



RESOLUTIONS

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REGARDING THE LETTERING AND NUMBERING OF RESOLUTIONS

The reason for the two letters and three pairs of numbers, i.e. BL 04-22-01: the letters are an abbreviation of the floor committee name (Bylaws in this example), the first pair of numbers refers to the floor committee number, the second to the year, and the third to the number of the resolution

If a Floor Committee has sent a resolution to the floor of the Convention and it has been returned to the Floor Committee for revision, the numbering will reflect an A at the end, i.e. BL 04-22-01A, to signify a revision by the Floor Committee.

What you see printed in this section of the workbook are the initial resolutions drafted by the Floor Committees during their work this winter.

Witness – 01

RES WI 01-25-01	To Encourage and Equip the Southeastern District in Planting New Churches and New Mission Starts
RES WI 01 25 02	To Thank and Support Human Care Efforts
RES WI 01 25 03	To Support the 150 th Anniversary of Black Ministry in the LCMS and Promote Renewed Emphasis in Black Ministry
RES WI 01-25-04	To Expand District Support for the SMP Program
RES WI 01-25-05	To Adopt and Implement an Effective Ministry Recruitment Plan
RES WI 01-25-06	To Support Bi-Vocational / Co-Vocational Pastors (Tentmaker – Acts 18:1-4) and their Congregations
RES WI 01-25-07	Affirming and Multiplying Renewed Community Outreach Engagements
RES WI 01-25-08	Omnibus Resolution C OV WI 01-25-04 To Recognize and Give Thanks for the Southeastern District Lay Deacon Program
RES WI 01-25-09	Omnibus Resolution D

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Wellness – 02

- RES WE 02-25-01 To Celebrate and Encourage Lay Service
- RES WE 02-25-02 To Establish Congregational Church Worker Wellness Team
- RES WE 02-25-03 To Encourage Congregational Participation in the S.I.M.P.L.E. Congregational Well-being Assessment
- RES WE 02-25-04 To Encourage Coaching for Enhanced Wellness and Witness
- RES WE 02-25-05 To Encourage Congregations to Established a Sabbatical Policy for Church Workers
- RES WE 02-25-06 To Encourage More Development and Cooperation Among Congregations on a Circuit Level
- RES WE 02-25-07 To Study and Recommend Strategies in the Advancement of Congregation-based Older Adult Ministries in the Southeastern District LCMS

Stewardship & Finance – 03

- RES SF 03-25-01 Encouraging Congregations to Strengthen Stewardship Ministries
- RES SF 03-25-02 Mission Partnership Support
- RES SF 03-25-03 Increase funding for Scholarships and student debt

Bylaws – 04

- RES BG 04-25-01 To Bring Southeastern District Bylaws Into Harmony with the Constitution, Bylaws, And Resolutions of the Synod
- RES BG 04-25-02 To Amend Southeastern District Bylaw, Article VI, Duties of Officers re Allowing the District Presidents to Serve as a Pastor of a Congregation
- RES BG 04-25-03 To Change Officers and Directors Term Limits From Three to Four
- RES BG 04-25-04 To Continue to Ask the Synod to Grant Lay Vote to Every Congregation at District Conventions
- RES BG 04-25-05 To Change to a Four- Year Convention Cycle
- RES BG 04-25-06 Omnibus Resolution D

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Theology & Practice – 05

- RES TP 05-25-01 To Support and Clarify the Prior Approval Process
- RES TP 05-25-02 To Affirm, Expand, and Support Opportunities for Christ-Centered Leadership Development
- RES TP 05-25-03 To Explore Regionally Based Lutheran Higher Education Opportunities
- RES TP 05-25-04 To Affirm and Strengthen Distance Learning Opportunities Leading to Ordination
- RES TP 05-25-05 To Nurture the Emerging Generations in the Faith
- RES TP 05-25-06 Omnibus Resolution A
- RES TP 05-25-07 Omnibus Resolution D

FLOOR COMMITTEE 01: WITNESS (WI)

1 **WI 01 25 01 TO ENCOURAGE AND EQUIP THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT IN PLANTING NEW**
2 **CHURCHES AND NEW MISSION STARTS**

3 WHEREAS, Southeastern District circuits recognize the urgent need to start new congregations in areas most underserved
4 by the Gospel; and

5 WHEREAS, We are encouraged by Christ’s own invitation, “On this rock I will build My church” (Matthew 16:13–18),
6 thereby participating in His ongoing work; and

7 WHEREAS, We are further motivated by the biblical mandate to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19),
8 committing ourselves to nurture faith wherever God calls; and

9 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a rich heritage of vigorous church planting initiatives, providing
10 ample resources and historical precedent for mission expansion; and

11 WHEREAS, Faithful mission requires adapting new church starts to local contexts and strategically pursuing productive
12 endeavors that effectively reach communities for Christ; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Southeastern District circuits, in cooperation with the district, actively collaborate in identifying
14 and prioritizing those communities most in need of a new Lutheran presence, including, but not limited to, all-nations ministries
15 and campus ministries; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That 21 or more new mission starts and/or new church plants are established during the next triennium to
17 share the message of Immeasurable Hope with the 33 million people living within the boundaries of the SED; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That ample resources—both human and financial—be shared among congregations, circuits, and the
19 district, such as the sharing of facilities, for the express purpose of starting these new churches, fostering solidarity in mission
20 work amongst the local congregations; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, that the district and circuit encourage and train our current congregational members as short-term mission
22 ambassadors in support of these new mission starts and new church plants; and be it finally

23 RESOLVED, That each circuit remain steadfast in prayer, planning, and partnership, ever mindful that it is the Lord who
24 builds His Church, and that we humbly join Him in this holy endeavor.

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1 **WI 01 25 02 To Thank and Support Human Care Efforts**

2 *Reference Overture: OV WI 01 25 06 and OV WI 01 25 07*

3

4 **WHEREAS**, Holy Scripture calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31) and bear one another's burdens (Galatians
5 6:2); and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Southeastern District has a rich history of caring for those in need including immigrants through the port of
7 Baltimore, people affected by natural disasters and the most vulnerable in society.

8 **WHEREAS**, recently the Southeastern District (SED) has faithfully supported human care efforts, including relief for those
9 affected by Hurricane Helene and support for legal immigrants through Lutheran Social Services of the Capital Area; and

10 **WHEREAS**, these efforts reflect the mercy and compassion of Christ, bringing hope and healing to those in need; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the congregations and members of the SED have generously contributed time, resources, and prayers to sustain these
12 vital ministries; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the work of human care ministries strengthens the witness of the Church, demonstrating Christ's love in action;
14 therefore be it

15 **RESOLVED**, that the Southeastern District in convention give thanks to God for the faithful work of those engaged in these
16 human care ministries; and be it further

17 **RESOLVED**, that the SED encourage its congregations, members, and partners to continue their generous support of human care
18 efforts, including disaster relief and aid for immigrants and refugees; and be it further

19 **RESOLVED**, the congregations, members, and partners be encouraged to support these efforts with their time including LERT
20 training, and be it finally

21 **RESOLVED**, that the SED memorialize the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) at its next convention to also give thanks
22 for these efforts, encourage continued support for human care ministries, and seek additional ways to extend Christ's mercy to
23 those in need that the Church at large may continue to bear witness to the love of Christ through acts of mercy and service.

RESOLUTIONS

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1 **WI 01 25 03 To Support the 150th Anniversary of Black Ministry in the LCMS and Promote Renewed Emphasis in**
2 **Black Ministry**

3
4 WHEREAS Black Lutherans have played a significant role in the history and mission of the LCMS; and

5
6 WHEREAS Black Lutheran ministry within the boundaries of what is now the Southeastern District-LCMS has had vital and
7 lasting impact on the work of the Church, including, but in no way limited to, such influential figures as:

- 8 • **Rev. Thomas Frye** who was born on George Washington’s estate, and who, after having been brought to North Carolina,
9 studied the Lutheran Confessions, was licensed to preach by the Tennessee Synod in 1868, and became perhaps the first
10 African American Lutheran minister in the Carolinas; and
- 11 • **Rev. Daniel Wiseman** (1858-1942) who was one of the most distinguished theological graduates of Howard University
12 at the time and the first Lutheran African-American pastor in Washington, DC, serving the Evangelical Lutheran Church
13 of Our Redeemer, and becoming known as the “mayor of the city’s neglected element” because of his work among the
14 poor and dispossessed; and
- 15 • **Rev. Nils Bakke**, a White pastor who founded numerous Black Lutheran congregations and Immanuel Lutheran College
16 in North Carolina before partnering with Rosa Young in the growth of Black Lutheran churches and schools in Alabama;
17 and
- 18 • **Rev. R.O.L. Lynn** who was a pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Greensboro, NC, taught at Immanuel Lutheran
19 College, and went on to be the first African American to lead a Lutheran college, serving as the president of Alabama
20 Lutheran Academy; as well as
- 21 • **Immanuel Lutheran College** in Greensboro, NC (1903-61) which had the core mission to educate African Americans,
22 training men for the ministry and both men and women for teaching positions; and the **54 Black congregations** which
23 merged into the SED in 1963 (history provided in SED webinar by Rev. Warren Lattimore);

24
25 WHEREAS the official 150th anniversary of Black ministry in the LCMS in 2027 provides an opportunity to reflect on this legacy,
26 celebrate its impact, and look toward the future;

27
28 RESOLVED, that the Southeastern District give praise and thanks to God for the history of Lutheran Black ministry within the
29 district and throughout the LCMS over the last 150 years; and be it further

30
31 RESOLVED, that the SED welcome and encourage the 2027 150th anniversary of LCMS Black Ministry celebration to be held in
32 Greensboro, NC; and be it finally

33
34 RESOLVED, that the President of the SED be directed to provide support for such celebration and a renewed emphasis on
35 Lutheran Black ministry.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **WI 01 25 04 TO EXPAND DISTRICT SUPPORT FOR THE SMP PROGRAM**

2 *Reference Overture: OV WI 01 25 01*

3 WHEREAS, There is a severe shortage of pastors and church workers ; and,

4 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, gathered in Convention in 2007, created another path to ordination
5 with the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program thus enabling more men to become ordained as Specific Ministry Pastors; and,

6 WHEREAS, the SMP program has already enabled at least 32 congregations in the Southeastern District (SED) to benefit
7 from the SMP Program since 2007, including 18 applicants since the 2022 SED convention; and,

8 WHEREAS, there are not enough eligible students preparing for church work in the current Seminary program to meet
9 the current and future needs of the church; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 2025 Convention of The Southeastern District expand recruitment of SMP students and provide
11 additional funding as available for SMP students, with the goal that no one will be deprived of entering or completing the SMP
12 program due to financial hardships, and be it finally

13 RESOLVED, That the SED reaffirms the importance and value of the SMP program to the Synod and petitions the Synod
14 to form an expanded partnership with the districts by removing the current enrollment cap of 50 SMP students to meet the future
15 needs of its congregations and ministries.

RESOLUTIONS

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1 **WI 01 25 05 TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT AN EFFECTIVE MINISTRY RECRUITMENT PLAN**

2 *Reference Overture: OV WI 01 25 02*

3 WHEREAS, over the past three decades the LCMS has experienced a dramatically growing shortage of parish pastors and
4 other church workers, including pastors, Lutheran school teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach,
5 directors of family life ministry, directors of parish music, directors of church ministries, and deaconesses ; and

6 WHEREAS, our seminaries and universities have had declining numbers of students preparing for church work
7 vocations; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED that the SED utilizes the “Set Apart to Serve” resources provided by the LCMS, and be it further

9 RESOLVED that the SED promotes these recruitment materials for circuit and congregational use and encourages the use
10 of the materials with a special annual emphasis; and be it further

11 RESOLVED that the SED promotes church work vocations at all events, especially our youth gathering events; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED that each congregation be asked to set a goal of having at least one person, every 3 years, commit to and
14 start training in a church work vocation, and be it finally

15 RESOLVED that the SED report recruitment progress at the next convention.

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1 **WI 01 25 06 To Support Bi-Vocational/Co-Vocational Pastors (Tentmaker – Acts 18:1-4) and their Congregations**

2 *Reference Overture: OV WI 01 25 05*

3 WHEREAS, the Christian Church exists in an increasingly secular and post-Christian world; and

4 WHEREAS, small, faithful congregations can find themselves, for a variety of reasons, in the circumstance of needing a
5 pastor, but unable to pay a full salary; and

6 WHEREAS, some congregations in the Southeastern District (SED) are served by pastors who work bi-vocationally/co-
7 vocationally (often called tentmaker-pastors); and

8 WHEREAS, St. Paul himself provided for his physical needs as a tentmaker (Acts 18: 1-4) while he served the Church in
9 Corinth, thereby establishing bi-vocational ministry as a viable and honorable manner in which clergy may continue to serve the
10 congregations to which they are called, without bringing personal hardship to themselves or their families; therefore be it

11 Resolved, That the SED support men who obtain degrees, diplomas, certifications, or other means that can be used to
12 supplement and/or complement the pastoral ministry, should the need arise; and be it further

13 Resolved, that the SED develops best practice guidelines for congregations with tentmaker pastors; and be it further

14 Resolved, That a database of resources be compiled, to include current and retired tentmaker pastors, who can provide
15 wisdom and encouragement from their experiences; and be it further

16 Resolved, That the district provide resources to support congregations, especially the lay leadership, as they experience
17 challenges related to their pastor having additional employment; and be it further

18 Resolved, That the district continue to provide coaching and wellness resources to those who serve as tentmaker-pastors;
19 and be it finally

20 Resolved, That the SED present this resolution to the Synod at convention so that they may aid all districts in supporting
21 tentmaker-pastors and their congregations.

RESOLUTIONS

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1 **WI 01 25 07 AFFIRMING AND MULTIPLYING RENEWED COMMUNITY OUTREACH ENGAGEMENTS**

2 WHEREAS, The Southeastern District recognizes the crucial role of community outreach in living out our faith and
3 serving our neighbors; and

4 WHEREAS, We are compelled by Scripture to engage in acts of mercy and compassion, meeting the spiritual and
5 physical needs of those around us; and

6 WHEREAS, Renewed and expanded outreach efforts allow us to address pressing needs, build meaningful relationships,
7 and demonstrate Christ's love in tangible ways; and

8 WHEREAS, The ministries of mercy and humanitarian services, neighborhood-based programs, and support initiatives
9 have proven vital for holistic engagement and the promotion of well-being within our communities; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That each congregation be encouraged to develop at least one new outreach ministry tailored to the needs of
11 its immediate neighborhood (e.g., after-school programs, community gardens, senior care initiatives); and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That congregations be encouraged to pursue meaningful partnerships and collaborations within their circuit
13 and beyond, thereby broadening their collective reach and impact; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Southeastern District provide training, resources and networking platforms to equip congregations
15 for sustaining effective outreach programs; and be it finally

16 RESOLVED, That a district-wide platform be established for sharing best practices, enabling congregations to learn from
17 one another and multiply their outreach impact.

1 **WI 01 25 08 Omnibus Resolution C**

2 WHEREAS, Some of the following overtures suggest to the convention acceptable approaches in dealing with matters
3 mentioned; and

4 WHEREAS, Others among the following overtures thank and commend laudable individuals and efforts; therefore be it
5 RESOLVED, That the following overtures be received as expressions of encouragement or gratitude:

6
7 OV WI 01 25 04 To Recognize and Give Thanks for The Southeastern District Lay Deacon Training Program (reprinted below)

8 **OV WI 01 25 04 To Recognize and Give Thanks for The Southeastern District Lay Deacon Training Program**

9 Whereas, following the Biblical principles of providing dedicated individuals for service to Christ and His Church
10 (Philippians 1:1; I Timothy 3:8- 13; Acts 6:1-6), the Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod has
11 established the Office of Lay Deacon as a Ministry of Word, Service, and Outreach; and,

12 Whereas, within American Lutheranism, members of the diaconate have served in ministerial mercy work since being
13 trained within The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod by Willhelm Loehe in 1854; and;

14 Whereas, Lutherans have long seen the diaconate guiding people toward Word and Sacrament ministry provided by local
15 pastors; and;

16 Whereas, deacons in the Lutheran context, understanding, and history do not fill the role of a pastor, and yet care for
17 people physically and spiritually serving within Lutheran congregations and institutions; and;

18 Whereas, the Southeastern District established the Lay Deacon Training Program to equip dedicated individuals to be
19 publicly recognized as Lay Deacons of the Southeastern District; and be it thefore

20 Resolved, that the Southeastern District recognizes the example of these Lay Deacons as models for all members of the
21 priesthood of all believers who faithfully serve their congregations and communities; and be it further

22 Resolved that the Southeastern District gives thanks to God for the efforts of these individuals who have successfully
23 completed the SED Lay Deacon Training Program and have been installed as Lay Deacons in their respective congregations for
24 faithful service under the supervision of the congregational pastor(s); and, be it finally

25 Resolved, that after the reading of the graduates' names (see below) the Southeastern District in Convention give thanks
26 and praise to God for working through these dedicated individuals and pray for continued guidance and blessing upon their service
27 by rising and singing the Common Doxology.

28 **Class of 2022**

29 Dan Buer- Grace, Woodbridge, Virginia

30 Peter Ligman- King of Glory, Williamsburg, Virginia

31 Dan Scungio- King of Glory, Williamsburg, Virginia

32 Jennifer Gross- Prince of Peace, Springfield, Virginia

33 Linda Van Dyke- Our Savior's Way, Ashburn, Virginia

34 Chris Schreiner- Redeemer, Midlothian, Virginia

35 Kirk Hymes- St. Stephens, Hickory, North Carolina

36 Michael Olin- Resurrection, Newport News, Virginia

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37	Kim Kaylor- Bethel, Clairmont, North Carolina
38	
39	Class of 2023
40	Josiah Christensen- Christ Community, Leesburg, Virginia
41	Melanie Mesick- Resurrection, Newport News, Virginia
42	William Curley- Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Bryans Road, Maryland David Chenvert- First, Chesapeake Beach,
43	Maryland
44	
45	Class of 2024
46	Randall Cline- St. Stephens, Hickory, North Carolina
47	Terraine Duberry- Emmanuel, Baltimore, Maryland
48	Eric Kent- St. Stephens, Hickory, North Carolina
49	Jonathan Moore- Grace, Summerville, SC
50	Faith Smith- New Thing, Catonsville, MD
51	Jandy Stevens- St. John's, Dover, DE
52	Eric Klanderman- Vine and Branches, Aldie, Virginia
53	Warren Knarr- King of Glory, Williamsburg, Virginia
54	Thomas Gebbia- Resurrection, Cary, North Carolina

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1 **WI 01 25 09 Omnibus Resolution D**

2

3 WHEREAS, the Floor Committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reason, that
4 certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, that the following overture be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

6

7 OV WI 01 25 03

8 L.C.M.S. To Adopt a Fresh Church-Planting Model in the U.S.A and All for Its Funding

9 Reason: This was declined because the floor committee determined that the first resolved is addressed by
10 resolution WI 01 25 01 and that the following resolves are not practical except in a case by case situation or beyond the
11 purview of the SED in Convention (which is unable to mandate the work of national Synod nor financial assistance
12 agencies).

FLOOR COMMITTEE 02: WELLNESS (WE)

1 **WE 02 25 01 To Celebrate and Encourage Lay Service**

2

3 Reference Overtures: OV WE 02 25 01; OV WE 02 25 02

4

5 **Preamble:** God has established the Office of the Holy Ministry so as to ensure the public proclamation of the Gospel and
6 proper administration of the sacraments. The establishment of that office does not invalidate the gifts and service of the priesthood
7 of all believers, including those who have not been called into the Office of the Holy Ministry. This resolution seeks to celebrate,
8 affirm, and encourage the service of those who, while they may fulfill a function of the office as the needs of the congregation dictate,
9 are nevertheless not in the Office of the Holy Ministry.

10 WHEREAS, "It is to the true church of believers and saints that Christ gave the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and it is the proper
11 and only possessor and bearer of the spiritual, divine, and heavenly gifts, rights, powers, offices, and the like that Christ has procured
12 and are found in His church" (CFW Walther, *Church and Ministry*, Thesis IV); and

13 WHEREAS, "All Christians, that is, all who have come to faith in Christ, are spiritual priests and thus have the call to preach the
14 Gospel" (Franz Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics*, III, 440); and

15 WHEREAS, "After we have become Christians through this Priest [i.e., Christ] and His priestly office, incorporated in Him by
16 Baptism through faith, then each one, according to his calling and position, obtains the right and the power of teaching and confessing
17 before others this Word which we have obtained from Him. Even though not everybody has the public office and calling, every
18 Christian has the right and the duty to teach, instruct, admonish, comfort, and rebuke his neighbor with the Word of God at every
19 opportunity and wherever necessary." (Luther, "Psalm 110," *Luther's Works*, AE: 13:333); and

20 WHEREAS, the Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, and the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of
21 the Pope were written by, and first subscribed to, by laity; and

22 WHEREAS, "Christ Himself instituted the office of the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Many functions belong to this office:
23 evangelizing, preaching, teaching, shepherding, supervising, admonishing, disciplining, and administering. Because it is often
24 difficult or impossible for one person to perform all the functions of the ministry, the church may entrust various functions of this
25 office to a number of persons." (CTCR, *The Ministry in Relation to the Christian Church*, 1973); and

26 WHEREAS, "A distinction must be made between "office" and "function." Failure to make this distinction results in confusion.
27 For instance, when a congregation is temporarily without a man to fill the office of the public ministry in its midst, it may ask a
28 properly supervised teacher or a lay leader to perform some functions of the office of the public ministry. This is done in an
29 emergency situation and not as a mere convenience. However, performing such functions does not make those who do them holders
30 of the office of the public ministry. Even in such emergency situations a congregation properly requests a man who does hold the
31 office of the public ministry and is serving as pastor in a neighboring congregation to assume that office for them as "vacancy pastor"
32 or "interim overseer." Thus, the oversight and accountability remain with one whom the church has called and designated as a pastor
33 and who supervises those who temporarily perform some pastoral functions. Such practices are common and reveal a "folk"
34 understanding of the ministry even if the root of such practices is not consciously analyzed. (CTCR, *The Ministry: Offices,*
35 *Procedures, and Nomenclature*, 16); therefore, be it

36 **RESOLVED** that the District in convention give thanks to the Lord of the Church for using the entire priesthood of believers,
37 especially the laity, in fulfilling His mission to seek and save the lost; and be it further

38 **RESOLVED** that the District in convention give thanks to those members of the laity who serve in positions that aid in carrying
39 out the functions of the public ministry as needs arise within the context of a local congregation; and be it further

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- 40 *RESOLVED* that the District in convention affirm and encourage the laity as they exercise their gifts in service to the local
41 congregation, recognizing such service does not obscure or confuse the office of the public ministry but aids and supports the work
42 of the public ministry and that carrying out specific functions of the ministry does not put them into the office; and be it further
- 43 *RESOLVED* that the District in convention affirm each congregation's right to utilize the laity in accord with the Scriptures and
44 the Lutheran Confessions; and be it finally
- 45 *RESOLVED* that the District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to do likewise.

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1 **WE 02 25 02 TO ESTABLISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH WORKER WELLNESS TEAMS**

2 WHEREAS, the wellness of church workers is essential to the spiritual, emotional, and organizational health of
3 congregations; and

4 WHEREAS, church workers often face significant stress, burnout, and personal challenges that impact their ability to
5 serve effectively; and

6 WHEREAS, providing proactive care and support for church workers and their families strengthens their resilience and
7 enhances their ministry (3 John 1:8); and

8 WHEREAS, a dedicated Congregational Church Worker Wellness Team can serve as an advocate for the wellness of
9 church workers and their families by providing encouragement, resources, and support; and

10 WHEREAS, such teams can help address the unique needs of church workers through encouraging the use of wellness
11 resources, regular check-ins, resource allocation, confidential support, and community-building activities; and

12 WHEREAS, recognizing and appreciating church workers for their contributions fosters a culture of care and affirmation
13 within congregations: therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED that the Southeastern District encourage every congregation to establish a Congregational Church Worker
15 Wellness Team (Romans 15:1-2) or use current teams (ie Elders, etc) to advocate for the wellness of church workers and their
16 families; and be it finally

17 RESOLVED that the Southeastern District provide guidance and training to assist congregations in forming and
18 equipping of their Congregational Church Worker Wellness Team.

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1 **WE 02 25 03 TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE S.I.M.P.L.E.**
2 **CONGREGATIONAL WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT**

3 WHEREAS, the wellness and vitality of congregations directly impact their ability to connect people to Jesus, transform
4 lives, and grow God’s Kingdom; and

5 WHEREAS, the SIMPLE Congregational Well-Being Assessment provides a comprehensive framework for evaluating
6 key aspects of congregational wellness based on the early church (Acts 2:42-47), including Spiritual Vitality (vs. 42 & 46-47),
7 Impact (vs. 44 & 47), Managing Emotions (vs. 43 & 46-47), Purpose (vs. 44), Life-Giving Relationships (vs. 44-46), and
8 Engagement (vs. 44-45 & 47); and

9 WHEREAS, participation in the SIMPLE Congregational Well-Being Assessment enables congregations to identify
10 strengths and areas for improvement, equipping them to take intentional steps toward greater ministry effectiveness; and

11 WHEREAS, providing congregations with training, resources, and guidance in conducting the assessment will support
12 their efforts in evaluating and enhancing their overall well-being; and

13 WHEREAS, follow-up coaching encourages and supports congregations to implement strategies and interventions they
14 develop; and

15 WHEREAS, ongoing evaluation and refinement of the assessment process will ensure its continued relevance and
16 effectiveness in strengthening congregations; therefore, be it

17 **RESOLVED** that the Southeastern District encourage every congregation to participate in the SIMPLE Congregational
18 Well-Being Assessment as a means of evaluating and enhancing their ministry wellness; and finally, be it

19 **RESOLVED** that congregations be encouraged to commit to completing the SIMPLE Congregational Well-Being
20 Assessment annually to track progress and guide ongoing improvement efforts.

RESOLUTIONS

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1 **WE 02 25 04 TO ENCOURAGE COACHING FOR ENHANCED WELLNESS AND WITNESS**

2 WHEREAS, the mission of the Church is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and make disciples of all nations
3 (Matthew 28:16-20); and

4 WHEREAS, the mission and vision of the Southeastern District is to connect people to Jesus so that lives are transformed
5 and God’s Kingdom grows; and

6 WHEREAS, the well-being of church workers and congregations directly impacts their ability to effectively carry out this
7 mission; and

8 WHEREAS, many church workers experience significant stress, burnout, and emotional exhaustion, leading to decreased
9 effectiveness in ministry; and

10 WHEREAS, congregations also face challenges that affect their spiritual, emotional, and organizational wellness; and

11 WHEREAS, coaching has been demonstrated to be an effective tool for fostering personal and professional growth,
12 providing encouragement, and strengthening resilience among individuals and communities; and

13 WHEREAS, integrating coaching into the wellness and witness initiatives of the Southeastern District can help church
14 workers and congregations navigate challenges, set and achieve goals, and maintain a healthy balance in their lives; and

15 WHEREAS, offering coaching services, training, and resources can create a culture of well-being that supports our
16 mission and outreach efforts: therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED that the Southeastern District continue to offer coaching resources for holistic wellness and witness; and be
18 it finally

19 RESOLVED that the Southeastern District encourage every congregation and church worker to utilize the SED Coaching
20 Network as a strategic resource to foster resilience, personal growth, and ministry effectiveness.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **WE 02 25 05** **TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO ESTABLISH A SABBATICAL POLICY FOR**
2 **CHURCH WORKERS**

3 WHEREAS, church workers (rostered and lay) dedicate their lives to ministry, often facing significant demands that can
4 lead to stress and burnout; and

5 WHEREAS, the biblical principle of rest and renewal, as seen in the Sabbath and the sabbatical year, underscores the
6 importance of periodic restoration for those in ministry; and

7 WHEREAS, sabbaticals provide church workers with opportunities for extended rest, personal renewal, and professional
8 development, enhancing their effectiveness and longevity in ministry; and

9 WHEREAS, well-planned sabbaticals lead to increased creativity, refreshed vision, and overall well-being for church
10 workers, benefiting both them and their congregations; and

11 WHEREAS, a structured sabbatical policy, including eligibility criteria, duration, financial support, and reintegration
12 planning, ensures the effectiveness and sustainability of such initiatives: therefore, be it

13 **RESOLVED** that the Southeastern District encourage every congregation to establish a formal sabbatical policy for
14 church workers, outlining eligibility, duration, and guidelines for implementation; and be it finally

15 **RESOLVED** that the Southeastern District make available resources to assist in the creation of these policies.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **WE 02 25 06 TO ENCOURAGE MORE DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION AMONG CONGREGATIONS ON**
2 **A CIRCUIT LEVEL**

3

4 Reference Overture: OV WE 02 25 03

5

6 **WHEREAS**, God’s Church is one body with many members (First Corinthians 12:12-13); and

7 **WHEREAS**, God has so fashioned bodies to come together through participation at multiple levels (molecules, cells,
8 organs, and systems) (Philippians 1:1), and

9 **WHEREAS**, it seems that in the New Testament and Early Church the most significant of those levels of church
10 participation was the level of the city, so that the Apostles named and addressed the church by the city (Romans 1:7, First Corinthians
11 1:1-2, Revelation1:11), and

12 **WHEREAS**, congregations within the same city are neighbors in working relationships, diverse in style and tradition, and
13 are therefore, as much as district or synod, the level at which synodical unity is achieved or fails (Philippians 4:14-20), and

14 **WHEREAS**, some circuits of the Southeastern District, have found great agency, unity and cooperation stemming from
15 Circuit Forums, attendant retreats and projects, including new church plants (Ephesians 4:15-16), therefore be it

16 **RESOLVED** that the Southeastern District investigate, encourage, invest in and foster the development of cooperation and
17 identity among congregations on the circuit level, and be it finally

18 **RESOLVED** that recommendations may include an annual circuit retreat, shared ministries, a circuit account for
19 supplementing congregational or ministry needs, a shared website, investigating new starts, and anything else that seems good for
20 living out the “unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3) at the level of the community.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **WE 02 25 07 To Study and Recommend Strategies in the Advancement of Congregation-based Older Adult Ministries**
2 **in the Southeastern District LCMS**

3

4 Reference Overture: WE 02 25 04

5

6 WHEREAS, the Southeastern District of the LCMS is blessed by growing congregational memberships of active older
7 saints, and

8 WHEREAS, older adults at a different stage of life may be seeking renewed purpose and value; and

9 WHEREAS, older adults, as God's children, make a significant impact upon the lives of others in the name of Jesus
10 Christ; and

11 WHEREAS, older adults are to be looked upon as a special blessing God gives to the church to be actively used in the
12 mission of the church; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED that the Southeastern District appoint a task force to identify resources and strategies to empower older adult
14 ministry at the local level; and be it further

15 RESOLVED that the Southeastern District's appointed task force offer its initial report to the District congregations
16 within six (6) months following the appointment of the task force; and finally, be it

17 RESOLVED that the Southeastern District share its findings with the appropriate Synod Leadership.

FLOOR COMMITTEE 03: STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE(SF)

1 **SF 03 25 01 Encouraging congregations to Strengthen Stewardship Ministries**

2 **WHEREAS**, The Southeastern District’s mission is to connect people with Jesus and grow God’s kingdom; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Scripture teaches that all we have is a gift from God, and we are called to be faithful stewards (1 Peter
4 4:10); and

5 **WHEREAS**, Stewardship has often been limited to the financial aspects of the church, rather than encompassing ministry
6 and discipleship; and

7 **WHEREAS**, By fostering a culture of faithful stewardship, the Southeastern District strives to advance God’s work and
8 provide abundantly for His glory and the benefit of the faith community and beyond; therefore be it

9 **RESOLVED**, That stewardship be understood as a broader connection to Jesus and the transformation of lives, extending
10 beyond church finances; and be it further

11 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District encourage congregations to help members recognize, cultivate, and use their
12 God-given gifts, talents, and resources for the growth of God’s kingdom; and be it finally

13 **RESOLVED**, That congregations equip members to share God’s love through their gifts and relationships, both within
14 the congregation and in outreach to the community and beyond.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **SF 03 25 02 Mission Partnership Support**

2 WHEREAS, Congregational Mission Partnership Support (MPS) provides the resources for the SED to fulfill its mission
3 and vision to connect people to Jesus so that lives are transformed, and God’s kingdom grows; and

4 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has established the Southeastern District to serve the congregations,
5 schools, service organizations, and rostered workers within the District; and

6 WHEREAS, Jesus leads by example for the church in sacrificial living and giving; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That leaders of the District and congregations set the example by modeling first fruit giving and encourage
8 their congregations to contribute generously to the Mission Partnership Support of the SED.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **SF 03 25 03 Increase funding for scholarships and student debt**

2 WHEREAS, the Southeastern District (SED) is thankful to God for those heeding the call to ministry and church service;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the SED is thankful for congregations and all who encourage those willing to enter into church vocations;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the SED is thankful for individuals and congregations who financially support church vocation scholarships
7 and debt relief; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED that the SED seek to expand resources to support church vocation students and workers.

FLOOR COMMITTEE 04: BYLAWS (BL)

1 **BG 04 25 01**

2 **To Bring Southeastern District Bylaws Into Harmony With The Constitution, Bylaws, And Resolutions Of The**
3 **Synod**

4
5 *Reference Overture(s): BL 04-22-03*

6
7 WHEREAS, The 2019 Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod made
8 several changes to the Synod’s Constitution and Bylaws which were subsequently ratified by the congregations of the Synod; and

9
10 WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 4.1.1.2 (a) requires that the Bylaws of the districts of the Synod not conflict with the
11 Constitution and Bylaws of Synod; and

12
13 WHEREAS, A review of the Southeastern District, LCMS (SED) Bylaws by the District Board of Directors (BOD)
14 disclosed several instances where the District’s Bylaws needed to be brought into harmony with the Constitution and Bylaws of
15 the Synod; and

16
17 WHEREAS, Synod Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3 and 4.1.1.2 (b) require districts of the Synod to submit all changes to the
18 Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) for examination to ascertain that they are in harmony with the Constitution,
19 Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod; and

20
21 WHEREAS, In response to the SED BOD submission of proposed changes in accordance with Synod Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3
22 and 4.1.1.2 (b), the CCM issued its opinion recommending that certain further changes be made to bring the SED Bylaws into
23 harmony; therefore be it

24
25 RESOLVED, That Article V.2.a of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows:

26 a. Each voting congregation of the District shall be entitled to nominate from the minister of religion-ordained roster of the Synod
27 two (2) persons for the office of District President. Congregations shall also be entitled to nominate two (2) persons for all other
28 positions to be filled. Nominations for offices designated for ministers of religion-ordained or ministers of religion-commissioned
29 must be made from the appropriate roster and according to ~~residence~~ **their congregational membership** within the District or
30 region as required. Lay nominations must also be made according to ~~residence~~ **their congregational membership** within the
31 District or region as required. **Mid-term board members selected regionally, who find themselves no longer to be holding**
32 **membership in a congregation of the region in which they were elected because regional designation was changed by the**
33 **District, may finish out their current terms of office.**

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

34 and be it,

35

36 **RESOLVED**, That Article V.3.a of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows:

37 a. Vice Presidents shall be nominated by congregations within the defined District region in which they ~~will reside and~~ serve, if
38 elected. In addition, nominees will be from among those on the minister of religion-ordained roster of the respective District
39 region.

40 and be it

41

42 **RESOLVED**, That Article V.3.c of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows:

43 a. ~~Following~~ Upon the election of the regional Vice President a final separate election will take place ranking the Vice
44 Presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority of voting delegates determining the second and third vice
45 Presidents in line of succession. ~~by the convention delegates shall be held to determine the ranking of the vice Presidents.~~

46 And be it

47 **RESOLVED**, that Article V.4.c of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows: a. Candidates receiving a majority on
48 the first ballot shall be declared elected. In the election of the President and Vice Presidents, if no candidate receives a
49 majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the least number of votes is to be eliminated from each successive ballot
50 until one candidate has received a majority vote. ~~Except for the election of President and Vice Presidents~~ In all other elections
51 when a second or succeeding ballots is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates
52 receiving less than 15% of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15% or more
53 of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballots. In every election, balloting shall continue
54 until every position has been filled by majority vote.

55 and be it

56 **RESOLVED**, That article V.1 be amended as follows: 1. The president, an officer of the district, is ~~shall be~~ the chief
57 executive ~~officer~~ of the District and serves as a voting member of the Board of Directors. The president shall also perform the
58 duties of a District President, servng as the ecclesiastical supervisor of all rostered workers in the district, under the
59 Constitution and Bylaws of Synod. The President shall be a full-time, salaried official of the district, and the President (except one
60 called to fill an unexpired term f less than 18 months) may not serve as a Pastor of a congregation.

61 And be it

62

63 **RESOLVED**, That Article VII.4 of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows: 1. Each member congregation of a
64 circuit shall be entitled to notice of and representation at a meeting of its Circuit. Multi-congregation parishes are represented
65 by one voting pastoral delegate (if not vacant) and one voting lay delegate, plus an advisory delegate for each congregation
66 that does not supply a voting delegate. ~~but~~ Each Circuit shall establish its own organization to achieve its objectives and meet
67 its responsibilities in and to the Circuit, the District, and the Synod.

68 And be it finally

69 **RESOLVED**, That Article X of the Bylaws of the SED be amended as follows with a new X.4 and the current X.4
70 renumbered to X.5

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

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1. These Bylaws may be amended at a District Convention by the majority vote of those members present at a regular session, provided there is written notice to congregations concerning the proposed amendment 30 days in advance of the Convention.
 2. The Board of Directors shall submit proposed amendments to the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters to ensure they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod prior to consideration by the District Convention. The Board of Directors will also obtain legal guidance to ensure that any proposed amendments are not inconsistent with the laws of the District of Columbia.
 3. In the event an amendment is approved by the District in Convention without prior approval of the commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended articles or bylaws shall become effective immediately upon, and only upon approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not approve the adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify the amendments to comply with the Commission on Constitutional Matters' requirements upon their two-thirds vote.
 4. **When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by a resolution of the Synod in Convention, amendments may be made by a two thirds majority of the District Board of Directors. Such amendments shall be drafted by the Board of Directors Policy Committee and shall be reviewed in advanced by the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters.**
 5. Amendments to the District Articles of Incorporation shall be approved by a District Convention. The provision and processes for such amendments shall be the same as for amendments to the Bylaws.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **BG 04 25 02**

2 **To Amend Southeastern District Bylaw, Article VI, Duties of Officers re Allowing the District President to Serve as a**
3 **Pastor of a Congregation**

4 Reference Overture: OV BG 04 25 01

5 *Whereas*, Ecclesiastical supervisors and bishops have historically continued to serve congregations in Word and
6 Sacrament ministry; and

7 *Whereas*, The current Synodical President models leadership serving in a parish while serving the larger church; and

8 *Whereas*, Earlier practice within the Southeastern District was to permit a District President to serve in a congregation
9 while holding the office; and

10 *Whereas*, District presidents have on account of their ordination (as do all ordained pastors) power of the order, that is the
11 ministry of Word and Sacraments, and the power of jurisdiction (Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article XXVIII, *Of*
12 *Ecclesiastical Power*:12-13); and

13 *Whereas*, District presidents have been ordained into the pastoral office of the holy ministry and are thus equal to every
14 pastor in the essence of this Word and Sacrament ministry; and

15 *Whereas*, There are districts in the LCMS today where the district president serves a parish in addition to serving as the
16 chief executive of the district; and

17 *Whereas*, The LCMS by-laws do not place any restrictions or prohibitions on district presidents serving congregations;
18 and

19 *Whereas*, The Scriptures give charge to all pastors, including those serving as ecclesiastical supervisors by human right,
20 to do the work of a pastor (2 Timothy 4, 1 Peter 5); and

21 *Whereas*, The Scriptures charge pastors, “Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the
22 council of elders laid their hands on you (1 Timothy 4:14); therefore be it

23 *Resolved*, That Article VI, Duties of Officers be amended as follows:

24 ~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

25 Article VI

26 1. The President, an officer of the district, is the chief executive of the District and serves as a voting member of the
27 Board of Directors. The President shall also perform the duties of a District President, serving as the ecclesiastical
28 supervisor of all rostered workers in the district, under the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod. The President shall be a
29 full-time, salaried official of the District, ~~and the President~~ (except one called to fill an unexpired term of less than 18
30 months) ~~may not serve as a Pastor of a congregation.~~

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **BG 04 25 03**

2 **TO CHANGE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS TERM LIMITS FROM THREE TO FOUR**

3 Reference Overture: OV BG 04 25 02

4

5 **Background:**

6 At the 2022 Convention of the Southeastern District of the LCMS the District Board of Directors was mandated to establish a Task
7 Force to study the ongoing needs and opportunities of the District in the areas of Facilities, Staffing and Governance.

8 Based on this study it is the recommendation of the By-Laws and Governance Floor Committee, that the Southeastern District in
9 Convention in 2025 consider the following:

10 *Whereas.* The 1994 District Convention adopted a motion recognizing the tenure of all elected and appointed leaders of
11 the SED, and therefore the tenure of Officers and Directors is limited to three consecutive three-year terms.

12 *And Whereas,* on several occasions historically a Southeastern District President has served more than three three-year
13 terms.

14 *And Whereas,* the Synodical president and, at this time, 60% of Districts in LCMS do not impose term limits on the
15 tenure of their President.

16 *And Whereas,* increasing Officers and Directors term limits provides the opportunity for continuity of leadership,
17 direction, and greater long-range program development,

18 *And Whereas,* The SED Facilities/Staffing/Governance Task Force recognized the limitation of tenure for the District
19 President is complex and requires a by-law revision to change.

20 *Therefore,*

21 *Be it Resolved* that SED Bylaw, Article IV Officers and Directors be amended as follows:

22 ~~Present~~ **PROPOSED** WORDING

23 Article IV

24 3. The regular term of office for all Officers and Directors of the District shall be three-years. Tenure is limited to ~~three~~
25 **four** full consecutive terms of three years in any given office.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **BG 04 25 04**

2 **To Continue to Ask the Synod to Grant Lay Vote to Every Congregation at District Conventions**

3

4 Reference Overture: OV BG 04 25 03

5

6 **Whereas**, The Constitution of the Synod Article V A deals with voting members of the Synod and states: “All organized
7 congregations that have joined the Synod hold voting membership. At the meetings of the districts of the Synod every congregation
8 or parish is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate, and

9 **Whereas**, Multi-congregation parishes are presently represented by one voting pastoral delegate (if not vacant) and one
10 voting lay delegate, plus an advisory lay delegate for each congregation that does not supply a voting delegate, and

11 **Whereas**, The emphasis of our polity on the representation of congregations is intrinsically connected to the scriptural and
12 confessional understanding of a congregation’s bearing all the characteristics of the Church; and

13 **Whereas**, Every individual congregation is a member of the Synod, and

14 **Whereas**, Few if any district conventions have had an equal number of lay and clergy delegates present and has never
15 resulted in a domination of either lay or clergy; and

16 **Whereas**, All congregations are created equal: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them”
17 (Matthew 18:20); therefore be it

18 **Resolved**, that the Southeastern District once again ask the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at its 2026 convention to
19 give all organized congregations that hold membership in the Synod the opportunity to be represented by a lay delegate and a pastoral
20 delegate at district conventions noting that Bylaw 3.1.2.1 (c) allows such representation at circuit forums and regional caucuses.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **BG 04 25 05**
2 **To Change to a Four-Year Convention Cycle**

3
4 Reference Overture: OV BG 04 25 06

5
6 *Whereas*, It has been studied and discussed for several years to move from a three-year district and national
7 convention cycle to a four-year cycle; and

8 *Whereas*, Such a change would save millions of dollars in district and national convention expenses; and

9 *Whereas*, Moving to a four-year convention cycle would demonstrate a sensitivity to the financial challenges
10 facing many congregations and a commitment to practice wise stewardship; and

11 *Whereas*, In response to the COVID-19 pandemic some districts and the synod moved to a four-year
12 convention cycle without great difficulty; therefore be it

13 *Resolved*, That the District recommend to the Synod in Convention the adoption of a four-year convention
14 cycle, effective upon completion of the 2026 national convention.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **BG 04 25 06**

2 **Omnibus Resolution D**

3 WHEREAS, the Floor Committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reason, that
4 certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, that the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

6

7 OV BG 04 25 05 To Change the Size Requirement of Electoral Circuits in the Synod

8 Reason: Presently under study by synod with report to be presented at 2026 convention

9

10 OV BG 04 25 06 Proposed Resolution by Redeemer Lutheran Church, Burlington, NC, for the District Convention of the
11 Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, May 2025

12 Reason: Presently under study by synod with report to be presented at 2026 convention

13

14 OV BG 04 25 07 To Grant Commissioned Church Workers the Right to Vote Under Bylaw 3.1.2(c)

15 OV BG 04 25 08 To Grant Commissioned Church Workers the Right to Vote Under Bylaw 3.1.2(c)

16 OV BG 04 25 09 Establishing a New Voting Structure Including Rostered Workers

17 Reason: It is worth noting that the SED does not have the ability to change a synod bylaw (as requested in these
18 overtures), though the SED in convention may request that the synod in convention to consider such changes.
19 Nonetheless, these overtures are being declined because they do not address in the “whereas” or “resolved”
20 sections the multiple other bylaws that would need to suggested for change, nor, more importantly, the change
21 that would be required to the LCMS Constitution (Articles V and IX).

FLOOR COMMITTEE 05: THEOLOGY & PRACTICE(TP)

1 **TP 05 25 01 To Support and Clarify the Prior Approval Process**

2 Reference Overtures: OV TP 05 25 01; OV TP 05 25 02; OV TP 05 25 03; OV TP 05 25 04

3 **PREAMBLE**

4 Since the 2013 Convention, appointments to theological faculties at all universities and seminaries, as well as all college,
5 university, and seminary presidential appointments, began to be subject to the prior approval process. While the convention in 2013
6 amended the bylaws to delegate the responsibility for prior approval to specific groups (see bylaws referenced below) the bylaws
7 did not, and still do not, stipulate how the process of prior approval should be carried out. Over time there has been growing desire
8 to understand how candidates are being evaluated by the prior approval panels. In the hopes of building trust and relieving any undue
9 criticism of the panels and the process, the following overture aims to increase transparency for the process and guidelines used by
10 the panels as well as ensuring clear communication between the panels, the candidates, the institutions, and the broader Synod.

11 WHEREAS, one of the expressed purposes of Synod is to “recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church
12 workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth” (Art. III.3); and

13 WHEREAS, Synod has the responsibility to oversee that training; and

14 WHEREAS, Synod has designated that responsibility to the prior approval panels outlined in various bylaws (3.6.6.1, 3.10.5.7.3,
15 3.10.6.8.2, 3.10.6.9.2); and

16 WHEREAS, those panels have responsibility to work on behalf of the Synod and are responsible to the Synod; and

17 WHEREAS, those under consideration for theological professorships and other such positions which require prior approval have
18 ordinarily been ordained into the Office of Holy Ministry or have been commissioned into an auxiliary office of the Church; and

19 WHEREAS, those under consideration for aforementioned positions have also been examined, approved, and certified for service
20 on the roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

21 WHEREAS, those individual members of Synod have, by virtue of their membership in the Synod, agreed to the confessional
22 basis as outlined in Article II of the Synod’s constitution, namely that, “every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation: 1.
23 The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice; 2.
24 All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of
25 God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg
26 Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, the Small Catechism
27 of Luther, and the Formula of Concord;” and

28 WHEREAS, those individual members also abide by Bylaws 1.6 concerning the Confessional Position of Synod, 1.7 concerning
29 Agreements, and 1.8 concerning Dissents; therefore be it

30 *Resolved*, That the Southeastern District (SED) in convention give thanks to the Lord of the Church for using the Synod and its
31 agencies to prepare workers for the harvest; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the SED in convention give thanks to those engaged in the various prior approval processes for their difficult
33 and important work; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the SED in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to do the same; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the SED in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to stipulate that unless those under consideration
36 by the prior approval panels are found to be in violation of their ordination, commissioning, or installation vows that their approval
37 be assumed; and be it further

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

38 *Resolved*, That the SED in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to require that the processes and guidelines used
39 by the various panels to carry out the responsibility entrusted to them by the Synod be made transparent and available to all members
40 of Synod; and be it finally

41 *Resolved*, That the SED in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to stipulate that if those under consideration are
42 thought to fall short of the guidelines, that the candidate be given ample opportunity to clarify their position to the panel in
43 consultation with the appropriate District President as that candidate's immediate ecclesiastical supervisor.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **TP 05 25 02 To Affirm, Expand, and Support Opportunities for Christ-Centered Leadership Development**

2

3 WHEREAS, well equipped Church workers and laity make for a better witness in connecting people to Jesus so that lives
4 are transformed and God’s kingdom grows; and

5 WHEREAS, the Southeastern District has provided opportunities for Christ-centered leadership development, including the
6 Lay Deacon Program, Regional Leadership Conferences, and Monthly Leadership Webinars; and

7 WHEREAS, this work has been well received; therefore be it

8 *Resolved*, that the Southeastern District continue to affirm, expand, and financially support opportunities for leadership
9 development among church workers and laity.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **TP 05 25 03 To Explore Regionally Based Lutheran Higher Education Opportunities**

2

3 WHEREAS, there is a desire for Lutheran higher education on the east coast; and

4 WHEREAS, the multicultural population in this region is growing and seeking regionally located opportunities for Lutheran
5 higher education; and

6 WHEREAS, there are gifted and credentialed individuals in this region who are equipped to serve in such a capacity;
7 therefore be it

8 *Resolved*, that the Southeastern District in convention directs the president to explore ways to support Lutheran higher
9 education opportunities serving our region utilizing various modes.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **TP 05 25 04 To Affirm and Strengthen Distance Learning Opportunities Leading to Ordination**

2

3 Reference Overtures: OV TP 05 25 05; OV TP 05 25 06; OV TP 05 25 11; OV TP 05 25 12; OV TP 05 25 13; OV TP 05 25 14;
4 OV TP 05 25 15

5

6 WHEREAS, the congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) have been blessed with pastors and
7 teachers who have been prepared for their service in a variety of ways over its history either more academically or practically
8 orientated; and

9 WHEREAS, the seminaries of the LCMS are currently offering, beyond the now normative residential Master of Divinity
10 program, a variety of routes for pastoral formation which take into consideration the needs, desires, and contexts of the students,
11 including the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT), Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS), Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP)
12 program, SMP to General Pastor Certification (typically an 8 year program), the Residential Alternative Route, and the Cross-
13 Cultural Ministry Center at Concordia University, Irvine (CUI); as well as the previously available SMP-CQ route and

14 WHEREAS, the need for ordained ministers of the Gospel to serve in the congregations of the LCMS will only grow
15 greater as retirements increase; and

16 WHEREAS, the need for faithful servants to expand further mission and ministry will also continue to grow; and

17 WHEREAS, academic training has taken advantage of technology to offer distance education and it has become a standard
18 of delivering training in many contexts in our culture; and

19 WHEREAS, it has become increasingly difficult and prohibitive for prospective LCMS seminary students to leave homes,
20 family, employment, and ministry context to move cross-country to enroll in a four-year residential Master of Divinity program;
21 therefore be it

22 *Resolved*, that the Southeastern District (SED) in convention memorialize the 2026 Synod convention to enhance the
23 ability of our alternate routes to ordination to meet the increasing demand for pastoral candidates by removing current restrictions
24 on enrollment, geographic location, and ministry context; and be it finally

25 *Resolved*, that the SED in convention memorialize the 2026 Synod convention to increase the number of opportunities to
26 prepare candidates for general ministry via existing and new routes, e.g., in-person, hybrid, online.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **TP 05 25 05 To Nurture the Emerging Generations in the Faith**

2

3 WHEREAS, the Southeastern District acknowledges the biblical mandate to teach diligently the faith to the next
4 generations, as written in Deuteronomy 6:6–7; and

5 WHEREAS, our youth, college students, and young adults represent a critical mission field for the present and further
6 vitality of the Church; and

7 WHEREAS, a renewed focus on youth and young adult ministry, rooted in Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions, fosters
8 deep spiritual formation, apologetic readiness, and compassionate engagement with the world; therefore be it

9 *Resolved*, that the Southeastern District encourage congregations to strengthen catechesis teaching by offering contextual
10 approaches that provide in-depth education and apologetics training for youth, so that they are well grounded in Christian doctrine;
11 and be it further

12 *Resolved*, that the Southeastern District create opportunities for youth-oriented service projects, equipping young people
13 to apply Lutheran teachings and live out their faith by meeting real world need; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, that the Southeastern District encourage congregations to strengthen and create Lutheran campus mission
15 stations and networks at colleges and universities, offering worship, fellowship, and discipleship resources and community service
16 opportunities to anchor young adults firmly in the faith and calling; and be it finally

17 *Resolved*, that by faithfully investing in our youth’s spiritual formation, the Southeastern District support the continuity of
18 Christ-centered doctrine and practice for generations to come, trusting in God’s gracious blessing upon this sacred calling.

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **TP 05 25 06 Omnibus Resolution A**

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

4 RESOLVED, that the following overtures be referred to the designated board, commission, or individual:

5 OV TP 05 25 09 To Expand Appropriate Nomenclature

6 and

7 OV TP 05 25 10 To Adopt the Dual Title of “Bishop and President” in the Southeastern District LCMS

8 to the **SED Board of Directors** (as has been done in another district of the LCMS).

RESOLUTIONS

2025 SED Convention

1 **TP 05 25 07**

2 **Omnibus Resolution D**

3 WHEREAS, the Floor Committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reason, that
4 certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, that the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

6

7 OV TP 05 25 07; OV TP 05 25 08

8 To Affirm and Encourage the Use of Gluten-Free Hosts as a Proper Element of the Lord's Supper

9 Reason: This was declined because the floor committee determined that the LCMS already supports the use of
10 gluten-free hosts. Examples given include FAQs on the Lord's Supper on lcms.org and gluten-free hosts being available
11 for purchase through Concordia Publishing House.

12

13 OV TP 05 25 16

14 To Meaningfully Recognize the Authority and Voice of the Laity

15 Reason: The floor committee declined this overture because the 1st resolved is incorporated in WE 01 25 01; the
16 2nd resolved is already present Circuit Visitor policy; and the final resolved would be in violation of the Constitution and
17 Bylaws of the LCMS.

FLOOR COMMITTEE 06: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS (NE)

1 **NE-06-25-01 - To Ratify The Selection Of Circuit Visitors**

2 **Floor Committee: #06 - Nominations & Elections**

3 **Convention Year: 2025**

4 *To Ratify the Selection of Circuit Counselors*

5 WHEREAS, The circuits have selected Circuit Visitors for the next triennium in

6 accordance with Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.; and

7 WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 5.2.2. requires that the District in Convention ratify those selections; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the District in Convention ratifies the selection of Circuit Visitor in the circuits of the district as follows:

9 Circuit 1 Rev. Michael Thress

10 Circuit 2 Rev. Blaise Sedney

11 Circuit 3 Rev. Eric Bednash

12 Circuit 4 Rev. Matthew Hilpert

13 Circuit 5 Rev. Andrew Okai

14 Circuit 6 Rev. Kenneth Stottlemyer

15 Circuit 7 Rev. Peter Schiebel

16 Circuit 8 Rev. Jim Kent

17 Circuit 9.0 Rev. Andrew Jagow

18 Circuit 9.5 Rev. Mark Shaltanis

19 Circuit 10 Rev. Dr. Roy Minnix

20 Circuit 11 Rev. Eric Malmstrom

21 Circuit 12 Rev. Lannon Martin

22 Circuit 13E Rev. Jim Daub

23 Circuit 13W Rev. Mike Merker

24 Circuit 14 Rev. John Scheuermann

25 Circuit 15 Rev. Steven Newburg

26 Circuit 16 Rev. Anton Lagoutine

27 Circuit 17 Rev. Shea Pennington

28 Circuit 18 Rev. John Engwall

29 Circuit 19 Rev. Jon Christensen

2025 SED FLOOR COMMITTEES

Floor committees serve the convention by playing a key role in reviewing all overtures submitted by the district and forming resolutions to be presented on the floor during the Convention.

01 Witness

Rev. David Ziehr, Chair
Rev. Garet Ellis
Deac. Caitlyn Butcher
Mr. Keith Clements
Rev. Teka Fogi
Rev. Dr. Yared Halche

02 Wellness

Rev. Tim Bohlmann, Chair
Rev. Jeff Marquardt
Ms. Shawn Maassel
Mrs. Christine Wethman
Rev. Andrew Okai
Rev. Dr. Travis Guse

03 Stewardship & Finance

Rev. Dr. Lloyd Gaines, Chair
Rev. Joshua Keinath
Mrs. Nancy Nolley
Ms. Krista Young
Mr. Ronald Adolphi
Mr. Kirk Hymes
Mr. Sidney Heetland

04 Bylaws

Rev. Bill Beyer, Chair
Deac. Holly Cox
Rev. Wayne Fredericksen
Rev. Dr. Alexander Whitfield
Mrs. Allison Klettke
Mrs. Susan Maack

05 Theology & Practice

Rev. Alec Fisher, Chair
Rev. Dr. Matthew Borrasso
Deac. Grace Bergt
Rev. Alemu Katiso
Ms. Rebecca Wade
Rev. Martin Schultheis

06 Nominations & Elections

Ms. Jennifer Hills, Chair
Rev. Dr. David Maack
Mrs. Sarah (Beyer) Disch
Rev. Christopher Sperb