9 that also requested that CCM Opinion 14-2724 also be overruled; and

10 WHEREAS, LCMS Bylaw 3.9.2.2 (c) regarding the CCM says, in part: “An opinion rendered by
11 the commission shall be binding on the question decided unless and until it is overruled by a
12 convention of the Synod. Overtures to a convention that seek to overrule an opinion of the
13 commission shall support the proposed action with substantive rationale from the Constitution,
14 Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod. All such overtures shall be considered by the floor
15 committee to which they have been assigned and shall be included in a specific report to the
16 convention with recommendations for appropriate action;” and

17 WHEREAS, No such report was given to the 2016 convention of the Synod; and

18 WHEREAS, No disposition of these overtures whatsoever is recorded in the 2016 Synod
19 convention Proceedings; therefore be it

20 *Resolved*, That Overture 2-04 as found in the LCMS 2016 National Convention Workbook be
21 submitted as an overture to the 2019 Synod convention by the adoption of this, current resolution;
22 and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the President of Synod be directed to assure that the provisions of Bylaw
24 3.9.2.2(c) are followed with respect to this resolution and any other resolution that becomes an
25 overture to the Synod asking for a CCM opinion to be overruled; and be it finally

26 *Resolved*, That also in our agreements in how we will work together in the LCMS, things “be
27 done in a fitting and orderly way” (I Corinthians 14:40).

Resolved, That the congregations of the Texas District and of The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod be encouraged, with much prayer and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to send missionaries to foreign areas;
and be it further

Resolved, That the Texas District affirms and encourages congregations, auxiliaries, recognized service organizations, districts,
and individual members of the Synod, in their efforts to give bold witness by word and deed, to the love and work of God the
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness to all the world; and be it further

Resolved, That nothing in the bylaws of Synod should ever be interpreted to limit efforts by congregations, auxiliaries, recognized
service organizations, districts, and individual members of the Synod, to give bold witness by word and deed to the love and work
of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness to all the world, but only be interpreted as requesting
information which might allow Synod to support (and to assist in connecting potential support for) congregations and individual
members, to assist in connecting potential mission partners, and to provide best practices information which could assist the
efforts; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Texas District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to adopt this resolution and to overrule CCM
Opinion 14-2724, to be thereby declared null and void and of no effect.

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Appendix

Original	Proposed
<p>BYLAWS NEW JERSEY DISTRICT THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD</p> <p>CONTENTS</p> <p>I. DISTRICT ORGANIZATION II. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION III. AMENDEMENTS TO BYLAWS IV. DISSOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT</p> <p>I. DISTRICT ORGANIZATION</p> <p>A. Name, Membership and Legal Representation</p> <p>I.01 Name and Membership The name of this organization shall be New Jersey District, as given in the Articles of Incorporation, and membership shall be as defined by the Constitution of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as printed in the most recently published handbook, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The constitution and primary by-laws of the district are the constitution and by-laws of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.</p>	<p>BYLAWS NEW JERSEY DISTRICT THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD</p> <p>CONTENTS</p> <p>I. DISTRICT ORGANIZATION II. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION III. AMENDEMENTS TO BYLAWS IV. DISSOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT</p> <p>I. DISTRICT ORGANIZATION</p> <p>A. Name, Membership and Legal Representation</p> <p>1.01 Name and Membership (CCM) The name of this organization shall be New Jersey District, as given in the Articles of Incorporation, and membership shall be as defined by the Constitution of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as printed in the most recently published handbook, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The constitution and primary by-laws of the district are the constitution and by-laws of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. <u>The Constitution of the Synod is also the constitution of the District</u></p>

I.02 Legal Representation

The President and the Secretary of the District shall sign all official or legal papers and documents of the District in the name of the District.

B. Conventions, Nominations and Elections

1. District Conventions

2.01 District Conventions

- a. The District shall meet in regular convention every three years, timed to occur in the year preceding The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod convention.
- b. The legal convention shall be one which is convened according to The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and District Bylaws, and where at least one-third of the constitutionally elected voting representatives are present.
- c. The District President shall determine the convention dates and location, designate the time for sessions and the order of business and appoint preachers, chaplains, essayists, and convention committees.
- d. The primary sources of income which are to offset the operating costs of the District convention are the congregational levy, registration fees, exhibit space rentals, and other miscellaneous receipts. The congregational levy shall be assessed on a per communicant basis, the amount of the assessment to be determined by the President. Convention costs for delegates (including lodging, meals, travel and other incidental expenses) shall be paid by each congregation which the delegates represent.

2.02 Special Sessions

In cases of urgent necessity, the District President is empowered to convene special sessions of the district. He must previously have obtained

~~The Bylaws of the Synod are primarily the bylaws of the District.~~

1.02 Legal Representation

The President and the Secretary of the District shall sign all official or legal papers and documents of the District in the name of the District.

Conventions, Nominations and Elections

1. District Conventions

2.01 District Conventions (CCM)

- a. The District shall meet in regular convention every three years, timed to occur in the year preceding The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod convention.
- b. The legal convention shall be is one which is convened according to ~~the Constitution and Bylaws of~~ The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and ~~District Bylaws~~ the Bylaws of the District, and where at least one-third of the ~~constitutionally elected voting representatives are present~~ District's voting members are represented by at least one of their respective representatives (pastor or lay delegate).
- c. The District President shall determine the convention dates and location, designate the time for sessions and the order of business and appoint preachers, chaplains, essayists, and convention committees.
- d. The primary sources of income which are to offset the operating costs of the District convention are the congregational levy, registration fees, exhibit space rentals, and other miscellaneous receipts. The congregational levy shall be assessed on a per communicant basis, the amount of the assessment to be determined by the President. Convention costs for delegates (including lodging, meals, travel and other incidental expenses) shall be paid by each congregation which the delegates represent.

consent of at least a majority of the voting congregations of the District after having informed them and the President of the Synod of the purpose of the intended special session.

2.03 Voting Delegates

- a. The pastor who is a member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is serving a voting congregation, and has presented to the Secretary at the opening of the convention the proper credentials signed by two of the congregation's officers shall stand accredited and entitled to vote. Only the administrative Pastor or an associate Pastor from each congregation shall be entitled to vote.
- b. Upon presenting to the Secretary at the opening of the convention the proper credentials signed by two of the congregation's officers, the lay delegate of a voting congregation shall stand accredited and entitled to vote.

2. Nominations

2.10 Convention Nominations Committee

- a. The Convention Nominations Committee shall consist of two ordained ministers, two commissioned ministers, and two lay persons.
- b. It shall be elected by the previous convention.
- c. It shall, before each convention, prepare slates of nominations for all elective offices except for the offices of President, Vice-Presidents and Circuit Counselors. Nominations shall always be listed in alphabetical order, without any distinctive marks.
- d. The committee shall normally propose the names of at least two pastors for the office of Secretary, at least two persons for other Board of Director positions.

2.02 Special Sessions

In cases of urgent necessity, the District President is empowered to convene special sessions of the district. He must previously have obtained the consent of at least a majority of the voting congregations of the District after having informed them and the President of the Synod of the purpose of the intended special session.

2.03 Voting Delegates (CCM)

- a. The pastor who is a member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is serving a voting congregation **or parish**, and has presented to the Secretary at the opening of the convention the proper credentials signed by two of the congregation's officers shall stand accredited and entitled to vote. Only the administrative Pastor or an associate Pastor from each congregation **or parish** shall be entitled to vote.
- b. Upon presenting to the Secretary at the opening of the convention the proper credentials signed by two of the congregation's officers, the lay delegate of a voting congregation **or parish** shall stand accredited and entitled to vote.

2. Nominations

2.10 Convention Nominations Committee (CCM)

- a. The Convention Nominations Committee shall consist of two ordained ministers, two commissioned ministers, and two lay persons.
- b. It shall be elected by the previous convention.
- c. It shall, before each convention, prepare slates of nominations for all elective offices except for the offices of President, Vice-President, **regional (circuit) Board of Directors members** and Circuit **Counselors Visitors**. Nominations shall always be listed in alphabetical order without any distinctive marks.
- d. The committee shall normally propose the names of at least two pastors for the office of Secretary, at least two persons for **other at large** Board of Director positions.
- e. The committee shall obtain written consent from each nominee. It shall also solicit

<p>e. The committee shall obtain written consent from each nominee. It shall also solicit biographical information from respective nominees and publish same in the <i>Convention Workbook</i>.</p> <p>f. Additional nominations may always be made from the convention floor with the written consent of the nominee.</p> <p>3. Nomination of District President and Vice Presidents</p> <p>2.20 Nomination of the District President</p> <p>a. Six months prior to the opening of the convention, the Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of the District ballots for nominating this candidate.</p> <p>b. Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate as a candidate for President, one ordained minister from the clergy roster of the Synod.</p> <p>c. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by the president and secretary of the voting congregation and shall be sent to the Secretary of the District not later than 4 months prior to the opening date of the convention.</p> <p>d. The five clergymen receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating ballots of the congregations shall be candidates for the Office of President.</p> <p>e. The Secretary of the District shall publish in the <i>Convention Workbook</i> the names and the number of votes received on the nominating ballot of the five candidates receiving the highest number of nominations and who have given written approval to place their names in nomination and, if applicable, have consented to relocate into the District. The Secretary shall solicit and publish pertinent and adequate information from each of the candidates.</p> <p>2.21 Nomination of the Vice-Presidents</p> <p>a. Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate two ordained ministers from the clergy roster of the Synod.</p>	<p>biographical information from respective nominees and publish same in the <i>Convention Workbook</i>.</p> <p>f. Additional nominations may always be made from the convention floor with the written consent of the nominee.</p> <p>3. Nomination of District President and Vice Presidents</p> <p>2.20 Nomination of the District President (NJD)</p> <p>a. Six months prior to the opening of the convention, the Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of the District ballots for nominating this candidate.</p> <p>b. Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate as a candidate for President, one two ordained ministers from the clergy roster of the Synod.</p> <p>c. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by the president and secretary of the voting congregation and shall be sent to the Secretary of the District not later than 4 months prior to the opening date of the convention.</p> <p>d. The five clergymen receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating ballots of the congregations shall be candidates for the Office of President.</p> <p>e. The Secretary of the District shall publish in the <i>Convention Workbook</i> the names and the number of votes received on the nominating ballot of the five candidates receiving the highest number of nominations and who have given written approval to place their names in nomination and, if applicable, have consented to relocate into the District. The Secretary shall solicit and publish pertinent and adequate information from each of the candidates.</p> <p>2.21 Nomination of the Vice-Presidents (CCM)</p> <p>a. Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate two ordained ministers from the clergy roster of the Synod District with residence in the designated region.</p>
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- b. The Secretary of the District, six months prior to the convention shall mail to each voting congregation of the District a ballot listing those clergymen who currently reside in their vice presidential area.
- c. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by the president and secretary of the congregation and shall be sent to the Secretary of the district not later than 4 months prior to the opening date of the convention.
- d. The Secretary of the District shall publish in the *Convention Workbook* the names and the number of votes received on the nominating ballot by the two candidates nominated by congregations in each area receiving the highest number of nominations and who have given written approval to place their names in nomination and, if applicable, have consented to relocate into the vice presidential area. The Secretary shall solicit and publish pertinent and adequate information from each of the candidates.

4. Elections

2.30 Elections Committee

- a. All elections shall be conducted by the Convention Elections Committee appointed by the District President from among the convention delegates.
- b. The Convention Elections Committee shall conduct all elections by printed ballots.
- c. A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and elective board positions.
- d. In the election of the President, if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the **fewest** number of votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
- e. Except in the election of the President, the following regulations shall apply: Candidates

- b. The Secretary of the District, six months prior to the convention shall mail to each voting congregation of the District a ballot listing those clergymen who currently reside in their vice presidential **area region**.
- c. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by the president and secretary of the congregation and shall be sent to the Secretary of the district not later than 4 months prior to the opening date of the convention.
- d. The Secretary of the District shall publish in the *Convention Workbook* the names and the number of votes received on the nominating ballot by the two candidates nominated by congregations in each **area region** receiving the highest number of nominations and who have given written approval to place their names in nomination ~~and, if applicable, have consented to relocate into the vice presidential area.~~ The Secretary shall solicit and publish pertinent and adequate information from each of the candidates.

4. Elections

2.30 Elections Committee (NJD) (CCM)

- a. All elections shall be conducted by the Convention Elections Committee appointed by the District President from among the convention delegates.
- b. The Convention Elections Committee shall conduct all elections by **printed** ballots.
- c. A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and elective board positions.
- d. In the election of the President, **vice president and regional board members**, if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the **fewest** number of votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
- e. Except in the election of the President, **vice presidents, and regional board members**, the following regulations shall apply: Candidates

receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15% of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15% or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot. In every election balloting shall continue until every position has been filled by majority vote.

2.31 Order of Elections

- a. At all conventions, the following order of elections shall be observed:
 1. The election of the District President, which shall take place on the first day of the convention.
 2. A Vice-President from each area shall then be elected by the entire convention, followed by separate ballots to determine the ranking of the Vice Presidents.
 3. The District Secretary
 4. The District Treasurer
 5. The slate of Circuit Counselors which has been presented in accordance with the most recently published *Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*, shall then be ratified by the entire convention.
- b. At one convention shall follow:
 1. Board of Directors – one Commissioned Minister
 2. Board of Directors – two Clergy at Large
 3. Board of Directors – Lay Members from Circuit numbers 1, 3, 5
- c. At the alternating convention shall follow:
 1. Board of Directors – Lay Members from circuit numbers 2, 4, 6
- d. Then shall follow at all conventions:
 1. Christian Heritage Endowment Fund Board of Trustees – all members.

receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15% of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15% or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot. In every election balloting shall continue until every position has been filled by majority vote.

2.31 Order of Elections (CCM)

- a. At all conventions, the following order of elections shall be observed:
 1. The election of the District President, which shall take place on the first day of the convention.
 2. A Vice-President from each area region shall then be elected by the entire convention, followed by separate ballots to determine the ranking of the Vice Presidents.
 3. The District Secretary
 4. The District Treasurer
 5. The slate of Circuit Counselors Visitors which has been presented in accordance with the most recently published *Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod* shall then be ratified by the entire convention.
- b. At one convention shall follow:
 1. Board of Directors – one Commissioned Minister
 2. Board of Directors – two Clergy at Large
 3. Board of Directors – Lay Members from Circuit numbers 1, 3, 5
- c. At the alternating convention shall follow:
 1. Board of Directors – Lay Members from circuit numbers 2, 4, 6
- d. Then shall follow at all conventions:
 1. Christian Heritage Endowment Fund Board of Trustees – all members.

2. A member of the Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations as needed (as printed in the most recently published *Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*).

3. Nominations committee for the next District convention.

C. Conferences of the District

2.40 Official Conferences of Ordained and Commissioned Ministers

The official conferences of ordained and commissioned ministers shall be those required in the most recently published *Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*.

2.41 Circuit Conferences

Circuit conferences of ordained ministers shall be convened regularly as required in the most recently published *Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*. Commissioned ministers may be invited to Circuit conferences.

II. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

A. OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT

3.01 General Officers

a. The following officers shall be elected from the clergy roster of the Synod: a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Circuit Counselor for each Circuit established by the District.

b. The District shall have a Treasurer who shall be a lay person and shall be elected by the District Convention.

a. One qualified person from each of the three District vice-presidential regions and three lay persons at large.

b. Term of office for Trustees shall be three years. Trustees may be re-elected to any number of consecutive terms.

2. A member of the Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations as needed (as printed in the most recently published *Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*).

3. Nominations committee for the next District convention.

C. Conferences of the District

2.40 Official Conferences of Ordained and Commissioned Ministers

The official conferences of ordained and commissioned ministers shall be those required in the most recently published *Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*.

2.41 Circuit Conferences

Circuit conferences of ordained ministers shall be convened regularly as required in the most recently published *Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*. Commissioned ministers may be invited to Circuit conferences.

II. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

A. OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT

3.01 General Officers (CCM)

a. The President shall be elected from the clergy roster of the Synod. The following officers shall be elected from the clergy roster of the Synod District: a—President, three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Circuit Counselor Visitor for each Circuit established by the District.

b. The District shall have a Treasurer who shall be a lay person and shall be elected by the District Convention.

I. DISTRICT PRESIDENT

3.10 Powers and Duties of the District President as Representative of Synod

The powers and duties of the District President as a representative of the Synod in this District are explained in the most recently published *Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*.

3.11 Power and Duties Of The District President Within the District

- a. The President is the chief executive officer of the District. He shall carry out his administrative responsibilities with reference to operation of the District through the Board of Directors.
- b. As he deems appropriate, he shall consult with the Vice-Presidents whenever important and difficult District and other issues arise.
- c. He shall be responsible for carrying out policies as determined by the Board of Directors.
- d. He shall meet at least twice each year with the Circuit Counselors as a group to brief them on the progress of District ministries and to seek their advice and guidance on emerging problems and opportunities.
- e. He shall preach regularly in the pulpits of District congregations, bringing news of the ways Synod and District support their work and do ministry in their behalf.
- f. He shall have the right to authorize the Vice-Presidents to perform the duties of his office and shall hold them responsible for their performances. Accountability, however, shall always remain with the President.
- g. He shall perform any other duties that are listed in the Synod Bylaw section 4.4

3.12 Advisory and Executive Functions of the District President

- a. The President shall give counsel and advice to those under his supervision.
- b. He shall exercise executive power when the affairs of the District demand it or when he has

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3.11 Power and Duties Of The District President Within the District (CCM)

- a. The President is the chief executive officer of the District. He shall carry out his administrative responsibilities with reference to operation of the District through the Board of Directors.
- b. As he deems appropriate, he shall consult with the Vice-Presidents when ever important and difficult District and other issues arise.
- c. He shall be responsible for carrying out policies as determined by the Board of Directors.
- d. He shall meet at least twice each year with the Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors as a group to brief them on the progress of District ministries and to seek their advice and guidance on emerging problems and opportunities.
- e. He shall preach regularly in the pulpits of District congregations, bringing news of the ways Synod and District support their work and do ministry in their behalf.
- f. He shall have the right to authorize the Vice-Presidents to ~~perform the duties of his office~~ assist him in discharging his responsibilities or represent him, and shall hold them responsible for their performance. Accountability, however, shall always remain with the President.
- g. He shall perform any other duties that are listed in the Synod Constitution Article XII and Bylaw section 4.4.

3.12 Advisory and Executive Functions of the District President

- been expressly invested with such power for such specific purpose by the Board of Directors.
- c. He shall be responsible for carrying out policies as determined by the Board of Directors.
 - d. He shall make an official report to the District at each convention.
 - e. He shall approve the manuscript of the Convention Proceedings before publication.
 - f. He may sign, with the Secretary of the District or any other proper officer of the District thereunto authorized by the Board of Directors of the District, certificates, deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments which the Board of Directors or District in convention has authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors of the District or by these Bylaws to some other officer or agent of the District or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed.

3.13 Appointments by the District President

The District President shall appoint the following after each District Convention:

- a. Archivist
- b. Editor of the *Grapevine*
- c. Board of Governors for Leaders and Learners in Faith.
- d. Congregation Constitution Committee

3.14 The District President as Full-Time or Part-Time Executive

The District President shall be a full-time or part-time executive. He may concurrently serve in another call to a congregation or calling agency of District or Synod, at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey District, , provided such service does not interfere with his official duties as District President.

3.15 When the District President is Unable to Serve

Whenever the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve because of

- a. The President shall give counsel and advice to those under his supervision.
- b. He shall exercise executive power when the affairs of the District demand it **or** when he has been expressly invested with such power for such specific purpose by the Board of Directors.
- c. He shall be responsible for carrying out policies as determined by the Board of Directors.
- d. He shall make an official report to the District at each convention.
- e. He shall approve the manuscript of the Convention Proceedings before publication.
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The District President shall be a full-time or part-time executive. He may concurrently serve in another call to a congregation or calling agency of District or Synod, at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey District, provided such service does not interfere with his official duties as District President.

prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of the District President shall be assumed by the First Vice-President. The First Vice-President shall remain as the acting President until the Board of Directors determines that such illness or disability has ceased, or until the President officially vacates the office.

2. THE VICE PRESIDENTS

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 Circuits
 2. Region #2 – Newark/Elizabeth and Delaware Valley North Circuits
 3. Region #3 – Delaware Valley South and Raritan Valley Circuits
- b. The Vice-Presidents shall upon request of the President represent him in all his functions, and discharge other responsibilities as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.
- c. They shall be voting members of the Board of Directors.
- d. They shall represent their areas in all District matters.

3.22 Vacancies

A vacancy in any vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the lower-ranking Vice-Presidents. The remaining vacancy shall be filled from the nominees left after the previous election. The one who received the next highest number of votes shall be named Third Vice-President.

3. THE SECRETARY

3.30 Duties of the Secretary

The Secretary shall:

3.15 When the District President is Unable to Serve

Whenever the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve because of prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of the District President shall be assumed by the First Vice-President. The First Vice-President shall remain as the acting President until the Board of Directors determines that such illness or disability has ceased, or until the President officially vacates the office.

2. THE VICE PRESIDENTS

3.20 Number of and Duties of the Vice President (CCM) (NJD)

- a. There shall be three Vice – Presidents representing these areas regions:
 1. Region #1 – Hudson North and Paterson Passaic River Circuits
 2. Region #2 – Newark/Elizabeth Highland and Delaware Valley North Central Jersey Circuits
 3. Region #3 – Delaware Valley South Jersey and Raritan Valley Circuits
- b. The Vice-Presidents shall upon request of the President represent him in all his functions, and discharge other responsibilities as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.
- c. They shall be voting members of the Board of Directors.
- d. They shall represent their areas regions in all District matters.

3.21 Vacancies (CCM)

A vacancy in any vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the lower-ranking Vice-Presidents. The remaining vacancy shall be filled from the nominees from that region left after the previous election. The one from that region

- a. perform all the customary duties as corporation secretary and as such shall sign all duly authorized documents of the District and have custody of the corporate seal;
- b. serve as a member and secretary of the Board of Directors;
- c. serve as a consultant to the District convention committee;
- d. provide credential forms for each lay delegate to the District convention;
- e. record the proceedings during the District convention;
- f. publish the *Convention Proceedings* and arrange for their distribution to all voting and advisory delegates, and to such others as may be specified by the Board of Directors;
- g. see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws or as required by law;
- h. perform such other duties as the District in convention or the President of the District or the Board of Directors may assign to him.
- i. Serve as Correspondence Secretary for all Board communications.

3.31 Vacancy & Absence

- a. In the event of the death, resignation, or permanent incapacity of the Secretary, the Board of Directors shall appoint a successor for the expired term from the clergy roster.
- b. The District President may appoint an Assistant Secretary to serve in the absence or unavailability of the Secretary. The Assistant Secretary shall have the same power and duties of the Secretary.

4. THE TREASURER

3.40 Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall

- a. be the custodian of all moneys and valuable papers of the District;
- b. Be responsible that an exact record of all moneys received and expended by the District is kept.

who received the next highest number of votes shall be named Third Vice-President.

3. THE SECRETARY

3.30 Duties of the Secretary

The Secretary shall:

- a. perform all the customary duties as corporation secretary and as such shall sign all duly authorized documents of the District and have custody of the corporate seal;
- b. serve as a member and secretary of the Board of Directors;
- c. serve as a consultant to the District convention committee;
- d. provide credential forms for each lay delegate to the District convention;
- e. record the proceedings during the District convention;
- f. publish the *Convention Proceedings* and arrange for their distribution to all voting and advisory delegates, and to such others as may be specified by the Board of Directors;
- g. see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws or as required by law;
- h. perform such other duties as the District in convention or the President of the District or the Board of Directors may assign to him.
- i. Serve as Correspondence Secretary for all Board communications.

3.31 Vacancy & Absence (CCM)

- a. In the event of the death, resignation, or permanent incapacity of the Secretary, the Board of Directors shall appoint a successor for the expired term from the clergy roster of the District.
- b. The District President may appoint an Assistant Secretary to serve in the absence or unavailability of the Secretary. The Assistant Secretary shall have the same power and duties of the Secretary.

4. THE TREASURER

- c. administer the District's financial affairs according to its instructions;
- d. submit at any time to an examination of the books and accounts by an auditing committee when so ordered by the District in convention or by the Board of Directors;
- e. submit monthly and annual financial reports to the Board of Directors;
- f. report regularly to the District through the official periodical and at every convention of the District.

3.41 Vacancy

In the event of the death, resignation, or permanent incapacity of the Treasurer, the Board of directors shall appoint a successor for the unexpired term.

B. THE CIRCUIT COUNSELORS

4.01 Duties of the Circuit Counselors

- a. The duties of the Circuit Counselors shall be those outlined in the most recently published *Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*.
- b. In addition, the Circuit Counselors shall represent the District President and Serve at his direction in assisting congregations during pastoral vacancies.

C. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5.01 Membership

3.40 Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall

- a. be the custodian of all moneys and valuable papers of the District;
- b. Be responsible that an exact record of all moneys received and expended by the District is kept.
- c. administer the District's financial affairs according to its instructions;
- d. submit at any time to an examination of the books and accounts by an auditing committee when so ordered by the District in convention or by the Board of Directors;
- e. submit monthly and annual financial reports to the Board of Directors;
- f. report regularly to the District through the official periodical and at every convention of the District.

3.41 Vacancy

In the event of the death, resignation, or permanent incapacity of the Treasurer, the Board of directors shall appoint a successor for the unexpired term.

B. THE CIRCUIT COUNSELORS VISITORS (CCM)

4.01 Duties of the Circuit Counselors Visitors

- a. The duties of the Circuit Counselors Visitors shall be those outlined in the most recently published *Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*.
- b. In addition, the Circuit Counselors Visitors shall represent the District President and Serve at his direction in assisting congregations during pastoral vacancies.

C. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall be elected by a convention of the District. The board shall consist of the District President, the three Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, two clergy-at-large, one commissioned minister, and six lay persons representing their respective Circuits.

5.02 Meetings of the Board of Directors

- a. At its reorganization meeting each year, the Board of Directors shall establish a meeting schedule. Said schedule may be amended by the Board during the course of the year to reflect work load, the convenience of Board members regarding attendance difficulties, and/or conflicts with other events, or for good cause.
- b. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at the request of the District President, the Chairman of the Board, or any four board members. The person or persons calling the special meeting of the board may fix any site, including the use of telephone conference, for said special meeting. Notice of any special meeting shall be given at least seven days prior to the meeting by notice delivered personally or sent to each board member by mail, fax, e-mail or telephone. The business to be transacted at any special meeting of the board shall be specified in the notice of such meeting and the meeting shall be limited to the business so specified.

5.03 General Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors

- a. The Board of Directors shall have all the powers and duties which have been Accorded it by the laws of the State of New Jersey, the Articles of Incorporation of the District, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and the District, and the resolutions of the delegate conventions of the District.
- b. The Board of Directors shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business and legal affairs.

5.01 Membership

The Board of Directors shall be elected by a convention of the District. The board shall consist of the District President, the three Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, two clergy-at-large, one commissioned minister, and six lay persons representing their respective Circuits.

5.02 Meetings of the Board of Directors (NJ) (CCM)

- a. At its reorganization meeting each year, the Board of Directors shall establish a meeting schedule. Said schedule may be amended by the Board during the course of the year to reflect work load, the convenience of Board members regarding attendance difficulties, and/or conflicts with other events, or for good cause.
- b. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at the request of the District President, the Chairman of the Board, or any four board members. The person or persons calling the special meeting of the board may fix any site, including the use of telephone conference, for said special meeting. Notice of any special meeting shall be given at least seven days prior to the meeting by notice delivered personally or sent to each board member by mail, fax, e-mail or telephone. The business to be transacted at any special meeting of the board shall be specified in the notice of such meeting and the meeting shall be limited to the business so specified.
- 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 order for this to occur, the Board must take into consideration fostering the open exchange of ideas, availability of technology to all members, stewardship of resources, the perception of fairness, controversial nature of agenda items, and whether secret ballots might be used. This meeting shall take place in the following manner.

- c. The Board shall determine the desired outcomes of the District.
 - d. The Board of Directors shall establish policies for the governance of the District.
 - e. The Board of Directors shall determine the salary and compensation of the District President.
 - f. The Board of Directors shall provide for the coordination of the policies and directives of the district authorized by the Constitution, Bylaws and convention resolutions, evaluate plans and policies, and define objectives of the District. The board shall communicate to the District President the general directives for obtaining these objectives.
 - g. The Board of Directors shall be accountable to the delegate convention of the District for the discharge of its duties.
- 5.04 Duties of the Board of Directors in Planning**
- a. The Board of Directors shall review plans and policies which the councils (cf. Section C) intend to submit to a delegate convention of the District and shall notify the respective councils whether it approves or disapproves such proposed plans and policies. In the event that the Board of Directors and a council cannot resolve their differences, the council may nevertheless submit its plan or policy to the delegate convention of the District, provided that the Board of Directors shall also be privileged to report to the convention its views with respect to such plans or policy.
- 5.05 Duties of the Board of Directors with Respect to District Personnel**
- a. The Board of Directors shall be empowered to contract for services and counsel by qualified personnel from other Districts or from the Synod for the purpose of giving aid and assistance to the District, its Board of Directors, and its various councils, commissions and agencies for the purpose of carrying out the program and objectives of the District.

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 the 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 that 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.
- 5.03 General Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors**
- a. The Board of Directors shall have all the powers and duties which have been accorded by the laws of the State of New Jersey, the Articles of Incorporation of the District, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and the District, and the resolutions of the delegate conventions of the District.
 - b. The Board of Directors shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business and legal affairs.

- b. The Board of Directors shall review and approve plans to call ordained and commissioned ministers for specific work within the District.

5.06 Fiscal Duties and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

- a. The Board of Directors shall receive, review, and approve the work program of the President of the District.
- b. The Board of Directors is empowered to authorize the District 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 acquisitions and for construction projects deemed necessary by the Board of Directors or authorized by the District in convention.
- c. The Board of Directors is empowered to do all things necessary to effect such Capital Fund borrowing, if and when required, including the pledging of real and other property belonging to the District, in order to secure loans to obtain necessary funds.

5.07 Property Duties of the Board of Directors

- a. The Board of Directors shall have charge of the District's real and personal property and shall hold, manage, and arrange for the care and maintenance of such property.
- b. The Board of Directors shall authorize the purchase, sale, transfer or repair of property in accordance with the regulations of the District.

5.08 Other Duties of the Board of Directors

- a. The Board of Directors shall report on the work and the needs of the District In official publications of the District as often as it may deem necessary, but at least annually. Official minutes of the Board of Directors shall be made available at the office or residence of the Secretary by appointment to any District member (congregations, ministers of religion –

- c. The Board shall determine the desired outcome of the District.
- d. The Board of Directors shall establish policies for the governance of the District.
- e. The Board of Directors shall determine the salary and compensation of the District President.
- f. The Board of Directors shall provide for the coordination of the policies and directives of the district authorized by the Constitution, Bylaws and convention resolutions, evaluate plans and policies, and define objectives of the District. The board shall communicate to the District President the general directives for obtaining these objectives.
- g. The Board of Directors shall be accountable to the delegate convention of the District for the discharge of its duties.

5.04 Duties of the Board of Directors in Planning

- a. The Board of Directors shall review plans and policies which the councils (cf. Section C) intend to submit to a delegate convention of the District and shall notify the respective council whether it approves or disapproves such proposed plans and policies. In the event that the Board of Directors and a council cannot resolve their differences, the council may nevertheless submit its plan or policy to the delegate convention of the District, provided that the Board of Directors shall also be privileged to report to the convention its views with respect to such plans or policy.

5.05 Duties of the Board of Directors with Respect to District Personnel

- a. The Board of Directors shall be empowered to contract for services and counsel by qualified personnel from other Districts or from the Synod for the purpose of giving aid and assistance to the District, its Board of Directors and its various councils, commissions and agencies for the purpose of carrying out the program and objectives of the District.

- ordained and ministers of religion – commissioned).
- b. The Board shall submit to the District in convention a comprehensive report with appropriate recommendations.
 - c. The Board of Directors shall arrange for the publication and distribution of Financial reports according to District regulations.
 - d. The Board of Directors shall provide for audits to be made of the financial activities of the District.
 - e. The Board of Directors shall be authorized to engage legal counsel and to arrange for other professional and technical services for guidance and advice for itself, its officers, and the councils responsible to the board.
 - f. The Board of Directors shall be authorized to draw on the treasury of the District for its expenses.
 - g. The Board of Directors may appoint committees of the Board and define their duties.

5.09 Indemnification of Corporate Agents

- a. The New Jersey District shall indemnify a corporate agent of the District against expenses and liabilities incurred in connection with any proceeding involving the corporate agent by reason of being or having been such a corporate agent, if a proceeding by or in the rights of the corporation, if
 1. such corporate agent acted in good faith and in a manner the agent reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation; and
 2. with respect to any criminal proceeding, such corporate agent had no reasonable cause to believe the agent's conduct was unlawful.
- b. The termination of any proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not of itself create a presumption that such corporate agent did not meet the applicable standards of conduct set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) above.

- b. The Board of Directors shall review and approve plans to call ordained and commissioned ministers for specific work within the District.

Fiscal Duties and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

- a. The Board of Directors shall receive, review and approve the work program of the President of the District.
- b. The Board of Directors is empowered to authorize the District 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 acquisitions and for construction projects deemed necessary by the Board of Directors or authorized by the District in convention.
- c. The Board of Directors is empowered to do all things necessary to effect such Capital Fund borrowing, if and when required, including the pledging of real and other property belonging to the District, in order to secure loans to obtain necessary funds.

Property Duties of the Board of Directors

- a. The Board of Directors shall have charge of the District's real and personal property and shall hold, manage, and arrange for the care and maintenance of such property.
- b. The Board of Directors shall authorize the purchase, sale, transfer or repair of property in accordance with the regulations of the District.

Other Duties of the Board of Directors

- a. The Board of Directors shall report on the work and the needs of the District in official publications of the District as often as it may deem necessary, but at least annually. Official minutes of the Board of Directors shall be made available at the office or residence of the Secretary by appointment to any District member (congregations, ministers of religion

- c. The New Jersey District shall indemnify a corporate agent of the District against expenses incurred in connection with any proceeding by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor which involves the corporate agent by reason of being or having been such corporate agent, if such agent acted in good faith and in a manner the agent reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation. However, in such proceeding no indemnification shall be provided in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such corporate agent shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation for negligence or misconduct, unless and only to the extent that the Superior Court or the court in which such proceeding as brought shall determine upon application that despite the adjudication of liability, but in view of all circumstance of the case, such corporate agent is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as the Superior court or such other court shall deem proper.
- d. Expenses incurred by a corporate agent in connection with a proceeding may be paid by the corporation in advance of the final disposition of the proceeding as authorized by the Board of Directors upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the corporate agent to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that such agent is not entitled to be indemnified as provided in this section.
- e. The definition and meaning of all terms and provisions used herein shall be construed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 14A:3-5, as may be amended by the State of New Jersey.
- f. The powers granted by N.J.S.A., 14A:3-5 may be exercised by the corporation Notwithstanding the absence of any provision in its certificate of incorporation or bylaws authorizing the exercise of such powers. The intent of these bylaws is to provide the fullest indemnification as provided by law.
- g. This indemnification shall be excess and secondary to any insurance available for

ordained and ministers of religion commissioned).

- b. The Board shall submit to the District in convention a comprehensive report with appropriate recommendations.
- c. The Board of Directors shall arrange for the publication and distribution of Financial reports according to District regulations.
- d. The Board of Directors shall provide for audits to be made of the financial activities of the District.
- e. The Board of Directors shall be authorized to engage legal counsel and to arrange for other professional and technical services for guidance and advice for itself, its officers, and the councils responsible to the board.
- f. The Board of Directors shall be authorized to draw on the treasury of the District for its expenses.
- g. The Board of Directors may appoint committees of the Board and define their duties

Indemnification of Corporate Agents

- a. The New Jersey District shall indemnify a corporate agent of the District against expenses and liabilities incurred in connection with any proceeding involving the corporate agent by reason of being or having been such a corporate agent, if a proceeding by or in the rights of the corporation, if
 1. such corporate agent acted in good faith and in a manner the agent reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation; and
 2. with respect to any criminal proceeding such corporate agent had no reasonable cause to believe the agent's conduct was unlawful.
- b. The termination of any proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not of itself create a presumption that such corporate agent did not meet the applicable standards of conduct set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) above.

<p>indemnification of judgments, settlements, or defense costs, and also excess and secondary to any indemnification available from all other sources.</p> <p>5.10 Full Financial Disclosure As an entity of the Synod, the District operates according to the most recently published <i>Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod</i>. The Board of Directors of the District will make available a full financial report to the congregations of the District on an annual basis.</p> <p>5.11 Terms of Office and Tenure of Board Members</p> <p>a. Terms of office shall be as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Elected officers – three years.2. Elected members of the Board of Directors – six years, staggered as provided above in 2.31.b and c.3. There is no limitation of terms for any officer or Board member. <p>5.12 Vacancies Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws or in the bylaws of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, vacancies to elected positions will be filled by the Board of Directors. Appointment to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired term.</p> <p>5.13 Disclosure of Conflict of Interest As an entity of the Synod, the District operates according to the most recently published <i>Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod</i>.</p> <p>5.14 Holding More Than One Office As an entity of the Synod, the District operates according to the most recently published <i>Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod</i>.</p>	
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	<p>c. The New Jersey District shall indemnify corporate agent of the District against expenses incurred in connection with any proceeding brought or in the right of the corporation to procure judgment in its favor which involves the corporate agent by reason of being or having been such corporate agent, if such agent acted in good faith and in a manner the agent reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation. However, in such proceeding no indemnification shall be provided in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such corporate agent shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation for negligence or misconduct, unless and only to the extent that the Superior Court or the court in which such proceeding as brought shall determine upon application that despite the adjudication of liability, but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such corporate agent is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as the Superior court or such other court shall deem proper.</p> <p>d. Expenses incurred by a corporate agent in connection with a proceeding may be paid by the corporation in advance of the final disposition of the proceeding as authorized by the Board of Directors upon receipt of a undertaking by or on behalf of the corporate agent to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that such agent is not entitled to be indemnified as provided in this section.</p> <p>e. The definition and meaning of all terms and provisions used herein shall be construed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 14A:3-5, as may be amended by the State of New Jersey.</p> <p>f. The powers granted by N.J.S.A., 14A:3-5 may be exercised by the corporation notwithstanding the absence of any provision in its certificate of incorporation or bylaws authorizing the exercise of such powers. The intent of these bylaws is to provide the fullest indemnification as provided by law.</p> <p>g. This indemnification shall be excess and secondary to any insurance available for</p>
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COUNCILS OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

6.01 Names and Appointment

a. There shall be four councils:

1. Congregation Growth Council

indemnification of judgments, settlements, defense costs, and also excess and secondary to any indemnification available from all other sources.

Full Financial Disclosure

As an entity of the Synod, the District operates according to the most recently published *Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*. The Board of Directors of the District will make available a full financial report to the congregations of the District on an annual basis.

Terms of Office and Tenure of Board Members

a. Terms of office shall be as follows;

1. Elected officers – three years.

2. Elected members of the Board of Directors – six years, staggered as provided above in 2.31.b and c.

3. There is no limitation of terms for an officer or Board member.

Vacancies

Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws or in the bylaws of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, vacancies to elected positions will be filled by the Board of Directors. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired term.

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest (CCM)

As an **entity agency** of the Synod, the District operates according to the most recently published *Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*.

Holding More Than One Office (CCM)

As an **entity agency** of the Synod, the District operates according to the most recently published *Handbook of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*.

COUNCILS OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Names and Appointment

a. There shall be four councils:

<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Congregation Outreach Council3. Congregation Services Council4. District Operations Council <p>b. Council members shall be appointed in the manner specified under each Council. Council membership will expire upon the close of each District Convention. New Councils will be formed following each District Convention.</p> <p>1. CONGREGATION GROWTH COUNCIL</p> <p>6.10 Purpose of the Congregation Growth Council</p> <p>a. The Congregation Growth Council is to address the Goal Question: How can we motivate, encourage and support each congregation to <i>identify its growth-restricting factors and to implement a growth plan?</i></p> <p>b. The Congregation Growth Council is a pastoral care arm of the District President. It will meet regularly to pray for the congregations of the District and to devise a plan to encourage and involve each congregation of the District toward growth.</p> <p>6.11 Membership in the Congregation Growth Council</p> <p>a. The Congregation Growth council shall consist of the District President, the District Vice-Presidents, and the Circuit counselors, all of whom are elected by the District in convention.</p> <p>b. The District President will appoint additional council members as needed.</p> <p>2. CONGREGATION OUTREACH COUNCIL</p> <p>6.20 Purpose of the Congregation Outreach Council</p> <p>a. The Congregation Outreach Council is to address the Goal Question: <i>How can we</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Congregation Growth Council2. Congregation Outreach Council3. Congregation Services Council4. District Operations Council <p>b. Council members shall be appointed in the manner specified under each Council. Council membership will expire upon the close of each District Convention. New Councils will be formed following each District Convention.</p> <p>1. CONGREGATION GROWTH COUNCIL</p> <p>6.10 Purpose of the Congregation Growth Council</p> <p>a. The Congregation Growth Council is to address the Goal Question: How can we motivate, encourage and support each congregation to <i>identify its growth-restricting factors and to implement a growth plan?</i></p> <p>b. The Congregation Growth Council is a pastoral care arm of the District President. It will meet regularly to pray for the congregations of the District and to devise a plan to encourage and involve each congregation of the District toward growth.</p> <p>6.11 Membership in the Congregation Growth Council (CCM)</p> <p>a. The Congregation Growth council shall consist of the District President, the District Vice-Presidents, and the Circuit counselors Visitors, all of whom are elected by the District in convention.</p> <p>b. The District President will appoint additional council members as needed.</p> <p>2. CONGREGATION OUTREACH COUNCIL</p> <p>6.20 Purpose of the Congregation Outreach Council</p> <p>a. The Congregation Outreach Council is to address the Goal Question: <i>How can we</i></p>
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continue to recruit and work with motivated individuals, congregations and partnerships so as to plant as many new missions as possible each year in the most effective manner possible?

b. The Congregation Outreach Council will meet regularly to plan and implement mission strategies which, as a primary consideration, involve participation by existing congregations of the District. When necessary, it may enter a mission field or strategy without the direct involvement of (a) District congregation (s).

6.21 Membership in the Congregation Outreach Council

The Congregation Outreach Council shall consist of ten members appointed by the District President. Appropriate District Staff as determined by the District President shall be Council members.

3. CONGREGATION SERVICES COUNCIL

6.30 Purpose of the Congregation Services Council

a. The Congregation Services Council is to address the Goal Question: *How can we continue to research, catalog, store and make available resources and programs, and assist any motivated congregation in executing its action plan?*

b. The Congregation Services Council shall give particular attention to the areas of Adult Ministry, Child Ministry, Evangelism Ministry, Family Ministry, Leadership Development Ministry, School Ministry, Stewardship Ministry and Youth Ministry.

1. Concerning Stewardship Ministry, the Congregational Services Council will cooperate with the Synod's Department of Stewardship to implement an adequate stewardship program at the congregational and District level as mandated by Synod Bylaw section 4.6.

c. Whenever possible, the Congregation Services Council shall encourage congregations of the

continue to recruit and work with motivated individuals, congregations and partnerships so as to plant as many new missions as possible each year in the most effective manner possible?

b. The Congregation Outreach Council will meet regularly to plan and implement mission strategies which, as a primary consideration, involve participation by existing congregations of the District. When necessary, it may enter a mission field or strategy without the direct involvement of (a) District congregation(s).

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1. Concerning Stewardship Ministry, the Congregational Services Council will cooperate with the Synod's Department of Stewardship to implement an adequate stewardship program at the congregational and District level as mandated by Synod Bylaw section 4.6.

c. Whenever possible, the Congregation Services Council shall encourage congregations of the

<p>District to make available their programs and ministries as resources for other District congregations.</p> <p>6.31 Membership in the Congregation Services Council</p> <p>The Congregation Services council shall consist of ten members appointed by the District President. Appropriate District Staff shall be Council members.</p> <p>4. DISTRICT OPERATIONS COUNCIL</p> <p>6.40 Purpose of the District Operations Council</p> <p>a. The District Operations Council shall address the Goal Question: How can we assess and re-evaluate District and Synod needs and identify financial and personnel resources to meet those needs?</p> <p>b. As it addresses its Goal Question, it may address such tasks as</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. promoting the mission of Synod and District among District congregations;2. identifying alternate sources of funding for District and congregation mission projects;3. encouraging the “mission thinking” of congregations. <p>6.40.1 Membership in the District Operations Council</p> <p>The District Operations Council shall consist of six members. Two members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors upon nomination by the District President. The Business Manager, Treasurer, LCEF Vice President, and The District Stewardship Chairperson shall be members of the Council.</p> <p>E. THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE ENDOWMENT FUND</p> <p>7.01 Purpose of the Christian Heritage Endowment Fund</p>	<p>District to make available their programs and ministries as resources for other District congregations.</p> <p>6.31 Membership in the Congregation Services Council</p> <p>The Congregation Services council shall consist of ten members appointed by the District President. Appropriate District Staff shall be Council members.</p> <p>4. DISTRICT OPERATIONS COUNCIL</p> <p>6.40 Purpose of the District Operations Council</p> <p>a. The District Operations Council shall address the Goal Question: <i>How can we assess and re-evaluate District and Synod needs and identify financial and personnel resources to meet those needs?</i></p> <p>b. As it addresses its Goal Question, it may address such tasks as</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. promoting the mission of Synod and District among District congregations;2. identifying alternate sources of funding for District and congregation mission projects;3. encouraging the “mission thinking” of congregations. <p>6.41 Membership in the District Operations Council</p> <p>The District Operations Council shall consist of six members. Two members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors upon nomination by the District President. The Business Manager, Treasurer, LCEF Vice President, and The District Stewardship Chairperson shall be members of the Council.</p> <p>E. THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE ENDOWMENT FUND</p> <p>7.01 Purpose of the Christian Heritage Endowment Fund</p>
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<p>The Christian Heritage Endowment Fund, and endowment fund of the District, Has been established to receive and accept property, whether real, personal or mixed, by way of gifts, bequests or devices to be held, administered and disposed of in accordance with the charitable, religious, educational purposes and other ministries of the District.</p> <p>a. The Christian Heritage Endowment Fund shall be held and accounted for as a separate and distinct fund of the District, yet under the direction of the District Board of Directors. The fund shall be subject to the same internal controls and accounting and financial reporting requirements as generally employed by the District, except that the receipts and disbursements and assets of the fund shall be separately recorded and accounted for, and a written financial report be prepared for the Trustees on a quarterly basis by the Treasurer or the Assistant Treasurer of the District.</p> <p>7.02 Membership and Term of Office of the Board of Trustees of the Christian Heritage Endowment Fund</p> <p>a. Trustees of the fund shall be elected by the District in convention, and shall include one qualified person from each of the three District vice-presidential areas, three lay persons at large, and the District Treasurer. The President of the District and the chairperson of the District Operations council shall serve as advisors. The District Business Manager shall serve as resource person and secretary to the Trustees.</p> <p>b. Term of office for Trustees shall be three years. Trustees may be re-elected to any number of consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs, the trustee shall be replaced by appointment of the Board of Directors of the District after nomination by the District President.</p>	<p>The Christian Heritage Endowment Fund, and endowment fund of the District, has been established to receive and accept property, whether real, personal or mixed, by way of gifts, bequests or devices to be held, administered and disposed of in accordance with the charitable, religious, educational purposes and other ministries of the District.</p> <p>a. The Christian Heritage Endowment Fund shall be held and accounted for as a separate and distinct fund of the District, yet under the direction of the District Board of Directors. The fund shall be subject to the same internal controls and accounting and financial reporting requirements as generally employed by the District, except that the receipts and disbursements and assets of the fund shall be separately recorded and accounted for, and a written financial report be prepared for the Trustees on a quarterly basis by the Treasurer or the Assistant Treasurer of the District.</p> <p>7.02 Membership and Term of Office of the Board of Trustees of the Christian Heritage Endowment Fund (CCM)</p> <p>a. Trustees of the fund shall be elected by the District in convention, and shall include one qualified person from each of the three District vice-presidential areas, three lay persons at large, and, as specified elsewhere in these Bylaws (2.31.d.1, above) and shall also be a Trustee. The District Treasurer shall also be a Trustee. The President of the District and the chairperson of the District Operations council shall serve as advisors. The District Business Manager shall serve as resource person and secretary to the Trustees.</p> <p>b. Term of office for Trustees shall be three years. Trustees may be re-elected to any number of consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs, the trustee shall be replaced by appointment of the Board of Directors of the District after nomination by the District President.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">III. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS</p> <p>8.01 How Amendments to Bylaws Are Made Amendments to these Bylaws may be made provided that they are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. not contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod;b. presented in writing to a convention of the District;c. specified as Bylaw amendments and considered by a convention floor committee;d. submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod for review and approval prior to presentation to the convention; ande. adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting. <p style="text-align: center;">IV. DISSOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT</p> <p>9.01 Dissolution of the District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. In the event this corporation is dissolved or its existence otherwise terminates or is terminated, all right, title, and interest in and to its property, whether tangible or intangible and whether real or personal, shall thereupon automatically vest in or be transferred to the Synod.	<p style="text-align: center;">III. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS</p> <p>8.01 How Amendments to Bylaws Are Made Amendments to these Bylaws may be made provided that they are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. not contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod;b. presented in writing to a convention of the District;c. specified as Bylaw amendments and considered by a convention floor committee;d. submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod for review and approval prior to presentation to the convention; ande. adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting. <p style="text-align: center;">IV. DISSOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT</p> <p>9.01 Dissolution of the District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. In the event this corporation is dissolved or its existence otherwise terminates or is terminated, all right, title, and interest in and to its property, whether tangible or intangible and whether real or personal, shall thereupon automatically vest in or be transferred to the Synod.
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