

WORKBOOK



The Fifty-Seventh Convention

***"LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART,
SOUL, STRENGTH AND MIND"***

**English District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

June 20-22, 2022
Concordia University
Ann Arbor, Michigan

The logo for the 57th Regular Convention of the English District Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod was designed by Rebecca Kaiser.

ENGLISH DISTRICT LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

57th Convention

June 20-22, 2022

Concordia University Ann Arbor, MI

Saturday, June 4, 2022 - Zoom - Open Hearings of Convention Floor Committees (All Eastern Times)

12:00 pm Committee 2, Missions/Evangelization

12:45 pm Committee 4, Congregational Services

1:30 pm Committee 1, Church & Theology

2:15 pm Committee 3, Administration and Structure

Monday, June 20, 2022

9:00 am	Registration	Nest/Student Union
9:00 am - 6:00 pm	Directory photos (rostered workers only)	Student Union
11:00 am	Delegate Orientation	Gym
11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Meet the candidates	Ministry Tent
11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Lunch	Dining Hall/Student Union
11:00 am - 6:00 pm	Ministry Tent Open	West Campus Parking
1:30 pm	Divine Worship Service	Chapel of Holy Trinity
3:00 pm	Group Picture	Central Campus
	Break	Ministry Tent
3:30 pm	Opening of the 57 th Convention of the English District LCMS	Gymnasium
	Convention Business/Reports	
	Committees #5, #6 Nominations/Elections Bishop/Pres and VPs	
5:00 pm	Dinner (LE & W Regions to Café - E & MW Regions to ministry tent)	Cafeteria/Ministry Tent
6:45 pm	Evening Session – Convention Business	Gymnasium
	Speaker – Rev. Keith Speaks	
	Committees #5, #6 Nominations/Elections Secretary and Board of Directors	
	LCMS Synod Report	
8:45 pm	Evening recess – Snack	

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

6:45 - 8:00 am	Breakfast	Dining Hall/Student Union
9:00 am - 6:00 pm	Ministry Tent Open	West Campus Parking
8:00 am	Devotions	Gymnasium
8:15 am	Convention Business	
	Committee #3 Administration and Bylaws/Policy Review	
10:00 am	Break	Ministry Tent
10:30 am	Convention Business	
	Speaker – Lieutenant General William Boykin	
	Recognitions	
12:00 pm	Lunch (E & MW Regions to Café - LE & W Regions to ministry tent)	Dining Hall/Ministry Tent
1:30 pm	Convention Business	
	Financial Report	
	Committee #1 Church & Theology	
3:15 pm	Break	Ministry Tent
3:45 pm	Convention Business	
	Speaker – Jim Sanft	
	Committees #5, #6 Nominations/Elections Nominations Comm/Endowment Board	
4:30 pm	Circuit Caucuses/Canada Corp elections	Various classrooms
6:00 pm	Dinner (LE & MW Regions to Café - E & W Regions to ministry tent)	Dining Hall/Ministry Tent
7:30 pm	Evening Session – Convention Business	Gymnasium
	Recognition	
	Committee #2 Missions/Evang, Committee #4 Congregational Services	
8:45 pm	Evening Recess – Snack	

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

6:45 - 8:00 am	Breakfast	Dining Hall/Student Union
8:00 am	Devotions	Chapel of Holy Trinity
8:05 am	Convention Business	
	Speaker – Jack Phillips, Masterpiece Cakeshop	
10:30 am	Convention Memorial Closing Divine Service with Installation of Officers	
11:30 am	Bus departs for Airport	Campus Dorm Parking Lots

Soli Deo Gloria

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THE CONVENTION ELECTION PROCEDURE

Nomination and election procedures are prescribed in the Synod *Handbook*, District Bylaws, and the District *Corporate Operations Manual*.

Three different procedures are prescribed according to the office involved:

- 1) Nominations for the office of President (Bishop & President) or Vice President are directed by the District Secretary from the congregations to the Convention. The Committee on Nominations has no input. All congregations in their respective regions of the District nominate up to two candidates for Vice President from their own region. However, the Convention as a whole elects each Vice President (per Synod bylaw 4.7.3). The five pastors with the highest number of nominations for President who accept nomination are placed on the ballot. The three pastors from each region with the highest number of nominations for Vice President who accept nomination are placed on the ballot. (In case of a tie in the number of nominations, all those tied and who accept nomination are placed on the ballot.) No nominations are permitted from the floor of the Convention. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. When a second or succeeding ballot is required to reach a majority, the candidates 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 received 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. After all Vice Presidents are elected, they are ranked by ballot by the whole Convention, First through Fourth Vice President.
- 2) To elect Circuit Visitors, each circuit shall meet prior to the District Convention as a Circuit Forum and select a Circuit Visitor for the coming triennium (Synod Bylaw 5.2.2), with ratification of the slate of Circuit Visitors by the District Convention. Nominations for the office of Circuit Visitor may be submitted by a voting congregation of the circuit or suggested by the District President in consultation with the Praesidium of the District. If a circuit fails to select a Circuit Visitor, the District President shall appoint one. The Convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment. The Convention shall then ratify the slate of Circuit Visitors, which ratification shall constitute the election.
- 3) At least two nominees for District Secretary, elected members of the Board of Directors, the Endowment Fund Board of Managers, and Committee on Nominations are selected by the Committee on Nominations from those submitted to them by the congregations, individual members of the District, and members of District congregations. This Convention's **Committee on Nominations was elected at the 2018 District Convention**. Additional nominations are permitted from the floor of the Convention provided a written "consent to serve if elected" statement is submitted to the District Secretary. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. When a second or succeeding ballot is required to reach a majority, the candidates 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 received 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.

The Bishop/President and Vice Presidents, and the District Secretary, Circuit Visitors, Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations and Endowment Fund Board of Managers in attendance will be installed at the closing worship service.

PROPOSED STANDING RULES

1. Delegates wishing to address the Convention, when recognized by the Chair, shall state their names and the names of their congregations or other entity of the district they represent.
2. The voting body is composed of the voting delegates, one pastoral and one lay delegate, from each congregation or parish of the District. Voting delegates are expected to attend all sessions of the Convention. They must wear their badges at all sessions and sit in the sections reserved for voting delegates.
3. An electronic response system shall ordinarily be used to register votes. When not in use for motions before the Convention, the Chair shall call for a voice vote and the raising of the right hand.
4. Questions of privilege shall ordinarily be addressed in writing to the Chair, or his appointee, instead of consuming Convention time.
5. Resolutions prepared by the floor committees which are not acted upon by the Convention before adjournment die. The subject matter may be **reintroduced at the next Convention** by means of an overture.
6. Unless covered by the Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Bylaws of the English District, or the standing rules of the Convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.
7. When speaking to the question on the floor, a delegate shall attempt to speak directly for or against the question. No delegate may speak more than twice to each question unless consent has been given by two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates. When the Chair notes that there are many delegates waiting to speak to a given question, the Chair may, at his discretion, invoke a two-minute speaking rule. The Chair shall notify the assembly when this rule becomes effective.
8. Any unfinished item of business or program at a time set for recess in the Convention Agenda will be resumed at the following session or at a time designated by the Chair.
9. Announcements should be submitted to the Chair. At his discretion, announcements will be made from the podium; others will be posted on message boards or distributed to delegates in other forms.
10. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter shall be given two minutes to provide the rationale for offering it. The Convention shall then first decide by majority vote without debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable action, either to consider or to adopt, the original motion shall again be placed before the house for debate.
11. The use of electronic devices (e.g. tablets, cell phones, and laptops) shall be permitted in the delegate section of the Convention. These devices must have the sound on "mute" at all times and should only be used for Convention business, such as viewing the Convention Workbook online. Courtesy, discernment, and good churchmanship should be demonstrated at all times with the use of such devices and must not distract from each delegate's responsibilities.
12. The standing rules may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting body.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

A. Purpose of Parliamentary Law and Procedure

Parliamentary procedure assists a deliberative and decision-making assembly in carrying out its purpose and aims in an orderly, fair, and expeditious manner.

It is not the purpose of parliamentary procedure to make the conduct of business in an assembly difficult, to entangle an assembly in technicalities, or to provide a channel for individuals to flaunt their parliamentary knowledge.

Parliamentary law protects six basic rights:

- 1) The right of the majority to make a decision;
- 2) The right of the minority to be heard in hopes that it may become the majority;
- 3) The right of absentees to be protected;
- 4) The right of the assembly to be comfortable and to hear;
- 5) The right of the individual member to be honored;
- 6) And the orderly consideration of one subject at a time.

B. Basic Steps of Parliamentary Procedure

The chair and members of the assembly should be acquainted with and observe eight basic parliamentary steps to take care of convention business in an orderly and fair manner:

MEMBERS:

1. Address the Chair: "Rev. Chair" (or "Rev. Bishop" or "Rev. President"). The members asking for the floor must identify themselves by name and congregation or other entity of the district they represent.
2. Await recognition by the Chair.
3. Make the motion. "I move that..."
4. Second the motion (unless not required).

CHAIR:

5. States the motion (or rules it out of order).
6. Calls for discussion (unless motion is undebatable).
Ample opportunity must always be given for expression of opinion and for discussion.
7. Takes the vote (or "calls the question").
A tie vote defeats the motion since a majority is required to adopt - unless the motion requires a 2/3 vote.
8. States the results.
The vote does not go into effect until the results are announced.

C. Basic Parliamentary Principles for Convention

1. A district delegate convention is a parliamentary assembly called to deliberate and to make decisions. It receives the reports of the district president, executive staff, board of directors and various committees or mission action teams. In addition, the Convention deliberates and makes decisions on recommended resolutions of designated floor committees, which have considered proposed resolutions (overtures) from congregations.
2. All voting delegates have equal rights, privileges, and obligations.
3. The vote of the majority decides. The will of a District Convention is determined by the taking of a vote.
4. Free discussion of every proposition or resolution presented for decision is an established right for all delegates, voting and advisory. To accomplish the closure of debate a delegate must gain the recognition of the chair and, without any comment for or against the pending resolution, say, "I move the previous question." If seconded, this motion is put to an immediate vote. If adopted by a two-thirds majority, discussion is finished, and the pending resolution is put to the assembly without further debate. The convention has the right to decide when it has heard sufficient discussion. This right, however, should be exercised with restraint.
5. Both proponents and opponents of a given proposal have rights, which must be safeguarded. The decision belongs to the majority, but the right to discuss, the right to be heard, and the right to oppose should be upheld. A member of the majority on one question is often a member of the minority on another.
6. The simplest and most direct parliamentary procedure for accomplishing a purpose should be followed rather than taking devious routes and multiplying technicalities.
7. Every delegate has the right to know what question is before the Convention and what its effect will be, for every action taken by a deliberative body should be taken knowledgeably.
8. Voting delegates are not bound and are not to be bound by previous instructions of their home or neighboring congregations.

A Basic Primer of Parliamentary Procedure

I. Purpose of Parliamentary Law and Procedure

The purpose of parliamentary procedure is to carry out the aims of the assembly in an orderly and fair manner, to expedite business, to ensure justice and fairness to all, both the majority and the minority.

It is not the purpose of parliamentary procedure to make the conduct of business in an assembly difficult, or to entangle an assembly in technicalities, or to provide a channel for individuals to flaunt their parliamentary knowledge. The purpose is to make business flow more smoothly and make it easier for everyone.

II. Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance

The motions or points listed below, 1 through 9, are in order of precedence.

In other words:

- A. When any of them is pending, you may not introduce one listed below it.
- B. You may introduce one that is listed above it.

If you want to:	You say:	May a speaker be interrupted to make this motion?	Is a second required?	Is motion debatable?	Can this motion be amended?	Is voting required? What % is required?
1. Adjourn	I move we adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
2. Recess	I move we recess	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
3. Raise a question of privilege	Point of privilege, Rev. Chairman...	Yes	No	No	No	No vote required
4. Lay on the Table	I move to table this matter	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
5. Previous question	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3 Majority
6. Postpone definitely or to a certain time	I move we postpone this matter until...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
7. Commit or refer	I move we refer this matter to a committee	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
8. Amend a motion	I move this be amended to read...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
9. Main motion	I move that...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

III. General Points, Proposals, and Motions

The items listed below are general points, proposals, and motions, and they have no order of procedure over another. You may introduce any one of them at any time except:

- A. When a motion to adjourn is pending
- B. When a motion to recess is pending
- C. When a point of privilege is pending.

If you want to:	You say:	May a speaker be interrupted to make this motion?	Is a second required?	Is motion debatable?	Can this motion be amended?	Is voting required? What % is required?
<i>Object to error in procedure due to a personal affront</i>	Point of order	Yes	No	No	No	No
<i>Request information</i>	Point of information	Yes, if urgent	No	No	No	No
<i>Verify voice vote by taking actual count</i>	I call for a division of the house	No	No	No	No	No, unless someone objects, then majority
<i>Object to considering a matter you think improper</i>	I object to consideration of this question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3 Majority
<i>Take up a matter which has been tabled</i>	I move we take from the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
<i>Take up a matter already disposed of</i>	I move we reconsider our action relative to	Yes	Yes	Yes, if the original motion was debatable	No	Majority
<i>Consider matter out of scheduled order</i>	I move we suspend rules and consider	No	Yes	No	No	2/3 Majority
<i>Vote on a ruling of the chair</i>	I appeal the chair's decision	Yes	Yes	Yes, if the original motion was debatable	No	Majority

IV. Substitute Motions

If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter shall be given two minutes to provide the rationale for offering it. The Convention shall then first decide by majority vote without debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable action, either to consider or to adopt, the original motion shall again be placed before the house for debate.

GLOSSARY OF PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

Ad Hoc Committee: Special committee with a limited assignment and a limited life.

Advisory Delegate: A certified member of the Convention with the right to speak without vote; however, if appointed to a floor committee, entitled to vote there.

Agenda: List of items of Convention business "to be done."

Alternate: A full-time substitute to take the place of a delegate to the Convention, if necessary.

Amend: To change or modify a resolution or motion.

Appeal: An appeal from a decision of the chair requires that the decision be referred to the Convention for its immediate decision by a vote.

Audit: Official examination and verification of accounts.

Bylaw: A rule of the District ranking immediately below the constitution in authority and above standing rules.

Call the Question: A subject or point of debate or a resolution being or to be voted on.

Chair: The presiding officer of the Convention, usually the President, or temporarily a Vice President.

Constitution: The statement of the basic principles and structures of the Synod, the highest continuing authority created by the association of congregations, pastors, and teachers constituting the Synod. The Synod Constitution is also the constitution of all of its Districts.

Division in the House: A vote taken by rising or electronic device to verify a voice vote at the call of the Chair or at the request of a voting delegate.

Floor Committee: A working group of Convention voting and advisory delegates to whom the processing of a share of Convention business is entrusted for recommendation in turn to the Convention proper.

General Consent: An informal method of disposing of routine and generally favored proposals by assuming approval of a request unless immediate objection is raised.

Handbook: A manual containing the District or Synod Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws.

In Order: Correct from a parliamentary standpoint at a given time.

Majority: More than half the votes cast. The Synod Constitution provides: "All matters of doctrine and of conscience shall be decided only by the Word of God. All other matters shall be decided by a majority vote" (Article VIII.C). This means a majority in all instances except those which involve a proposed constitutional amendment; these require a two-thirds affirmative vote of all votes cast. All elections are determined not by simple plurality but by absolute majority.

Out of Order: Not correct from a parliamentary standpoint at that particular time.

Overture (Memorial): A recommendation or proposed resolution submitted by a member congregation or other authorized group for consideration by the convention.

Parliamentarian: A person designated by the Chair to advise him on the applicability of parliamentary principles and procedures in a given situation.

Pending: Not yet decided. A pending motion is one that has been stated by the Chair but is not yet disposed of by vote.

Point of Order: Any delegate may promptly call attention to the fact that the rules of the Convention are seemingly not in force by saying, "I rise to a point of order." Upon hearing the point made, the Chair rules as to its validity.

Postpone: To defer action on a question or proposed resolution (1) indefinitely or (2) until a certain specified time.

Preamble: The introductory part of a resolution or report, usually in the form of whereas clauses. The assembly has the right to perfect these since they are part of the resolution when presented together with the resolves.

Previous Question: The motion calling for the previous question stops all discussion or debate if two-thirds of the voting delegates vote "aye" after a motion has been made and seconded to call for the previous question. When two-thirds of the voting delegates have responded "aye," the Chair must immediately call a vote on the motion pending before the Convention.

Privileged Motion: A motion, such as to recess, to fix the time of the next session, and to change the Orders of the Day. It takes precedence over all other motions.

Question: A subject or point of debate or a resolution to be voted on.

Quorum: The fewest number of delegates that can be present and still permit business to be legally transacted. At least one-third of the voting members of the District represented by at least one of their respective representatives shall constitute a quorum (Synod Constitution XII.14).

Report: Usually the formal accounting given by an officer, a board, a commission, or a committee of the discharge of its responsibilities under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, such an accounting to be evaluated by the delegate convention of the Synod.

Rescind: To annul or to cancel. To undo or reverse a previous decision.

Resolution: A formal proposal submitted previously in writing by a Convention floor committee for action by the Convention.

Substitute Amendment: When a full paragraph, section, or resolution is dropped and another is inserted in its place.

Table (lay on the table): To set aside a motion or a proposed resolution for consideration in the indefinite future. If adopted, it usually kills consideration of and action on the main motion by postponing it without a set time to take it up again. If this is not the intent, the motion should really be not to table, but to postpone to a set time.

ENGLISH DISTRICT
of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
33100 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48336-4030
Phone: (248)476-0039; FAX: (248)476-0188
www.englishdistrict.org

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TREASURER: Mrs. Sally L. Naglich, CPA	33100 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48336-4030

CIRCUIT VISITORS

New York #1: The Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt	Western Michigan #13: The Rev. Peter Burfeind
Philadelphia #2: The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	Indiana #14: The Rev. Chad Trouten
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Canada-West #8: The Rev. James Leistico	Arizona-South #20: The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse
Cleveland-Akron #9: The Rev. Jonathan McCall	Nevada/Utah #21:
Cleveland-West #10: The Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer	San Diego #22: The Rev. Steven Duescher
Detroit-South #11: The Rev. Bradford Scott	Los Angeles #23: The Rev. Robert Dargatz
Detroit-North #12: The Rev. Daniel Grams	San Francisco #24: The Rev. Curtis Binz

DISTRICT STAFF

The Rev. J. Derek Mathers	Assistant to the President / Executive Assistant to the President - Missions
Mr. Albert Amling	Executive Assistant to the President - School Ministry
Mrs. Sally Naglich, CPA	Treasurer / Executive Assistant to the President - Business & Finance
The Rev. Daniel Lepley	LCEF Vice President
Mr. Ronald Grimm	Planned Giving Counselor
Mrs. Kathryn Stanis	Administrative Assistant to the Bishop/President
Mrs. Peggy Oke	Administrative Assistant – Business & Finance
Ms. Natalya Hrecznyj	Accounting Assistant
Mrs. Jill McGarr	Communications Coordinator

ELECTED COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

<u>REGION</u>	<u>PASTORS</u>	<u>LAYPERSONS</u>
Eastern	The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	Mr. Connor Hagey
Lake Erie	The Rev. Mark Braden	Mr. Terry Leu
Midwest	The Rev. Gregory Michel	DCE Rodrick Lane
Western	The Rev. Victor De La Rosa	Ms. Karina Lindsey-von Hindenburg

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

Eastern Region	Mr. Michael Coffey
Lake Erie Region	The Rev. Raymond Kirk
Midwest Region	Mr. Rex Toepke
Western Region	The Rev. Fred Gerlach
Canada Corporation	Mr. Jim Thielen
English District President	The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy
English District Treasurer	Mrs. Sally Naglich
Board of Directors Representative	Mr. Terry Leu
Advisory	Mr. Thomas Schlitt

APPOINTMENTS/APPOINTED COMMITTEES

CAMPUS MINISTRY TASK FORCE

The Rev. Eric Andrae, The Rev. Dr. David Dressel*, The Rev. Curtis Dwyer, The Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt, The Rev. J. Wayne Kerr, Mrs. Augusta Mennell, The Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer, The Rev. James Robinson, The Rev. Travis Schmidt, The Rev. Bradley Scott, The Rev. Bradley Urlaub, The Rev. Marcus Zill

CONSTITUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP

The Rev. Peter Bauernfeind, The Rev. Ryan Beffrey, The Rev. Daniel Grams*

DISTRICT ARCHIVIST

The Rev. Dr. David Stechholz

EVANGELIZATION TEAM

The Rev. J. Derek Mathers, The Rev. Frederic Reaman*, The Rev. Jeffrey Teeple, The Rev. Daniel Warner, The Rev. Mark Wood

LIFELINE

Dr. Roni Grad*

MINISTERIAL HEALTH

The Rev. Timothy Holzerland*, Ms. Marianne Jackson, The Rev. Dr. Christian Just, Ms. Marlene Lindberg, The Rev. J. Derek Mathers*, Ms. Sue Neff, Rev. Justin Schmidt, The Rev. Steven Sutterer

MISSIONS COUNCIL

The Rev. Dr. Roger Ellis, The Rev. Thomas Engler, The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, The Rev. Justin Laughridge*, The Rev. J. Derek Mathers

RECONCILERS

Mr. Richard Crain, The Rev. Ben Eder, Mr. Charles Porter, The Rev. C. J. Wright

STEWARDSHIP

The Rev. Michael Scheer*

WORSHIP

The Rev. Ryan Beffrey, The Rev. David Rutter, The Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel*, The Rev. Brian Westgate

*Chair/Co-Chair

Requires Board ratification

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

OFFICERS

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1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122
First Vice President: The Rev. Peter Lange
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122
Second Vice President: The Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe, Jr.
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5800 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77057
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516 E 58th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57108
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1801 Russell Rd, Alexandria, VA 22301
Sixth Vice President: The Rev. Benjamin Ball
6969 W Frontage Rd., Worden, IL 62097
Secretary: The Rev. John Sias
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122
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Chief Financial Officer: Mr. Nathan Haak
Chief Mission Officer: The Rev. Kevin Robson

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Officers: The Rev. Dr. Michael Kumm, Chairman; Mr. Ed Everts, Vice-Chairman; The Rev. John Sias, Secretary

Ordained Members: The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, The Rev. Josemon Hoem, The Rev. Dr. Michael Kumm, The Rev. John Sias

Commissioned Member: Dr. Jan Lohmeyer

Lay Members: Mr. Ed Everts, Mr. Keith Frndak, Mr. Andrew Grams, Mr. Larry Harrington, Mr. Christian Preus, Dr. Jesse Yow

Non-Voting Members: The Rev. Peter Lange

Advisory: Mr. Frank Simek, Rev. Kevin Robson

Legal Counsel: Thompson Coburn LLP

2022 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #1 - New York</u>			
Ewing, NJ	Bethany	Rev. Dr. Elwood Mather	Bradley Bastedo
Flushing, NY	Immanuel		
Palisades Park, NJ	Grace		
Palisades Park, NJ	New Jersey Chowon	Rev. Phillip Sang Rey	Daniel Kim
Pennsauken, NJ	Martin Luther Chapel		Jane Duffy
Princeton, NJ	Messiah	Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt	Herbert Gishlick
Scarsdale, NY	Trinity	Rev. Gordon Naumann	Kenneth Connelly
St Albans, NY	Redeemer	Rev. Steven Hicks	
Valley Stream, NY	Our Saviour		
<u>Circuit #2 - Philadelphia</u>			
Alexandria, VA	Immanuel	Rev. Noah Rogness	Josef Hageman
Blue Bell, PA	Gloria Dei		
Chesapeake, VA	Faith		James Dobberteen
Lititz, PA	Mount Calvary	Rev. Christopher Seifferlein	Steve Kurtz
Mechanicsburg, PA	Calvary	Rev. Luke Zimmerman	James Blockus
Philadelphia, PA	Rehoboth Afaan		
Springfield, PA	Saint John	Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	John Zampino
Warminster, PA	Grace		
<u>Circuit #3 - Florida</u>			
Inverness, FL	Tree of Life		Ron Hansen
Naples, FL	Faith		
Ocala, FL	Trinity		
Palm Coast, FL	Shepherd of the Coast	Rev. William Douthwaite	Marsha Asbury
Saint John's, FL	Celebration	Rev. Steve De Santo	Will Gilzinger
<u>Circuit #4 - Georgia</u>			
Alpharetta, GA	Christ the Shepherd	Rev. Aaron Sterling	Gary Church
Atlanta, GA	Ascension	Rev. David Miller	Brian Beckman
<u>Circuit #5 - Buffalo</u>			
Albion, PA	Holy Trinity		
Amherst, NY	Calvary		
Buffalo, NY	Nazareth	Rev. Dwayne Hendricks	
Erie, PA	Trinity	Rev. Travis Schmidt	Carol George
Kenmore, NY	Pilgrim	Rev. Ben Eder	Ruth Whitmer
North Tonawanda, NY	Redeemer		
Syracuse, NY	Hope Community		
<u>Circuit #6 - Pittsburgh</u>			
Clarksburg, WV	Saint John's	Rev. Stanley Lacey	Ray Higginbotham
McMurray, PA	Peace	Rev. Justin Schmidt	Rick Crain
Oakmont, PA	Redeemer	Rev. Brian Westgate	Connor Hagey
Pittsburgh, PA	First Trinity	Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel	Brandon Price
Slippery Rock, PA	All Saints		Peter Rigney

2022 CONVENTION DELEGATES

	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #7 - Canada East</u>		
Aurora, ON	Christ	Bob Ernst
Golden Lake, ON	Saint John's	
Mississauga, ON	Saint Mark	Ken Freeman
Pembroke, ON	Saint John's	Paul Douglas
Toronto, ON	Saint Luke	Ian Farquharson
Toronto, ON	Saint Matthew	David Issenberg
<u>Circuit #8 - Canada West</u>		
Chatham, ON	Our Saviour's	
Kitchener, ON	Hope	
Mitchell, ON	Grace	Rev. Gerald Luck
Sarnia, ON	Redeemer	Lucy Radke
Windsor, ON	Gethsemane	
Windsor, ON	Peace	Rev. James Leistico
<u>Circuit #9 - Cleveland-Akron</u>		
Akron, OH	Concordia	Mark Thomas
Akron, OH	Good Shepherd	
Fairlawn, OH	Fairlawn	
Fairlawn, OH	Grace	
North Royalton, OH	Abiding Savior	Charles Parnell
North Royalton, OH	Mount Olive	Rev. Jonathan McCall
Streetsboro, OH	Saint Thomas	Rev. Dr. Christian Just
<u>Circuit #10 - Cleveland-West</u>		
Cleveland, OH	Holy Cross	Rev. Michael Sheer
Cleveland, OH	Iglesia	Dan Kenney
Elyria, OH	Grace	Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr.
Medina, OH	Prince of Peace	Rev. Daniel Haberkost
North Olmsted, OH	Ascension	Rev. Joshua Ulm
Oberlin, OH	Grace	Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer
<u>Circuit #11 - Detroit-South</u>		
Allen Park, MI	Angelica	Rev. Jonathan Sachs
Allen Park, MI	Christ Our Redeemer	Ed Stephens
Detroit, MI	Zion	Rev. Mark Braden
Grosse Pte Woods, MI	Christ the King	Rev. Randy Boelter
Plymouth, MI	Risen Christ	
Sylvania, OH	King of Glory	Rev. Paul Schmidlin
Toledo, OH	Good Shepherd	Rev. Bradford Scott
		Matthew Davenport

2022 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #12 - Detroit-North</u>			
Beverly Hills, MI	Ascension of Christ	Rev. Daniel Grams	David Lambert
Redford, MI	Grace	Rev. Timothy Halboth	Ralph Trendle
Saint Clair Shores, MI	Redeemer	Rev. Todd Seaver	Donald McCullen
Sandusky, MI	Holy Redeemer		
Shelby Township, MI	Epic	Rev. John Hile	David Boer
St Clair Shores, MI	Saint Paul's		
West Bloomfield, MI	Shepherd King	Rev. Timothy Holzerland	Tony Pauza
West Branch, MI	New Beginnings	Rev. Daniel Jansen	Rick Hegenauer
<u>Circuit #13 - Western Michigan</u>			
Bellaire, MI	Hope	Rev. Wade Seaver	Andrew Fleet
Dorr, MI	Epiphany	Rev. Ryan Beffrey	Ashley Beffrey
East Lansing, MI	Martin Luther Chapel		
Grand Rapids, MI	Hope	Rev. Christopher Nuttelman	Jay Harnish
Hartland, MI	Our Savior	Rev. Christopher Thoma	Scott Morris
Howell, MI	Immanuel	Rev. Eric Forss	Dukane Carlos
Lakeview, MI	Holy Trinity	Rev. Alexander Sabol	
Marshall, MI	Agnus Dei	Rev. Peter Burfeind	Aidan Quick
Wyoming, MI	Grace	Rev. Zachary Marklevitz	Jeff De Young
<u>Circuit #14 - Indiana</u>			
Fort Wayne, IN	Bethany	Rev. Chad Trouten	Dain Christensen
Fort Wayne, IN	Redeemer	Rev. Dr. David Petersen	Colin Casey
Fort Wayne, IN	Jacob's Well		
Fremont, IN	Peace	Rev. Jeffrey Teeple	Michael Carr
Hudson, IN	Prince of Peace	Rev. Brian Pratt	
La Porte, IN	Trinity		
Zionsville, IN	Advent	Rev. Marcus Mackay	Monte Weimer
<u>Circuit #15 - Chicago-North</u>			
Arlington Heights, IL	Faith		
Chicago, IL	Bethany		
Chicago, IL	Bethesda	Rev. Dr. Paul Bacon	Roop Charles
Chicago, IL	Christ English	Rev. C. J. Wright	
Chicago, IL	Grace English		
Elk Grove Village, IL	Holy Spirit	Rev. Daniel Greg	Jerry Jacobson
Elmhurst, IL	Redeemer	Rev. Anthony Oliphant	Fran Holmes
Villa Park, IL	Trinity	Rev. Robert Rogers	Scott Golz
<u>Circuit #16 - Chicago-South</u>			
Berwyn, IL	Concordia		
Chicago, IL	Chatham Fields		
Chicago, IL	Ephphatha		
Chicago, IL	Faith		
Chicago, IL	New Hope		
Chicago, IL	Saint John the Divine		
Elmhurst, IL	Messiah		
Markham, IL	Markham		
New Lenox, IL	Trinity	Rev. Douglas Hoag	Timothy King

2022 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #17 - Milwaukee</u>			
Forest Lake, MN	Messiah		
Hales Corners, WI	Hales Corners	Rev. Keith Speaks	Tim Dittloff
Hastings, MN	Hope	Rev. Kenneth Boudreau	Chris Nelson
Janesville, WI	Saint Mark	Rev. Brad Urlaub	Andy Speth
Lake Mills, WI	Christ		
Menomonee Falls, WI	Prince of Peace	Rev. Thomas Engler	Norm Schwantes
New Berlin, WI	Peace	Rev. Gregory Michel	William Vath
Racine, WI	Living Hope		
Sheboygan, WI	Saint Mark		
Watertown, WI	Faith	Rev. Seth Hoepfner	
West Allis, WI	Greenfield Park	Rev. Fred Reaman	Charles Porter
<u>Circuit #18 - Saint Louis</u>			
Hannibal, MO	Saint John's		
Lee's Summit, MO	Beautiful Savior	Rev. Jonathan Gruen	Christopher Troester
Lincoln, NE	Redeemer	Rev. Joel Dietrich	Doug Garrison
O'Fallon, MO	Peace		
St Louis, MO	Chapel of the Cross		David Stahlhut
Vine Grove, KY	Grace	Rev. Ryan Schneider	Regis (Terry) O'Neil
<u>Circuit #19 - Arizona-North</u>			
Mesa, AZ	Eternal Life		
Overgaard, AZ	Faith		
Parker, AZ	Messiah		
Payson, AZ	Shepherd of the Pines		
Phoenix, AZ	Family of Christ	Rev. Fred Gerlach	
Pinetop, AZ	Shepherd of the Mountains		
<u>Circuit #20 - Arizona-South</u>			
Benson, AZ	Peace in the Valley	Rev. Ron York	
Cortaro, AZ	Messiah		
Green Valley, AZ	Risen Savior	Rev. Todd Arnold	Richard Loesch
Rio Rico, AZ	Christus Rex		
Sahuarita, AZ	Crosspoint	Rev. Robert Stevens	
Tucson, AZ	Ascension		Andy Wellik
Tucson, AZ	Catalina	Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse	Ryan Kenny
Tucson, AZ	Faith	Rev. Marcus Zill	Judy Hughes
Tucson, AZ	Holy Trinity		
Tucson, AZ	Mount Olive	Rev. Isaac Wirtz	Jonathan Wiens
<u>Circuit #21 - Nevada/Utah</u>			
Mesquite, NV	Prince of Peace	Rev. Robert Bruggeman	Colin Metzger
Saint George, UT	Our Savior's	Rev. Arthur Drehman	

2022 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #22 - San Diego</u>			
Borrego Springs, CA	Borrego		
El Cajon, CA	First	Rev. James Huenink	Leslie Lucas
La Mesa, CA	St. Luke's		
San Diego, CA	Living Water	Rev. Steven Duescher	
<u>Circuit #23 - Los Angeles</u>			
Long Beach, CA	Saint Paul's		
Los Angeles, CA	Highland Park		
Mission Hills, CA	Chapel of the Cross	Rev. Manuel De La Rosa	Josue De La Rosa
Orange, CA	Immanuel	Rev. Robert Dargatz	Lawrence Washburn
Palm Desert, CA	Peace	Rev. Steve Okpiz	Dawn Okpiz
San Dimas, CA	Trinity		
Sherman Oaks, CA	Sherman Oaks	Rev. Titus Utecht	David Seaver
<u>Circuit #24 - San Francisco</u>			
Danville, CA	Messiah	Rev. Peter Ledic	Joel Ross
Fremont, CA	Hope		
Hayden, ID	Blessed Sacrament	Rev. Marcus Williams	Nathaniel MacPherson
Moses Lake, WA	Apostolic	Rev. Winston Grieser	
San Francisco, CA	New Life	Rev. Charles Fox	Ed Yee
San Francisco, CA	West Portal	Rev. Curtis Binz	Richard Bass

2022 CIRCUIT YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

CIRCUIT

New York/New Jersey Circuit #1

Florida Circuit #3

Pittsburgh Circuit #6

Canada-East Circuit #7

Cleveland-West Circuit #10

Western Michigan Circuit #13

Saint Louis Circuit #18

San Francisco Circuit #24

REPRESENTATIVE

Mayongo Kolubah

Robbie Crain

Nathaniel Hardy

Noah MacPherson

JUBILARIANS – ORDAINED

Ordination/Colloquy Anniversary

25 years (1994, 1995, 1996, 1997)

The Rev. Peter A. Bauernfeind
The Rev. John H. Diener
The Rev. John T. Kelling
The Rev. Eric R. Linthicum
The Rev. Jeffrey G. Miskus
The Rev. Dr. R. Wayne Morton
The Rev. Steven J. Okpiz
The Rev. Jonathan B. Sachs
The Rev. Raymond W. Scholle
The Rev. Robert J. Stevens
The Rev. Charles E. Varsogea
The Rev. Nicholas D. Wirtz

30 years (1989, 1990, 1991, 1992)

The Rev. David C. Adams
The Rev. Thomas E. Engler
The Rev. Eric C. Forss
The Rev. James A. Gau
The Rev. Henry V. Gerike
The Rev. Mel H. Graham
The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth
The Rev. Timothy A. Holzerland
The Rev. Daniel L. Jansen
The Rev. Dale W. Kaster
The Rev. Wallace J. Kimari
The Rev. Gregory S. Musolf
The Rev. Steven J. H. Resner
The Rev. Robert A. Rogers
The Rev. Travis J. Schmidt
The Rev. Dr. David R. Schmitt
The Rev. Keith A. Speaks
The Rev. Dr. Douglas H. Spittel

35 years (1984, 1985, 1986, 1987)

The Rev. Stephen C. Alles
The Rev. Wayne C. Berkesch
The Rev. William Douthwaite, III
The Rev. Steven J. Duescher
The Rev. Ben C. Eder
The Rev. Daniel R. Haberkost
The Rev. Patrick D. Henry
The Rev. J. Derek Mathers
The Rev. Bradford C. Maxon
The Rev. Karl E. Schmidt
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan E. Shaw
The Rev. Steven E. Sutterer
The Rev. David S. Tannahill
The Rev. Michael S. Taylor
The Rev. Donald E. Treglown
The Rev. Robert E. Voelker
The Rev. Clarence J. Wright, Sr.

40 years (1979, 1980, 1981, 1982)

The Rev. Dr. Frederic W. Baue
The Rev. Thomas P. Braun
The Rev. Kevin P. Elseroad
The Rev. Dr. James L. Hoke
The Rev. Kenneth J. Kramer
The Rev. Peter Ledic
The Rev. Allen D. Lunneberg
The Rev. Prentice D. Marsh
The Rev. Dr. Elwood E. Mather, III
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Naumann
The Rev. Kevin K. Saylor
The Rev. George D. Schaetzle
The Rev. Robert W. Tauscher
The Rev. David L. Thiele
The Rev. Dr. Larry M. Vogel

45 years (1974, 1975, 1976, 1977)

The Rev. Robert A. Dargatz
The Rev. Luther P. Esala
The Rev. Joel M. Holls
The Rev. David R. Liefeld
The Rev. Paul R. Schmidlin
The Rev. Norman A. Timmermann

50 years (1969, 1970, 1971, 1972)

The Rev. Jeffrey O. Anderson
The Rev. Dr. David A. Dressel
The Rev. Dr. Roger C. Ellis
The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Fitzpatrick
The Rev. Dr. John M. Goerss
The Rev. Paul J. H. Haberstock
The Rev. Raymond V. Kirk
The Rev. Paul R. Koester
The Rev. Dr. Garry D. McClure
The Rev. Edward F. Radke
The Rev. Dr. David H. Ritt
The Rev. Dr. John W. Stieve
The Rev. John A. Strohschein
The Rev. Roger R. Stuenkel
The Rev. Dr. Dusan Toth
The Rev. Mark L. Viets

55 years (1964, 1965, 1966, 1967)

The Rev. Dr. Paul E. Bacon
The Rev. Norman A. Bumby
The Rev. Robert F. Burke
The Rev. Paul H. Dorr
The Rev. Michael P. Drews
The Rev. Richard L. Ingmire
The Rev. Dr. Keith L. Johnson
The Rev. Charles D. Lentner
The Rev. Larry L. Leuthaeuser
The Rev. Neville Mirtschin
The Rev. Theodore G. Predoehl
The Rev. Myron K. Prok
The Rev. Dr. Vernon L. Schindler
The Rev. Charles A. Weinrich
The Rev. Dr. David J. Zersen

60 years (1959, 1960, 1961, 1962)

The Rev. Hans O. Andrae
The Rev. Dr. Richard D. Drews
The Rev. Dr. Peter E. Mealwitz
The Rev. William E. Meier
The Rev. Joseph Molitoris
The Rev. William Naumann
The Rev. Richard W. Patt
The Rev. Arthur C. Repp, Jr.
The Rev. Dr. Daniel G. Reuning
The Rev. Dr. Louis N. Scholl
The Rev. Dr. Johann S. C. Simon
The Rev. Dr. David T. Stein
The Rev. Dr. Arthur R. Stennett
The Rev. C. David Stuckmeyer

65 years (1954, 1955, 1956, 1957)

The Rev. Howard E. Claycombe, Jr.
The Rev. Robert F. Mayer
The Rev. Raymond W. Wypich

70 years (1949, 1950, 1951, 1952)

The Rev. Dr. Daniel Pourchot

JUBILARIANS – COMMISSIONED

Graduation Anniversary

25 years (1994, 1995, 1996, 1997)

Mrs. Deborah L. Farrar
Mrs. Teresa L. Hansen
Ms. Elaine E. Mills
Mrs. Christina D. Peterson
Mrs. Cheryl L. Poppe
Ms. Susan M. Predoehl
Mr. Donald R. Rau
Ms. Tara L. Ruehs
Mr. Rolf M. Zersen

30 years (1989, 1990, 1991, 1992)

Mr. Larry J. Arnold
Mr. Thomas K. Guilford
Mr. Hugh H. McMartin
Ms. Kristine R. Rohm
Mrs. Sandra J. Wehmeier

35 years (1984, 1985, 1986, 1987)

Mrs. Judith A. Behlke
Mrs. Charlene E. Bruggemann-Wong
Mrs. Margaret A. Finley
Mrs. Grace M. Gallmann
Mr. Paul F. Gohde
Mr. Jonathan P. Hilmer
Mr. Daniel V. Holt
Mr. Frederick R. Jacob
Mrs. Karla K. Rendahl
Mrs. Carol E. Slettvedt
Ms. Marilyn L. Stroik
Mrs. Catherine A. Summerset
Mrs. Patricia A. Zanta

40 years (1979, 1980, 1981, 1982)

Mr. Albert J. Amling, III
Mrs. Phyllis J. Ellis
Mr. Timothy S. Franz
Mr. David M. Funke
Ms. Ann M. Greinke
Mrs. Darla J. Gremel
Mr. Robert W. Kaun, Jr.
Mr. Craig E. Mellendorf
Mr. Douglas S. Mertz
Mrs. Victoria L. Mertz
Mrs. Susan E. Monfre
Mr. Randy L. Potts
Mrs. Laurie J. Steinke
Mrs. Mary Beth Terhaar
Mr. Keith L. Vieregge

45 years (1974, 1975, 1976, 1977)

Mrs. Mary Ann Berkesch
Mrs. Ruth R. Hempel
Mr. Carl E. Hoppe
Mr. Dwayne D. Jobst
Mrs. Ann E. Jobst
Mrs. Stephanie R. Kelling
Ms. Diane L. Kosmala
Mrs. Gloria M. Lawrence
Mr. Douglas W. Markworth
Mrs. JoAn L. Markworth
Mrs. Paula K. Mueller
Mrs. Kathy E. Slupik
Mrs. Janet L. Stechholz
Ms. Nancy J. Tagge

50 years (1969, 1970, 1971, 1972)

Mrs. Michele A. Boyer
Mrs. Mary Jo Fischl
Mr. James M. Harbke
Mr. Albert L. Kahlfeldt
Mr. Randy B. Schallhorn
Mrs. Valjean A. Schallhorn
Mrs. Linda L. Scheurman
Mrs. Joan K. Schlehlein
Mr. Bruce L. Voeltz

55 years (1964, 1965, 1966, 1967)

Mr. Martin C. Duchow
Mr. Carl S. Eisman
Mrs. Rozanne M. Heinzel
Mrs. Marilyn R. McClure
Mr. Leslie R. W. Morris
Miss Sharon K. Nobis
Mr. Kenneth J. Oerkfitz
Mrs. Ruth A. Paschal
Mrs. Susan A. Stults
Mr. Donald F. Wachholz

60 years (1959, 1960, 1961, 1962)

Mrs. Marian F. Brockhoff
Mr. Robert J. Clegg
Mrs. Sandra J. Kollmorgen
Mr. Rex T. Kollmorgen
Mr. Milo D. Lombard
Mrs. Belva J. Schindler
Mr. John W. Speckhard
Ms. Ruth E. Stresow
Mr. Gerald J. Warmbier
Mr. Hilbert W. Wiedenkiller

65 years (1954, 1955, 1956, 1957)

Mr. Russell C. Krecklow

OFFICIAL ACTS

Ordinations

BURMEISTER, Candidate Devin J., 7-5-2020, Beautiful Savior, Lee's Summit, MO
DUY, Candidate Douglas M., Sr., 2-17-2019, Ascension, Tucson, AZ
GANDY, Candidate Amadeus L., 6-9-2018, Faith, Butler, PA
GLENN, Candidate Ellory W., 7-25-2021, Chapel of the Cross, St. Louis, MO
GREG, Candidate Daniel K., 7-10-2021, St. John's, Darien, IL
HULETT, Candidate Raymond A., 7-4-2021, Hope, Fremont, CA
LACEY, Candidate Stanley J., 6-15-2021, St. John's, Clarksburg, WV
MCCALL, Candidate Jonathan C., 12-2-2018, Trinity, Tryon, NC
MATTHEWS, Candidate Michael A., 1-31-2021, Bethany, San Diego, CA
REND AHL, Candidate Craig S., 12-8-2019, Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ
RETZLAFF, Candidate Brady N., 6-16-2020, Living Hope, Racine, WI
ROBINSON, Candidate James B., 6-9-2019, Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, MI
STERLING, Candidate Aaron D., 6-17-2018, St. Paul's, Des Peres, MO
ULM, Candidate Joshua R., 6-10-2018, Ascension, North Olmsted, OH
UTECHT, Candidate Titus A., 7-12-2020, Sherman Oaks, Sherman Oaks, CA
WARNER, Candidate Daniel M., 7-6-2018, Shepherd of the Mountains, Pinetop, AZ
YODER, Candidate Roger W., 3-23-2019, Messiah, Parker, AZ
WIRTZ, Candidate Isaac H., 6-28-2020, Mt. Olive, Tucson, AZ

Installations – Ordained Ministers

BELL, Rev. Larry E., 1-12-2019, Sole Pastor, Shepherd of the Pines, Payson, AZ
BOUDREAU, Rev. Kenneth J., 5-6-2018, Sole Pastor, Hope, Hastings, MN
BRAUN, Rev. Thomas P., 5-8-2020, Senior Pastor, Ascension, Tucson, AZ
BRUGGEMAN, Rev. Robert Q., 8-2-2020, Sole Pastor, Prince of Peace, Mesquite, NV
BURFEIND, Rev. Peter M., 2-10-2019, Sole Pastor, Agnus Dei, Marshall, MI (English District and Our Savior, Union City, MI (Michigan District))
BURMEISTER, Rev. Devin J., 7-5-2020, Associate Pastor, Beautiful Savior, Lee's Summit, MO
DARGATZ, Rev. Robert A., 5-30-2021, Assistant Pastor, Immanuel, Orange, CA
DE SANTO, Rev. Steven A., 4-28-2019, Sole Pastor, Celebration, St. John's, FL
DIETRICH, Rev. Joel A. C., 8-4-2019, Associate Pastor, Redeemer, Lincoln, NE
DUKOVAN, Rev. David M., 8-9-2020, Sole Pastor, Christ, Lake Mills, WI
DUY, Rev. Douglas M., Sr., 2-17-2019, Specific Ministry Pastor, Ascension, Tucson, AZ
FEDDER, Rev. Andrew M. J., 10-18-2020, Missionary, LCMS Board for International Mission, St. Louis, MO
GANDY, Rev. Amadeus L., 6-9-2018, Sole Pastor, Faith, Butler, PA
GANDY, Rev. Amadeus L., 11-16-2019, Sole Pastor, St. John's, Clarksburg, WV
GANDY, Rev. Amadeus L., 12-3-2020, Chaplain, LCMS Board of International Mission, St. Louis, MO
GLENN, Rev. Ellory W., 7-25-2021, Specific Ministry Pastor, Chapel of the Cross, St. Louis, MO
GRIESER, Rev. Winston P. A., 11-4-2018, Sole Pastor, Apostolic, Moses Lake, WA
GREG, Rev. Daniel K., 7-25-2021, Sole Pastor, Holy Spirit, Elk Grove Village, IL
HARDY, Rev. Dr. Jamison J., 8-26-2018, Assistant Pastor, Peace, McMurray, PA
HARDY, Rev. Dr. Jamison J., 12-6-2020 Associate Pastor, Our Savior, Hartland, MI
HILE, Rev. John A., 1-30-2022, Sole Pastor, Epic, Shelby Township, MI
HOLLS, Rev. Joel M., 5-12-2019, Sole Pastor, Christ Our Redeemer, Allen Park, MI

HUENINK, Rev. James E., 11-21-2021, Sole Pastor, First, El Cajon, CA
HULETT, Rev. Raymond A., 7-4-2021, Sole Pastor, Hope, Fremont, CA
JANSEN, Rev. Daniel L., 2-21-2021, Sole Pastor, New Beginnings, West Branch, MI
JOHNSON, Rev. Michael A., Sr., 7-26-2020, Sole Pastor, Faith, Arlington Heights, IL
KINSLOW, Rev. Keith, 9-9-2018, Specific Ministry Pastor, Chatham Fields, Chicago, IL
KOONTZ, Rev. Adam C., 9-9-2019, Associate Professor, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN
LACEY, Rev. Stanley J., 6-15-2021, Sole Pastor, St. John's, Clarksburg, WV
LAUGHRIDGE, Rev. Justin D., 3-3-2019, Senior Pastor, St. Luke, North York, ON, Canada
LEPLEY, Rev. Daniel J., 12-12-2020, Vice President, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, English and SELC Districts
LIEFER, Rev. Todd W., 8-28-2021, Associate Pastor, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
LOREE, Rev. Larry K., Jr., 8-29-2021, Associate Pastor, Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI
MACKAY, Rev. Marcus J., 12-9-2018, Senior Pastor, Advent, Zionsville, IN
MARKLEVITZ, Rev. Zachary W., 3-21-2021, Sole Pastor, Grace, Wyoming, MI
MATHER, Rev. Dr. Elwood E., III, 7-11-2021, Sole Pastor, Bethany, Ewing, NJ
MATHERS, Rev. J. Derek, 2-17-2019, Associate Pastor, St. Mark, Mississauga, ON, Canada
MATTHEWS, Rev. Michael A., 3-21-2021, Specific Ministry Pastor, Borrego, Borrego Springs, CA
MCCALL, Rev. Jonathan C., 12-9-2018, Sole Pastor, Mt. Olive, Cleveland Heights, OH
MILLARD, Rev. Ronald G., Jr., 5-13-2018, Sole Pastor, Peace, O'Fallon, MO
OKPISZ, Rev. Steven J., 7-1-2018, Sole Pastor, Holy Spirit, Elk Grove Village, IL
OKPISZ, Rev. Steven J., 9-27-2020, Sole Pastor, Peace, Palm Desert, CA
PRATT, Rev. Brian V., 12-29-2019, Sole Pastor, Prince of Peace, Strohn, IN
REND AHL, Rev. Craig S., 12-29-2019, Specific Ministry Pastor, Christus Rex, Rio Rico, AZ
RETZLAFF, Rev. Brady N., 6-16-2020, Sole Pastor, Living Hope, Racine, WI
RING, Rev. Dr. Robb C., 7-12-2020, Assistant Pastor, Immanuel, Orange, CA
RING, Rev. Dr. Robb C., 5-30-2021, Senior Pastor, Immanuel, Orange, CA
ROBINSON, Rev. James B., 6-9-2019, Associate Pastor, Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, MI
ROGNESS, Rev. Noah J., 9-12-2020, Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Alexandria, VA
SCHEER, Rev. Michael D., 4-7-2019, Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Cleveland, OH
SCHMIDLIN, Rev. Paul R., 1-6-2019, Sole Pastor, King of Glory, Sylvania, OH
SCHMIDT, Rev. Justin R., 8-26-2018, Senior Pastor, Peace, McMurray, PA
SEAVER, Rev. Todd A., 4-25-2021, Sole Pastor, Redeemer, St. Clair Shores, MI
SEIFFERLEIN, Rev. Christopher M., 11-16-2019, Sole Pastor, Mt. Calvary, Lititz, PA
SHAW, Rev. Jonathan E., 1-5-2022, Assistant to the President, Director of Church Relations, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, St. Louis, MO
STEINKE, Rev. Mark A., 5-5-2019, Sole Pastor, Tree of Life, Inverness, FL
STERLING, Rev. Aaron D., 7-29-2018, Associate Pastor, Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta, GA
STEVENS, Rev. Robert J., 10-28-2018, Sole Pastor, Crosspoint, Sahuarita, AZ
TAYLOR, Rev. Michael S., 10-10-2021, Sole Pastor, Holy Trinity, Albion, PA
THIAGARAJAN, Rev. Alfred R., 10-19-2019, Sole Pastor, Our Saviour, Valley Stream, NY
TILLINGER, Rev. Dr. Dusan, 6-23-2018, Associate Pastor, St. Luke, North York, ON, Canada
ULM, Rev. Joshua R., 6-10-2018, Sole Pastor, Ascension, North Olmsted, OH
UTECHT, Rev. Titus A., 7-12-2020, Sole Pastor, Sherman Oaks, Sherman Oaks, CA
WARNER, Rev. Daniel M., 7-6-2018, Sole Pastor, Shepherd of the Mountains, Pinetop, AZ
WERNER, Rev. Tyler C., 2-27-2022, Sole Pastor, St. Mark, Sheboygan, WI
WIRTZ, Rev. Isaac H., 6-28-2020, Sole Pastor, Mt. Olive, Tucson, AZ
WIRTZ, Rev. Nicholas D., 6-6-2021, Pastor, Independent Congregation, Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ
YODER, Rev. Roger W., 3-23-2019, Specific Ministry Pastor, Messiah, Parker, AZ

YORK, Rev. Ronald K., 6-3-2019, Specific Ministry Pastor, Peace in the Valley, Benson, AZ
ZILL, Rev. Marcus T., 1-10-2021, Campus Pastor, Faith, Tucson, AZ
ZWONITZER, Rev. Rodney E., 4-7-2019, Associate Pastor, Our Savior, Hartland, MI

Commissionings

BARTHLOW, Candidate Christian O., 1-13-2019, First, El Cajon, CA
CAIN, Candidate Corrienne G., 8-23-2020, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
CAMPBELL, Candidate Annette M., 5-5-2019, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
GARNER, Candidate Emily, 8-29-2021, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
JAHNS, Candidate Sandra E., 8-25-2019, Concordia University, Mequon, WI
JURICA, Candidate Katrina M., 7-7-2019, Grace English, Chicago, IL
KERN, Candidate Hanna, 10-27-2019, First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA
RADCLIFFE, Candidate Elizabeth U., 8-23-2020, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
STROHMEYER, Candidate Heidi, 8-23-2020, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
WESTPHAL, Candidate Renee M., 8-23-2020, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI

Installations – Commissioned Ministers

AMENDT, Deaconess Melissa K., 11-8-2020, Deaconess, Immanuel, Alexandria, VA
AMLING, Mr. Albert J., III, 8-29-2021, District Education Executive, Farmington, MI
ANGERMAN, Mrs. Michaelle J., 7-8-2018, Principal, West Portal, San Francisco, CA
BAKER, Mrs. Callie N., 4-7-2019, Director of Christian Education, Ascension, Tucson, AZ
BARTHLOW, Mr. Christian O., 1-13-2019, Director of Christian Education, First, El Cajon, CA
BROWN, Mrs. Alicia M., 8-15-2021, Teacher, Our Savior, Hartland, MI
CAIN, Miss Corrienne G., 8-23-2020, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
CAMPBELL, Mrs. Annette M., 5-5-2019, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
CAMPBELL, Mrs. Annette M., 8-22-2021, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
COLE, Deaconess Jane E., 7-4-2021, Serving Member Congregation, Our Savior, Hartland, MI
DENNERT, Mrs. Katie M., 8-23-2020, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
ELLIS, Mrs. Shannen G., 8-22-2021, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
GARNER, Mrs. Emily, 8-29-2021, Director of Christian Education and Serving Member Congregation, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
JAHNS, Ms. Sandra E., 8-25-2019, Teacher, Concordia University, Mequon, WI
JURICA, Mrs. Katrina M., 7-7-2019, Teacher, Grace English, Chicago, IL
KERN, Deaconess Hanna, 10-27-2019, Deaconess, First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA
MARKWORTH, Mr. Douglas W., 2-12-2020, Principal, Grace English, Chicago, IL
MCMAHON, Mrs. Petrea L., 8-18-2019, Teacher, Our Savior, Hartland, MI
RADCLIFFE, Ms. Elizabeth U., 8-23-2020, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
SALO, Mrs. Andrea K., 8-11-2019, Teacher, St. John's, Hannibal, MO
SHIRK, Miss Cassandra E., 8-5-2018, Teacher, Our Savior, Hartland, MI
STROHMEYER, Ms. Heidi, 8-23-2020, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
TEWS, Mrs. Dana A., 1-3-2021, Teacher, Redeemer, Oakmont, PA
TROESTER, Miss Erika K., 3-15-2020, Director of Christian Education, Beautiful Savior, Lee's Summit, MO
VIEREGGE, Mr. Keith L., 7-4-2021, Teacher, Our Savior, Hartland, MI
VOUGHT, Mr. Andrew L., 8-23-2020, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
WESTPHAL, Ms. Renee M., 8-23-2020, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI

Appointments

BINZ, Rev. Curtis A., 10-11-2019, Circuit Visitor, San Francisco Circuit #24
BURFEIND, Rev. Peter M., 4-8-2021, Circuit Visitor, Western Michigan Circuit #13
DARGATZ, Rev. Robert A., 2-18-2022, Circuit Visitor, Los Angeles Circuit #23
HOAG, Rev. Douglas E., 10-5-2021, Circuit Visitor, Chicago-South Circuit #16
HURSH, Rev. Dr. Terry N., 2-8-2022, Circuit Visitor, Canada East Circuit #7
KIESELOWSKY, Rev. Robert J., Jr., 9-10-2019, Circuit Visitor, Philadelphia Circuit #2
LEISTICO, Rev. James A., 1-19-2020, Circuit Visitor, Canada West Circuit #8
LUTZ, Rev. Gregory R., 1-1-2020, Circuit Visitor, Canada East Circuit #7
MCCALL, Rev. Jonathan C., 9-8-2021, Circuit Visitor, Cleveland-Akron Circuit #9
MOREHOUSE, Rev. Dr. Michael A., 11-9-2019, Circuit Visitor, Arizona-South Circuit #20
RESNER, Rev. Steven J., 8-1-2021, Circuit Visitor, Arizona-North Circuit #19
SWETT, Jonathan A., 3-22-2021, Commissioned At-large, Board of Directors
VIERGE, Keith L., 8-21-21, Commissioned At-large, Board of Directors

Called to Glory - Ordained

AUFDENKAMPE, Rev. Charles R., 12-18-2021
BEUTEL, Rev. David A., 4-5-2019
BRIGGS, Rev. Ronald J., 6-12-2019
BROCKHOFF, Rev. Robert A., 5-30-2019
BURCH, Rev. Don E., 3-16-2022
EGGOLD, Rev. Paul H., 9-28-2020
EVANSON, Rev. Dr. Charles J., 10-14-2018
FABRY, Rev. Dr. Joseph P., 3-28-2021
HAHN, Rev. Dr. Ernest N., 12-26-2021
HALBOTH, Rev. Dr. Victor F., 11-18-2018
JANSSEN, Rev. Arlo T., 5-3-2020
JURKOVIC, Rev. Daniel G., 10-30-2018
KAVASCH, Rev. Robert W., 11-18-2018
KNIPPEL, Rev. Dr. Charles T., 7-23-2018
KREUTZ, Rev. Eugene W., 8-6-2018
KRUECKEBERG, Rev. David E., 4-20-2020
LAPP, Rev. Orlen W., 4-15-2018
MADER, Rev. Myron G., 1-3-2021
PITTELKO, Rev. Dr. Roger D., 11-12-2020
SCHIEMANN, Rev. Arthur W., 10-22-2018
STEINKE, Rev. Mark A., 9-15-2021
STEVENS, Rev. David J., 10-11-2020
VAN DER BLOEMEN, Rev. Thomas G., 8-3-2020

Called to Glory – Commissioned

BAUER, Mr. Donald W., 3-17-2021
FIELDS, Mrs. Sandra C., 10-16-2020
FREDEL, Mr. John R., 8-14-2021
HAY, Mrs. Donna D., 3-3-2021
PITTELKO, Mrs. Beverly M., 11-30-2020
RAWLINGS, Mrs. Emily K., 5-12-2021
SCHULTZ, Mr. Dennis N., 7-8-2012
SODEMANN, Mrs. Betty J., 1-27-2019

Change of Status - Ordained

BERG, Rev. John W., 11-1-2019, Active to Emeritus
BRUGGEMAN, Robert Q., 3-2-2020, Active to Candidate
BURGE, Rev. David M., 9-1-2018, Active to Emeritus
DIENER, Rev. John H., 9-4-2020, Active to Emeritus
ELSNER, Rev. James L., 12-1-2018, Active to Emeritus
FIENE, Rev. John W., 6-1-2018, Active to Emeritus
GRUENWALD, Rev. Daniel J., 1-1-2022, Active to Emeritus
HENRY, Rev. Patrick D., 4-9-2018, Active to Emeritus
JAMESON, Rev. Leon C., 12-17-2021, Specific Ministry Pastor to General Pastor
JOHNSON, Rev. Dr. Keith L., 1-22-2020, Active to Emeritus
KERR, Rev. J. Wayne, 12-17-2021, Specific Ministry Pastor to General Pastor
KIRK, Rev. Raymond V., 8-13-2018, Active to Emeritus
KLEIN, Rev. Richard E., 8-1-2021, Active to Emeritus
LI, Rev. Wenbin Freeman, 5-7-2018, Active to Candidate
MADER, Rev. Myron G., 5-30-2019, Active to Emeritus
MORTON, Rev. Dr. R. Wayne, 7-1-2018, Active to Emeritus
NAUMANN, Rev. Dr. Edward A., 9-24-2021, Active to Candidate
OEHLERTS, Rev. Gary L., 8-1-2019, Active to Emeritus
OKPISZ, Rev. Steven J., 1-6-2020, Active to Candidate
OLSE, Rev. Noel C., 9-2-2019, Active to Emeritus
SANDERS, Rev. Thomas J., 7-27-2020, Active to Emeritus
SCHINDLER, Rev. Dr. Vernon L., 6-4-2021, Active to Emeritus
SCHMIDT, Rev. Karl E., 1-1-2019, Active to Emeritus
SCICLUNA, Rev. Jon D., 1-1-2022, Active to Emeritus
TAUSCHER, Rev. Robert W., Jr., 12-13-2021, Active to Emeritus
THIELE, Rev. David L., 1-1-2021, Active to Emeritus
VOELKER, Rev. Robert E., 10-5-2021, Active to Emeritus

Change of Status - Commissioned

AMENDT, Deaconess Melissa K., 8-2-2021, Active to Candidate
BAUER, Mrs. Kristi K., 8-16-2021, Active to Candidate
BOYER, Mrs. Michele A. S., 6-12-2021, Active to Emeritus
CAMPBELL, Mrs. Annette M., 8-16-2020, Active to Candidate
FRONK, Mrs. Eva M., 6-6-2015, Active to Emeritus
FUNKE, Mr. David M., 6-16-2020, Active to Emeritus
GARRITY, Mrs. Madeline R., 6-12-2021, Active to Candidate
HANSEN, Mrs. Teresa L., 6-8-2019, Active to Candidate

HEMPEL, Mrs. Ruth R., 6-10-2017, Active to Emeritus
HOLT, Mr. Daniel V., 6-6-2020, Active to Emeritus
HORNE, Ms. Laurie A., 2-1-2022, Candidate to Emeritus
HUTSON, Mr. James A., 5-26-2017, Active to Emeritus
JACOB, Mr. Frederick R., 6-12-2021, Active to Emeritus
KELLING, Mrs. Lori A., 6-16-2018, Active to Candidate
KRISTOFIC, Deaconess Patricia L., 11-18-2020, Candidate to Emeritus
LOMBARD, Mr. Milo D., 6-1-2004, Active to Emeritus
MARKWORTH, Mr. Douglas W. 8-17-2021, Active to Candidate
MCMAHON, Mrs. Petrea L., 7-3-2021, Active to Candidate
MERTZ, Mrs. Victoria L., 8-1-2020, Active to Emeritus
MONFRE, Mrs. Susan E., 6-16-2019, Active to Emeritus
MORRIS, Mr. Leslie R. W., 6-16-2018, Candidate to Emeritus
MORRISON, Deaconess Jeri I., 1-1-2019, Active to Candidate
OERKFITZ, Mr. Kenneth J., 6-16-2007, Active to Emeritus
ROESLER, Mrs. Kerrie R., 8-1-2018, Active to Candidate
SALO, Mrs. Andrea K., 7-1-2020, Active to Candidate
SLUPIK, Mrs. Kathy E., 1-1-2020, Active to Emeritus
STECHHOLZ, Mrs. Janet L., 6-16-2018, Active to Emeritus
STILL, Mrs. Kelly L., 6-7-2019, Active to Candidate
STOLL, Mrs. Rachel B., 5-12-2021, Active to Candidate
STROIK, Ms. Marilyn L., 1-28-2021, Candidate to Emeritus
TEEPLE, Deaconess Gina K., 1-1-2021, Active to Candidate
WIEDENKELLER, Mr. Hilbert W., 6-30-2002, Active to Emeritus
ZOBEL, Ms. Suzanne E., 2-1-2022, Candidate to Emeritus

Reinstatements - Ordained

Reinstatements - Commissioned

MARCHESE, Mrs. Ruth A., 4-30-2019, Candidate

Resigned from the Roster – Ordained

CIAMPA, Rev. Frank G., 5-1-2019
JONES, Rev. Brandon S., 8-20-2018
KAARIAINEN, Rev. Dr. Jukka A., 10-11-2018
KLEIN, Rev. Kevin, 9-23-2019
KOURI, Rev. Dr. Jason J. D., 1-16-2020
MANWELL, Rev. Timothy R., 6-25-2019
MYERS, Rev. Cashius R., 9-1-2018
PAYNE, Rev. Matthew A., 2-28-2022

Resigned from the Roster - Commissioned

BODLING, Ms. Linda M., 1-21-2021
CLARK, Ms. Nancy J., 4-5-2018
FERRY, Mrs. Cheryl L., 1-6-2021
HUTSON, Mr. James A., 12-16-2019
KWAPIS, Ms. Aubrey A., 11-27-2018
STOLL, Mrs. Rachel B., 1-24-2022

Removed from the Roster – Ordained

GEE, Rev. Kenety S., 3-1-2019

LEE, Rev. Dr. Du Pyo, 2-8-2019

Removed from the Roster - Commissioned

GRUNEWALD, Ms. Donna L., 4-2-2018

KOLVITZ, Ms. Laurlei L., 4-2-2018

Transfer into District - Ordained

BELL, Rev. Larry E., 1-1-2019, Central Illinois District

BOMBARO, Rev. John J., 8-28-2020, Southeastern District

BOUDREAU, Rev. Kenneth J., 4-23-2018, Southern District

BRAUN, Rev. Thomas P., 4-22-2020, Minnesota South District

DARGATZ, Rev. Robert A., 2-8-2020, Pacific Southwest District

DENG, Rev. Bafel P., 3-8-2021, Florida-Georgia District

DICONTI, Rev. Marc G., 8-4-2021, Northwest District

DIETRICH, Rev. Joel A. C., 7-1-2019, Northern Illinois District

DUKOVAN, Rev. David M., 8-2-2020, South Wisconsin District

ESGET, Rev. Christopher S., 2-10-2020, Southeastern District

GANDY, Rev. Amadeus L., 11-8-2019, Eastern District

GRAHAM, Rev. Mel H., 4-27-2021, Lutheran Church-Canada

HILE, Rev. John A., 1-9-2022, Michigan District

HOKE, Rev. Dr. James L., 1-16-2019, Nebraska District

HOLLS, Rev. Joel M., 4-22-2019, Michigan District

JANSEN, Rev. Daniel L., 1-13-2021, Michigan District

JOHNSON, Rev. Michael A., Sr., 6-8-2020, Southern District

KELLING, Rev. John T., 9-21-2021, South Wisconsin District

KINSLOW, Rev. Keith, 8-1-2018, Northern Illinois District

LEPLEY, Rev. Daniel J., 9-30-2020, Indiana District

LIEFER, Rev. Todd W., 8-15-2021, Texas District

LINTHICUM, Rev. Eric R., 1-19-2022, Southeastern District

LUNNEBERG, Rev. Allen D., 12-18-2019, Michigan District

MACKAY, Rev. Marcus J., 11-11-2018, Nebraska District

MATHER, Rev. Dr. Elwood E., III, 7-8-2021, New Jersey District

MILLARD, Rev. Ronald G., 4-30-2018, Missouri District

NUTTLEMAN, Rev. Christopher K., 3-28-2022, Texas District

OKPISZ, Rev. Steven J., 5-20-2018, Northern Illinois District

PAYNE, Rev. Matthew A., 5-17-2018, Pacific Southwest District

RESNER, Rev. Steven J., 5-19-2021, Indiana District

RING, Rev. Dr. Robb C., 5-22-2020, Pacific Southwest District

ROGNESS, Rev. Noah J., 8-1-2020, Minnesota North District

SAYLOR, Rev. Kevin K., 11-17-2019, Iowa East District

SCHMIDT, Rev. Justin R., 8-20-2018, Central Illinois District

SEAVER, Rev. Wade M., 2-13-2020, Michigan District

SEIFFERLEIN, Rev. Christopher M., 11-11-2019, South Wisconsin District

SHAW, Rev. Jonathan E., 10-12-2020, Missouri District

SNASHALL, SMP Rev. Gleason G. W., 1-23-2021, Pacific Southwest District

STEINKE, Rev. Mark A., 3-25-2019, Florida-Georgia District

STEVENS, Rev. Robert J., 10-14-2018, Rocky Mountain District
STRESMAN, Rev. Glenn D., 11-8-2021, Lutheran Church-Canada
SUTTERER, Rev. Paul R., 5-9-2019, Florida-Georgia District
THIAGARAJAN, Rev. Alfred R., 10-19-2019, Atlantic District
TILLINGER, Rev. Dr. Dusan, 4-11-2018, Lutheran Church-Canada
VON HINDENBURG, Rev. Bruce J., 12-31-2020, Pacific Southwest District
WASHINGTON, Rev. Oliver G., Jr., 1-28-2021, Michigan District
WERNER, Rev. Tyler C., 2-1-2022, Minnesota South District
ZERSEN, Rev. Dr. David J., 6-1-2021, South Wisconsin District
ZILL, Rev. Marcus T., 1-1-2021, Missouri District
ZWONITZER, Rev. Rodney E., 2-11-2019, Florida-Georgia District

Transfer into District - Commissioned

AMENDT, Deaconess Melissa K., 10-7-2020, Ohio District
BAKER, Mrs. Callie N., 2-13-2018, Pacific Southwest District
BEHLKE, Mrs. Judith A., 1-6-2021, South Wisconsin District
BROWN, Mrs. Alicia M., 7-15-2021, Michigan District
BUHRKE, Mrs. Lynn D., 1-31-2017, Northern Illinois District
COLE, Deaconess Jane E., 6-14-2021, Missouri District
DENNERT, Mrs. Katie M., 6-30-2020, South Wisconsin District
ELLIS, Mrs. Phyllis J., 4-15-2020, Pacific Southwest District
ELLIS, Mrs. Shannen G., 8-5-2021, Southeastern District
FRANZ, Mr. Timothy S., 6-10-2021, South Wisconsin District
GALLMAN, Mrs. Grace M., 6-3-2019, Pacific Southwest District
GOHDE, Mr. Paul F., 1-13-2020, South Wisconsin District
GRAF, Mrs. Ashley R., 3-30-2021, Texas District
JOBST, Mrs. Ann E., 3-31-2021, Pacific Southwest District
JOBST, Mr. Dwayne D., 3-31-2021, Pacific Southwest District
JOHNSON, Deaconess Sylvia A., 10-26-2020, South Wisconsin District
KANE, Mrs. Debra L., 6-18-2018, Pacific Southwest District
KELLING, Mrs. Stephanie R., 9-21-2021, South Wisconsin District
KRISTOFIC, Deaconess Patricia L., 8-5-2019, Pacific Southwest District
LIEFER, Mrs. Kelly J., 8-31-2021, Texas District
MARKWORTH, Mr. Douglas W., 12-24-2019, Northern Illinois District
MCMAHON, Mrs. Petrea L., 7-31-2019, Michigan District
MICHEL, Mrs. Susan J., 8-18-2020, South Wisconsin District
MUSSMANN, Mrs. Anna I., 10-23-2019, Southeastern District
RAU, Mr. Donald R., 5-20-2019, New England District
ROHM, Mrs. Kristine R., 2-28-2020, Pacific Southwest District
SALO, Mrs. Andrea K., 8-14-2019, Missouri District
SCHEURMAN, Mrs. Linda L., 2-16-2021, Northern Illinois District
SHIRK, Miss Cassandra E., 6-14-2018, Michigan District
SNASHALL, Deaconess Doris M., 1-17-2021, Pacific Southwest District
STEINBRENNER, Mr. Mark A., 12-16-2020, Texas District
STEINKE, Mrs. Laurie J., 3-25-2019, Florida-Georgia District
TAGGE, Ms. Nancy J., 8-24-2020, Northwest District
TEWS, Mrs. Dana A., 12-30-2020, Florida-Georgia District
TROESTER, Miss Erika K., 3-15-2020, Kansas District

UTECHT, Mrs. Rianne K., 12-2-2020, Indiana District
VIEREGGE, Mr. Keith L., 12-15-2020, Michigan District
VOUGHT, Mr. Andrew L., 6-25-2020, Nebraska District
VOUGHT, Mrs. Keely J., 8-5-2020, Nebraska District

Transfer into District - Congregations

ETERNAL LIFE, Mesa, AZ, 2-23-2021, Pacific Southwest District
HOLY TRINITY, Albion, PA, 2-19-2021, Eastern District
HOPE, Bellaire, MI, 2-13-2020, Michigan District
IMMANUEL, Alexandria, VA, 2-10-2020, Southeastern District
IMMANUEL, Orange, CA, 2-8-2020, Pacific Southwest District
TRINITY, San Dimas, CA, 5-17-2018, Pacific Southwest District

Transfer out of District - Ordained

BERG, Rev. John W., 1-10-2020, Pacific Southwest District
BISCHOFF, Rev. Clifford L., 10-27-2021, Missouri District
BOERST, Rev. Aaron B., 2-14-2020, South Wisconsin District
BROWN, Rev. Michael A., 6-8-2018, Northern Illinois District
BRUCKNER, Rev. Robert A., 4-15-2019, Indiana District
BURGE, Rev. David M., 5-29-2019, Missouri District
CHOI, Rev. Young Chul, 12-1-2018, Florida-Georgia District
CHUOL, Rev. William, 11-5-2018, Lutheran Church-Canada
COCKRAN, Rev. Kurt R., 9-11-2021, Kansas District
DANIELSEN, Rev. Gary L., 12-19-2018, SELC District
DAVIS, Rev. Shawn P., 6-21-2018, Indiana District
FERRY, Rev. Charles D., 6-29-2020, South Wisconsin District
FIENE, Rev. John W., 7-31-2021, Rocky Mountain District
GANDY, Rev. Amadeus L., 5-20-2019, Eastern District
KADE, Rev. Timothy P., 11-1-2020, Michigan District
KLEIN, Rev. Richard E., 11-16-2021, Lutheran Church-Canada
KRAUSE, Rev. Paul W., 9-7-2021, Northern Illinois District
KRUSE, Rev. David A., 10-30-2018, South Wisconsin District
LACH, Rev. Noble P., 5-28-2019, SELC District
LAUTERBACH, Rev. Travis E., 11-6-2019, Minnesota North District
LESSING, Rev. Dr. R. Reed, 6-21-2018, Indiana District
LI, Rev. Wenbin Freeman, 5-24-2018, California-Nevada-Hawaii District
MATZ, Rev. Brett A., 8-30-2021, South Wisconsin District
MAYNARD, Rev. Arthur F., 8-6-2018, Texas District
MURRAY, Rev. Daniel P., 4-24-2019, SELC District
MURRAY, Rev. James E., 5-29-2020, Pacific Southwest District
NEMOYER, Rev. Robert J., 2-17-2020, Ohio District
OLSE, Rev. Noel C., 3-26-2020, SELC District
PALMER, Rev. Joshua S., 10-2-2019, Pacific Southwest District
PEZZICA, Rev. Daniel W., 6-23-2018, Michigan District
ROEGNER, Rev. Robert M., 5-12-2018, Texas District
SANDERS, Rev. Thomas J., 8-12-2020, Northern Illinois District
SCHNEIDER, Rev. Christopher W., 7-27-2019, New Jersey District
SCICLUNA, Rev. Jon D., 2-19-2022, Texas District

SIEGEL, Rev. Jeffrey A., 7-27-2018, Iowa West District
SIMPSON, Rev. Scott E., 11-8-2021, Southeastern District
THELEN, Rev. James E., 6-10-2019, Nebraska District
THOMPSON, Rev. Adam R., 12-5-2020, Eastern District
WEBB, Rev. Jeffrey N., 4-24-2018, Florida-Georgia District
WILLIAMS, Rev. Herman J., 12-1-2021, Northwest District

Transfer out of District - Commissioned

ANGERMAN, Mrs. Michaelle J., 7-1-2021, Minnesota South District
BARTHOLOW, Mr. Christian O., 9-11-2019, Texas District
CORDY, Mr. Andrew A., 1-5-2020, Texas District
DASH, Mrs. Denise A., 6-17-2021, Florida-Georgia District
FRITZ-HALSTED, Mr. Jimmy W., 10-22-2019, Nebraska District
GARRITY, Mrs. Madeline R., 10-22-2021, California-Nevada-Hawaii District
GRANLEY, Mrs. Brenda S., 7-1-2018, Pacific Southwest District
GRANLEY, Mr. Russell J., 7-1-2018, Pacific Southwest District
HEILMAN, Ms. Lisa M., 6-21-2018, Indiana District
JOHNSON, Mrs. Erica A., 1-10-2022, South Wisconsin District
JURICA, Mrs. Katrina M., 7-21-2020, Northern Illinois District
KASTEN, Mr. Ronald L., 1-6-2022, Missouri District
KERN, Deaconess Hanna, 2-18-2022, Michigan District
KOLANDER, Mr. Kevin P., 7-1-2019, South Wisconsin District
KRISTOFIC, Deaconess Patricia L., 9-1-2021, Rocky Mountain District
KRONE, Mrs. Toni L., 1-29-2019, Ohio District
LA BRASH, Mrs. Jewell B., 6-21-2018, Indiana District
LOEWE, Mrs. Jennifer L., 6-28-2021, Florida-Georgia District
MARCHESE, Mrs. Ruth A., 9-28-2019, Pacific Southwest District
MAXSON, Mrs. Stephanie C., 6-21-2018, Indiana District
MCMAHON, Mrs. Petrea L., 8-1-2021, Michigan District
MOLL, Mr. Thomas A., 6-21-2018, Indiana District
MORRISON, Deaconess Jeri I., 1-15-2021, Nebraska District
PANNING, Mrs. Tamara L., 6-21-2018, Indiana District
RAWLINGS, Mr. James E., 10-1-2021, North Wisconsin District
ROOT, Mrs. Emily M., 6-8-2018, Iowa East District
SALO, Mrs. Andrea K., 10-22-2020, Missouri District
SANDERS, Mrs. Cheryl E., 8-12-2020, Northern Illinois District
SWETT, Mr. Jonathan A., 8-7-2021, Northern Illinois District
TRINKLEIN, Mrs. Kathryn B., 2-1-2021, Indiana District
WOOD, Mrs. Christy L., 7-1-2018, Pacific Southwest District
YUEN, Ms. Grace, 11-3-2020, California-Nevada-Hawaii District

Transfer out of District - Congregations

MORNING STAR, Lakeside, CA, 5-18-2020, Pacific Southwest District
ST. MICHAEL, Ft. Wayne, IN, 6-21-2018, Indiana District

Congregations – Closed

ABIDING FAITH, Florence, KY, 12-30-2018
CONCORDIA MISSION, Myerstown, PA, 3-9-2021
CROSSROADS, Mira Mesa, CA, 6-24-2019
EPIPHANY, Northfield, OH, 7-2-2018
FAITH, Butler, PA, 5-20-2019
HOLY CROSS, Toledo, OH, 1-7-2018
INTER-MOUNTAIN, Pine Valley, CA, 7-1-2018
TRINITY, Las Vegas, NV, 7-31-2019

Congregations - New

ABIDING SAVIOR, North Royalton, OH, 9-22-2019
AGNUS DEI, Marshall, MI, 11-14-2018
BLESSED SACRAMENT, Hayden, ID, 10-11-2020
REDEEMER, St. Clair Shores, MI, 12-20-2020
REHOBOTH AFAAN OROMO, Philadelphia, PA, 8-27-2020
ST. JOHN'S, Clarksburg, WV, 2-19-2019
ST. LUKE'S, La Mesa, CA, 5-13-2019

Formation of a Multi-Congregation Parish

AGNUS DEI, Marshall, MI and **OUR SAVIOR**, Union City, MI (Michigan District), 1-13-2019

Schools – Closed

LIVING HOPE ACADEMY, Mt. Pleasant, WI, 12-26-2017
MARTIN LUTHER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, Pennsauken, NJ, 6-1-2019
NEW HOPE LUTHERAN SCHOOL, Chicago, IL, 6-1-2018
OPEN ARMS CHRISTIAN CHILD CARE CENTER, Lancaster, PA, 2-28-2020

Schools – New

REDEEMER CLASSICAL SCHOOL, Ft. Wayne, IN, 12-15-2017

ENGLISH DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTRIES by Regions and Circuits

EASTERN REGION

New York Circuit #1

Ewing, NJ: Bethany - Mather
Flushing, NY: Immanuel - Johann
Palisades Park, NJ: Grace - Bauernfeind
Palisades Park, NJ: Cho Won - Rey
Pennsauken, NJ: Martin Luther Chapel - Served by Vogel
Princeton, NJ: Messiah (CM) - **Erhardt**
Scarsdale, NY: Trinity - Naumann
St. Albans, NY: Redeemer - Hicks
Valley Stream, NY: Our Saviour - Thiagarajan

Philadelphia Circuit #2

Alexandria, VA: Immanuel - Esget / Rogness
Blue Bell, PA: Gloria Dei - Young
Chesapeake, VA: Faith - Morales
Lititz, PA: Mt. Calvary - Seifferlein
Mechanicsburg, PA: Calvary - Zimmerman
Philadelphia, PA: Logos (MS) - Kieselowsky
Philadelphia, PA: Rehoboth Afaan Oromo - Vacant
Springfield, PA: St. John's - **Kieselowsky**
Warminster, PA: Grace - Young

Florida Circuit #3

Inverness, FL: Tree of Life - Served by Linthicum
Naples, FL: Faith - Treglown / Maconachy / Hildebrandt
Ocala, FL: Trinity - Served by SMP Howe*
Palm Coast, FL: Shepherd/Coast - **Douthwaite III**
St. John's, FL: Celebration - De Santo

Georgia Circuit #4

Alpharetta, GA: Christ/Shepherd - Elseroad / Sterling
Atlanta, GA: Ascension - **Miller**

Buffalo Circuit #5

Albion, PA: Holy Trinity - Taylor
Amherst, NY: Calvary - Served by K. Schmidt
Buffalo, NY: Nazareth - **Hendricks**
Erie, PA: Trinity - T. Schmidt
Kenmore, NY: Pilgrim - Eder
North Tonawanda, NY: Redeemer - Served by Spillman*
Syracuse, NY: Hope Community - Served by Hendricks

Pittsburgh Circuit #6

Bridgeport, WV: St. John's - Lacey
Hazelwood, PA: Holy Cross (MS) - Served by Spittel
McMurray, PA: Peace - J. Schmidt
Oakmont, PA: Redeemer - **Westgate**
Pittsburgh, PA: First Trinity (CM) - Spittel / Andrae
Slippery Rock, PA: All Saints (CM) - Served by Deal*

LAKE ERIE REGION

Canada East Circuit #7

Aurora, ON: Christ - Served by Park
Golden Lake, ON: St. John's (Germanicus) - Served by Alles
Mississauga, ON: **Hursh**, Circuit Visitor
Mississauga, ON: St. Mark - Miskus / Gai / Benfey / Mathers
North York, ON: St. Luke - Laughridge / Park / Lutz / Tillinger
Pembroke, ON: St. John's - Alles
Scarborough, ON: St. Matthew - Pillay

LAKE ERIE REGION-cont.

Canada West Circuit #8

Chatham, ON: Our Saviour - Served by Pollex*
Kitchener, ON: Hope - Vacant
Mitchell, ON: Grace - Luck
Sarnia, ON: Redeemer - Served by Ellis
Windsor, ON: Gethsemane - Served by Simon
Windsor, ON: Peace - **Leistico**

Cleveland-Akron Circuit #9

Akron, OH: Concordia - Served by J. Voelker*
Akron, OH: Fairlawn - Gau
Akron, OH: Good Shepherd - Vacant
Akron, OH: Grace - Mills
North Royalton, OH: Abiding Savior - Served by McCall
North Royalton, OH: Mt. Olive - **McCall**
Streetsboro, OH: St. Thomas - Just

Cleveland-West Circuit #10

Cleveland, OH: Holy Cross - Scheer
Cleveland, OH: Iglesia Cristiana Hispana (HC)
Elyria, OH: Grace - Weldon, Sr.
Medina, OH: Prince/Peace - Haberkost
North Olmsted, OH: Ascension - Ulm
Oberlin, OH: Grace (CM) - **Moldenhauer**

Detroit-South Circuit #11

Allen Park, MI: Angelica - Sachs
Allen Park, MI: Christ Our Redeemer - Holls
Detroit, MI: Zion - Braden
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI: Christ/King - Boelter
Plymouth, MI: Risen Christ - Kaufmann
Sylvania, OH: King/Glory - Schmidlin
Toledo, OH: Good Shepherd - **Scott**

Detroit-North Circuit #12

Beverly Hills, MI: Ascension/Christ - **Grams** / Loree, Jr.
Redford, MI: Grace - Halboth
Saint Clair Shores, MI: Redeemer - T. Seaver
Saint Clair Shores, MI: St. Paul's - Rutter
Sandusky, MI: Holy Redeemer - Served by Allen*
Shelby Township, MI: Epic - Hille
West Bloomfield, MI: Shepherd King - Holzerland
West Branch, MI: New Beginnings - Jansen

Western Michigan Circuit #13

Bellaire, MI: Hope - W. Seaver
Dorr, MI: Epiphany - Beffrey
East Lansing, MI: Martin Luther Chapel (CM) - Dwyer / Dressel / Robinson
Grand Rapids, MI: Hope - Nuttelman
Hartland, MI: Our Savior - Thoma / Hardy / Zwonitzer
Howell, MI: Immanuel - Forss
Lakeview, MI: Holy Trinity - Sabol
Marshall, MI: Agnus Dei - **Burfeind**
Wyoming, MI: Grace - Marklevitz

MIDWEST REGION

Indiana Circuit #14

Fort Wayne, IN: Bethany - Trouten
Fort Wayne, IN: Redeemer - Petersen / Frese
Fort Wayne, IN: Jacob's Well - Adams
Fremont, IN: Peace - Teeple
Hudson, IN: Prince/Peace - Pratt
LaPorte, IN: Trinity - Served by Ungrodt*
Zionsville, IN: Advent - MacKay / Grady

Chicago-North Circuit #15

Arlington Heights, IL: Faith - Johnson, Sr.
Chicago, IL: Bethany - Served by Baldauf*
Chicago, IL: Bethesda - Bacon / Katari / Bingue
Chicago, IL: Christ English - Wright
Chicago, IL: Grace English - Served by Gomez*
Elk Grove Village, IL: Holy Spirit - Greg
Elmhurst, IL: Redeemer - Oliphant
Villa Park, IL: Trinity - Rogers

Chicago-South Circuit #16

Berwyn, IL: Concordia - Served by Leichman*
Chicago, IL: Chatham Fields - Kinslow
Chicago, IL: Ephphatha - Marsh
Chicago, IL: Faith - Served by Malone*
Chicago, IL: New Hope - Anderson
Chicago, IL: St. John/Divine - Vacant
Elmhurst, IL: Messiah - Maxon
Markham, IL: Markham - Schneckloth
New Lenox, IL: Trinity - Hoag

Milwaukee Circuit #17

Forest Lake, MN: Messiah - Musolf
Hales Corners, WI: Hales Corners - Speaks / Wood / Jameson / Kogutkiewicz / Liefer
Hastings, MN: Hope - Boudreau
Janesville, WI: St. Mark - Urlaub
Lake Mills, WI: Christ - Dukovan
Menomonee Falls, WI: Prince/Peace - Engler
New Berlin, WI: Peace - Michel
Racine, WI: Living Hope - Retzlaff
Sheboygan, WI: St. Mark - Werner
Watertown, WI: Faith - Hoepfner
West Allis, WI: Greenfield Park - Reaman

St. Louis Circuit #18

Hannibal, MO: St. John's - Carlson
Lee's Summit, MO: Beautiful Savior - Gruen / Burmeister
Lincoln, NE: Redeemer - Ebert / Dietrich
O'Fallon, MO: Peace - Millard, Jr.
St. Louis, MO: Chapel/Cross - Laesch, Jr. / Glenn
Vine Grove, KY: Grace - Schneider

*Indicates a pastor rostered in another district

WESTERN REGION

Arizona-North Circuit #19

Mesa, AZ: Eternal Life - Served by Resner
Overgaard, AZ: Faith - Served by Warner
Parker, AZ: Messiah - Yoder
Payson, AZ: Shepherd/Pines - Bell
Phoenix, AZ: Family/Christ (CM) - Gerlach
Pinetop, AZ: Shepherd/Mountains - Warner

Arizona-South Circuit #20

Benson, AZ: Peace/Valley - York
Cortaro, AZ: Messiah - Esala
Green Valley, AZ: Risen Savior - Arnold / N. Wirtz
Rio Rico, AZ: Christus Rex - Rendahl
Sahuarita, AZ: Crosspoint - Stevens
Tucson, AZ: Ascension - Braun / Duy, Sr.
Tucson, AZ: Catalina - Morehouse
Tucson, AZ: Faith (CM) - Served by Zill
Tucson, AZ: Holy Trinity - Served by McClure
Tucson, AZ: Mt. Olive - I. Wirtz

Nevada/Utah Circuit #21

Mesquite, NV: Prince of Peace - Bruggeman
St. George, UT: Our Savior's - Drehman

San Diego Circuit #22

Borrego Springs, CA: Borrego - Matthews
El Cajon, CA: First - Huenink
La Mesa, CA: St. Luke's - Served by Menacher
San Diego, CA: Living Water - Duescher

Los Angeles Circuit #23

Long Beach, CA: St. Paul's - Pierson
Los Angeles, CA: Highland Park - Vacant
Mission Hills, CA: Chapel/Cross - Naumann / De La Rosa
Orange, CA: Immanuel - Ring / Dargatz
Palm Desert, CA: Peace - Okpiz
San Dimas, CA: Trinity - Vacant
Sherman Oaks, CA: Sherman Oaks - Utecht

San Francisco Circuit #24

Danville, CA: Messiah - Ledic
Fremont, CA: Hope - Hulett
Hayden, ID: Blessed Sacrament - Williams / Bombaro
Moses Lake, WA: Apostolic - Grieser
San Francisco, CA: New Life - Fox
San Francisco, CA: West Portal - Binz / Kerr

Campus Ministries (CM)
Human Care Ministries (HC)
Intentional Interim Minister (IIM)
Mission Starts (MS)

BISHOP/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Rev. Dr. Jamison J. Hardy

Theme: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.

Luke 10:27

Greetings to you in the name of Christ our Lord and Savior.

In January 2020, my wife Wendy and I had the pleasure of taking a Council of Presidents (COP) trip to Israel. In February, I attended the COP meeting in Santa Fe, NM. After completing the first six weeks of 2020, a journey began that I never would have expected, nor thought would have been possible. As news spread from around the world regarding COVID-19, I didn't anticipate the changes that would affect the lives of God's people and the Church for the next 24 months.

The last four years have been filled with many changes and many blessings. Yes, I said it, four years since our last convention. As many of you know, the Synod voted to delay the triennial cycle by one year due in large part to the ramifications of COVID-19. While this was historic in nature, a delay in the Convention is not unheard of for various reasons. Because of this decision, the English District Board of Directors decided to delay the district convention one year to 2022. Thus, we find ourselves in an odd pattern of having an extra year added to the current triennium.

While the last four years have been interesting, challenging, and sometimes difficult, they likewise have been very rewarding. I have witnessed the courage of congregational leaders and their pastors as they found ways to do ministry in the face of government shutdowns, sheltering in place, and a short period of closing churches. All the while, the people of God did not lose hope, nor did they fear for what was next. The English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod finds itself in a position of strength as we exit the pandemic. While I acknowledge significant damage has been caused by COVID-19, I believe the people of God are more resolute and stronger in faith.

During the last four years, creativity and problem solving have become a hallmark of pastoral care. I had numerous conversations with pastors and lay leaders about the most effective and God-pleasing ways to lead through this health crisis. I witnessed the hand of God in many of our congregations as they found new ways to minister and new people with whom to share their faith walk. I am convinced more than ever before that the church today and throughout history has been blessed with a steadfast heart of faithfulness toward God.

Making visits to English District congregations is a priority of mine. Being with God's people was important during this time of uncertainty. My family saw me less and less. For that reason, I want to thank my wonderful wife, Wendy, and my children, Noah, Nathaniel, and Naomi, for their never-ending love, support, and encouragement. I offer my sincere thanks to the entire English District staff. They have remained strong and committed. It is a joy and pleasure to work with people of God, who are faithful to serving the Lord and His Church.

Clearly, the success and strength of the district is made up of all those who are working in the district:

First, I want to thank my Administrative Assistant Kathy Stanis who has been my ministry partner for the past fourteen years. As many of you have experienced, Kathy sees her work as more of a ministry than a job. She has been a blessing to me and a great gift to the Church.

To Rev. Derek Mathers, who has worked beside me as my assistant and mission executive. Derek and I have a great balance of skills and temperaments which allows us to see things clearly and openly. He has made my job much easier, knowing I can send him to represent me in many different circumstances.

To Sally Naglich, who holds the office and business side of the district together with the highest degree of skill and integrity. Sally is a wonderful ministry partner and dedicated servant of Christ who loves the Lord and the work that she does for the sake of the Gospel.

To Peggy Oke, who has more than 35 years of experience with the district. She is an invaluable member of the staff with vast experience and knowledge. Peggy has a wonderful personality that is helpful and generous in every situation. She loves her Lord and seeks to serve Him.

To Natalya Hrecznyj, who has been a great addition to our staff and a wonderful support to the work of the English District and the Gospel. She has been faithful and growing in her own faith.

To Ron Grimm who is a representative for the LCMS Foundation. Ron has made many connections and assists congregations and individuals in preparing their financial affairs and estates. His work has been a blessing to the people of God in the English District, and we rejoice at the partnership we have with the LCMS Foundation.

To Gail Holzer, who retired this past year, as she makes ministry transitions in her life. She has always given her best to those who have schools and education ministries and has been a blessing and joy to work with. Albert Amling joined the staff replacing Gail as the School Ministry Executive, and he has been a great addition to the district and brother in Christ. Albert brings many years of experience and a perspective that has been a blessing to the English District and its school ministries.

In December 2020, Rev. David Thiele retired as the LCEF Vice President for the English District. David is missed, and we wish him well in his retirement. After an extensive search, LCEF and the English District called Rev. Daniel Lepley to fill the position. Dan has been a great addition to the English District staff. We give thanks to God for his work and effort to support our congregations. He also serves as LCEF Vice President for the SELC District and has been a great advocate for district and LCEF partnerships and stewardship at all levels.

I am very grateful for the partnership with the Board of Directors of the English District. We have a wonderful Board of Directors, who cares deeply for the success and well-being of the Church and district. Each member has contributed in different ways and helped to propel the district into a stronger and better place as we serve the Lord with joy.

I extend special thanks to Rev. Dr. Wayne Morton, Chairman of the Board of Directors, who has been my brother and friend for my entire time as a member of the English District. Wayne has helped to make me a better pastor, leader, friend, and Bishop/President. He has shown grace and mercy consistently as the chairman. Wayne is a churchman at the highest level.

Special thanks to the Circuit Visitors, Vice Presidents, and others who serve in my stead and represent the district. Without the partnership of many in the district and those willing to go above and beyond, we would not be as successful or relevant as we are today.

District Theme

The focus and work of the English District has been centered on Luke 10:27: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.* These words have influenced the efforts of the District over the last four years. Showing God's love with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind is not only the command, but it is also a privilege.

This theme has had a powerful impact during the pandemic. Our eyes, our faith, and our trust are centered on Jesus Christ, our Savior. We unequivocally show God's love with our heart, soul, strength, and mind. The Church has been fortified and strengthened in its service and mission to proclaim the saving grace of Jesus Christ and to return to Him love in all forms.

The blessing of our theology is that we truly understand what love is in the life of the Church and the world around us. The love that is shown to us by Jesus is unconditional and unmatched. It is not selfish or self-serving nor does it violate God's natural order. The world has a distorted view of love. This view twists the true meaning of love toward self-satisfaction and self-fulfillment. The love of Jesus is this: He sacrificed His life for us, despite the world's hatred for His commandments, and His desire is that we remain obedient and faithful.

Relevance in Synod and the World

I maintain that the English District must remain relevant in our witness in the world and in our participation in the Synod. This continues to be an emphasis that I share with my brothers in the ministry and with congregational leaders. Over the last four years, several English District lay leaders, along with pastors from our congregations, have been elected or appointed to serve in positions at the national level. Likewise, we have seen tremendous growth in local communities and at state governmental levels where our clergy and lay leaders have extended and expanded their footprint of service.

Because of the ramifications of COVID-19, I believe that the desire to participate in local and state governmental positions has increased in the life of our Church members. Watching events unfold over the last 24 months has sparked a desire to get involved. I am thankful for those who have heard the call and stepped up in service.

It is with great joy that I report that the English District remains a managing partner in the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM). It has been my pleasure to send representatives from the district, along with myself, to travel to the Dominican Republic (DR) for its annual Foro meetings. The mission in the DR continues and will remain a focus of our international work. As we look ahead to the next triennium, I am happy to share that our extended work will include Kenya, South Africa, and other parts of the world. We seek mission partnership opportunities and locations for our members to connect for service and support.

Missions

The district has been blessed with planting three new churches, and there are discussions in process to add four more. These new churches have had different levels of success thus far and show great promise. During previous conventions, circuits were encouraged to plant new congregations as a means

of partnership and oneness in Christ. The Lord has blessed the new mission plants with either a vicar or a called pastor. In all cases, the people of God regularly receive the sacraments and hear the Word of God proclaimed.

St. John's, Clarksburg, West Virginia

This mission site has an interesting history and the support of the Pittsburgh circuit. Over the last four years, the Pittsburgh circuit has worked in conjunction with congregations from the Eastern District to provide a preaching station for the people of God in Clarksburg, WV. Over the course of time various solutions to pastoral care have been sought, including the short-term service of Rev. Amadeus Gandy and now the permanent installed pastor, Rev. Stanley Lacey. In both cases, these men have faithfully proclaimed the word of God and delivered the sacraments of Christ to his people. God has shown his grace and mercy, helping this small congregation find a new location and grow by his grace and favor.

Holy Cross, Hazelwood, Pennsylvania

Holy Cross Evangelical-Lutheran Chapel began as an outreach of First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh, PA with Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel offering weekly Bible studies in the local library. A small group of people faithfully attended the Bible studies. What came of that work was a blessing from God. A defunct ELCA congregation provided Holy Cross with a building and its former members. Rev. Spittel catechized, taught, and served these people faithfully. Over the last three years, Holy Cross has been served by vicars and is now in a position to call a full-time pastor.

Blessed Sacrament, Hayden, Idaho

There was a call for confessional liturgical worship in Hayden, ID and Rev. Dr. John Bombaro heard the cry and faithfully stepped up to begin the work at Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church. This congregation was welcomed into the English District and has been blessed with calling men to serve as senior and associate pastors. God has done amazing things in Idaho, and we give thanks to the Lord for the success that he has provided this congregation as it witnesses to the Gospel in its local community.

Overall, The English District remains committed to finding opportunities to plant new churches and to grow ministry opportunities in and around the district. God has provided resources to accomplish this task. The district will provide information about opportunities for more mission planting during the next triennium. Encouragement continues for English District circuits to plant congregations where the mission is needed.

Campus Ministries

Campus ministry has been an ongoing center focus. During my term, campus ministry has received the most funding of our mission opportunities. We are blessed to have thriving, dedicated, and faithful campus ministries. The English District Campus Ministry Task Force, with Rev. Dr. David Dressel as chairman, meets on a regular basis to provide mutual support, discussion, and best practices. In the upcoming triennium there are three campus ministry locations into which the district would like to expand. We are blessed to have congregations seeking ways to facilitate campus ministries.

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund has proven to be a strategic success for mission funding and future stability of the district. We have seen significant growth due to market conditions and investment diversification within the portfolio. We have been blessed with congregational and individual contributions and continued proceeds from performance of the investments. This continues to be a bright gem for the future of service to God. The six focus areas that the endowment supports are new mission starts, church worker

education debt reduction, scholarships, campus ministry, disaster relief/human care, and a small portion is for miscellaneous purposes. Two specific areas of the endowment fund that have had a significant impact are new mission starts and church worker debt reduction. The church worker debt reduction program has helped several of our pastors lower their indebtedness from seminary education. This allows them to focus on ministry and mission without the burden of financial constraints.

MISSIONS REPORT

The Rev. Derek Mathers
Assistant to the President/Bishop and Mission Executive

My service as Assistant to President/Bishop Hardy and as Mission Executive of the District has been focused on four of the eight End Statements established by our English District Board of Directors at the beginning of this Triennium. For a complete list of these end statements please refer to the Board of Directors' report in this Convention Workbook.

END STATEMENT: The English District will be a model for the Synod in funding new missions and missionaries by our congregations participating in the Dollar for Missions (1-1-1) funding model.

This funding model for missions was conceived and established on the concept that "there is power in many giving little as we are moved by God's Spirit."

Being launched as part of our 2018 District Convention, every congregation was invited to participate. This participation has always been completely voluntary. We believe that as God's people see and hear what is being accomplished, specifically and directly in support and development of new missions and enhancing existing missions, more and more of us will want to be involved.

Our 1-1-1 cycle runs from September 1 each year through August 31 the following year. In the 2020-2021 cycle, 65 congregations and 6 individuals participated, even during the middle of COVID with its various lockdowns and limitations in different geographical areas. At the time of my writing, in the current cycle of 2021-2022, 27 congregation and 2 individuals have already participated with 1-1-1 collections received by our District.

1-1-1 is simple. Very simple. It is NOT burdensome, nor sacrificial. It involves every baptized member of the Body of Jesus in your congregation, from the newest baby baptized to the oldest member. It demonstrates the power of the beautiful body of Christ working together, prompted by faith. It shows how much can be accomplished by many, giving little. Here's the plan: \$1 per baptized member per week. Simple, right? Self-explanatory almost. All can participate.

For more information on the missions supported by 1-1-1 gifts, I encourage you to read the 1-1-1 report in this Convention Workbook.

END STATEMENT: The English District helps its congregations become and remain healthy.

Twenty-seven congregations have worked through a Congregational Assessment of Development/Decline Status (CADDs) provided free of cost by our District through the Office of National Mission Re:Vitality offices. Developed by Rev. Dr. Mark Wood, LCMS Director of Witness & Outreach and Revitalization and a friend of our English District, CADDs is a survey-based self-assessment tool designed to provide a congregation with a consistent and objective way of answering the question "Where are we ... really?"

While this tool does not require anyone from outside the congregation to assist in administering the assessment, I have found it helpful to our congregations when I can personally visit with them and assist

in understanding the report they receive. It is also an opportunity for me to answer questions and to make a personal connection of support from our District staff.

This survey measures three critical elements of development and decline to evaluate a congregation's well-being. The first is sustainability (also called viability). It reflects the congregation's ability to continue ministry. The second element is adaptability, which measures the members' openness to change. The third element considers the balance of the outward focus and inward focus of the congregation.

Every congregation has its own unique context of ministry and mission. The CADDs survey is designed to recognize that unique context through participation by any and all members of the congregation and other people with an interest in the congregation (e.g., non-member school families). The survey is completed online and does have an offline option as well.

For those congregations making the most of the opportunity of several other Re:Vitality modules, CADDs is a first step in honest self-reflection and identification of areas to be celebrated and to be revitalized.

This tool is available to all our English District congregations through my office. As our end statement directs, as a district we invest time and resources in our congregations to become and/or remain healthy.

END STATEMENT: Our church workers and their families benefit from wellness resources.

Bishop Hardy highly values the wellbeing of our church workers and their families as does our Board of Directors. It is easy for any organization to lose sight of the people in the organization or to relate to them from a business perspective only. Not so in the English District. One can see this care and concern for Church workers, both ordained and commissioned, and their families in the use of District resources, from active use of the Soldiers of the Cross – COVID grants, to making the time for personal visits either in person or over the phone, to providing resources of support that come from outside the district, to the establishment within our District of the Ministerial Health Commission (MHC). (The MHC's report is available in this Workbook.)

Our District has been a member of the LCMS Ministry Care Coalition (MC2) since its conception in 2013, when it was organized by Concordia Plan Services (CPS). The coalition — a collection of representatives from many of our LCMS sister districts, various LCMS Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs), the LCMS Office of National Mission and CPS — supports and fosters conversations about church worker wellness across the Synod.

Not every District has as a priority the care of church workers and their families. One benefit of being in MC2 is that we join together with other geographical districts and share our resources and experiences with each other — we don't have to reinvent the wheel — and then bring back what has been shared to help those in our own district.

Are we effective in these efforts? One member of a church worker family wrote, "I feel so blessed to be a part of the English District. I have never been in a district that has cared for me and my family as has been shown to me these past months. ... I do not feel forgotten, and I truly feel cared for. I could so easily be left behind and you have made sure that has not happened."

We are not always as effective as this, but we are trying to be there for our workers, for their personal wellbeing, and then indirectly for the wellbeing of the people of God in our congregations.

END STATEMENT: Our congregations collaborate on new missions and ministries.

Events in our world over the past two years have slowed but not eliminated accomplishing this end statement. Encouraging intentional exploration of developing new missions across our District has always been before us, especially in geographical areas where we have existing congregations. Being a non-geographic district allows us to plant new congregations in a much larger variety of contexts.

The focus of new mission starts has shifted from District-started missions to individual congregations developing daughter congregations, to congregations being encouraged to vision and work together as circuits. There are many unique contexts for potential ministry within each of our 24 English District circuits and active encouragement has been given to each of them to intentionally look around their geographical areas and ask, "Where might God be opening a door for a new mission start?"

It could be a new church plant in a growing or developing residential area, identifying demographic realities that might open a door to another people group, or it might be a generational mission start. This is the challenge I have been putting before our church workers in our four regional conferences: "Tell me what you see from where you are standing, that might be a door to touch your community with God's love."

Pastor Justin Schmidt's answer was that he saw a young man in a nearby community ready to get involved in exploring the start of a new congregation in his location. Pastor Schmidt has committed one day a week to being in that community and seeing what additional doors God will open.

Not far down the road is the Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministry (PALM), working together with Rev. Douglas Spittel and God's people at First Trinity. Together over the years, with God's provision and blessing, they have established and built-up Holy Cross Evangelical-Lutheran Chapel.

Our Milwaukee Circuit congregations are actively exploring working together to call a missionary to a not yet designated area of the city. As part of this exploration there have also been meetings with the South Wisconsin District staff to explore how together they might bring this vision into reality.

The mission of God is clear, that all people come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. As we confess, it is in hearing the Word of God that people come to faith in him for the forgiveness of their sins and live in all the promises of God for them. We actively look for the opportunities and doors that God opens to us. Our circuits and churches are active in many ways, continuing to be a voice and a presence for Jesus in our world today.

WE PLANT AND WATER, GOD CAUSES THE GROWTH

Stories of Kingdom Growth in the English District from this past Triennium

First Trinity Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

(Partnering with LCMS RSO Family Shield Ministries [FSM] to get students out of cults; an excerpt from an FSM update from Kay Meyer - *shared with permission; adapted slightly for this report*)

Jeanette is one of the mothers we mentored by phone for over six months during the pandemic. She was originally referred to us by Eric Andrae, an LCMS campus pastor in Pittsburgh who knew about the Family Shield Counter Cult Ministry and who also had been counseling her. Her daughter, Jasmine, had gotten involved in a controlling cult. Jeanette didn't understand many of the Christian basics when we first spoke with her. But she wanted to learn more and help her daughter. We shared the saving gospel message, God's Word, and continued to pray with her and for her. She had gone through some trauma in her life, and we prayed with her about this and asked the Lord to help her. The second time I talked to her, she was calm and so interested in spiritual things. God answered my prayers for her. She was amazed that we said she was saved by faith alone in Christ. She wanted me to share all the Bible verses about this topic. She grew in faith. She did several Bible studies with me and listened to numerous Family Shield podcasts we recommended. She then began doing a daily devotion with her daughter and reading the Bible together. We mentored her for six months and then continued to stay in touch. We continued to pray with her for her daughter.

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, Phoenix, Arizona

Having come to the United States in search of asylum, Raymond faced an onslaught of challenges. He lived in the Welcome Center for asylum-seekers for four months before connecting with Ruth from our Reception & Welcome program. He had experienced trauma in his home country that led to medical issues, and his application for asylum had stalled.

Ruth was able to work with Raymond to receive medical care, legal assistance, and kindness. He asked her what her religion was, noting that with all of the work she was doing, she must "come from a nice religion." Ruth explained that she was a Christian, and Raymond decided that he wanted to become a Christian too.

Together with his host family, Raymond started attending a local Lutheran church and began classes about becoming a member. He was baptized not long after with his host family and Ruth by his side.

Luke Comfort Dog - Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta, Georgia

As part of this ministry, Judy Adams was moved to develop, write, and publish a children's book entitled, *Luke Comfort Dog, My Story and Very Special Job*. The book was printed to be a ministry tool when visiting folks with Luke. The Gospel is touch when folks of all ages in need, need to tell their stories to one of God's creatures, Luke. Luke never talks back and he is a bridge to ministry.

The book has touched hundreds of lives in every age group. We have sent it to libraries, nursing homes, hospitals, Nicaragua for a mission trip, Mentor Me, Florida-Georgia District preschools, senior centers, public schools, private schools, health departments, Yellow Ribbon children, Veterans of the Cross Retreat, etc. Thanks be to God for all these blessings.

All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania - Augusta R. Menzell

We have the honor of touching the hearts of American and international students at Slippery Rock University, Grove City College, and Westminster College near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Sometimes this happens in the most unexpected ways. For example, at a Saturday night monthly Korean meal for the students, vacancy pastor Rev. Jacob Deal opened with prayer. But then he challenged the students to stump him with questions about Christianity. He was highly visible in his collar, and he sat at the end of the aisle with plenty of space around him so that it would be easy for the students to reach him. "Come on over and try to stump me," he said.

Amazingly, some students took him up on this challenge. They waited patiently to ask him questions about infant baptism, the difference between Gentiles and Jews, and whatever else was on their minds. This time with Rev. Deal was especially meaningful to a young man who connected with Rev. Deal. The connection was so strong that the young man came to worship the next day, something he has been struggling with for a long time. Somehow, the challenge by Rev. Deal spoke to his heart.

All Saints' monthly meals bring the students in not only for the delicious home-cooked Korean food, but also to get a chance for us to get acquainted with them personally. We urged the students to consider coming into my office to talk. Two friends, one from London and another from Nepal, asked if they could come in to talk the next day. Of course, we agreed to do so. They wanted to know about American values, and that led to discussing religion in America.

The student meals are a useful means of opening doors to faith. The student from London had been baptized as a "cultural" event. The student from Nepal had studied Christianity in a class. We told them what the Gospel really means. They will return to learn more. This is such a blessing to All Saints campus ministry.

St. Mark Lutheran Church, Janesville, Wisconsin

In June 2020, four leaders from St. Mark Lutheran Church participated in an online training of "Structured for Missions" along with representatives from five other congregations. After the training, it was clear that St. Mark was "getting in the way of itself" when it came to missions. Like many congregations, St. Mark struggled with the "80-20" rule of participation. No, the course did not magically cure the problem. However, each leader considered how to implement an aspect of the course.

The president of the congregation worked with Pastor Brad to examine the current structure in place at St. Mark. The most glaring area needing work was the unwritten rules of operations. Job descriptions, guidelines, and policies were written down and no longer assumed. Making these available to the congregation has increased congregational involvement, because people felt comfortable helping in an area that wouldn't become a "life sentence."

As a team, the leaders were excited to share some of the knowledge from the training to the council and deacons. In less than two years, there has been a cultural transformation. Every idea that comes forward is scrutinized under the overarching mission and vision at St. Mark. This is done to prevent the congregation from losing sight of why we are here: "to grow in, point to, and share with all the love of God in Christ Jesus." And without losing that focus, we have been able to welcome over 30 new members in a year and a half along with another 20 potential new members as we await the next new member class.

Church of St. Luke – Lutheran, Toronto, Ontario

Leaders from our congregation at St. Luke Lutheran benefited greatly from the “Structured for Missions” experience. In particular, they were able to see how systems of discipleship and outreach are so important in the life of a healthy congregation. This insight led them to participate in things like a spiritual gifts inventory and a weekly neighborhood prayer ministry to the streets and homes within one kilometer of our congregation. They continued in other outreach projects but did so with a renewed sense of purpose in how those things fit into the church’s overall mission and ministry.

Our city and community offer so many chances to serve the Lord where He has placed us, and I’m thankful that “Structured for Mission” has helped us to find out where and how we can serve Him best, so that many more come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

LCMS U – University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

The last four years have certainly been proof that God works in unexpected yet providential ways. While the COVID pandemic has been a strain on all district missions, these times have created new and unexpected opportunities, and not just for college students but also those who are available to minister to them.

For instance, Rev. Marcus Zill, who was serving as the Synod’s Director of Campus Ministry for the past six years, was informed by the Synod that his position, among others, was being eliminated due to financial considerations brought on by COVID. While it was unfortunate for this important position to be lost to our Synod, the English District was uniquely equipped to step in and help in a way that not only benefitted one of our long-time campus ministries at the University of Arizona, but also Pastor Zill and his family.

While no one could have foreseen any of this four years ago, Pastor Zill is now utilizing and applying his 25+ years full-time campus ministry experience to a new and exciting situation. This was all possible because of the strength of our campus ministry support in general, the commitment of everyone who supports campus ministry at the University of Arizona in specific, and the leadership of our District’s President/Bishop.

While our campus ministry in Tucson is in a time of transition given the impact of COVID, the departure of its previous campus pastor to another District and our District’s decision to sell its share of the campus property that has served as the campus location in Tucson for decades, the task of rebuilding is underway, and the interest remains as high as ever. Thanks be to God who has enabled us to work together to bridge this campus ministry gap and need together!

Pastor Jung Hun Park, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Aurora, Ontario and St. Luke Lutheran Church, Toronto, Ontario

I have always had a heart for mission, and a few years ago, I had a chance to attend a church planting seminar and was excited to participate.

About 30 people with various experiences from various regions attended the seminar. Among them, there were various ministries such as house church ministry, campus ministry, neighborhood ministry, youth ministry, and multi-ethnic ministry.

In the first lecture, we briefly took a class on planting a church, and in the afternoon, we had to give a presentation about planting a new church. To attend a short lecture of a few hours and submit a plan to

build a new church? I was a bit confused but decided to try a possible planting church plan in my situation.

My presentation that day was a plan for multi-ethnic missions. I live in Toronto, and Toronto is a city with a lot of multi-ethnic people living together. I naturally thought that multi-ethnic missions would be possible. The plan went like this. First of all, I plan to meet people around me from other countries who are easy to contact and raise them as leaders. For example, I am going to have a deeper relationship with Koreans, Chinese, Iranians, and Filipinos that I usually meet around me. And by establishing leaders among them and supporting them, we can plant each ethnic group or church in their own language.

In the Church of St. Luke and Christ Lutheran Church, the Filipino Fellowships meet monthly. We also support the Iranian Fellowship meeting and worship service, and I personally invite the lonely and needy people to my house to share table fellowship together.

If a church is a building, it can be built with a lot of materials, but we know that the church is a gathering of believers, so it can be a church at home, in a cafe, in a park, or anywhere.

Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, Michigan

Lydia first came to Martin Luther Chapel and would describe herself as very quiet. Through connections with Purpose Pals, where a student member and residential member are paired together, she received support and affirmation in this unique connection. She truly found her voice in participating in Wednesday On Fire, where she was a singer and helped to lead worship services that were student led. She has also said that "the people at Martin Luther Chapel welcomed me with open arms, and now they are my best friends."

Matthew was also highly active in his time at Martin Luther Chapel. He was active as a chapel manager, caring for the needs of the chapel while living on site. He was also a leader in the Peer Ministry student group who planned events. Matt made an impact participating in the Wednesday On Fire services, and led Bible study. He also was a leader on a spring break servant event, where he led a team of students to Mexico to build houses for those in great need.

Francesca, a new student who came to us in her first year on campus, writes, "Before arriving at Michigan State University this fall, I worked with my pastor to find an LCMS church in East Lansing. It was very important to me that I stay strong in my faith and continue attending services every Sunday while away from home. We found Martin Luther Chapel, which was a blessing from God. After the first divine services I attended, I was greeted with a loving welcome from not only Pastor Curt and Pastor James, but also from the students. MLC is strong in their mission of spreading the good news of Christ in and out of the church, but that doesn't lie only within Sunday service. The student ministry has been a staple of my time at MSU, and I was eager to be a part of it and serve their student leadership team. The nurturing and Christ-centered environment is exactly what I was searching for in my new church. I am very thankful for Martin Luther Chapel and its many blessings."

Hope Community Lutheran Church, Syracuse, New York

Our congregation has monthly prayer meetings held in one of our member's home. This event was opened to community friends, and we were blessed to have many people who are not from our congregation attending. Two adults who are not from our congregation had been touched by the Holy Spirit and declared that they will be fellowshiping with Hope.

During our fast and prayer meeting last month, a sister (member of the fast and prayer team) shared with the group that praying together has helped her cope with the stress of her terminally ill family member. Another sister shared with the group that praying together as God's children is a blessing. Through the strength of God's Holy Spirit, she was able to forgive her aunt who made her have an abortion, a procedure she was unfamiliar with. When she became aware of what had happened, she promised that she would never speak to that aunt again. That was 20 years ago in Africa, but she was able to call her aunt and forgive her this past February.

Asian Indian Ministry (AIM) - Bethesda Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois

During the COVID pandemic, a family arrived in our community, Mr. Stalin, Mrs. Veronica, and their 7-year-old son Nathan. They did not have any church to go to and worship the Lord because they are Christians. We approached and gave them help to survive in the U.S. and invited them to our worship in person and through the conference calls and Zoom. They joined and benefited from our worship, sacraments, and physical help like financial assistance, rides, and groceries. Now they are members of our church.

Our congregation was visited by a Hindu family. Mr. Vamshi, Mrs. Kalai and their two little children, in the past four years. We prayed with them and shared the message of God's love in Jesus. Eventually, they began to attend our church programs and showed their interest to learn more and to participate with us. We thank God for their repentance and confession of Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They always share freely with others how Jesus loves them and blesses them in their daily lives. The little girl loves to clap her hands while we sing and tried to sing along with us even though she started talking just a few months ago. They are blessed with strong faith in Jesus Christ. They are open to receiving baptismal instruction and look forward to being baptized in the near future.

Actively encouraging our young people to grow and be active in leadership, Mr. Vikas, Mr. Vineel and Mr. Ravi go with our pastor to take the gospel to their friends and relatives. Many have benefited from their volunteer work. They help old and sick people to attend Sunday worship and other church activities.

Logos Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

(Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries)

In any location, but particularly in the city, mission work is more like a marathon than a sprint. The primary endeavor of Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries over the past five years has been to establish a mission congregation in the heart of Philadelphia: Logos Lutheran.

The past two years have been challenging in the city with its widespread COVID restrictions and closures. We praise God that even in the midst of social unrest and heightened anxiety when most churches in Philadelphia were closed, we were blessed to continue engaging people with the proclamation and instruction of the Christian faith.

During these times, we met a recent Temple University graduate, an engineer who lives a few blocks from the church. He is a thoughtful person and slowly he began attending services and meeting one-on-one with Pastor Kieselowsky. Over the course of six months, he was instructed in the Small and Large Catechism. On the Sunday he was confirmed, he brought his girlfriend. She has since admitted that experiencing the liturgy for the first time was overwhelming. But the group warmly welcomed her, and she grew interested in our fellowship around God's word and the sacraments. She's a nurse studying in graduate school to be a nurse practitioner—through complicated schedule and studies, she came to services over the course of the past year, has now been catechized, and was recently confirmed.

These two, as well as a few other couples, have gotten engaged over the course of these two years. As we look forward to weddings this summer, we have been inspired and awestruck by the magnificent work of the Lord in the city. Praise be to our Heavenly Father that pandemic fear and closures cannot prevent Christ's continued work among us.

Redeemer Crisis Center, Cleveland, Ohio

"Redeemer Center (RC) is a beacon of light... especially when things get darker in one's life. RC is the defibrillator in the area that helps in crisis and times of need, reducing stress with much needed nourishments." Statement from Sam Harri.

Sam first came to the Center for food when he was laid off from his job due to COVID 19. Living in the neighborhood for many years he had seen and heard about the Center programs but had never expected to use them. As a U.S. veteran he was familiar with providing aid in crisis situations but was surprised by the pounds of food given to his neighbors.

Soon Sam was coming with his dolly on Mondays to assist with the unloading of food product to be distributed to families in our service area. He has now added to his "list of jobs" the scraping of walls for painting and removing graffiti from the exterior of the building.

Our relationship with Sam has grown. His daily prayers now include the other volunteers' concerns and needs while also scheduling his work and appointments around Monday's truck deliveries. Sam commented about the Center, "It's the immediate oxygen needed when there's a fire in life. Redeemer significantly helps... Otherwise, things would be a big struggle."

Redeemer celebrates all of our donors and volunteers. We see that God truly is in control of the gifts of talent, time, and treasure to bless us through His daily provisions.

SCHOOL MINISTRY REPORT

Albert J. Amling

Executive Assistant to the President: School Ministry

INTRODUCTION

Greetings, in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I can't believe that I have already been serving the English District as Executive Director of Schools for the past 11 months. It has been such a joy and a privilege to work with an outstanding staff at the district level, wonderfully supportive colleagues at the synod level, and dedicated and gifted administrators and directors at the educational ministry level. What a blessing it has been to watch these workers diligently serving the Lord with the goal of bringing more souls into the Kingdom. Each ministry setting is unique within our district. We serve families from a multitude of ethnic and faith backgrounds and socio-economic standings, and while the delivery of the message may need to be adapted, the message itself never changes. We profess and teach Jesus as Savior. Sharing that truth becomes our passion, and that is what I see in our schools: people loving and caring for their neighbors with passion!

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

School ministry support consists of helping our elementary schools, preschools, child-care centers, and high school with staffing, call list preparation, curriculum, instructional management, resources, accreditation, spiritual growth, and on-site visits. Consultants provide contacts for National Lutheran School Accreditation and Early Childhood Accreditation. English District School Ministry also administers the Financial Aid for Future Church Workers program.

HIGHLIGHTS / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Forty (40) EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES as of January 2022 – Our educational ministry consists of free-standing PreKs, free-standing PreKs with daycares, PreKs with Kindergartens and daycares, PreK with a Kindergarten, PreK–6th grade elementary school, PreK–8th grade elementary schools, K–8th grade elementary schools, and a PreK–12th grade school. I am excited to report that two of our schools will be adding elementary grades to their offerings in the coming years. Education remains one of our district's distinctive ministries and most successful means to bring the Gospel to the lost, serving just under 3,200 children and their families. Research has shown that children who attend Christian schools have a significantly greater success rate at life in general and are less likely to lose their faith, an eternal benefit! Eight of our schools are NLSA accredited, and one is beginning the process. Well over 70% of the children attending our English District schools are not Lutheran. This accentuates that we are truly a mission field in action.
2. SCHOOL VISITS – School and worker visitation continues to be a major emphasis of my work - NLSA, consultations, presentations, conferences and workshops, Call Committee and School Board meetings. I consider much of this position as assisting schools with resources and serving as a consultant, coach, and mentor. By the time our Convention convenes, I will have visited all 40 ministries of the district. My goal is to visit each English District education ministry at least once during the calendar year.

3. SYNODICAL NEWS – Dr. Rebecca Schmidt has been faithfully serving as the Director of LCMS Schools since Terry Schmidt retired. Dr. Alan Freeman is serving as the Associate Director of LCMS Schools. LCMS serves over 186,000 children and their families, in over 2,000 school settings. The school ministry office website for resource is: luthed.org. This site offers schools several resources including professional development webinars, manuals, Lutheran Schools Week materials, and a host of other items at no cost to our schools. It has been an invaluable resource for our educational ministries.
4. RECOGNITION AND AWARDS – The English District celebrates the service of its workers (rostered and non-rostered) with anniversary awards and acknowledgments for 25 and 40 years of service in Lutheran ministry with a plaque. The Lumen Christi Award is presented by the English District to publicly recognize one professional staff educator and one congregational volunteer educator. Nomination forms are sent out each December to all English District pastors, principals, directors, and directors of Christian education. The Lumen Christi Award Committee reviews all nominations, and each spring announces the two recipients. The Lifetime Ministry Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated commitment to faithful, fruitful, and impactful servant leadership over a lifetime of ministry to the mission and ministry of Lutheran schools.

A list of previous recipients of the Lumen Christi Award and Lifetime Ministry Awards is available on the [School](#) page of the English District website.

5. FINANCIAL AID FOR FUTURE CHURCH WORKERS – We have been blessed with the financial strength to provide grants to current ordained and commissioned called workers for debt reduction and scholarships to young people entering our Concordia Universities and Seminaries. Each year the district disburses approximately \$35,000, aiding students enrolled in a church worker program at the Concordia Universities and students enrolled in our seminaries.
6. NLSA – We continue to actively promote NLSA (National Lutheran School Accreditation) among our District schools. We have an active English District NLSA commission: Gail Holzer, Commissioner, assisted by Crissy Peterson and Albert Amling. With the steep competition our schools face, it is important to provide high quality programs to the community. Lutheran schools continue to compete with public, charter, and other private schools. To be an effective “player” in the field of education we must provide excellence in education and become the school of choice in our neighborhoods. NLSA is the most effective way for our schools to evaluate success, progress, and weakness to set goals and objectives for the future. Gail Holzer, principal at Redeemer Lutheran School in Verona, PA, has taken on the role of commissioner for the English District NLSA Commission. She will represent the English District on the national level and become our expert in the field. The NLSA has rewritten the standards, and it aligns with several secular accreditation bodies giving our schools a valued “stamp of approval.” We must continue to assist schools and early childhood centers in taking the steps needed to demonstrate the positive, unmatched impact of a Christ-centered education.
7. CALL LIST PREPARATION/CONSULTATIONS – The English District school ministry team devotes a significant amount of time assisting schools in the process of calling commissioned ministers. I meet with call committees to help with the process especially when there is a need for an administrator. With fewer workers in the field, finding qualified individuals who are willing and able to leave their current position becomes increasingly difficult. The Commissioned Minister

Information Form (CMIF) is a database that assists us in the process. While it does come with challenges, it is much more user friendly than the last system.

8. SCHOOL LEADERSHIP – Developing leaders continues to be a challenge for our synod. The School Leadership Development project (SLED) continues to be funded and offers a one-year training program for teachers who might be interested in leading a school ministry. Mrs. Julie Metzger of Holy Cross Lutheran School, Cleveland, OH will take part in this program.

9. FLAME – We have joined with other Midwest districts in an additional effort to resource future educators. As of this writing, two of our directors from Georgia, Mrs. Kisha Torres and Mrs. Barbara Collins-Hopkins, will be attending.

10. LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR – Lutheran schools exist for the sole purpose of teaching Jesus' grace, mercy, love, forgiveness, and promise of salvation. We work to develop our students' faith lives, and part of that is teaching them to serve others out of Christ's love for them. The schools of the English District collect offerings, gifts, and items to provide for the needs of others. Our Lutheran education ministries are a vital part of the English District family. We teach using Scripture with doctrines based on LCMS theology; we demonstrate Jesus' love and compassion daily with students and families; we reach into the community and around the world to serve the hungry, homeless, and helpless. The Holy Spirit is present and active in our schools, opening doors and creating opportunities for the faith development of young and old alike. It is a privilege to serve as a partner with our district in serving and growing the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sally L. Naglich C.P.A.

Assistant to the President Business/Finance and Treasurer

The English District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod is blessed with financial resources to carry out mission and ministry. The District's strong financial position is because you and your congregations support the work accomplished collectively through the district and its partnerships with other entities.

Following are the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities for the four years ended January 31, 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019. These financial statements combine all U.S. and Canadian activity including the Church Extension Fund activity in Canada.

The district's net assets (equity) increased \$1,063,840 from \$4,569,379 to \$5,633,219 over the last four years. Several events and items contributed to this change in net assets including gifts of monies and property including from disbanded ministries, Federal PPP (Cares Act) forgiven loan, and the earnings and valuations gains in endowment investments, with and without donor restrictions. Additional loans to Canadian congregations were provided through funds borrowed from Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Unrestricted support (tithes) from English District congregations has remained level over the last four years (with a \$16,000 decrease during 2020) and a decrease of approximately \$30,000 annually from the prior triennium. Additionally, congregations have provided restricted gifts, an average of \$87,000 annually, which included time restricted support and the gifts for 1-1-1 Dollar for Missions (average of over \$48,000 per year) that started after the 2018 Convention. Prior triennium total restricted support averaged \$42,000 annually.

Every year of this convention cycle the District has pledged and sent \$195,500 (over 23% of unrestricted congregational support) to Synod for national and international ministry. In 2020 an additional \$20,000 was sent based on a gift received in the form of donated property. Over the past four years the District directly used an additional \$1,346,300 for mission grants for new mission starts, campus ministry, school ministries, ministry grants, church worker scholarships, DRLM partnership, human care, and world missions.

The financial records of the District are audited annually and the statement of functional expenses, statement of cash flows, and notes are an integral part of the financial statements but are not included in this report. A complete copy of the financial statements is available from the District office.

English District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod
Statement of Financial Position
January 31, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019

	January 31, 2022	January 31, 2021	January 31, 2020	January 31, 2019
Assets:				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 293,927	\$ 567,684	\$ 356,913	\$ 231,698
Operating Investments	975,436	1,021,337	1,473,892	2,429,150
Accounts and Interest Receivable	13,774	8,171	923	1,133
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	22,071	9,407	17,910	20,748
Property Held for Sale	-	11,278	-	300,000
Contributions Receivable	11,196	-	7,065	4,830
Campus Center Divestiture	328,000	328,000	328,000	-
Loans Receivable	3,097,985	1,783,165	1,374,445	663,832
Property and Equipment - Net	283,161	264,117	281,303	285,195
Bene. Int. in Char. Trusts Held by Others	23,314	23,256	22,140	24,412
Endowment Investments	2,505,133	2,409,048	2,151,474	1,679,864
Beneficial Interests in Perpetual Trusts	29,125	26,448	24,635	21,214
	<u>7,583,122</u>	<u>6,451,911</u>	<u>6,038,700</u>	<u>5,662,076</u>
Total Assets	\$ 7,583,122	\$ 6,451,911	\$ 6,038,700	\$ 5,662,076
Liabilities:				
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 133,000	\$ 121,481	\$ 147,865	\$ 145,714
Grants Payable	16,349	36,420	16,302	16,307
Deferred Revenue	99,425	7,948	7,801	-
Loans Payable	1,072,715	-	-	-
Notes Payable to Investors	628,414	754,066	675,449	759,955
	<u>1,949,903</u>	<u>919,915</u>	<u>847,417</u>	<u>921,976</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,949,903	\$ 919,915	\$ 847,417	\$ 921,976
Net Assets:				
Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 5,110,024	\$ 5,100,083	\$ 4,784,253	\$ 4,417,782
With Donor Restrictions	523,195	431,913	407,030	322,318
	<u>5,633,219</u>	<u>5,531,996</u>	<u>5,191,283</u>	<u>4,740,100</u>
Total Net Assets	\$ 5,633,219	\$ 5,531,996	\$ 5,191,283	\$ 4,740,100
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 7,583,122	\$ 6,451,911	\$ 6,038,700	\$ 5,662,076

English District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod
Statement of Activities
For The Years Ended January 31, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019

	Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2022	Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2021	Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2020	Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2019
<u>SUPPORT, REVENUES, & OTHER ADDITIONS: WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS</u>				
Support -				
District Congregations	\$ 859,361	\$ 831,624	\$ 847,343	\$ 848,208
LCEF	-	-	28,429	9,513
Disbanded Cong./Donated Property	52,260	177,000	-	300,000
Other/Federal PPP - CARES Act	102,601	145,478	59,802	42,094
Revenues -				
Subscriptions	11,874	13,106	12,703	14,131
Conventions, Conf., and Workshops	354	756	98,608	145,154
Net Investment Return (Loss)	211,137	319,945	252,145	7,482
Interest Income on Loans	95,368	66,443	53,809	69,659
Agreements with LCEF	-	150,719	158,326	172,913
Other	848	1,610	28,891	1,401
Gain on Campus Center Divestiture	-	-	328,000	-
Gain (Loss) on Foreign Currency	2,650	25,653	(3,490)	(58,417)
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	150,778	229,705	145,994	106,944
Total Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 1,487,231	\$ 1,962,039	\$ 2,010,560	\$ 1,659,082
<u>SUPPORT, REVENUES, & OTHER ADDITIONS: WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS</u>				
Support -				
District Congregations	\$ 103,983	\$ 72,773	\$ 117,862	\$ 53,872
LCEF	7,000	53,287	53,470	52,016
Synod	6,784	63,440	-	-
Other	93,588	22,065	26,014	16,084
Revenues -				
Net Investment Return (Loss)	30,633	41,872	32,000	(2,123)
Change in Value of Bene. Int. in Char. Trusts	58	1,116	1,365	(3,784)
Gain (Loss) on Foreign Currency	14	35	(5)	(31)
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(150,778)	(229,705)	(145,994)	(106,944)
Total With Donor Restrictions	\$ 91,282	\$ 24,883	\$ 84,712	\$ 9,090
<u>EXPENSES:</u>				
Program Services -				
World and National Missions	\$ 434,461	\$ 553,711	\$ 362,982	\$ 289,436
Preparing Church Workers	33,780	33,715	34,600	29,928
School Ministry	63,436	56,568	69,924	77,914
Support Services -				
Synodical Budget	196,467	215,447	195,592	195,795
Mission and Ministry Support Services	379,173	333,555	379,663	315,856
Ecclesiastical and Program Admin.	293,697	251,721	368,417	352,389
Fundraising	58,723	52,125	52,737	46,231
Church Extension Operations	17,553	149,367	175,914	188,852
Impairment Loss on Property Held for Sale	-	-	4,260	1,050
Total Expenses	\$ 1,477,290	\$ 1,646,209	\$ 1,644,089	\$ 1,497,451
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 101,223	\$ 340,713	\$ 451,183	\$ 170,721
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	5,531,996	5,191,283	4,740,100	4,569,379
NET ASSETS - End of Year	\$ 5,633,219	\$ 5,531,996	\$ 5,191,283	\$ 4,740,100

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

The Rev. Daniel Lepley
District Vice President – English District

MISSION

The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to support The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by ensuring that financial resources and related services are available now and in the future.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Since 1847, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has pursued its mission to “vigorously make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world.”

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is an organization that empowers ministry through investments, loans and support services. Incorporated in 1978, LCEF continues a long history of church extension fund service to the LCMS and its individual and corporate members.

We’ve grown from a mere \$100 million when LCEF was first incorporated in 1978 to over 60,000 faithful Lutheran investors with over \$2.1 billion dollars in total assets.

Historically, church extension operations have centered on loans made possible through investments and gifts from dedicated church members and supporters. Today, LCEF has expanded its offerings to include resources that define opportunities, design solutions, and align resources that propel the Kingdom forward using a ministry clarity process and capital campaigns as well as real estate solutions to help develop and/or execute the best strategies to support ministry objectives.

Our strong and stable financial base represents the important role LCEF plays in supporting the LCMS now and how it will continue that support long into the future.

We use investments to support the work of thousands of LCMS individuals, congregations, schools, and organizations. They fund home loans for rostered church workers. They support the renovation and construction of sanctuaries, senior living communities, fellowship halls, Lutheran schools, early childhood centers, and much more.

Rev. Bart Day serves as president and CEO and reports to a 12-member board of directors. LCEF employs over 116 people located in St. Louis and more than 35 employees in 31 LCMS member districts throughout the United States. LCMS ministries connect to LCEF through their district vice president (DVP). DVPs are supported by the national office staff in St. Louis.

For over 43 years, our mission has been to make sure “financial resources and related services” are available for the church—we intend to keep doing it for the next 40 years and beyond.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

2021 was volatile and, looking back, it’s clear that some aspects of the economy have improved greatly while others remain challenged by the pandemic. The U.S. economy has continued to improve since the onset of the 2020 pandemic. Q3 of 2021 expanded by over 30%, and although a record, it was not enough to offset earlier losses, including the Q1 5% decline in gross domestic product (GDP) at an

annual rate, signaling the onset of the 2020 recession.

The new recession, which began in March 2020, ended 128 months of expansion, the longest in U.S. history. In Q2, the economy contracted by a record 31.2%. Quarterly GDP had never experienced a drop greater than 10% since record-keeping began in 1947.

Throughout the challenges over the past 12 months, LCEF has worked with our advisors to navigate the volatile investment markets. With their help, we have been able to strengthen our capital position and better position LCEF for future growth. While the financial markets provided many challenges, we saw FY 2021 close out with gains of over \$15.5M.

LCEF IMPACT IN THE ENGLISH DISTRICT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021

Number of LCEF Investors: 1,691

Total Invested with LCEF: \$41,292,681

Number of Loans: 52

Total Amount Borrowed from LCEF: \$26,305.244

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. View current rates at lcef.org. Lutheran Church Extension Fund-Missouri Synod (NMLS #3444). Illinois Residential Mortgage Licensee (MB.0006057). Loans made or arranged pursuant to a California Law License (6037619). For more information on LCEF's lending license go to lcef.org/state-disclosures/. The National Office is located at: 10733 Sunset Office Drive, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63127-1020. 800-843-5233. 1221G102



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

LCMS FOUNDATION
Ronald Grimm
Gift Planning Counselor – English District

Serving as your English District Gift Planning Counselor, I am an employee of the LCMS Foundation which has been providing gift planning & trust services for the Synod for 60+ years. To learn more about the LCMS Foundation review this link to see the great work we have done in the last year: [2021 LCMS Foundation Ministry Report](#).

There are two components to my service in our English District. The first component is to assist congregational members through their will & estate planning process. This ministry is called "Lifetime Plan for Giving" (LPG) and is intended to assist an individual or couple in walking through the entire process of transferring the blessings (both at no cost and with total confidentiality) which God has given by being the best stewards of those resources for your loved ones and ministries that you care so much about. This includes, but is not limited to, assisting with creating a Christian Preamble (to share your faith with loved ones), organizing your estate (via LPG survey) providing design concepts that enable the most cost-effective way to share those gifts with loved ones efficiently and with ministries that you care so much about, all while minimizing the tax effect on your estate and to your loved ones.

I can also provide legal documents for your charitable gifts (three attorneys on staff) and work with your legal counsel to coordinate, so that what God has written on your heart is carried out when you have been called home to heaven.

The second component of my service is with church leadership. I have available resources for discussing long-term investing opportunities via endowment funds and or investment accounts, which can strengthen your ministries today, tomorrow & forever.

A congregation may have created an endowment fund in the past that has become dormant. I can assist congregations in revitalizing those gifts for future benefit by using the Foundation's expertise in marketing, documenting the structure and guidelines to guide your congregation. Gift planning seminars are also offered that can help keep the endowment relevant and growing. The goal is always to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our world and growing these gifts enables larger distributions for those ministries valued in the hearts of the congregation.

Our English District is made up of over 160 churches within 22 states. Being a non-geographical district presents some challenges, yet in these last several years we have been able to be more efficient by presenting virtually when it is a struggle to get everyone together in the same place on the same day. The preferred way is always to be in person when speaking to a congregation. My focus is on being a faithful steward of the resources God has entrusted to us in this life as a child of God. The Lifetime Plan for Giving discussion is one that should be reoccurring with congregations periodically to enable members to participate whenever life changes have inspired them to plan for how best to transfer their blessings.

Over the last four years I have been able to personally visit 74 of our congregations, their pastors, and leadership. These opportunities have been a great blessing as I gained both insight into the contexts in which our congregations do their ministries and was privileged to hear and see the wonderful ministries

in which they are involved. I believe that the experience and knowledge I received has better equipped me when discussing ministries best aligned to a donor's desires in supporting God pleasing work. The visits have opened the opportunity for me to lead over 20 "Lifetime Plan for Giving" (LPG) presentations (with more planned in the future) for congregational members and then follow up and meet individually to work through the four-meeting process.

During the pandemic many of my in-person visits were delayed or cancelled. Like most congregations, I did my best to adapt and have been able to continue via virtual meetings and presentations. Now that we are back to in person visits, I have much more flexibility to accommodate any circumstances that I come across.

Through the gift planning process, generous English District members have provided testamentary gifts that could total in an excess of \$4,117,000. On average, about one half of the gifts go to local congregations.

In addition to the generosity of our members, we have been able to assist English District congregations, schools, and recognized service organizations with investments over \$1,000,000. In several instances some of these dollars were sitting stagnant in checking accounts for years and are now being invested so they can grow to support ministries.

The coming triennium looks to be busy as I am looking to complete another four gift plans before the fiscal year end and estimate starting another ten new gift plans in the near future.

If you or your congregation are interested in learning more, please contact me (ron.grimm@lfnd.org). I look forward to discussing opportunities for the faithful use of God's blessings in your life.

EASTERN REGION

The Rev. Ben Eder, Second Vice President

This triennium marks the end of my second term as Vice President of the Eastern Region. Prior to that, I had served one term on the Board of Directors as a voting pastor. Because my current term was extended by one year due to the pandemic, I have served a total of ten years on the English District Board of Directors.

This triennium – particularly the last two years – have been unlike anything I have experienced in 37 years of pastoral ministry. The churches of the Eastern Region had to deal with the onslaught of COVID-19 and all of the ramifications associated with the pandemic. Many of our churches were closed (or at least ceased in-person services and activities) for a few months in 2020.

Since the re-opening of churches in mid-2020, the “road to recovery” has been challenging for many of our congregations. However, our congregations have prevailed, thanks to the sure promises of Christ Jesus and to the support and encouragement of Bishop Hardy and the English District staff.

Beginning in late 2020 and continuing into 2021, our congregations have learned how to do ministry in the middle of a pandemic. The annual Eastern Region Pastors Conference resumed in 2021 after having been cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The following year the conference was held at our usual location in Ocean City, NJ. We had a great attendance and the brothers rejoiced in seeing each other again. Many thanks to the following who have assisted me every year in the planning and implementation of the conference: Dwayne Hendricks, Rob Kieselowsky, Douglas Spittel, Brian Westgate, and Luke Zimmerman.

Pastors continue to be encouraged to get out and visit their members and otherwise be visible and engaged in the community. The Church needs to remain a “Beacon of Hope” by shining the light of the Gospel in the dark places of this world.

We are living in a culture that is often hostile to the Church and indifferent to the Gospel. By the same token, there are people who are seeking the truth and want answers for their lives. Some of them are discovering that the Church has the truth and answers they seek. Especially in these difficult times the Gospel needs to be proclaimed and shared to the multitudes. I am reminded of our Lord’s promise that His Word “shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” – *Isaiah 55:11*

This triennium marks my final term as Vice President and concludes my service on the Board of Directors. Thank you for placing me in office through the years and giving me the opportunity to serve.

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY CIRCUIT #1

The Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt, Circuit Visitor

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it! This good news from John 1:5 encourages us in our ministry of Word and Sacrament as we spread the light of Christ to our communities from the New Jersey suburbs of Philadelphia to the New York City region. We strive to make our congregations sources of hope, faithfulness, encouragement, and reconciliation in a region where personal and institutional priorities have grown more confused and at odds with Christian theology and practice. COVID, fear of COVID, and related restrictions have made parish activities and outreach more difficult. The mission is challenging, but the Lord is with us, so we do not lose heart!

Since the 2018 district convention, we've had much for which to thank God. Two congregations in our circuit have called and received pastors: the Rev. Alfred Thiagarajan at Our Saviour in Valley Stream, New York, and the Rev. Dr. Elwood (Woody) Mather, III at Bethany in Ewing, New Jersey. Martin Luther Chapel in Pennsauken, New Jersey, is in the process of calling a pastor. Communication has been re-established between our circuit and Immanuel Korean Lutheran Church in Flushing, New York – one of our member congregations from whom we had not heard for years.

None of our congregations sustained major damage from the storms of September 1, 2021. The Lutheran Church of the Messiah in Princeton, New Jersey, looks forward to celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2022-23. Messiah hosted the English District Board of Directors meeting on November 8, 2021. Thank you for coming to see us and for having lunch with pastors and parishioners of our circuit! We thank God for the partnership in the Gospel we share with our fellow members of the English District, by which the Holy Spirit is filling our communities with the light of Christ.

Grace, Palisades Park, NJ – The Rev. Peter Bauernfeind

Immanuel, Flushing, NY – The Rev. Dr. Simon Johann

Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ – served by The Rev. Larry Vogel

Messiah, Princeton, NJ – The Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it! Lutheran Church of the Messiah is happy to still be spreading the light of Christ in central New Jersey 75 years after our founding in 1947-48. The residents of our town and region are highly mobile. The resulting turnover in our membership keeps us trusting God to sustain and bless us as we continue to bring the light of Christ to our community. A focus on the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) these past three years has been a great way to dispel the darkness of cynicism and resignation that plague our region.

COVID has been a challenge but also a spur to start a worship livestream for the homebound and a reminder of how precious our in-person worship and fellowship (Hebrews 10:24-25) is. Due to COVID restrictions at Princeton University, Messiah has begun hosting campus ministry events in our building, about a mile from campus. Our commitment to corporate worship, scripture, and sound doctrine has attracted Christians whose pastors and churches seem not to share that commitment.

We were delighted to host the English District Board of Directors meeting on November 8, 2021. Thank you for coming to see us! We're excited about the partnership in mission we've cultivated for years among the four LCMS congregations here in Mercer County (two English District, two New Jersey

District). We work together to bring light to our region with joint Advent and Reformation services, educational and social events, and by helping congregations cooperate in outreach efforts.

Thank you, English District, for your support of our work on campus, and for your partnership in the Gospel, by which the Holy Spirit is filling our communities with the light of Christ!

New Jersey Korean Cho Won, Palisades Park, NJ – The Rev. Phillip Sang Rey

Our Saviour, Valley Stream, NY – The Rev. Alfred Thiagarajan

Redeemer, Saint Albans, NY – The Rev. Steven Hicks

Trinity, Scarsdale, NY – The Rev. Gordon Naumann

As usual, we are quite grand here, in the lush residential area of Scarsdale, NY. Yet, we are, as a congregation, here only by the grace of God. As I'm sure many other reports will be expressing, life is unpredictable. We don't necessarily know what is around the corner. Do we even have a realistic idea of what we are risking as a country in this economy today? Are we listening to the right media output? Are we sure of anything anymore? We have a school that is renting our facility as an autonomous entity and brings us a regular stream of income. Times have been hard for them which means times are hard for us. Yet we remain both hopeful and faithful, as, God willing, by the time we are back to full strength, it will have been but a dent in our capital savings. We can only imagine what others must be going through and so pray for our sister congregations in the English District. We certainly still consistently give to the district which we know helps our whole church body as best as it can, being well informed of all the congregations and their situations. In fact, in this time of need, we have increased our giving to the district.

So, far from there being a negative answer to the rhetorical question of despair cast by the world, we would hope that you will join us with this timeless Christian refrain, "Christ is made the sure Foundation" (LSB 909). He is as He was yesterday and shall also be uttered from our children's lips for generations to come, "a lamp to our feet and a light to our path" (Psalm 119:105). We truly can live boldly, in faith, even when surrounded by a world rife with fear. In fact, that's what makes it so ripe. We have the comfort the world needs. So let's give them the peace which surpasses all understanding, shall we, as we continue to offer the sure means of grace in the form of Word and Sacrament? God bless us and God bless our next triennium.

PHILADELPHIA CIRCUIT #2

The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, Circuit Visitor

Circuit #2 (Philadelphia) has seven congregations: three in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, two in South Central Pennsylvania, one in the Washington D.C. area, and one in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. Circuit #2 is also home to Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries.

Calvary, Mechanicsburg, PA – The Rev. Luke Zimmerman

The 2018-2022 triennium provided both challenges and opportunities for the ministry at Calvary. Rev. Luke Zimmerman marked his 10th year at the congregation in July 2018 and continues to serve as pastor. In March 2020, the congregation embarked on a capital campaign for long-anticipated

renovations to the building's sanctuary wing. Though happening during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has raised over \$250,000. The sanctuary and surrounding rooms were renovated in November 2020. Renovations to the kitchen and social hall should commence in May 2022. Issues tied to COVID-19 forced Calvary Lutheran Preschool to suspend operations; the future of that ministry remains undetermined. However, an influx of worshipers was seen, particularly since Calvary maintained corporate worship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Calvary has maintained service to the community through its Operation Barnabas society, including monthly MilitaryShare food distributions for families of veterans and active servicemen. Calvary also continues to be a temporary home for LCMS families stationed at the Carlisle Barracks and Army War College, as well as college students at Messiah University.

Faith, Chesapeake, VA – The Rev. Christian Morales

Faith Lutheran Church has had its ups and downs over the past four years. We are in an area that has a large military presence. That makes for some great ups when we have a new family come to worship with us and some downs when they leave for another assignment or to retire. COVID was a big down, but we conducted services with ZOOM and have had a good response from our members. A big up was the visit from our District President Jamison Hardy. He gave us some good ideas which we are implementing in our congregation. We are presently using the Synod's new evangelism series Every One His Witness in our Sunday morning Bible study. One of the strong points in our congregation's ministry is our Bible studies which give our members the opportunity not only to grow in the Word but also to enjoy one another's company and fellowship. We are a small congregation but most of our members attend both our Bible studies and worship services. Of course, the biggest up is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He comes to us in Word and Sacrament, and we are richly blessed.

Gloria Dei, Blue Bell, PA – The Rev. David Young

Grace, Warminster, PA – The Rev. David Young

Immanuel, Alexandria, VA – The Rev Christopher Esget & The Rev Noah Rogness

Immanuel was received into the English District in February 2020. We are profoundly grateful for the kindness and support of the English District, especially Bishop Hardy. In 2019 Immanuel bid farewell to associate pastor Peter Eckardt and welcomed Noah Rogness to that position in 2020. In September 2020 the first phase of our major building and renovation project was completed, with the building of a new parochial school and church renovations including a new kitchen, bathrooms, and elevators. The second phase, the renovation of the church's chancel and addition of a new reredos, statuary, and triptych, was completed in December 2021. Our classical school received accreditation from the Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education and the Lutheran Schools Association, and in February 2022 ranked 9th in the U.S. among schools using the Classical Learning Test.

Mt. Calvary, Lititz, PA – The Rev. Christopher Seifferlein

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church serves longstanding members, transfers, and those seeking refuge from other denominations with the true Word and Holy Sacraments. Blessed to be in a numerically growing area as well as in the protected "Bible Belt of the East," congregational membership is stable to growing. The congregation assisted Rev. Adam Koontz with the attainment of his PhD and released him to serve

the seminary in Fort Wayne as professor of exegetical theology. Rev. Christopher Seifferlein, formerly serving congregations in the Midwest, was installed as pastor in November of 2019. Challenges with maintaining support for a preschool that had retained its downtown location resulted in the congregation voting to disband this entity. The mission church that was started in Myerstown was also closed. Substantial funds were returned to the English District for future missions. The congregation celebrated the retirement of the debt of their church facility that was constructed by the Laborers for Christ in 1993-1994 and is now planning for a major renovation and update to their physical plant and facility. Teaching all ages and worship remains central to the life of the congregation along with fellowship. Challenges include reaching out to the local community.

Rehoboth Afaan Oromo, Philadelphia, PA

St. John, Springfield, PA – The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

St. John has been blessed by the Lord with steady growth in membership and attendance. The COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges, but the Lord provided strength and wisdom to endure difficult times. St. John, as one of the oldest English District congregations, is eager to continue its part in the mission work in the city of Philadelphia and supports Rev. Kieselowsky as he serves Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries as Executive Director. One major endeavor has been to establish a new congregation in the heart of the city. Logos Lutheran Church is a growing group of university students and young professionals that live, work, and study in the city. It is exciting to see the Lord at work to establish this new congregation.

FLORIDA CIRCUIT #3

The Rev. William Douthwaite, Circuit Visitor

Celebration, St. John's, FL – The Rev. Steven De Santo

Life at Celebration Lutheran Church has, as everyone else has experienced, been in a state of flux over the last few years. We entered 2019 with strong attendance and active participation. With the onset of the pandemic, we worked to react quickly to a situation we had never encountered. But we all came together and were blessed to be able to start livestreaming services as soon as in-person attendance was not advisable. We continue now as a hybrid church maintaining our livestreaming (and recording) of services while worshipping in person. Our food pantry, Christ's Cupboard, remained open during the pandemic. and we were blessed to be able to serve twice as many families each week as normal due to others being closed. What Satan meant for evil, God meant for good and by Him we are a stronger, and more faithful church as a result. We look forward to continuing to move ahead with more worship services, and fellowship and outreach events, and trust that our loving God will continue to bless our efforts to His glory.

Shepherd of the Coast, Palm Coast, FL – The Rev. William Douthwaite

The face of the congregation has changed much over the past couple of years with lots of new construction and rapid growth in the community.

We've begun Stephen Ministry, continue to support veterans in the area through Operation Barnabas, support missionaries in Romania, and open our facilities to many recovery groups and other local ethnic

churches throughout the week. We continue to support the local pregnancy center and have opened our own twice a month drive-up food pantry. Though we are fully open for worship and other events, we continue to stream our worship via our website.

The congregation has implemented a comprehensive plan for safety and security on our campus, including training by medical and law enforcement personnel.

With the upcoming retirement of Pastor Douthwaite, the congregation is preparing to call a pastor.

Tree of Life, Inverness, FL – served by The Rev. Eric Linthicum

Pastor Mark Steinke was called home to glory in September 2021. The Tree of Life Lutheran congregation continued to meet and serve its community in various ministries despite the devastating loss. The church was served by several pastors who traveled long distances over the next several months. Recently, Rev. Eric R. Linthicum (Emeritus) and his wife Linda moved to Citrus County and Pastor Linthicum began serving Tree of Life on a part-time basis as of February 6, 2022. Tree of Life's community outreach programs include support of the Nature Coast Ministries Dental Clinic that provides dental care at no cost to under-insured members of the community and Kids in Care (KIC). The KIC program supports children in foster care and adoptive children. In addition, Tree of Life members provide food baskets and other items to the Citrus County Family Resource Center.

Trinity, Ocala, FL – served by The Rev. Danlias Howe

Trinity is engaged in vision planning with the leadership as well as trying to enhance the spiritual life of the congregation by the addition of some worship, educational and regular fellowship components to the life rhythms here.

We enjoyed fine Advent and Christmas Seasons, have welcomed some snowbirds back into our worship and have seen a few new folks begin to come more regularly, too. We had a great fellowship event in December - Christmas caroling on the Town Square with loads of fun and good interaction with the folks who came to enjoy the holiday lights.

GEORGIA CIRCUIT #4

The Rev. David Miller, Circuit Visitor

Ascension, Atlanta, GA – The Rev. David Miller

Lutheran Church of the Ascension has had much cause for joy over the last three years. She has welcomed many saints into her fellowship, training up all peoples to live lives of discipleship through baptism, catechesis, small groups, regular Bible studies, and of course the Divine Service. Of note, was the implementation in 2018 of Concordia Publishing House curricula for Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center, which is the community outreach emphasis of the congregation. Then, in the spring of 2019, every member faced the challenge to grow in their stewardship via the series called "Consecrated Stewards," which was co-led with LCEF Vice President Rev. David Thiele. The year 2020 brought lots of new beginnings. Not only were several repairs and enhancements made to the church and school buildings respectfully, but a new website was launched: www.ascension-lcms.com. Pastor David V. Miller also celebrated the tenth anniversary of his ordination. To honor the occasion, Rev. Bill Douthwaite officiated a renewal of ordination vows and preached at the Divine Service on August 23. He

did so in the official capacity as circuit visitor of the Florida Circuit which works jointly with the Georgia Circuit. Ascension looks forward to many more blessings from the Lord's hand in the years ahead!

Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta, GA – The Rev. Kevin Elseroad, The Rev. Aaron Sterling

The congregation of Christ the Shepherd gives special praise to God over these past few years for her busy and bustling ministry of the Gospel. To highlight, she necessitated the addition of an associate pastor, to whom she extended a divine call in the spring of 2018. The Rev. Aaron Daniel Sterling, a recent graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, accepted the call and was ordained and installed as the associate pastor by late July, 2018. A second highlight was that in 2020, the congregation celebrated her 30th anniversary. Not only did she look back on her last thirty years with joy but was about to take a comprehensive look at her goals for the next thirty years and strategize how to obtain them. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has tabled this visionary program called "Ministry Clarity" for a later time when all may participate. Nevertheless, the congregation is still mindful of the ministry challenges within her context and is ever-brainstorming how to be a blessing to the surrounding community.

BUFFALO CIRCUIT #5

The Rev. Dwayne Hendricks, Circuit Visitor

Hope Community, Syracuse, NY – served by The Rev. Dwayne Hendricks

We give God the praises for his continue blessings and protection upon the congregation in the last years and up to present. The congregation has a monthly fast and prayer meeting the last Saturday of every month. People in the community are invited. We are involved in evangelism in the community, and two individuals were baptized into the faith. Our church anniversary, Mother's Day, and Father's Day services were well attended. The congregation reaches out to the elderly in the community who are in need, we visit the sick regularly. We had a youth fellowship service to which youth in the community were invited. We have trained two church members in playing drums.

Nazareth, Buffalo NY – The Rev. Dwayne Hendricks

Needless to say, the past three years have presented several challenges to the ministry of Nazareth Lutheran Church. However, these challenges have come with opportunities to spread the Gospel. To summarize the past years, it could be said that we have remained steady in our focus on bringing the Gospel into the lives of our people. We have begun posting our services on our Facebook page which has been well received by outsiders. We have bonded together as a people in the wake of many funerals, some which have been attributed to the pandemic. Our Bible studies are the backbone of our ministry. They are engaging and practical for our members living in the world around them. We have also brought in a few new members who have become very active in cultivating a welcoming environment. We look forward to the future knowing the challenges that lay ahead but also with a will to confront those challenges.

Pilgrim, Kenmore, NY – The Rev. Ben Eder

Since the last English District Convention in 2018, Pilgrim Lutheran Church has continued to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the corner of Delaware Road and Chapel Road in Kenmore, NY (a suburb of Buffalo). The onset of COVID-19 brought challenges to our congregation, just like many others. For a

three-month period in 2020, New York State banned gatherings of more than ten people. Finally, due to vaccines and other measures, congregant settings were allowed in full, and we are nearly back to what passes for "normal" in this COVID environment. We are celebrating our 100th anniversary this year as we give thanks to God not only for our existence but also for the ministry He has continued to give us. Pastor Ben Eder anticipates observing his 30th anniversary as pastor of Pilgrim in June 2023.

Trinity, Erie, PA – The Rev. Travis Schmidt

Trinity Lutheran church has been blessed by the Lord in many ways during the pandemic. We began broadcasting our services on Facebook live and used Zoom for our Bible classes and council meetings in 2020. In the summer of 2020, we added a third worship service at 11 a.m. on Sundays and had Erie's first in-person VBS. During spring and fall of 2020 we held contemporary Christian music concerts in our sanctuary. These were broadcast live on Facebook and on our webpage. These events led to our first Sonshine Fest which was an all day, outside Christian music concert showcasing four contemporary Christian bands. In December of 2021 we continued to have three worship services on Sundays and held "A Charlie Brown Christmas program" broadcast on Facebook live starring our children ages 2-9.

In December of 2021 we began using our stage in the basement for jazz concerts. Our Christmas jazz concert and later our Valentine's Day concert in 2022 were supported with freewill offerings. On January 30, 2021, we celebrated the Chinese New Year for the first time with a catered meal by our Chinese members who own the restaurant "Tasty Bowl." We continued using their catering service for our recent fellowship on February 20th in remembrance of our sister in Christ Trudy Sallach.

In 2022 our new goal begins with the opening of Holy Grounds CoffeeHaus (the word CoffeeHaus is intentionally two words put together to reflect our German heritage). The CoffeeHaus will be open one Saturday evening a month starting on March 26th featuring a local Christian band. Our ultimate goal is to have Holy Grounds CoffeeHaus open six days a week with the funds to be used for local mission work. Later this year we will have our spring retreat at a local hotel and make our Sonshine Fest an annual event this July. The Sonshine Fest will be followed by a music camp week for children in Erie, PA. The children will be taught basic drumming, piano, and ukulele.

PITTSBURGH CIRCUIT #6

The Rev. Brian Westgate, Circuit Visitor

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Pittsburgh has long been part of the English Synod/District. Here was the old Synod's American Lutheran Publications Board (ALPB). Former Bishops/Presidents of our District have served here: Dr. Eckardt (St. Andrew's, Shadyside) as well as Bishop Bornemann (St. Andrew's, Shadyside & Redeemer, Oakmont) and Bishop Stechholz (Redeemer, Oakmont), and most recently our current Bishop, Rev. Jamison Hardy (Peace, McMurray). Many different congregations have been part of our circuit over the years. Some are still here (Redeemer, Oakmont; Peace, McMurray [reconstitution of Grace, Dormont]). Some are new (First Trinity). Some are missions (Holy Cross, Hazelwood, St. John's, Clarksburg). We rejoice that the Holy Ghost has placed this circuit in the forefront of mission work in our district, and we pray He will use us to plant yet more

congregations to the glory of His Name. Other congregations have come and gone; Faith near Butler has closed.

All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA – served by The Rev. Jacob Deal

All Saints Lutheran Church & Student Center was served by Pastor Larry Loree, Jr. until August 2021; he was assisted by Pastor Todd Seaver until early 2021. Pastor Jacob Deal of Ss. Peter & Paul, Sharon (SELC District) serves the vacancy. The congregation continues to reach out to the many students at Slippery Rock University and Grove City College through the wonderful work of Mrs. Augusta Mennell. A popular outreach is the monthly Korean meal. The congregation is located at the entrance of the SRU campus. Along with other campus ministries, All Saints was a recent 1-1-1 recipient, for which it is most thankful.

Faith, Butler, PA

Faith Lutheran Church was merged into its mother congregation, St. Luke, Cabot (Eastern District), in spring 2019. It had been served out of St. Luke and by Pastor Amadeus Gandy. The church building remained in use as a second worship site for St. Luke Church before the pandemic and currently it is in use as a ministry site, serving a pregnancy center, the ladies of the parish, and other events as needed.

First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA – The Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel, The Rev. Eric Andrae

First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church is one of our newer churches but has a long history in the LCMS and even longer in Pittsburgh. Its founding pastor, “Father” Heyer, was also, among other things, founder of the Minnesota Synod (WELS Minnesota District). Pastor Douglas Spittel the parish pastor has long been joined at First Trinity by the longest-serving campus pastor in Pittsburgh, Pastor Eric Andrae. Besides campus ministry (a recent 1-1-1 recipient, for which it is most thankful), the parish hosts homeless, deaf, and blind ministries, all of which were affected in various ways by the pandemic. The congregation provides oversight to our newest Pittsburgh mission, Holy Cross Chapel.

Holy Cross, Hazelwood (Glenwood), PA

Holy Cross Evangelical-Lutheran Chapel is new, yet old. Pastor Spittel had long had his eye on Pittsburgh’s Hazelwood neighborhood and began outreach in 2016 through Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries. When it was determined to be time to increase and broaden our work, a vicar, Timothy Kern, was assigned. Pastor Spittel had built up a catechetical relationship with the members of a local ELCA congregation, St. Paul’s Church. The members of this parish feared the local ELCA Synod wanted to close their congregation even though it is very vital to the neighborhood. They also became convinced of Lutheran teaching. For these reasons they determined to become a Missouri Synod congregation. Due to ELCA congregational constitution provisions, Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries purchased the property of St. Paul’s, that parish closed, and the members joined First Trinity. The mission, which utilizes a full liturgical calendar, hosts a long-running and highly successful clothing & food distribution, as well as a Christmas toy drive; it is very respected in the community and is full of vitality. After Vicar Kern, it was served by Vicar Silas Hasselbrook and now Vicar Benjamin Janssen. A full-time pastor will be a great blessing. It hopes to receive one this year from one of the seminaries. Recent projects include renovation of the church windows, ceiling, doors, and outside steps, as well as the installation of a small used pipe organ. We welcome Holy Cross to the English District and pray for its continued success! Holy Cross has been a thankful recipient of 1-1-1 and Endowment Fund gifts, as well as disaster relief funds after vandalism.

Peace, McMurray, PA – The Rev. Justin Schmidt

Peace Lutheran Church, originally Grace, Dormont (via Hope, Upper St. Clair and Our Savior, Mount Lebanon), was served until recently by Bishop Hardy. After 20 years at the parish, he moved home to Michigan in late 2020. Peace is served by Pastor Justin Schmidt, who was called in 2018. A nearby Eastern District congregation is his home church (Zion, Bridgeville). Pastor Schmidt looks forward to beginning outreach in the future in nearby areas of southwestern Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia which currently have no LCMS presence, beginning in Uniontown, PA, where the fledgling mission is tentatively called Means of Grace Lutheran Church.

Redeemer, Oakmont, PA – The Rev. Brian Westgate

The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer observed the 120th Anniversary of the Parish & the 40th Anniversary of the Dedication of Redeemer Lutheran Church in November 2020. Sadly, the celebration had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. During the pandemic, Redeemer supported a local food pantry and began to host blood drives. The congregation is proud to support Redeemer Lutheran School led by Administrator Mrs. Gail Holzer. With enrollment that exceeds 250, this school continues to serve the community well as the only Lutheran PreK-12 school (indeed, the only Lutheran high school) in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We are celebrating 10 years since the founding of the high school.

St. John's, Clarksburg, WV – The Rev. Stanley Lacey

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is also new to our English District. The parish until recently worshiped at the historic Lutheran church building in Clarksburg but has moved to an Episcopal church in nearby Bridgeport. The congregation began as a preaching station of St. John's Lutheran Church, Cove, Accident, MD under Pastor Charles Lehmann over a decade ago. His successor, Pastor James Oester, reached out to Rev. Brian Westgate in 2018 to determine if the English District had interest in supporting the mission work. A visit to Clarksburg by the Bishop, Circuit Visitor, and Pastor Spittel confirmed our desire. The parish was chartered in November 2018 and received into the district the following February. This reception was celebrated in October 2019 with Pastor Bob Zagore, LCMS Office of National Mission, in attendance. Pastor Amadeus Gandy served the parish from November 2019 until October 2020, when he began full-time service as an Air Force chaplain in Alaska. Pastor Oester served as vacancy pastor in retirement until the ordination/installation of Pastor Stanley Lacey in June 2021; he continues to be of assistance. This congregation is a very necessary outreach, as there is no LCMS congregation within easy driving distance (all well over an hour away). The parish is small, but with God's grace and long-term pastoral care, it will thrive. St. John's is very thankful to be one of our current 1-1-1 recipients. With the move to Bridgeport, they are now reaching out to an area that had been yet untapped, and the pastor continues to work hard in Clarksburg itself as well.

LAKE ERIE REGION

The Rev. Jeffrey Miskus, First Vice President

“THY STRONG WORD” and “ROOTED IN CHRIST”

It has been a great honor to serve our beloved English District as 1st Vice President for the past four years. I thank you for the trust you have placed in me and for your prayers. God is faithful.

The English District Gala became my latest responsibility in service to the District. This event was held June 13, 2021. **I’m pleased to report that through the gala our District raised around \$40,000.00 for the Endowment Fund.** This fund supports many of our English District missions. The theme for the gala was “THY STRONG WORD” taken from the hymn of the same name. We were blessed with a committee of devoted, hard-working brothers and sisters that believe God’s Word is the means of all God’s mission. God’s strong Word creates worshippers! The members of this committee were Sally Naglich, Shirley Holle, Kristin Wellik, Jenifer Sibdhannie, DCE Rod Lane, and Rev. Joshua Ulm. I thank God for them. Most of them continue to work with me on this year’s virtual gala – “ROOTED IN CHRIST”

We have been meeting regularly (online) to organize the gala. Our biggest task is the promotion of this event. WE NEED YOU. We need you to help promote the gala in your church. Our committee believes that God’s church is gifted, generous, and passionate about God’s mission. We believe many are eager for opportunities to give and fund solid Lutheran missions in our district. Campus ministries, human care ministries, new mission ideas, and scholarships are just a few of the many missions that have been and will be funded by the gala.

My big “ask” from you is...

- 1. Use the promotional materials we send to your congregation.**
- 2. Ask gifted members of your congregation to help sponsor the gala.**
- 3. Ask your church council if your church would help sponsor the gala.**

Being a Vice President also gave me the opportunity to visit and encourage struggling congregations and sit on the Presidium advising the President/Bishop on some of his more challenging tasks. I regularly attend (online/in person) quarterly Board of Directors meetings giving daily devotions to the board with the other VPs. I give thanks for the important work being done by our District President and his staff. The English District is being managed in a very faithful and professional manner. We are blessed with good leadership.

I would also like to thank Rev’s Roger Ellis, David Rutter, Jeff Teeple, Josh Moldenhauer, Adam Thompson, and Brad Scott for their partnership with me in organizing the Lake Erie Regional Church Workers Conference. Rev. Scott’s congregation, Good Shepherd in Toledo, Ohio did a wonderful job hosting us this year.

Finally, I would like to thank my own congregation – St. Mark’s – and their pastoral staff (Rev’s Derek Mathers, Terry Hursh, Philip Gai, and Matthias Benfey) for their understanding and devotion in covering for me when I’m away on district business.

May our God and Father continue to richly bless the work of the congregations, pastors, and leadership of our beloved English District.

CANADA EAST CIRCUIT #7

The Rev. Dr. Terry Hursh, Circuit Visitor

Christ, Aurora, ON – served by The Rev. Jung hun Park

Although there is a limit of capacity for Sunday worship at Christ Ev. Lutheran Church, we are following the government guidelines, keeping masks, disinfection, and social distancing. Following my daily routine, I do my visitations on weekdays in person and by phone. The Christmas Eve service was divided into two worship services at 6:30 and 8:30 in the evening to adjust the number of attendees. The Iranian worship service at 5:30 on Sunday evenings continues and serves and helps in necessary areas. Beginning February 1st, a new Small Catechism class was started.

St. John's Golden Lake, ON – served by The Rev. Stephen Alles

Two words come to mind when thinking about our congregation in recent times...celebration and change. Last July, we joyfully celebrated Pastor Richard Klein's 50th anniversary of ordination. Shortly thereafter, we said farewell to him and his wife Rosemarie as they moved to British Columbia to enter into retirement. God answered our need for pastoral services by enabling Rev. Paul Douglas to minister to our congregation. We look forward to extending a Call to him once he has completed his colloquy process.

2022 marks our 150th anniversary. A special event has been planned for each month during the year. As a congregation we move forward with confidence under our anniversary theme, "Be Strong in the Lord"!

St. John, Pembroke, ON – The Rev. Stephen Alles

The Scripture passage from Hebrews 10:24-25 has been a motivating factor for us at St. John's Pembroke during these COVID 19 times. The passage states, "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." We have been diligent in trying to stir up the members of our congregation in love supporting and nurturing those who are lonely and afraid.

We have also been very diligent in determining to stay open through all of the government restrictions. We never closed even when our Ontario government restricted the number of worshipers to 10 souls. We met with 5 services offering holy communion at each service. Thankfully, we have moved beyond that and at the present time we have returned to worship services that are looking pretty close to the way they were in the pre-pandemic days. Because we are blessed with a large church, we can accommodate everybody without turning anyone away.

We have returned to our regular Bible studies, Sunday school, confirmation, and fellowship. We are looking forward to the day when there are no restrictions. Our greatest goal through these times is to be faithful to the one who is the head of the church – Jesus Christ our Saviour.

St. Luke, North York, ON – The Rev. Justin Laughridge, The Rev. Jung Hun Park, The Rev. Gregory Lutz, & The Rev. Dr. Dusan Tillinger

In the past four years, God has blessed St. Luke Lutheran with a number of opportunities to serve in His Kingdom. Change is often a part of the life of the Church, and in fall of 2018 we called a new senior pastor. Rev. Justin Laughridge was installed into this position in March of 2019 and has served since that time.

We continue to celebrate a variety of inter-cultural ministry opportunities within our congregation, including our Persian and Filipino Fellowships, who meet weekly and monthly, respectively. We thank the Lord for gifted leaders in both of these cultural groups who are able to connect our members to the

saving Good News of Jesus Christ through worship, Bible study, and outreach events within our community.

While COVID-19 has no doubt made many changes in our congregation as it has for everyone, we are very thankful for the adaptations that have been made by our people to accommodate different sizes of groups and different health protocols while still gathering together to receive God's good gifts. We had a particularly creative adjustment to Christmas Eve and Christmas day services in 2020, holding over a dozen in-person services between the two dates! On Easter Sunday of 2021 we had to have a few extra in-person services, but the greatest blessing has been the ability to serve our people regardless of the circumstances required by the pandemic.

St. Luke Lutheran has said many "hellos" to new leaders and members recently, but also had a few cases of "until next time" as well. Of particular note, we thank and praise the Lord for the service of Rev. Greg Lutz, who serves us and the Canadian Forces as a deployed military chaplain. In June of 2021 he was transferred in his military service to a base located in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. We continue to remain connected to him as he serves in that place.

We are thankful for all of the connections to the English District that God provides for us through our local circuit and region and look forward to following where He leads in the triennium that is to come.

St. Mark, Mississauga, ON – The Rev. Jeffrey Miskus, The Rev. Philip Gai, The Rev. Dr. Matthias Benfey, & The Rev. Derek Mathers

We give praise and thanks to God that The Church of St. Mark-Lutheran has continued Word and Sacrament ministry throughout the pandemic. St. Mark's has developed an on-line worship service that is regularly accessed by between 30-75 families depending on the week.

Our in-person services continue with attendance fluctuating depending on the severity of the pandemic. Outdoor services during the months of June, July, and August have become a staple in our worship life and may continue for years to come.

Bible studies and meetings continue to flourish on Zoom as many seek encouragement and fellowship. Guests continue to visit the congregation looking for answers during this difficult time, and it is such a blessing to meet their concerns with the Good News of the Gospel.

Visiting the sick and shut-ins has been challenging as many hospitals and long-term care homes completely restrict visiting during times when the pandemic numbers increase. We give thanks to God that counselling, visiting, and prayer by phone can still happen during these times.

God's people at St. Mark's continue to support the ministry and serve in on-site and distanced capacities. We continue to pray, praise, and give thanks to God for all the blessings He has given us in Christ Jesus, trusting that we will learn and mature during this time of trial and testing. We live by faith not fear, serving our neighbours in love. To God be the Glory.

St. Mark, Mississauga South Sudanese Nuer Fellowship – The Rev. Philip Gai

The South Sudanese Nuer congregation has faced many challenges since 2021. As their pastor my calling is to ensure their spiritual needs are met by organizing worship, visiting the sick, talking one-on-one with our youth and offering prayers to those in need.

During the pandemic we were active:

- Weekly telephone conference worship for our congregation
Our congregation's leaders came together right after the COVID-19 lockdown. We created a telephone conference line for our congregation. For the past two years, our congregation members come together to worship online at 2:00 pm every Sunday, and I lead our telephone service online in the Nuer language.
- Sunday school and youth program
When we return to in-person worship, our youth will resume our Sunday school classes using our English congregation Sunday school materials which help them in preparing the lessons under my supervision.
- Praying with those who mourn
On Monday, January 3, 2022, our community suffered a terrible tragedy. Two members of our congregation were shot and killed. I ministered to the families, breaking the news of a child's death to parents is difficult. I prayed with the families offering them solace and being present in the grief. This tragedy affected the entire community, and, as their pastor, with the help of the Holy Spirit, I pointed them to the sure hope of the Resurrection of all believers and the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ!
- One-on-one with the youth
The youth are the future of our community, so I spend a lot of time talking and mentoring our youth. This ministry has been a real blessing for me. I have learned much from the youth who have shared their challenges with me, knowing that I will listen to them without judging them, but will guide them spiritually to grow them in their understanding of the faith.

St. Matthew, Scarborough, ON – The Rev. Dereck Pillay

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church is and has been carrying on with in-person worship in compliance with city, provincial, federal, and public health guidelines. At present, with 50% capacity restriction, it is just right given the folks who are willing to be there. Attendance is around 50-60 which is about two-thirds of our regular attendance. That means approximately 35% of our members have not been back to church since the pandemic. Each Sunday we also livestream the service which keeps the folks at home connected to the worship.

We have in-person Sunday school and Bible study every Sunday morning before worship. In-person board meetings are held once a month with Zoom connection available for those who can't attend in person. Voters meetings are held three times a year in the sanctuary immediately following the service, which allows for physical distancing.

First, Kingsville, ON (Independent Congregation) – served by The Rev. Dr. Dusan Tillinger

During the pandemic, First Lutheran Slovak Church meets one a month. We have approximately 12 people in attendance. We also had carol singing and a special Christmas Eve service where about 25 souls were in attendance. We continue to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ in the Slovak language and look forward to the end of the COVID restrictions.

CANADA WEST CIRCUIT #8

The Rev. James Leistico, Circuit Visitor

This season since our last English District Convention has been a season of change for our circuit and not only because of COVID-19. Rev. Robert Voelker retired, first as our Circuit Visitor, and then as pastor of Gethsemane in October, 2020. Rev. Art Schiemann, who had been a member of our circuit since 1973, died in 2019, and his funeral was well attended by circuit pastors and their wives. In January 2020, our Circuit Visitor, Jason Kouri, also sadly departed from us and Bishop Jamison Hardy appointed me to be

the Circuit Visitor, which has required a lot of on-the-job learning. In 2021 Our Saviour's, Chatham celebrated their 75th anniversary.

However, through all the changes, Jesus Christ remains the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Lord of the Church has provided well for me in my new role – from the retired and active brother pastors of the circuit who have been quick with a listening ear and advice for me from their wealth of experience, to the leaders of Gethsemane and Redeemer who have been patient with me as I learn to help vacant congregations find a new pastor.

As I look back on what Rev. Voelker wrote in his 2018 convention circuit report, with thanksgiving to God, I can tell you that our circuit pastors have continued to enjoy a vibrant camaraderie, even though much of it was limited to Zoom calls these last two years. Our pastors emeriti, Rev. Ted Radke, Rev. Roger Ellis, Rev. Ray Kirk, Rev. Lou Scholl, Rev. Glenn Stresman, and Rev. Paul Pollex (LCC, serving Our Saviour's, Chatham in their vacancy); along with Rev. Jordan Simon, Rev. Gerald Luck, and myself look forward to welcoming the new brothers to the circuit who will care in the future for Gethsemane and Redeemer.

Gethsemane, Windsor, ON – The Rev. Jordan Simon

Gethsemane Lutheran Church saw the retirement of Rev. Robert Voelker after 24 years of service to our congregation and community, as well as the retirement of his wife Sandra who served as our organist and secretary. We have been blessed by the leadership of Rev. Jordan Simon, our assistant pastor, who has been faithfully guiding us in liturgy and Holy Communion each week. Currently without a vacancy pastor, the congregation has been served by several local pastors in the pulpit, watching the occasional video sermon, and the reading of sermons by laymen. The congregation has been very receptive to the changes, including some new worship initiatives. This has also given us the opportunity to enjoy a closer relationship with our local parishes, with the possibility of working together in various capacities. Although the pandemic has kept our attendance and number of events down, we are looking forward to growth in many areas this year. We look eagerly to Christ to guide our path as we look for a new pastor to serve our congregation.

Grace, Mitchell, ON – The Rev. Gerald Luck

Hope, Kitchener, ON

Our Saviour, Chatham, ON – served by The Rev. Paul Pollex

Peace, Windsor, ON – The Rev. James Leistico

With great joy this past year, Peace has been returning to its life as the family of God. Even during the pandemic, they never once let the Food Bank close (except for its normal Christmas week holiday). Peace did have to close its doors for a time to public worship services as well as its hosting privileges for Alcoholics Anonymous and other community service groups. However, Peace's doors are once again open to all again, with only a few COVID limitations remaining.

The leadership began re-considering many aspects of our ministry through the re:Vitality program and used COVID's pause to think through some of our practices regarding worship and our connection to fellow members and the community.

In 2021, Peace began a partnership with Lutherans in the United States and Canadian Lutheran World Relief to help a Middle Eastern Christian family potentially move to safety in Windsor. We pray that Canadian immigration officials will approve their application.

As Pastor Leistico became busy with circuit responsibilities, Peace has been understanding and willingly shared him with the circuit for the sake of Christ's kingdom. Our church member, Rev. Emeritus Glenn Stresman has both filled in for Pastor Leistico at Peace in his absence and has preached on Sundays at Gethsemane and Redeemer in their vacancies.

Redeemer, Sarnia, ON – served by The Rev. Dr. Roger Ellis

Redeemer Lutheran Church is situated in the heart of Sarnia, a medium-sized city and border town with Port Huron, Michigan, that serves people in a wide radius north, south and east of Sarnia. The congregation has been vacant since January of 2020 but active in the call process with the help of the district president and circuit visitor. During this time, Rev. Dr. Roger C. Ellis, a semi-retired and former pastor at Redeemer, has been serving as the vacancy pastor.

The congregation has actively and conservatively followed COVID virus health guidelines from the local and provincial health authorities regarding procedures to keep all participants as protected as possible from spreading the virus to one another at worship during the pandemic. To that end we followed lockdowns and partial occupation levels as directed by the Province, offering weekly worship in person or over the internet. We utilized video worship services when we could not meet in person. We have had weekly and monthly contact with our members by email, phone calls, and mail for home worship helps, prayers of the week, and congregational concerns, including monthly newsletters and calendar of Zoom Bible studies and other meetings.

During this time, we have instructed both young and old for baptisms, confirmations, and reception into membership and counselled those who needed care. We have also had services for those who have died. Pastoral care via the phone, video, and in person has also continued throughout this time while following COVID precautions. We are very thankful for faithful volunteers who have stepped up to take on responsibilities to enable the congregation to function in ministry in a difficult time and for the leadership of the Board of Directors to steer us through. As we begin 2022, now into the third year of the pandemic, the congregation is preparing to extend a call for a full-time pastor.

CLEVELAND-AKRON CIRCUIT #9

The Rev. Jonathan McCall, Circuit Visitor

Abiding Savior, North Royalton, OH – served by The Rev. Jonathan McCall

Under the service of Rev. Michael Taylor as vacancy pastor, Abiding Savior was welcomed into the LCMS English District in mid-2019. After Pastor Taylor's move to Pennsylvania in late 2019, Rev. Jonathan McCall assumed the vacancy position and has served in that capacity since.

Concordia, Akron, OH – served by The Rev. John Voelker

Rev. Bob Tauscher retired in November 2021 after serving 17 years at Concordia. Rev. John Voelker (Ohio District) is serving the congregation as they assess their plans for the future.

Epiphany, Northfield, OH – Closed in 2018

Fairlawn, Fairlawn, OH – The Rev. James Gau

Rev. Adam Thompson accepted a call in Pennsylvania in December 2020. Fairlawn seeks to call a DCE next to assist with the needs of the congregation and preschool.

Good Shepherd, Akron, OH

Rev. Bob Tauscher officiated Good Shepherd's Sunday services until his retirement in 2021. The congregation has explored options for themselves and their property, which may be affected by Concordia's plans as well.

Grace, Akron, OH – The Rev. Peter Mills**Mount Olive, North Royalton, OH – The Rev. Jonathan McCall**

Rev. McCall was installed as pastor at Mount Olive in December 2018. The congregation sold its property in December 2020 in order to extend the ministry of Mount Olive into the future. They began meeting in a combined Divine Service at/with Abiding Savior in North Royalton. In 2021, the two congregations decided to merge under the new name Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church. The process is hoped to be completed in spring 2022 with Pastor McCall serving the merged congregation.

Saint Thomas, Streetsboro, OH – served by The Rev. Dr. Christian Just

Rev. Dr. Chris Just retired in December 2020 but has continued to serve as an interim pastor while the congregation works through the process of calling their next pastor who will serve both St. Thomas and Christ Lutheran Church in Mantua (Ohio District).

CLEVELAND-WEST CIRCUIT #10

The Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer, Circuit Visitor

On August 24, 2019, Ascension Lutheran Church in North Olmsted hosted a combined (Cleveland East and West) "5 for 5 in 5" circuit convocation. Pastors and laymen from seven different Lutheran congregations or organizations were present. Each one had five minutes to describe five different evangelism or outreach activities their congregation has tried in the last five years, along with comments on what went well and what didn't. The rest of the group then had time to ask questions about the different ideas. Overall, a lot of ideas and suggestions were shared. Rev. Josh Ulm opened the convocation with Matins and a fitting devotion.

Throughout the pandemic the circuit continued to meet for monthly winks via Zoom. We have since resumed in-person meetings, which has been edifying in many ways.

Ascension, North Olmsted, OH – The Rev. Joshua Ulm**Grace, Elyria, OH – The Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr.****Grace, Oberlin, OH – The Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer**

Grace Lutheran Church is a small congregation located in the small town of Oberlin, Ohio. A lot has happened since the 2018 district convention among this community of faith. God has blessed us in a variety of ways. We were able to pay off the church mortgage, repave the parking lot, put a new roof on the church and parsonage, and tend to a variety of other "upkeep" projects. In 2019 we took part in the Re-Vitality Congregational Self-Assessment, which gave us a snapshot of where we are as a congregation – along with some momentum for improvement.

Unfortunately, then the pandemic hit. We canceled worship and all church functions mid-Lent 2020. During that time Pastor Josh Moldenhauer began writing daily family devotions that were emailed out to the congregation the next 365 days. Also during this interval Pastor recorded weekly sermons and made them available on the church website. In June 2020 we resumed in-person worship with a host of

restrictions. Over the next months we purchased a variety of technology equipment that has allowed us to record the worship services and post them on the church website and Facebook page.

While navigating the pandemic brought its fair share of headaches, it has also pushed our congregation to become more technologically advanced and online friendly – for members and visitors. We even saw an increase in the number of visitors during the pandemic – and some have become new members. With the COVID numbers plummeting in the area recently, we are hopeful about returning to a fuller life together in the months ahead – not merely a return to “normal,” but a chance to step forward in new ways as God directs us.

Holy Cross, Cleveland, OH – The Rev. Michael Scheer

Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School is a congregation located in the West Park area of Cleveland. The school runs from preschool through 8th grade and currently totals approximately 89 students. The school is the primary ministry of the congregation along with a food bank which provides food and other household items to approximately 40 to 50 families on the first Saturday of every month.

Under the leadership of Principal Rev. Michael Scheer, the school has markedly expanded in enrollment, staffing, and educational services being provided since the last convention. In 2018 a two-classroom modular building was purchased to provide adequate space for all of the classes, and in 2019 a Special Education program began with the addition of the Jon Peterson Scholarship, which provides for intervention and other services for children who hold an IEP. Aside from a few weeks in the spring of 2020, throughout the pandemic the school has remained open for in-person instruction and has consequently seen a consistent rise in the enrollment of students, especially ones who require special education.

Iglesia Cristiana Hispana, Cleveland, OH

Prince of Peace, Medina, OH – The Rev. Daniel Haberkost & SMP Vicar James Bretthauer

DETROIT-SOUTH CIRCUIT #11

The Rev. Bradford Scott, Circuit Visitor

Angelica, Allen Park, MI – The Rev. Jonathan Sachs

Angelica is now gearing up to celebrate its 75th anniversary on June 26, 2022. We are thankful that during the last two years (during COVID) Pastor Sachs (who lives in Canada) has been able to cross the border unhindered, but we have been missing his wife Laura and her singing.

Our organist of 25 years, David Hufford, completed his service with us on Easter Sunday 2021 and has taken another position. God has provided both a fine new organist and a fine new secretary, after Patty Kalso retired at the end of April 2021.

Although our congregation has experienced some "pruning" (John 15:1-2, 4, 6), we are blessed with a wonderful spirit as people enjoy coming to church and are joyfully stepping forward to serve in areas where they had previously felt excluded.

Christ Our Redeemer, Allen Park, MI – The Rev. Joel Holls

Christ the King, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI – The Rev. Randy Boelter

The members and leaders of Christ the King Lutheran Church continue to be ever grateful to Christ Jesus, Lord of the Church for His grace and care.

By God's grace and mercy, we have reached our 80th anniversary and will be celebrating this milestone with a special service, a dinner, and a thank-offering in 2022.

Our hearts were saddened on Palm Sunday, 2021 at the death of our Pastor emeritus, the Rev. Dr. Joseph P. Fabry. We remember his 24-year ministry with great love and gratitude and look forward to that day when we will live in the Church Triumphant with Pastor Fabry in glory. Our preschool continues strong under the leadership of Mrs. Melissa Pieper.

In the next two years, leaders and members will be gathering and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, will begin making a blueprint of what our congregation hopes to accomplish in its ministry in the next 5-10 years, which will include the retirement of the current pastor and the calling of a new shepherd. We thank God that the debt incurred during the building and renovation of our facility 19 years ago has been significantly reduced. We pray that this will make possible even more opportunities for future ministry than have currently been possible. We continue to worship and serve, looking forward in hope. To God be the glory through Christ Jesus our Lord!

Good Shepherd, Toledo, OH – The Rev. Bradford Scott

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church continues to enjoy the Lord's rich and undeserved blessings while challenged by changes precipitated by the pandemic. As our number of young families has diminished, our Board of Discipleship has reached out to our nearest elementary school (coincidentally, the site where the congregation's first worship services were held in 1954) to explore the offering of some kind of free tutoring service, likely in the area of reading. We hope this will prove to provide an opportunity to connect with our community.

In 2018-19, Our Redeemer, Dearborn, a sister congregation which was having to close its doors, gifted us with a 13-rank Casavant pipe organ for the cost of moving and installation. This came just as our old electronic organ was dying, so we have been richly blessed.

In October, 2021, Good Shepherd was pleased to host the Lake Erie Regional Church Workers Conference. This was a new experience, and it definitely had a "learning curve," but our members enjoyed serving as hosts. We would encourage congregations that have the space and opportunity to consider hosting such events.

King of Glory, Sylvania, OH – The Rev. Paul Schmidlin

King of Glory Lutheran Church is a small congregation located in Sylvania, Ohio, a suburb of Toledo. We continue a Word and Sacrament ministry that was founded in 1963. We have weathered the COVID-19 pandemic and, other than the Eastertide of 2020, have maintained every Sunday services. Like most of our LCMS congregations, we have begun livestreaming Sunday Divine Service and offer a Wednesday Bible study on Facebook. Mid-week, the churches facilities are available to AA, TOPS, and the Toledo Blind Ministries. We have recently rededicated our effort to be missional using "Every One His Witness" materials and continue to help our neighbors through a community food pantry. We also assist members with special needs and have been pleased to increase donations to several LCMS ministries. Soli Deo Gloria!

Risen Christ, Plymouth, MI – The Rev. Reinald Kaufmann

Zion, Detroit, MI – The Rev. Mark Braden

Our gracious God, bestowing His Mysteries through His Church, has continued over the last quadrennium to bring Christ and Him crucified and risen to the greater metro-Detroit region through Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit.

This the Lord has accomplished through a very full liturgical calendar, with daily opportunities to receive His Gifts. Several study groups, including our Zion men's and women's groups, our adult catechesis, and our several Bible classes each week, bring the Word of the Lord and the doctrines derived from it to members and visitors alike.

Zion did suffer a several week shutdown as the result of government overreach during the COVID epidemic, but reopened as soon as it was possible. A severe regional flood and extended power outage in June 2021 hit Zion hard, doing almost \$2 million in damage to our campus. Thanks to the generosity and support of our District, our Synod, the congregations of our circuits, many private donors, and the hard work of Zion's officers and volunteers, although flood waters rendered many of our buildings unusable, the Divine Service continued according to schedule without interruption.

At this writing about 2/3 of the flood restoration is complete. Our Chapel of the Holy Incarnation, the pastor's study, the cantor's office, and the church undercroft are scheduled to be completed in the coming months. Some areas have been stabilized but will likely never be restored to their prior function. Our annual St. Michael Liturgical Conference was canceled two years in a row because of COVID and the flood. It is our hope to hold it this year.

In the face of such tribulation, the Lord has been faithful. He has delivered Zion. We have been blessed with several new families, and even as our congregation suffered membership losses during COVID, we have enjoyed receiving new members as well.

We are thankful to the Lord that He continues to bless Zion and her work in bringing Christ and His love to our neighbors, both near and far. To Him be all glory, honor, thanks, and praise.

DETROIT-NORTH CIRCUIT #12

The Rev. Daniel Grams, Circuit Visitor

Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI – The Rev. Daniel Grams & The Rev. Larry Loree, Jr.

The Lord continues to bless the ministry of Word and Sacrament in and through Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church (AoC).

- In 2018/19, with the help of an LCEF loan, AoC undertook a major facilities repair and improvement project which included roofing, flooring, HVAC, office and technology upgrades, as well as installation of "a new to AoC" refurbished pipe organ.
- In addition to its regular support of District & Synod missions, Ascension provides support for the Burakowski and Krey missionary families serving in the Dominican Republic; and our childcare center shares a portion of its revenue with the preschool in Licey, DR.
- Rev. Larry Loree, Jr., was installed as Part-time Assistant Pastor in August 2021.
- Ascension Early Child Care Center continued to serve children and families throughout the pandemic, without ever ceasing operations. Today, 46 children (ages 6 weeks -5 years) are served by 16 full- and part-time staff members, under the leadership of new center director, Chelsea Cook.
- We give all glory to God for the 20 baptisms (including 4 adults) and 7 families who have become part of the body of Christ through the ministry of the childcare center since 2018, including some who never previously belonged to a Christian congregation.

- We ask our fellow Christians in the English District to pray for our childcare center as the pandemic and its aftermath continue to cause disruption that makes long-term sustainability a great challenge for the coming years.

Epic, Shelby Township, MI – The Rev. John Hile

Epic Church installed Rev. John Hile as pastor in January 2022 after founding pastor, Rev. Tim Kade, accepted a call to Brighton, MI, in October 2020. Epic has renovated its new location, purchased in 2016, and has nearly completed the Outreach Center to support ServeLocal - a growing outreach effort that provides groceries for the community.

Grace, Redford, MI – The Rev. Timothy Halboth

Over the past four years Grace Lutheran Church has seen some significant challenges but has also received many blessings from our Heavenly Father. As excited as we were to welcome an assistant pastor in 2015, we were also saddened when he accepted a call in 2020 which left a "dent" in our ministry. Also, in 2018 the congregation mourned together at the death of its pastor of over 60 years, The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, and then his wife Blanche in 2020. The ministry has continued in faith. Through the pandemic Grace held worship virtually and through Palm Sunday and Easter of 2020 we worshiped our Lord in drive-in, parking lot style services. We returned to indoor worship in the summer of 2020 and continue that way today. Grace has reached out to its community through a drive-up food distribution helping many less fortunate families in Redford, a pajama and coat drive at Christmas of 2021 through our outreach ministry, and Christmas stockings given to our Lutheran schools in the area. The work goes on and Rev. Timothy Halboth is daily amazed at the faith and fortitude of the congregation. Plans are underway, through the mercies of God, to welcome a vicar on staff in the summer. To God, alone, be the glory!

Holy Redeemer, Sandusky, MI – served by The Rev. Michael Allen

This small congregation located in “the thumb” of Michigan is served by retired pastor Rev. Michael Allen from Essexville, MI.

New Beginnings, West Branch, MI – The Rev. Daniel Jansen

This small congregation located “up north” in Michigan installed a new pastor in 2021.

Shepherd King, West Bloomfield, MI – The Rev. Timothy Holzerland

“Every day I will praise You and extol Your name forever and ever” Psalm 145. We give all thanks and glory to Christ our Lord who continues to work in the body of Christ at Lutheran Church of the Shepherd King. The congregation made a number of capital improvements to the building. The church purchased a new refrigerator and stove for the kitchen. We have a new tent for fellowship gatherings on the lawn, as well as new tables. New sound and video equipment has been ordered to enhance our liturgy worship. A new security system has been purchased for our preschool. Shepherd King Preschool has a new director, Ms. Paige Schlager, who is helping improve the program. The preschool is full and has a waiting list. There were two more preschool aides hired in the last two years. The congregation and preschool continue to strategize activities that will bring both groups together. Shepherd King continues to be invested in mission outreach to Head Start of Farmington/Farmington Hills, Michigan. The church plans three to four activities per year to share our church and Christ with families in need. The congregation also opened its doors to court workers from the 48th District Court of Oakland County. The workers fulfill their service and the congregation welcomes them. There were workers who came to worship with us in the past four years. We are blessed by our Savior to have conducted two baptisms, two weddings and welcomed one family to the congregation in the midst of the pandemic.

St. Paul, St. Clair Shores, MI – The Rev. David Rutter

Highlights since 2018: 1) Slowly rebuilding from the “fallout of the pandemic” via many generous and innovative members; 2) Livestreamed services and concerts; 3) Endowment Fund established; 4) Right to Life of Michigan annual Baby Shower, sponsored by the Board of Elders; 5) Witnessed the closing of the Lutheran Center Bookstore in our community, after 73 years of faithful operation. Many programs and classes and meetings have resumed since the May 31, 2020 reopening, however, some have not --- we're hoping *little by little, more and more*. St. Paul's members understand that we have an excellent opportunity to reach out to many who are hurting and doubting. We're all grateful and thankful for the faithfulness of God's people. We hope to celebrate our 96th anniversary, October 2022.

WESTERN MICHIGAN CIRCUIT #13

The Rev. Peter Burfeind, Circuit Visitor (report written by The Rev. Eric Forss, former Circuit Visitor)

The Western Michigan Circuit of the English District is a broadly diverse circuit, offering a picture, in miniature, of much of the breadth of communities served by congregations of our District and Synod. We have urban, suburban, and rural congregations. Circuit congregations serve both small towns and large cities. Some of our congregations are small; others are quite large. Some are quite new, while others are well established. Our congregations also include one of the strongest campus ministries in Synod and one of the congregations at the forefront of the public discussion of the intersection of church and state. All our congregations faithfully strive to offer Word and Sacrament ministry in the name of Jesus to the souls and communities entrusted to their care.

During the past triennium, God has blessed the Western Michigan Circuit with two additional congregations (Agnus Dei, Marshall, and Hope, Bellaire) and six pastors new to us (Revs. Peter Burfeind, James Robinson, Wade Seaver, Rodney Zwonitzer, Jamison Hardy and Zach Marklevitz).

The addition of two congregations has greatly expanded the geographic reach of our circuit, which now extends from south-central to northwest Michigan and from southeast to southwest Michigan. Our circuit winks are now meeting by Zoom, due, in part, to the pandemic, but also to ease travel demands on our circuit pastors that face-to-face meetings impose. We give thanks to God for all our pastors and congregations and look to Him and His Word and Spirit for direction, protection, comfort, forgiveness, peace, and hope in Christ Jesus in the new triennium.

Agnus Dei, Marshall, MI – The Rev. Peter Burfeind

Agnus Dei is a young and thriving congregation that began as a preaching station but has become an established congregation. Agnus Dei was received into the LCMS in 2019. Shortly after that, our pastor, who is also a National Guard chaplain, was called to serve a one-year active-duty deployment overseas. Since his return, Agnus Dei has been attracting new members from Marshall and the surrounding area. God already has provided us with a lovely church with adequate space for the Divine Service, Bible study, and Christian fellowship. Agnus Dei is a confessional, liturgical, intentionally Lutheran congregation, attributes that our members highly value and our visitors actively seek. God has richly blessed us throughout our brief history even while we face the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we look expectantly to Him for His blessing as we move into the future He has prepared for us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, God, and Lord.

Epiphany, Dorr, MI – The Rev. Ryan Beffrey

In the last three years, Epiphany has given great thanks to God. We have had a steady stream of adult confirmations as members of Epiphany have confessed Christ to their neighbors, friends, and family and those people have come to the church desiring Christ and His gifts. We are in a community that is

actively growing as people from Grand Rapids and the busy suburbs seek out a quieter rural life. This presents several opportunities for witness and work in our city. Thanks be to God!

In 2018 and 2019, Epiphany was blessed to serve as host for the Lake Erie Regional Pastors Conference. In 2019, Epiphany celebrated her twenty-fifth anniversary as a congregation, and in 2020 we celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of her reception into the English District and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The anniversary celebration reached its peak in a special service on Sunday, September 29, 2019. We were blessed with the participation of the pastor and handbell choir from Grace, Wyoming, MI, our mother congregation. Several friends and former members of Epiphany came to take part in the celebration.

Like those in many other congregations, our members have struggled with the concerns and changes brought about by the recent COVID-19 pandemic; and yet at the same time, God has been faithful—those who have been attending Epiphany have had an increased appetite for the Word and Sacraments of Christ, which truly do sustain us. We enter this new triennium eager to meet the days and challenges ahead by God's grace and with His Spirit guiding the way.

Grace, Wyoming, MI – The Rev. Zachary Marklevitz

Established in 1949, Grace Lutheran Church serves Wyoming, Michigan, a community adjacent to Grand Rapids, on its southwest side. Grace is a mission-minded congregation with the mission statement to “care, share and witness” in the name of Jesus Christ. Grace is an active congregation engaged in both nurturing and outreach activities. The church family is nurtured through regular worship; children’s messages; pastoral visitation; Sunday School; the Tele-care Loving Calls ministry; monthly birthday cards and encouraging notes at Christmas; Valentine and Easter cards for the homebound and nursing home bound; cradle roll; blessing of the backpacks; Veterans, Volunteers, Mother’s, Father’s and Grandparents’ Day Appreciation; and teacher, Sunday school student and graduation recognition.

For the last 25 years, Grace has reached out to the community with the Grace Beginnings Preschool. Grace recently began its tenth year of providing free community meals every Thursday evening from September to May. The congregation’s outreach also includes Vacation Bible School, Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch, Rally Day, Fall Festival, Friendship Sunday, Youth Sunday, National Day of Prayer, United Day of Prayer in the fall, and Back to Church Friendship Sunday. Grace has also reached out to the world in faithful support of Synod and District missions, the LWML, WinGS (Women in God’s Service), and support of missionaries to Haiti and LCMS missionary Rev. Steven Mahlburg serving in Sri Lanka.

Together with four other Grand Rapids area LCMS congregations, Grace is a partner in West Michigan Lutheran High School (Michigan District), also located in Wyoming, Michigan. Established in 2004, West Michigan Lutheran High School offers a quality, accredited Lutheran education to students in grades 7 through 12.

Earlier in this triennium, Grace’s music ministry was enhanced by the acquisition of a baby grand piano. Grace also has begun replacement and expansion of its organ, a project we hope will be completed by Easter, 2021. Other music ministries that edify the congregation include a sanctuary choir and handbell ensemble ministry. Also, some members participate in the West Michigan Chorale.

Grace anticipates celebrating 75 years of God’s grace, an anniversary that—if the Lord permits—she will observe in 2024. An Anniversary Committee is being established to make plans.

During the current triennium Grace regretfully said farewell to Rev. John Diener, who served the congregation faithfully for the past 9 ½ years. In the spring of 2021, Grace called the Rev. Zachary

Marklevitz to serve as her next pastor. He was installed on March 21, 2021. During the vacancy, Grace was served by Rev. Timothy Verity, a retired Michigan District pastor. Grace now looks forward to Pastor Marklevitz's ministry among us as we begin this next chapter of our service in Christ's name.

Holy Trinity, Lakeview, MI – The Rev. Alexander Sabol

Hope, Bellaire, MI – The Rev. Wade Seaver

On February 13, 2020, Hope Lutheran Church and I transferred to the English District from the Michigan District. Bishop Hardy installed us on July 19, 2020. On March 23, 2020, Gov. Whitmer issued a "Stay At Home" Order (No. 2020-21) for the citizens of the State of Michigan through at least April 13, 2020, ostensibly to curb the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). So, Hope closed her doors for approximately 40 days from Judica to Misericordia Domini, with services returning on Jubilate. Regular Mass has continued uninterrupted since that time with the usual COVID precautions in place.

Our congregation prays the Office of Matins with as many as fifteen in attendance. Private confession is heard every Thursday after the prayer office, followed by Brown Bag Bible Study. This is very popular.

We have two families attending the Fort Wayne seminary. Brendan Harris is currently on vicarage at Immanuel Evangelical-Lutheran Church, Terre Haute, Indiana.

On July 10, 2020, our congregation joined the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) at Bishop Hardy's recommendation. On November 6, 2020, Father Wade baptized his second grandchild, Esther Louise, at the father's fieldwork congregation in Decatur, Indiana.

COVID has continued to wreak havoc on all facets of life and our congregation has not been immune. Attendance is down. We average just under forty each week. Bible class is up, however, at about twenty. Soli Deo Gloria.

Hope, Grand Rapids, MI – The Rev. Christopher Nuttelman

Hope Lutheran Church is 107 years old, by the grace of God. We have been served by only five pastors. Our pastors and lay people helped found other congregations in our community. We have a typical schedule of Word and Sacrament ministry and are generous in the support of missions and charitable organizations. We helped start Camp Concordia, Gowen, Michigan, in 1957 and support it to the present day. In the 1980's, we partnered with area Lutherans and the English District to start and run Amazing Grace (GRALIM), an outreach to African Americans that was active for a number of years. In 2000, we improved accessibility to our facilities with an elevator and carport. Today, as always, we move ahead with the prayer, "Lord God, you have called us, your servants, to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen." [LSB #193, p. 311].

Immanuel, Howell, MI – The Rev. Eric Forss

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is a fragile but robust and resilient congregation serving the heart of Livingston County, Michigan. She joyfully and gratefully embraces the grace of God in Christ Jesus confessed in the Lutheran Confessions and in the Lutheran liturgy. Desiring to strengthen her serve, Immanuel completed an Every One His Witness Workshop in 2019. Nearly every one of our active members participated. Bless God!

Throughout most of the triennium, we offered regular worship and Bible studies, although that schedule has been altered somewhat by the state-wide provisions deemed necessary to contain the COVID-19

pandemic. Fellowship meals following the Sunday Divine Service also have had to be temporarily suspended. Church attendance at Immanuel was down for about two months early on but has recovered as our members have sought anew the comfort and consolation found only in the cross of Christ. As good citizens, we have adopted the standard COVID-19 precautions and adjusted our activities to help our members and guests stay healthy as they gather here to receive God's gifts.

Thanks be to God, we never ceased offering Word and Sacrament to those willing to come, even when the COVID restrictions were tightest. Prayers continued to be offered at the Lord's altar throughout the pandemic. And intercessions before the throne of grace continue to this day, imploring the Lord of mercy to grant us all relief from the global pandemic.

Also on the bright side, the pandemic became the tipping point that launched a project we had discussed before but had not initiated until now. We now offer recordings of the Sunday sermon to our home-bound members and to others who request them. A few of our members became ill with the Coronavirus, but all have fully recovered. Thanks be to God!

For more than 25 years, the Divine Service at Immanuel has been supported by a wonderful pipe organ. Although it is still in playable condition, the instrument now needs repairs and maintenance. We hope to complete this work in 2021.

We pray that, as pandemic restrictions ease, the Lord of the Church will bless our outreach efforts through personal evangelism, leading more people to Immanuel, to Him who is "God with us," Jesus Christ our Refuge, our Strength, and our Lord.

Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, MI – The Rev. Curtis Dwyer, The Rev. James Robinson, & The Rev. Dr. David Dressel

Martin Luther Chapel at Michigan State University exists to serve the students, faculty and staff of MSU and the surrounding community. As a campus ministry that also includes a resident member community of all different ages and stages of life, we offer college students a church home where they can grow in faith while they also get experience serving in many different areas of ministry.

Martin Luther Chapel is served by Rev. Curt Dwyer as Lead Pastor. Rev. David Dressel serves as part-time Associate Pastor, and Dian Silvey is our part-time Ministry Assistant. In addition, Rev. James Robinson, a graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, was ordained and installed in 2019 as our full-time Associate Pastor with specific responsibility for campus ministry.

In addition to our work on campus (please reference our report elsewhere in the workbook), Martin Luther Chapel has an active resident member ministry. Our Stephen Ministry group is a valuable resource for those in our congregation and wider community in need of Christ-focused care. We have weekly "Children's Church" led by a number of volunteers to help serve a growing group of young families. Our Youth Group attended the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. Thanks to a large gift, we were able to do significant repairs to our pipe organ and were able to upgrade our A/V system. We continue to foster a good relationship with the City of East Lansing as we seek to serve and support our whole community

Our Savior, Hartland, MI – The Rev. Christopher Thoma, The Rev. Rodney Zwonitzer, & The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy

A confessional congregation that gladly clings to God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions while adhering to the historic rites and ceremonies, Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church and School in Hartland, Michigan remains at the forefront of engagement in issues pertaining to Church and State.

They do this, not only to bring the concerns of the Church to the forefront of government, but to carry back knowledge and resources to the Christian community at large. Along the way, the congregation has been blessed to form partnerships with judges, state and federal Senators and Representatives, as well as presidential advisors, cabinet members, and White House staff. One of the many ways the congregation accomplishes their Two-Kingdoms work is through their annual conference entitled "The Body of Christ and the Public Square," which is an event that sees the Lutheran perspective on Church and State furthered amidst keynote addresses from tier-one thinkers and political personalities such as Ben Shapiro, Dennis Prager, Dinesh D'Souza, Charlie Kirk, and so many more. As a result of this effort, pastors, teachers, lay leaders, and Christians in the community are aided in understanding and navigating the individual Christian's vocation as it meets the unavoidable political and cultural landscapes. In addition to this effort, Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church and School continues her resolute focus on Word and Sacrament ministry for the extension of Christ's kingdom, and from this seeks to raise up God's people to be salt and light in the world around them. Lastly, Our Savior is gladdened to be one of the few Christian PreK through 8th grade day schools in the country offering tuition-free education to the surrounding community, a work that is wholly supported by the church members' tithes and offerings as the Holy Spirit flexes the muscle of faithful stewardship within and among them.

During this triennium, the Lord of the Church has richly blessed us in our ministry. In addition to providing us with our devoted principal, Deaconess Sara Bielby, and our dedicated school faculty, He has added two faithful servants of God to our pastoral leadership team, Rev. Rodney Zwonitzer in 2019 and Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy in 2020. By adding these two pastors, the Lord has expanded our outreach and evangelism and strengthened our ministry and service to God's people in Christ's name. Our Savior looks forward to the new triennium as we continue our mission under the Lord's mandate to preach Christ and Him crucified.

LCMS Office of National Missions - Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, MI – The Rev. Steven Sutterer, Chaplain
In 2014, the LCMS Office of National Missions called English District pastor Rev. Steven Sutterer to serve as Institutional Chaplain at Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, Michigan. Sparrow Hospital is part of the Sparrow Medical Group, which is the largest health care provider in mid-Michigan. The Group's Sparrow Hospital, where Rev. Sutterer serves, is a 733-bed teaching hospital located in Lansing, Michigan, and affiliated with Michigan State University, East Lansing. Since accepting his call, Rev. Sutterer has continued to serve the hospital community, both patients and staff. His service has been especially appreciated by ailing patients and their families, as well as by staff members stressed and weary from the COVID-19 pandemic. In recent years, in addition to his regular duties, and at Sparrow's request, Rev. Sutterer has directed Sparrow Hospital's Chaplaincy Department.

MIDWEST REGION

The Rev. Robert A. Rogers, Third Vice President

The Midwest Region of the English District which is comprised of Nebraska, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky has survived the pandemic. Like the other regions, things were not usual. Some of our churches were able to remain open the whole time. Some reduced services and some closed. Each congregation did their best to serve God and serve their community in whatever ways they could. The pandemic has been a great blessing in many ways for the Church. We have had to examine our priorities and decide what is essential and how we can provide that which is essential in a difficult environment. It has forced many congregations into the 21st century technologically. It has made us hunger for Word and Sacrament like few other times in recent history. God promises to bring good out of all things for those who love him, and we have certainly seen the good he has brought for us out of COVID-19.

Prior to the spring of 2020, many of our churches were striving to move forward and find every way possible to serve God by proclaiming the Gospel. Below are some of the reports I received from the Circuit Visitors and pastors of the Midwest Region. Obviously, not all our churches reported but I have been in contact with all of them, and I am very proud of my region. While the virus may have deterred us, it did not stop us from reaching people with the Gospel. In fact, I'm certain to Satan's chagrin, all our churches found new ways to proclaim the Gospel and new avenues to use to reach into their community, and these new discoveries will benefit us far into the future!

INDIANA CIRCUIT #14

The Rev. Chad Trouten, Circuit Visitor

Advent, Zionsville, IN – The Rev. Marcus Mackay and The Rev. James Grady

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 107:1) Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church has been richly blessed these past four years. Following Rev. Dr. John Fiene's retirement, Advent called Rev. Marcus Mackay as Senior Pastor in 2018, serving with Rev. James Grady who was ordained and installed in 2017. Advent continues to generously support the District and Synod, with special emphasis upon our missionaries: Rev. Dr. Arthur Just (International Missions), Rev. Dr. Michael Paul (Taiwan), Rev. Dr. Gerald Paul (Cayman Islands), Rev. Dr. David Preus (Eurasia) and the International Lutheran Council.

A generous donation paid off the remaining mortgage, resurfaced the parking lot and assisted with the purchase and installation of a new organ. A School Expansion Committee was formed in 2021 and the voters approved plans for calling a headmaster and staff, adding grades 1 & 2 to the existing PreK-K early childhood program and a new grade each year up until 8th grade. A designated Call for a headmaster – associate pastor has been placed. Advent has been blessed with a deaconess intern for the last two years and has submitted a designated call.

During the last four years, there have been 35 infant baptisms, 9 adult baptisms, 43 youth confirmations, 19 adult confirmations, with an additional 122 new members. Attendance has returned to pre-pandemic numbers and is gradually increasing. The Word of the Lord endures forever at Advent, so we may obtain justifying faith through the ministry of teaching the gospel and administering the sacraments. Soli deo gloria

Bethany, Fort Wayne, IN – The Rev. Chad Trouten and Rev. Charles Varsogea
Bethany has completed a major renovation of her building foundations, porches, and floors. Having weathered well the COVID storm, attendance and offerings are up from pre-pandemic levels.

Jacob's Well, Fort Wayne, IN – The Rev. David Adams

Peace, Fremont, IN – The Rev. Jeffrey Teeple
By God's grace and mercy, Peace Lutheran Church has weathered the pandemic. Our Wee Creations Preschool and Daycare remain vital to the region as we reach out and support families with Christian education and care. As a direct result of the mandated quarantines, the congregation has ventured into online worship broadcasting and Bible studies. Over the past years, two new positions were added: an associate pastor and a business administrator. And we have added an LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry for care and outreach in the tri-state area and beyond. Soli Deo gloria!

Prince of Peace, Hudson, IN – The Rev. Brian Pratt

Redeemer, Fort Wayne, IN – The Rev. David Petersen and The Rev. Michael Frese
Redeemer has continued to offer worship services, Biblical instruction, and run a classical school. We also had a few weddings, funerals, and some baptisms. Some people got mad, others thought we were great. Some people left. A few people joined. God is in His heavens. All is well.

Trinity, La Porte, IN – served by The Rev. Richard Ungrodt

CHICAGO-NORTH #15

The Rev. Anthony Oliphant, Circuit Visitor

Bethany, Chicago, IL – served by The Rev. Steven Baldauf

Bethesda, Chicago, IL –The Rev. Paul Bacon, The Rev. Shadrach Katari, & The Rev. Jean Bingue

Christ English, Chicago, IL – The Rev. C. J. Wright

Christ English has increased its food pantry days from one to two. We have partnered with state, county, city, and local community organizations; they come in on pantry days (not all at the same time) to educate pantry recipients about their services and to assist them.

We are a site for persons who require community service hours. We also are partnered with high schools on the westside of Chicago to allow their students to complete their community service credit hours at our site.

This summer we are planning to open a soup kitchen for a couple of days a week.

We work closely with the Chicago Police Department (CPD) 25th District to increase community relations between the police and the community. To facilitate this process, we host a cookout for the community and the police to help grow relationships and act as a call center and safe space for the community in the event of unexpected situations so that the police can work inside the community.

Although instructional classes have not begun yet at our school (it was our hope to start pre-K/Kindergarten classes last fall, but roofing issues continued), with the help of the Lord, we are

scheduled to start instructional classes this fall. All roofing issues have finally been addressed. PRAISE GOD!!!

Faith, Arlington Heights, IL – The Rev. Michael Johnson

Grace English, Chicago, IL – served by The Rev. Fernando Gomez

Holy Spirit, Elk Grove Village, IL –The Rev. Daniel Greg

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit was open throughout the pandemic. They had a committee in place to be sure that the environment was safe, and they livestreamed worship for those who felt unable to attend in person. One notable for them was the continuation of their Packages for Patriots program which sends boxes of food, candy, reading material, grooming aids and so forth to active military personnel all over the world.

Redeemer, Elmhurst, IL – The Rev. Anthony Oliphant

Redeemer has completed its accessibility and remodeling project in our sanctuary building. This massive undertaking included building an elevator and bringing all spaces into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This project has been well worth the effort, as it has allowed us to open our doors to people with any physical disability in the community. This is especially well-timed with the Elmhurst Park District establishing a park and senior center directly across the street from our sanctuary. With a fully accessible building, a successful open house, and ongoing outreach to the community, we are hopeful that this can become a place where all people can come to gather around God's gifts.

The music ministry at Redeemer has also seen continuing education courses for music instructors, allowing church workers to learn new methodologies for teaching music to the littlest members of God's flock no matter where they serve.

Engaging in Re:Vitality will also hopefully provide ideas and encouragement for continued ways to bring the Gospel to those around us.

Trinity, Villa Park, IL – The Rev. Rob Rogers

Trinity Lutheran Church has remained open throughout the pandemic. A COVID-19 Committee was immediately established and put into place all necessary precautions for worshipping during the pandemic including masking, sanitizing, enhanced air flow and livestreaming worship and Bible studies. Continuous communion was instituted to help social distancing and as many meetings as possible were held on Zoom. All fellowship activities were cancelled. Prior to the pandemic, Trinity's LWML had begun a chapter of Operation Barnabas offering support and Bible study for active military, veterans, first responders and their families. This continued in person during the pandemic and was greatly appreciated by those who participated. Trinity also continues working with mentally challenged individuals with Bible studies and activities in the Coffee Shop on Tuesdays and Fridays (although suspended during the pandemic, we hope to begin again soon). The preschool was full and already had a waiting list for the fall of 2020 when the pandemic struck, and we had to close for the fall but have reopened as of February 2021. One sad note was our loss of Bishop Emeritus Roger and Beverly Pittelko in November of 2020. Bishop had served us as assistant to the pastor for 12 years. He and Beverly died within 3 weeks of one another and have left behind a great void for us. They were remarkable people, and we treasure the years we had them with us.

CHICAGO-SOUTH CIRCUIT #16

The Rev. Douglas Hoag, Circuit Visitor

I was recently appointed circuit visitor by Bishop Hardy after the acceptance of a call out of the region by our former circuit visitor Rev. James Huenink. I give heartfelt thanks to Rev. Huenink for his time of service! The Chicago South Circuit is comprised of the following congregations:

Chatham Fields, Chicago, IL – The Rev. Keith Kinslow
Concordia, Berwyn, IL – served by The Rev. Jeffery Leichman
Ephphatha, Chicago, IL – The Rev. Prentice Marsh
Faith, Chicago, IL – served by The Rev. Anthony Malone
Markham, Markham, IL – The Rev. Larry Schneekloth
Messiah, Elmhurst, IL – The Rev. Bradford Maxon
New Hope, Chicago, IL – The Rev. Paul Anderson
Saint John the Divine, Chicago, IL
Trinity, New Lenox, IL – The Rev. Douglas Hoag

In their own ways, each of the congregations is a strong presence in its respective community through mission and service. The pandemic has certainly opened up avenues to be creative in outreach. A good number of our parishes are livestreaming their worship services and other ministries on various social platforms. We are truly blessed to have bold pastors and laity as we continue to seek out and discover different ways to use the gifts given by our Lord in the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

MILWAUKEE CIRCUIT #17

The Rev. Frederic Reaman, Circuit Visitor

1-1-1: Mission Accomplished! The Milwaukee Circuit was the originating group behind the creation of 1-1-1 birthed from an idea of Pastor Tom Engler and the Lutheran Church of the Prince of Peace in Menomonee Falls, WI. In 2021-2022 we are working on calling a missionary pastor-at-large supported by our circuit, that will hopefully serve as an encouraging guide and model for other circuits. In the city of Milwaukee alone, there are more than 14 areas of interest for mission activity that have come out of meetings with our circuit, the South Wisconsin District office, local leaders, churches, and pastors in Southeast Wisconsin. Starting a new campus ministry in Ft. Atkinson, WI is also a real possibility that is taking shape. Over the past triennium, Pastor Tyler Werner was installed at St Mark, Sheboygan, WI in Feb. 2022. Pastor Brady Retzlaff was installed at Living Hope, Mt. Pleasant in May 2020. Pastor Ken Boudreau was installed at Hope, Hastings, MN in May 2018.

Christ, Lake Mills, WI – The Rev. David Dukovan

Faith, Watertown, WI – The Rev. Seth Hoeppe

Greenfield Park, West Allis, WI – The Rev. Fred Reaman

Greenfield Park Evangelical Lutheran Church recently celebrated 82 years of serving West Allis in the Milwaukee area. Our emeritus pastors, Rev. William Meier (1969-1999) and Rev. Paul Koester (2000-2013) are well and continue to care for people. Pastor Reaman has been busy working on our community's opportunities with youth, adults and seniors. We have seen continued growth in the co-founded neighborhood association with 670 members, guiding supporting, and partnering with them for social causes, fundraisers, food packs, clothing drives, and neighboring events. This has been a great

blessing and is an excellent natural place for outreach, witnessing, and bringing neighbors to worship. Ministry and facility usage continues to rebound after COVID with three scouting groups, health screening, car clubs, small business craft fairs, and outside family groups using our hall for events. The Prayer Shawl and Baby Blanket ministry continues to minister to and connect with parents at area NICU hospitals providing prayers, devotions, and knitted blankets and hats. Community partnerships have blossomed with the West Allis Police Department giving us greater access to otherwise hidden battered women, children, and homeless job seekers. Recent attendance at annual events has nearly doubled what it was before COVID, indicating more people are open to interacting with Christians, churches, and pastors and seem to be searching for what's missing in their spiritual lives.

Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI – The Rev. Keith Speaks, The Rev. Christian Wood, The Rev. Leon Jameson, The Rev. Chad Kogutkiewicz, & The Rev. Todd Liefer

Hope, Hastings MN – The Rev. Kenneth Boudreau

Living Hope, Racine, WI – The Rev. Brady Retzlaff

I am pleased to say that our hospitality ministry has been our church's greatest blessing recently (both to our members and to visitors). We recently had a couple stop coming to church because of COVID-19 concerns, so I've been calling to check in on them and they informed me that many of our members have been doing the same! I was very happy to hear that our members were aware that this couple hadn't been to church recently and actually took action to make sure they were okay. We've also had a new couple show up recently and after the service one of our members was chatting away and laughing with the new couple like they knew each other (I thought they might have been friends from high school). However, it turns out they had never met, so once again it made me feel really good that our members were reaching out to new people who visit instead of just chatting with the people that they normally do.

Messiah, Forest Lake, MN – The Rev. Greg Musolf

Peace, New Berlin, WI – The Rev. Gregory Michel

Prince of Peace, Menomonee Falls, WI – The Rev. Thomas Engler

St. Mark, Janesville, WI – The Rev. Brad Urlaub

St. Mark Lutheran Church is blessed to witness God's activity among the people here. Three new staff have been added within the last triennium. Amy Nelson is our Family Ministry and Small Group Director, Marissa Brunner is our Youth Director, and Shelly Van Tassell is leading music on organ and piano. As the church grows, so does the number of ministries. Ministries that have been added include Men's ministry, Handbells, 345s Family Ministry, Youth Prayer Partners, Car Show, Grief Share, Financial Peace University, online livestream services, and communion extension to shut-ins. In addition to all the new faces and ministries, the building received a new facelift. A new parking lot was put in along with upgraded signage, both restrooms were remodeled, a music/technology closet was created, the nursery was refashioned, and the Sunday school rooms were modernized into a multi-purpose area. A member created and donated eight stained glass pieces for each window in the back of the sanctuary, and the Evangelism Committee led the effort for a newly installed and dedicated stained glass piece of Luther's Rose in the front of the Sanctuary (dedicated Reformation Weekend 2020). Also, the replacement of all the windows to increase energy efficiency was completed in October 2020, and a new cell phone tower has been added on our property that brings in extra funds for ministry.

St. Mark, Sheboygan, WI – The Rev. Tyler Werner

St. Mark recently installed Pastor Tyler Werner as the new lead pastor. The St. Mark Food Pantry continues to be an important outreach ministry for the greater Sheboygan community. As Pastor Werner has begun his ministry at St. Mark, a greater emphasis will be placed on missions and outreach, family and youth ministry, and a greater presence on various social media platforms.

SAINT LOUIS CIRCUIT #18

The Rev. Theodore Laesch, Jr., Circuit Visitor

Beautiful Savior, Lee's Summit, MO – The Rev. Jonathan Gruen & The Rev. Devin Burmeister

Our mission is summarized with the words "Boldly Sharing the Love of Christ", and currently we are putting a special emphasis on our goal to "Tell the Next Generation," a theme taken from Psalm 78:4. Our desire is to engage all people, especially the young generation, with the Good News of what God has done for us through Jesus. We are thrilled that our Abounding Love Preschool's enrollment has grown to over 100 students! We added a full-day option in the fall of 2018, which has been in high demand. Our Upward Basketball was forced to pause in 2021 but has resumed in 2022 with around 300 participants. We share the Word of God with these children in practices and with their hundreds of family members at games. Our congregation has undergone much staff transition since the last convention. The senior pastor, ministry assistant, and facility manager remain the same, but we have filled several vacant positions: administrative assistant in 2018, preschool director in 2019, DCE in 2020, associate pastor in 2020, and business manager (a new position) in 2020. The new team is talented and dedicated—a great blessing. Thanks be to God! Finally, we have moved our contemporary worship service from our gym to our main sanctuary. We plan to remodel the sanctuary soon to improve aesthetics, acoustics, layout, and functionality of the space for all. May God grant it, for His glory and the good of His people.

Chapel of the Cross, St. Louis, MO – The Rev. Theodore Laesch, Jr. & The Rev. Ellory Glenn

Chapel of the Cross exists to show the love of Jesus to the people of North County and beyond so that all may have a living relationship with Christ. To that end, the members of Chapel continue to serve their community with Word and Sacrament ministry and care for specific needs through a food pantry, a clothing boutique for families in need, a 10-week summer camp for community elementary aged children, and an after-school program during the school year (a partnership with Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO). Chapel continues to partner with local Lutheran elementary schools and Lutheran North Middle and High School in sharing the importance of quality, Lutheran education for its families and the families in the community. Chapel of the Cross has also been instrumental in supporting Immanuel Lutheran Chapel, St. Louis, MO during a long-term pastoral vacancy. DCE David Funke retired in 2019 after 33 years of service to the Lord and His church; and in 2021, the Rev. Ellory Glenn was installed as Specific Ministry Pastor at Chapel of the Cross.

Grace, Vine Grove, KY – The Rev. Ryan Schneider

Grace Lutheran Church is a rather young congregation that opened its doors in 2010. In September of 2014 the congregation purchased a new place of worship with the help of an LCEF loan. In 2021 the congregation required another loan from LCEF in order to do required maintenance on the building, replacing four of five industrial air conditioners. Members of the congregation have been working hard to pay off the principal payments through donations and fund raisers.

The congregation's theme, "I am the vine; you are branches," (John 15:5) is fitting considering the congregation is located in Vine Grove. With Christ as the vine of life for the congregation, members are encouraged to branch out into the community. Many members are former military and have great extension outreach to the military community. Monthly, the congregation does a servant event for the community, such as helping the local pregnancy resource center, nursing homes, women's shelter, and various homeless shelters and animal shelters.

In 2020 the congregation acknowledged its ten year anniversary, but was unable to fully celebrate it due to the worldly issues of that year. With the adoption of Lutheran Service Builder, services went online in order to reach those sheltering in place. By 2021 in-person services and practices continued as normal. The congregation has witnessed a steady increase in membership over the past two years. Members are encouraging one another to be in the Divine Service and Bible study, and to love and serve their neighbors. The Lord has truly blessed Grace, Vine Grove.

Peace, O'Fallon, MO – The Rev. Ronald Millard, Jr.

Peace Lutheran Church strives to live out the words of Jesus from Matthew 28:18-20 by going out and being Jesus to all people. To be a community of people meeting members and our neighbors where they are, recharging our lives with Christ, and being a refuge for the weary. This, God willing, will be accomplished by sharing burdens of all people, teaching the whole truth of Jesus Christ, and living a life reflecting the love and service of our King. Peace Lutheran Church desires to be a refuge where the presence, peace, and praise of God is seen and felt without ceasing.

To accomplish this, we have developed strong relationships with four local schools, the Boys and Girls Club of O'Fallon, the O'Fallon police and fire departments, the VFW, and our mayor. God has blessed us to be His servants in our community where He has provided meals, clothing, tutoring, counseling, concerts, Christmas and Easter VBS, VBS, property clean up, house painting, home building for returning veterans, and benevolent funds for the police department. We also work with Lavender Life to assemble and deliver lavender infused stuffed animals to foster children, children in the court system, and children who experienced trauma to provide a tactile symbol of love and support. Just this year we have been honored to deliver over 1200 stuffed animals to children in need throughout Missouri, and each stuffed animal has been prayed over for those children receiving them.

We are also excited to partner with Sacred Groundz Coffee Truck which was started by members at Peace. Sacred Groundz hires employees who have special needs and assists them in learning all tasks needed to run the coffee truck. The motto is "A cup for everyone," and we strive to employ and empower those with special needs while changing the cultural stereotype associated with division and norms. You will never see a bigger smile than the smile from our employees as they hand you an amazing coffee!

With a heart on the community and with all the blessings God has provided us recently, we are looking to purchase a larger building that can provide more opportunity to love on the community and fill the identified needs of the community. Our plan is to purchase a building where we can establish a brick-and-mortar Sacred Groundz, have two gymnasiums to support local travel teams, The Boys and Girls Club, and various community programs, and have a sanctuary space that can also provide meeting space for our community partners. God has been so good, and we are trusting in His provision for Peace now and in our future attempts to love others as He has first loved us.

Redeemer, Lincoln, NE – The Rev. Mark Ebert & The Rev. Joel Dietrich

Since the last convention of the English District, Redeemer Lutheran Church has experienced some challenges but also countless blessings. The challenges seem to revolve around the COVID-19 pandemic. They required some changes in practice without hindering our usual Word and Sacrament ministry. Our people have been extremely patient and understanding. The blessings included starting a livestream of our worship services that has not only benefited our own homebound members, but also “visitors” from coast to coast, and even as far as Bern, Switzerland! We also have been blessed by God in recent times with bounteous resources enabling us to do ever more work in “Proclaiming the Gospel to all Generations.” All praise and thanks to God for His faithfulness to His people!

St. John’s, Hannibal, MO – The Rev. Eric Carlson

St. John’s Lutheran Church has proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ since 1860. Education has been a major focus of our mission since we began, with the congregation starting a Lutheran school soon after. We continue our mission to educate children in a Christian environment with a daycare as well as an accredited Lutheran school for kindergarten through 8th grade. In partnership with area churches, we support a community meal program for the needy called Loaves and Fishes. Our pastor provides monthly worship services at Luther Manor, a local retirement community and nursing home that was founded by St. John’s. As we carry the truth of God’s Word to our congregation, school, and community, God provides many opportunities to build disciples, grow in the faith, and serve in Christ’s name.

WESTERN REGION

The Rev. Todd Arnold, Fourth Vice President

Please see the reports from the individual congregations to see the highlights of ministries since our last convention. The following is a summary of activity in each circuit of the Western Region from 2019 to 2022.

Circuit 19 - Pastor Steven Resner was named Circuit Visitor of the Arizona-North (Nevada/Utah) circuit after Rev. Nick Wirtz took a call to Arizona-South circuit. Eternal Life in Mesa Arizona was added to the circuit during this triennium, while the circuit lost a congregation that closed in North Las Vegas. Rev. Wayne Morton retired after many years of service at Shepherd of the Mountains in Pinetop which is now being served by Rev. Daniel Warner. Pastor Larry Bell serves at Shepherd of the Pines in Payson.

Circuit 20 - Ascension in Tucson is now being served by Rev. Thomas Braun and Rev. Douglas Duy. Christus Rex in Rio Rico is being served by Rev. Craig Rendahl. Faith Lutheran in Tucson has as its vacancy pastor Rev. Marcus Zill, who was added to the circuit last year as the new Campus Pastor at the University of Arizona. Mount Olive in Tucson is served now by Rev. Isaac Wirtz, and the pastor at Peace in the Valley in Benson is Rev. Ron York. Rev. Robert Bruggeman is now serving Prince of Peace in Mesquite, NV, and Crosspoint in Sahuarita is now served by Rev. Robert Stevens.

Two very exciting ministries continue with support from across the circuit. The first is the Iglesia Luterana Santa Trinidad mission. The circuit has called Rev. Nick Wirtz to serve that ministry through Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior in Green Valley. And Rev. Marcus Zill serves the campus ministry at University of Arizona with support from across the circuit.

Circuit 22 - St. Luke's in La Mesa, CA became a member of the synod and our English District in 2019. Rev. Mark Menacher is their pastor. Rev. Michael Matthews is now serving as pastor of Borrego in Borrego Springs, CA after serving there as deacon for 17 years. First Lutheran Church in El Cajon now has Rev. James Huenink serving as pastor after Rev. Andrew Fedder began his mission work in Eastern Europe. On a sad note, Crossroads, Mira Mesa and Inter-Mountain, Guatay both discontinued church operations and Morning Star, Lakeside joined with a Pacific Southwest District congregation in Spring Valley, CA.

Circuit 23 - Rev. Robert Dargatz now serves as Circuit Visitor succeeding Rev. Matthew Payne. Two congregations, St. Paul, Long Beach and Immanuel, Orange are now part of the district and circuit. Rev. Steven Okpiz now serves Peace in Palm Desert. Rev. Titus Utecht is pastor at Sherman Oaks, Sherman Oaks. Pastors William Naumann and Manuel De La Rosa continue their work at Chapel of the Cross, Mission Hills.

Circuit 24 - Blessed Sacrament in Hayden, ID has joined the district and circuit 24. Pastor Ray Hulett serves Hope in Fremont, CA. Rev. Peter Ledic's planned retirement has Messiah, Danville searching for a new pastor. New Life Chinese celebrated 25 years as a congregation in 2021. West Portal in San Francisco celebrated 75 years and is now served by Rev. Curtis Binz and Rev. Wayne Kerr.

ARIZONA-NORTH (NEVADA/UTAH) CIRCUIT #19

The Rev. Steven Resner, Circuit Visitor

Eternal Life, Mesa, AZ – served by The Rev. Steven Resner

Eternal Life Lutheran Church, transferred from the Pacific Southwest District (PSD) to the English District in May of 2021. They have been vacant since former pastor Rev. Martin Frusti retired in 2018. Rev. Steven Resner, Emeritus, has served the vacancy to prepare the congregation that is in the Call process now. The congregation has seen marked growth over the past four years, even as the older members of the congregation have been called home to be with Jesus. Current membership is at 101 with the average age going from 74 years old, two years ago to 61 years old currently. The congregation counts itself blessed by being a member of the English District.

Faith, Overgaard, AZ – served by The Rev. Daniel Warner

Faith Lutheran Church is in the Call process. The vacancy is being served by Rev. Daniel Warner of Pinetop, AZ. Over the last three years Faith Lutheran Church has continued to serve the Overgaard community with Christ-centered Word and Sacrament ministry on Sundays. Bible studies are ongoing. The congregation is involved in incarnational ministry to the community through work with veterans, the senior center, food box distribution and emergency indigent care. The congregation helps support some seminarians at Fort Wayne, as well as missionaries in Panama and Togo. In addition to visitations, the congregation supports shut-ins through online recordings of Bible studies and worship services. Phase one of a building project is complete with a kitchen remodel and expansion. The long-range goal is a new sanctuary.

Family of Christ, Phoenix, AZ – The Rev. Fred Gerlach

Messiah, Parker, AZ – The Rev. Roger Yoder

Shepherd of the Mountains, Pinetop, AZ – The Rev. Daniel Warner

Rev R. Wayne Morton, who was such a blessing to us as pastor, has retired, and God has seen fit and proper to bless us with Rev. Daniel Warner, as our pastor. This past triennium was marked by enthusiastic mid-week and Sunday morning Bible classes. Through faithful stewardship we continue to support both of our seminaries and other mission projects in addition to District and Synod.

Shepherd of the Pines, Payson, AZ – The Rev. Larry Bell

Rev. David Burge served Shepherd of the Pines as Intentional Interim Pastor and prepared them to extend a Divine Call to Rev. Larry Bell in 2019.

Our Savior's, St. George, UT – The Rev. Arthur Drehman

Prince of Peace, Mesquite, NV – The Rev. Robert Bruggeman

ARIZONA-SOUTH CIRCUIT #20

The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse, Circuit Visitor

Ascension, Tucson, AZ – The Rev. Thomas Braun & The Rev. Douglas Duy, Sr.

Catalina, Tucson, AZ – The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse

The congregation continued receiving God's gifts through uninterrupted, in-person Word and Sacrament ministry 3-6 times each week, throughout the past triennium. She has continued to receive and train vicars from CTSFW. Thank you to the District President/Bishop's work to have these men placed. The congregation moved forward with her "Building a Legacy in Christ-crucified," Capital Campaign, again without interruption. Building plans have progressed, architect renderings were nearing completion in preparation for filing for building permits. Multiple adjustments to deal with global health concerns were made, including an increase in the use of media technology for livestreaming of services, with the administration of the Sacraments being kept faithful through incarnational ministry.

Christus Rex, Rio Rico, AZ – The Rev. Craig Rendahl

Crosspoint, Sahuarita, AZ – The Rev. Robert Stevens

In the fall of 2018, the church called Rev. Robert Stevens to be their pastor. We have weathered the COVID storm passably well and currently are partnering with LCEF to construct a new building.

Faith, Tucson, AZ – served by The Rev. Marcus Zill

Word and Sacrament ministry continues to carry forward in midtown Tucson. Works of love and mercy for the church and to the world have flowed in abundance by all. In the previous year, our church saw the calling and installation of Rev. Marcus Zill to the campus ministry at the University of Arizona. In spite of COVID causing our school to go back and forth between online and in-person learning, our school has continued to seek to fulfill its mission. Despite the evil plan and purposes of the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh to thwart the hallowing of God's name and coming of His kingdom, God's will has been done, and He has broken and hindered such efforts among us.

Holy Trinity, Tucson, AZ – served by The Rev. Dr. Garry McClure

The congregation developed and began working through their "MOVE-GROW-REPLACE" plan. Since the last district convention, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has decided to move to a new location in southwest Tucson, a site that presents better possibilities for growth for the English-speaking ministry. This decision was made after much prayer and planning by the majority of the members of the congregation. However, in order to carry out their plan for moving to a new location, growing the membership, and calling a pastor, they had to generate funding and reduce their current expenses. The only realistic way to do this, without going into debt, was by selling their present building and property on South 12th Avenue and by selling the right of access to the cell tower complex located on that site. First, they sold one acre to the south of the church. Then they sold access rights to the cell tower on their property. The next step was to sell the remainder of the land and the church building. In the meantime, the congregation purchased a plot of land on the westside of I-19 along Ajo Highway and contracted a local architect and engineers to begin the new construction project. Unfortunately, in order to reduce expenses, as of January 1, 2021, they ceased funding the Latino ministry program.

After the shut-down period in Arizona, the English-speaking congregation continued with somewhat altered in-person worship services and with weekly in-depth Bible studies which are written and then shared with the membership electronically.

Iglesia Luterana Santa Trinidad, Tucson, AZ – served by The Rev. Nicholas Wirtz

The Latino mission is alive and active, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the decisions of their long-time host congregation, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The Spanish-speaking congregation has not met for worship for nearly a year, owing to the fact that many members are essential workers and must keep

healthy or lose their jobs. Several members have been sick with the virus, a few were hospitalized but there have been no deaths in the congregation due to the virus.

Baptisms, weddings, and funerals have been held out-of-doors with social distancing and masks. Sunday worship is celebrated by mailing out service bulletins with the confession of sins, absolution, Scripture lessons, Psalm verse, and opening and closing prayers. Also, a short message is texted every Sunday morning to 47 individuals and/or families. The text message includes a list of people who have requested prayers for themselves or others.

Last year, the Latino mission approached the Arizona South Circuit Forum and informed it of the present situation: looking for a new base of operation, a new pastor, and financial support for its outreach ministry. In response, the Forum formed a Latino Ministry Task Force to advise the circuit as to how it might continue to move forward in this important ministry in Arizona where 1/3 of the population is Latino, and where specifically in the southern part of Tucson - where the ministry is presently serving - the percentage is nearly 85% Hispanic.

The Latino Mission Task Force initially planned to purchase Holy Trinity's building and property but lost that opportunity. The circuit's Latino Ministry Task Force then changed its priorities, deciding first to seek a new pastor and then to allow him to work with Rev. Garry McClure, the congregation, and the circuit to grow this important ministry. To date, the funding for this endeavor continues with better-than-expected success. The search for a suitable pastor and new locale is still in process.

Messiah, Tucson, AZ – The Rev. Luther Esala

Mount Olive, Tucson, AZ – The Rev. Isaac Wirtz

Mt. Olive has seen a challenging time with the installation of their new pastor in the middle of the COVID pandemic, only to be followed a few months later by a 3-month absence of their pastor again while at chaplain training. Despite these challenges, Mt. Olive is growing, and as some members move on to the Church Triumphant, new visitors become regular attendees. Rev. Wirtz has focused much of his effort on the restoration of Mt Olive's digital presence online to make it easier for guests to attend and also present a professional appearance. Going forward the expectation is more involvement between the church and the local military community served by Rev. Wirtz.

Peace in the Valley, Benson, AZ – The Rev. Ronald York

Since being assigned to Peace in the Valley (PITV), Pastor Ron York has been able to give the congregation some continuity in ministry and has led the congregation to greater visibility in the community. Pastor York was formally installed as pastor at PITV on October 11, 2020.

The congregation conducted a 4th Family Fun Festival for the J-6 Ranch/Mescal community in 2019. To touch the town of Benson, which is eight miles away, the congregation continues to enter Benson parades, passing out water and cross/cards with a Gospel message.

The congregation conducted a neighborhood prayer walk in Mescal, walking through the neighborhood and praying for the homes and families there. Pastor York has worked with Benson High School to establish an anti-suicide ministry in the school after an epidemic of suicides. The congregation is considering forming a mission team to assist at the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission to continue taking the Gospel beyond the walls of Peace in the Valley Lutheran Church. We continue to move forward in improving our virtual ministries with live-streaming during Sunday worship service and our

Peace Through the Word live-stream ministry, a daily devotional which continues to be well received globally including in Spain, Malaysia, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean.

Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ – The Rev. Todd Arnold & The Rev. Nicholas Wirtz

Prior to the last convention, the people of Risen Savior passed a “Five-Fold Purpose” statement. Each year since then we have worshiped under a theme based on one of those five purposes. In 2018 our theme was *Life Together* focusing on our purpose of “Loving Fellowship.” In 2019 our worship theme was *Tell Everyone What He Has Done* allowing us to emphasize our purpose of “Compassionate Evangelism.” And in 2020 our theme was *With Hearts and Hands and Voices* with a celebration of our purpose of “Faithful Service” to God and His people.

Some highlights of the last triennium are the formation of a “Life Team” in conjunction with Lutherans for Life; the introduction of an “Evangelism/Outreach Team” and hosting an annual “Block Party” for the neighborhood; going through *Every One His Witness* together; and the hiring of a new Director of Music, Pat Leege. We have survived the Coronavirus epidemic by continually upgrading our livestream capability. Our S.O.U.L. Lunch (Showing Our Unconditional Love) ministry continued through the pandemic as a “drive-through” ministry. God is good.

LCMS U at University of Arizona – served by The Rev. Marcus Zill

The past triennium has been one of change, transition, and restoration. Rev. Joshua Palmer, formerly called as the Assistant Pastor at Catalina Lutheran Church, sought a transfer to the Pacific Southwest District (PSD) and then chartered a new PSD congregation in Tucson. His departure left a void in terms of campus ministry. At the same time, the District began the process to sell its share of the property at the Campus Christian Center at the University of Arizona, and campus ministry life remained a challenge in general due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By the grace of God, and the continued resilience and support of the circuit, the District and the ALCMS (Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society), Pastor Marcus Zill was called and installed as the half-time campus pastor at the University of Arizona through Faith Lutheran Church in January 2021. He is serving there while also continuing to facilitate LCMS Campus Ministry through the Synod’s Office of National Mission. We are grateful for this partnership.

SAN DIEGO CIRCUIT #22

The Rev. Steven Duescher, Circuit Visitor

Circuit 22 hosted the Western Regional Professional Church Workers Conference in October 2021.

Borrego, Borrego Springs, CA – The Rev. Michael Matthews

Michael Matthews was ordained January 31, 2021. As of March, 2022 Pr. Matthews began serving his 19th year at Borrego Lutheran Church, the first 17 years as a deacon. Borrego Lutheran Church continues to meet every Sunday morning with worship service and Bible study. Despite the transient nature of the community, age of members, and several deaths over the last couple of years, the congregation is growing slightly and committed to keeping Christ at the center of worship and outreach. The congregation gathers and distributes a wide range of items such as food, clothing, furniture, etc. to the local and surrounding communities. The church also has presence on the Borrego Pastors Association. Throughout the year the church receives a lot of visitors coming to visit the desert and works diligently to stay in contact with them, encouraging them to return when in town. Borrego

Lutheran Church is committed to the LCMS confessions and grateful for Christ's Spirit squarely in their midst.

Crossroads, Mira Mesa, CA

Crossroads ceased to function as a congregation in March 2019.

First, El Cajon, CA – The Rev. James Huenink

First Lutheran Church continues to have two Sunday morning services and a Saturday evening service. After Rev. Andrew Fedder left for Eastern Europe, the congregation called Rev. James Huenink who was installed in November 2021. Our attendance has been climbing over the past several months, and Ash Wednesday doubled the attendance of our previous service in 2019. We rejoice that our congregation is growing as we come out of COVID restrictions.

COVID ended our work with the Arabic refugee community through POBLO, People of the Book Lutheran Outreach. As we exit the pandemic, we are looking for new ways to connect with our community with the word of God. We have partnered with 29:Eleven, an organization that provides food, shelter, and clothing for pregnant mothers and their children. They use a home on our campus, and we will receive a deaconess intern in August 2022 to serve the residents. First is using RE: Vitality to begin a strategic planning process to plan for our future.

Inter-Mountain, Guatay, CA

The congregation discontinued church operations effective June 30, 2018.

Living Water, San Diego, CA – The Rev. Steven Duescher

Living Water continues to worship weekly, presently meeting at a Hampton Inn Hotel in the Carmel Valley community of San Diego. The congregation remains small. Living Water has had nine different worship locations in the past 25 years. The most recent from February 2020 until March 2022 has been the hospitality room at Green Flash Brewery. The Brewery afforded Living Water to be able to continue to meet during the pandemic. The Green Flash Brand was sold early 2022 leaving the meeting space available only on a week-to-week basis. The decision was made to return to the Hampton Inn March 2022 for the sake of a more reliable worship space.

Morning Star, Lakeside, CA

Morning Star transferred to the Pacific Southwest District (PSD) in late 2019. During their vacancy they decided to call a pastor to share with a PSD congregation, Atonement Lutheran Church of Spring Valley, CA.

St. Luke's, La Mesa, CA

St. Luke's Lutheran Church became a member of the English District and the LCMS in 2019. St. Luke's, led by Rev. Mark Menacher and assisted by local Lutheran pastors offers *St. Luke's Theological Academy*. Through its developing Academy, St. Luke's Lutheran Church seeks to offer parishioners and pastors opportunities to enhance their theological knowledge for mission and ministry. Through its website and its church library, St. Luke's provides "genuinely Lutheran" courses, curricula, and essays available both onsite and online. The Academy offers revolving courses including Introduction to the Christian Faith, Old Testament Theology, New Testament Theology, Christian History and Doctrine, Reformation Theology, and Worship and Music Principles of Biblical Interpretation.

St. Luke's hosted two Sunday afternoon area Reformation services since the 500th anniversary featuring Lutheran hymn singing, short presentations by local Lutheran pastors, and a panel discussion concerning Reformation topics. German food and fellowship followed the formal portion.

LOS ANGELES CIRCUIT #23

The Rev. Robert Dargatz, Circuit Visitor

The Los Angeles Circuit (#23) experienced many changes over the last few years. St. Paul's, Long Beach went from two pastors to one, currently being served by Rev. Mark Pierson, formerly the assistant pastor. Trinity Lutheran Church relocated from Covina to San Dimas. Peace, Palm Desert's pastor took a call to Indiana, and Rev. Steven Okpiz was called to be their new shepherd. The Sherman Oaks' vacancy was filled by a very capable candidate from the seminary, Rev. Titus Utecht. Immanuel of Orange, CA transferred into the English District. Its senior pastor, Rev. Robert Dargatz, entered into semi-retirement and became a part-time assistant. Rev. Robb Ring was called to be the new senior pastor. Pastor William Naumann, in his eighties, continues to serve Chapel of the Cross in Mission Hills along with Worker-Priest Pastor Victor Manuel De La Rosa who gives this ministry a wonderful bilingual ministry. Circuit Visitor Matthew Payne of Trinity, San Dimas, resigned and now that parish is seeking to call a new pastor. Rev. Robert Dargatz was appointed as the new circuit visitor.

Chapel of the Cross, Mission Hills, CA – The Rev. William Naumann & The Rev. Victor De La Rosa

Highland Park, Los Angeles, CA

Immanuel, Orange, CA – The Rev. Robb Ring & The Rev. Robert Dargatz

Peace, Palm Desert, CA – The Rev. Steven Okpiz

Saint Paul's, Long Beach, CA – The Rev. Mark Pierson

Sherman Oaks, Sherman Oaks, CA – The Rev. Titus Utecht

Trinity, San Dimas, CA

SAN FRANCISCO CIRCUIT #24

The Rev. Curtis Binz, Circuit Visitor

Apostolic, Moses Lake, WA – The Rev. Winston Grieser

Blessed Sacrament, Hayden, ID – The Rev. Marcus Williams & The Rev. Dr. John Bombaro

Hope, Fremont, CA – The Rev. Raymond Hulett

The last few years have seen much change occur here at Hope Evangelical-Lutheran Church. At the end of October 2019, Pr. John Berg retired, and services were initially led in the interim by Pr. Peter Ledic and Vicar Ray Hulett from Messiah Lutheran Church in Danville, CA, while the call committee prayerfully searched for a new pastor. As with all our churches, the appearance of COVID-19 brought complications not only for regular worship but the search for a new pastor, particularly in California with its constant fluctuation of mandates. Thanks be to God, He saw Hope through these difficult times with the help of Pr. Ledic and others, and on July 4th, 2021, Candidate Ray Hulett was ordained and installed as Hope's

pastor. He, his wife Aubrey, and their three children, Arthur, Ruth, and Albert, are thankful to be back in California and serving the people of Hope and Fremont with the alone-saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Since that time Hope has slowly but surely returned to a full array of services, including in-person Bible study and Divine Service on Sunday mornings, private confession and absolution and catechetical vespers on Wednesday nights, and thrice daily prayers by Pastor which anyone can join in live online to encourage the development of a robust daily life of prayer, consumption of Scripture, and meditation on our Confessions. We are also renewing our outreach to the local and adjoining neighborhoods of the church and parsonage under the theme of St. Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians, "We are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God," (2 Cor. 5:20). Plans for the future include Bible study with dinner on Sunday nights, and the potential development of in-person or online opportunities directed to peoples of other languages and cultures to enrich our proclamation of the Gospel in such a culturally diverse place as Fremont and the Bay Area. May the God and Father of us all bless our endeavors for the preservation of the pure Gospel in this place, the salvation of many, and the glory of His holy name!

Messiah, Danville, CA – The Rev. Peter Ledic

New Life Chinese, San Francisco, CA – The Rev. Charles Fox

By God's grace, New Life (NL) celebrated her 25th anniversary on October 3, 2021!

Pastor Charles "Chip" Fox was called to New Life in 2002, together with His wonderfully supportive wife, Hannah. For the last triennium, the average onsite attendance of NL was: 65 (2018), 65 (2019), 21 (2020), 38 (2021). Current (2022) attendance average is: 42 onsite, with 13 livestream viewers and 32 total viewers. God has blessed us with two adult baptisms, four junior confirmations, and two adult confirmations.

In 2003, one year after the call, New Life needed a new worship space and Shepherd of the Hills (SOTH), S.F. (CNH) needed pastoral coverage! Pastor Chip has since then served as pastor of both NL and SOTH. He was later joined to shepherd SOTH by Deacon Otis Byrd (installed on July 13, 2014). On June 10, 2018 Pastor Chip was officially installed as SOTH's Senior Pastor. On Sunday, April 7, 2019 Deacon Byrd was ordained as SOTH's Associate Pastor, SMP. New Life continues her relationship with Shepherd of the Hills (SOTH) as a "multi-congregation parish."

Praise God for our New Life lay essential coworkers, without whom we could not accomplish God's work! Our Mission and Ministry Council (Congregational Board of Directors) currently are - Officers: Ed Yee, President; Susan Yee, Secretary; Cindy Chan, Treasurer. New Life Congregational Board of Directors - Directors: Henry Lee (prev. Yan Oi Wong and then Oi Yip), Missions/Ministries Director; Henry Wong, Properties/Building Program Director; Pastor Chip Fox (ex-officio). New Life Church Secretary: Gail Wong.

During 2018 – March 22nd 2020 NL continued to have two services: The 9 a.m. trilingual (English, Cantonese, Mandarin) worship, and the 11:45 a.m. English worship (with music provided by the New Life Praise Band). Communion was offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at New Life and on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays at Shepherd of the Hills.

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread, New Life proactively had Jonathan Fox implement worship service livestreaming and recording by cellphone on Periscope. By God's grace we started early enough to teach people how to use this app while most members were still physically coming to church. The rest is

history. San Francisco became one of the cities most stringently shut down due to the SF mandates, as well as by the Asian community's wise personal precautions. On March 29, 2020 NL began having only one trilingual service, attended by a courageous worship "broadcasting group," that came every Sunday and on special holy days to set up and livestream. The worship service was placed on PowerPoint so we could confess, sing, follow the sermon, and pray together. Praise the Lord, this worked very well! When Jonathan's older brother, David Fox, later returned from school, God enabled New Life's "broadcasting" to reach critical mass! Together they upgraded the video camera, computer, sound, and enabled our worship services on September 6, 2020 to go on YouTube. Other members, such as NL Congregational President Ed Yee and John Chan helped greatly, too! The quality upgrade was noticeable. Now New Life's Young Adults form God's effective NL Tech Team for every worship. NL has also been preparing the YouTube link and the video camera setup for our sister congregation SOTH.

We were able to begin celebrating Communion outside in the church's entrance court to preregistered groups on September 6, 2020. Gradually, we were able open our doors to welcome people to worship onsite (October 25, 2020 [15]; Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021 [31]; Easter, April 4, 2021 [38]; and December 19, 2021[63]). On November 8, 2020 we began celebrating Communion both in the sanctuary (immediately after our worship) and outside.

During 2018-2022 NL continued outreach through special celebrations, even during the pandemic. Online work intentionally reached out to all and God used it also to win back lost sheep! Celebrations included: New Beginnings Sunday, Mid-Autumn Festival, Thanksgiving Sunday, Thanksgiving Home Devotions, Christmas Program, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter Sunday worship services. Each of these had related activities to engage, befriend, and share the Good News of Christ with people; and were done online as well. Now activities and luncheon/refreshments are once again being celebrated onsite!

The education hour, Sunday school, and small groups occur after worship. Thanks to God, attendance is 50% of the Sunday worshippers. Several small groups (including the Young Adults and the Young Professionals group, and the new Monday Men's Group and Wednesday Bible Study), use specially prepared small group questions related to the sermon for the purpose of more in-depth examination and practical application of the sermon text. We also have Chinese Adults, Blessing Fellowship, English Adult groups, Mandarin Bible Study on Tuesday, Wednesday Outreach/Prayer Small Group, Friday Youth and Young Adults Fellowship, once a month Young Couples group, and according to need Discovery Classes (adult confirmation). Many of these groups are Zoom based, or hybrid Zoom and onsite.

In 2018 we had a NL Summer Retreat with the theme, "I Can Only Imagine." We thank Jesus for our long anticipated post-pandemic summer retreat in July 2022.

NL's youth had a summer retreat (2019). Thanks to God, New Life has 10 persons attending the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering!

A real NL ministry highlight is her "son" Michael Yee recently graduated from Concordia University - Irvine's Director of Christian Education program. He is currently doing his internship at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Houston.

New Lifers during this time had usher, liturgist, reader, and greeter trainings. We've also had seminars: Fire Safety Community Preparedness Academy (10/2018) and Emergency Preparedness Kit Workshop (01/2019).

NL triennium service activities include Operation Christmas Child (in both 2018 and 2019 we prepared 50+ Christmas Shoe Boxes; in 2020 and 2021, due to the pandemic, funds were collected and donated), Christmas caroling to the shut-ins, leading worship at the S.F. Laguna Honda Hospital (until the pandemic interrupted in spring, 2020), and having had a leading role with West Portal Lutheran Church and SOTH in the LCMS participation in the Walk for Life West Coast and the LCMS Pre-Walk Gathering.

From 2018-February 2022 we were serving about 80 families of Asian, Hispanic, Filipino, Russian, African-American, Ukrainian, Eritrean, and Anglo backgrounds through our food pantry. We invited all our clients to "The Food Pantry Sing Along" on one or two Saturdays of the month before the food pantry opened. A good number came for songs and a message! New Life several years ago began considering closing the food pantry, but seeing the coming impact of the pandemic, New Lifers agreed to keep it open to get the people through the pandemic. San Francisco Mayor London Breed even declared the food bank workers "essential workers" and wanted us to continue the needed work. We prepackaged the food and handed it through an opened door to clients who waited in socially-distanced lines. Then, as it became safer for everyone, after 19 years of serving Jesus by serving needy people, New Life completed her mission in this area.

Thanks to God, New Lifers have participated in these "mercy ministries:" English District's 1-1-1 Mission Initiative, hurricane relief, Californians impacted by fire, national offering, gift of 3,000 surgical masks to the Atlantic District, Texas Relief Fund, English District Virtual Gala, Haiti earthquake relief, the Afghanistan Christian Relief, California wildfires, Hurricane Ida, historic tornado damage, and Ukraine.

Please pray to Christ for us as now we seek His help to reach out especially to the younger generations! To God be the glory!

West Portal Lutheran Church and School – The Rev. Curtis Binz & The Rev. J. Wayne Kerr

God continues to bless West Portal Lutheran Church and School and some highlights from the last three years include celebrating the 75th anniversary of ministry here in the West Portal neighborhood of San Francisco. The celebration took place throughout the year of 2018 and was celebrated with a banquet with many members and friends of West Portal Lutheran. Rev. Dr. Peter Nafzger from Concordia Seminary was the guest speaker at the banquet, and he preached at the Divine Service on Sunday, October 21, 2018.

On August 25, 2019 we also celebrated the mortgage burning of one of our main school campuses. Rev. Dr. David Stechholz was very instrumental in the early beginnings of that campus and, therefore, served as our guest preacher and performed the retirement of the debt ceremony.

The year 2020 definitely will go down in history. We were notified by the local health department of San Francisco in March that all indoor worship will not be allowed due to COVID-19. (A violation of our first amendment-but we acquiesced as we did not want anyone to get gravely ill from COVID.) We reopened for in-person worship at 25% capacity on Reformation Sunday in October 2020. Praise God that during the time of the shut-down people remained faithful and we continued online worship and Bible studies. The members also remained faithful in their tithes and offerings despite the challenging restrictions placed on worship.

Another milestone for West Portal Lutheran Church and School was the celebration in 2021 of 70 years since the beginning of the school. The school started in 1951 and has been teaching the love of Jesus

Christ to many young people over the past 70 years. Many teachers and staff over the years deserve our thanks for their years of service. Our teachers, parents, students and all staff have been wonderful during the whole pandemic.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow." *Soli Deo Gloria*

MISSION GRANT MINISTRIES

All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA

Mrs. Augusta Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

Our congregation has had a fair number of challenges and changes since the last convention. Pastor Larry Loree, Jr. has rejoined his family in Michigan and is serving at Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills. Pastor Jacob Deal of Saints Peter and Paul (SELC) in Sharon, PA has been serving as our vacancy pastor since August of 2021. Our Word and Sacrament ministry in this community has successfully continued because of the faithful servant leaders with which God has blessed us. Our congregation has a call committee actively preparing to issue a call for a full-time, sole pastor in late April 2022.

Dr. James Mennell has retired as president of the church council after many years of faithful service to this congregation. The new officers coming on to the existing council are members Ed Geidner – Trustee, Vince Klonowski – Vice President, and Peter Rigney – President. The congregation has faithfully worked to establish a “building fund” to pay for the needed substantially significant repairs to the building foundation estimated to be \$80,000. The designated fund is growing monthly.

Our official Slippery Rock University Student organization “All Saints Student Fellowship” has a new Student President, Leif Lotvedt. Leif is a current SRU student and married to a young woman who was raised in the congregation. Our representation and outreach to all college students, American and international will continue as part of our very active campus ministry. Meals and Fellowship plans are being put into place for fall, as this busy academic year is soon coming to a close.

Because All Saints Evangelical Lutheran Church and Student Ministry is located adjacent to Slippery Rock University and nearby to Grove City College and Westminster College, our mission field is rich with opportunities to reach college students who face a largely secular world often void of Christian spiritual guidance.

We are most grateful for and pray for God’s continued blessings to be upon us as we move into our forty-sixth year of ministry here in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania.

Bethesda Asian Indian Ministry, Chicago, IL

The Rev. Shadrach Katari

It was a great opportunity to start Asian Indian Ministry at Bethesda Lutheran Church in 1998. I, Pastor Shadrach Katari, have been missionary and pastor for this ministry to bring the good news of Christ to all immigrants and non-immigrants of India in the Chicagoland area.

Our ministry has been growing all these years and our church activities have been increasing day by day. Many are interested in attending our Bible studies and prayer meetings throughout the week. These gatherings help many to grow spiritually and bring them the knowledge of God’s salvation. Now we are worshipping in person at Bethesda and continuing our programs both in English and Telugu, our native language.

Since the outbreak of COVID, we have helped the needy by providing groceries, we've visited the homebound and the ill, and have provided transportation to those that needed it. These are things we could do with the resources we had, supporting each other by the grace of our Lord and strong faith. Many were amazed how our Lord is working in their lives. All glory to God.

We conducted Bible studies, community intercessory prayer, and Sunday worship through conference calls and Zoom meetings.

I am very happy to say that during the pandemic, we were able to pray globally with many families from all over India. Even with the time difference between India (5:30 a.m.) and the U.S. (7:00 p.m.), entire families in India still attended our prayer sessions. This COVID season brought everyone closer to God and to learn more about the word of God.

Recently a family came from India, and the husband said that he was learning more about Jesus even though he came from a Hindu family. He would not have the opportunity to know about our Lord like this in India. They attend our worship in Telugu every Sunday.

Many families from Chicagoland would stay late into the night fasting and praying and came to know the importance of prayer in this pandemic season. We heard this from the believers and non-believers by their witnesses.

In 2021 we could have the Thanksgiving worship service in November in person. Though it was freezing cold people were interested in worshipping our Lord. We had Christmas carols all families participated with the songs and small skits and Christmas play by our children and youth. We could do the Christmas programs as well and we had the Watch night service which was in midnight of the end of last year.

We did everything for the glory of God, and we would like to continue this in future to bring many to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. We are very thankful to our mission committee for their prayerful support. Blessings.

First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA

The Rev. Eric Andr e

Highlights since the last District Convention (June 2018):

- July 2018: Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF)-International Student Ministry (ISM) of Pittsburgh was featured in the Synod's national RSO newsletter.
- November 2018: Lutheran Student Fellowship hosted renowned international apologist John Patrick, drawing over 100 for a presentation on secularism, happiness, truth, and more. Co-sponsored with Christian Student Fellowship and the Catholic Newman Club.
- Fall 2018: Campus Pastor Eric Andr e helped to interview candidates for Pitt's new position of Director of Interfaith Dialogue and Engagement and participated in a panel and a luncheon for student leaders (OCs, RAs, etc.) at Chatham.
- January 2019: Our LSF chapter attended the national LCMSU campus ministry conference in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. With students from Pitt, CMU, CCAC, Trinity School for Ministry, Duquesne, and Grove City, we represented six different schools in the Pittsburgh region. Pastor Andr e gave a presentation on "The Three Triplets of the Law"; he was also interviewed on this topic on "The Student Union" on KFUE radio.

- February 2019: Pastor Andræ attended an inter-faith breakfast conversation and presentation on Martin Luther King and race, dialogued with the ELCA campus pastor regarding where we stand on LGBT issues, played basketball at CMU with a graduate student who's looking for a church home, spent an hour "tabling" with his "Free Prayer" sign, participated in an interview with a candidate for the Director of the Beatrice Institute (formerly the Pittsburgh Christian Studies Program), prepared for upcoming pre-marital counseling sessions for two graduate students from Pitt & CMU, and more.
- February 2019: Over 20 students from LSF and the Beatrice Institute (including four non-Christians) attended a stage adaption of C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*, with discussion and dinner afterward.
- Every Ash Wednesday (except during the pandemic) we offer the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, tabling at central locations on campus at CMU (student union) and at Pitt (dorms/cafeteria). Fifty to one hundred students and staff usually stop by each year for conversation, ashes, prayer, and devotional material – and, of course, an invitation to Bible study and worship.
- November 2019: Area-wide pro-life retreat and networking event hosted by Lutheran Student Fellowship/First Trinity. Pastor Douglas Spittel spoke on fasting and Pastor Andræ presented on prayer. Twenty different local pro-life groups were represented.
- September 2019: LSF is the only religious group represented annually at the Pitt Health Fair. Pastor Andræ met Shmuel, a Jewish freshman, at this fair. Shmuel was drawn to our sign about science and the Bible. Ever since, they meet regularly and discuss the Bible, Jesus, literature, poetry, culture, and more.
- Spring 2020: On-campus speakers sponsored by LSF addressed "Feminism, Abortion, and Life" (Kara Sorenson of Feminists for Life) as well as "Christian Mission & Apologetics on Campus in an Age of Pluralism" (Chad Kendall of Concordia Theological Seminary).
- March - May 2020 (Onset of the COVID pandemic):
- New LSF [prayer app](#) was developed and linked to our website.
- March 2020: Pastor Andrae was interviewed by the [Beatrice Institute](#) about the changing nature of campus ministry and pastoral work during this epidemic.
- April 2020: Chatham University hosted a webinar on "Spiritual Self-Care During Times of Uncertainty and Crisis," with Pastor Andræ as one of five panelists.
- May 2020: Attendance at weekly online Interfaith Dialogue with the University of Pittsburgh Interfaith Office – Pastor Andræ was featured in an interview regarding Holy Week/Easter.
- With increased online presence, alumni and international students from around the country and world have joined us for our weekly English as a Second Language class/Bible study and LSF Bible study.
- 2021-22: Deaconess Intern Zoë Huelsman teaches the ESL class and assists with campus ministry during this school year.
- Christian conversation partners have been provided for ESL students: for a Muslim from Cameroon and for atheists and agnostics from Japan and China.
- Six confirmations and/or baptisms – Ellannys (daughter of one of our inter), Sydney (sophomore, Pitt), Nathan (senior, Pitt-Greensburg), Marija (sophomore, Indiana University of Penn.); Emma Pearson (sr. Duquesne; 13 June 2021); Josie Simmons (sr., CMU; 15 Aug. 2021) [Preston was confirmed at Calvary, Mechanicsburg near her home due to Pitt's COVID-19 restrictions].
- Summer 2021: Pastor Andræ interviewed by Emiola Jay Oriola, Program Manager for the Office of Interfaith Dialogue at the University of Pittsburgh. Oriola is completing his doctoral work and

is looking to community faith leaders for input on his work on interfaith engagement. This interview provides a window into the broad range of Pastor Eric Andræ's activities and priorities, and can be seen in full here: <https://tinyurl.com/b9fvebvm>.

- October 2021: Pastor Andræ taught an undergraduate seminar as part of the Beatrice Institute's course on "Formative Christian Ideas." The session entitled "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: The Holy Trinity" included reading the Athanasian Creed, the Augsburg Confession I, and selections from Dorothy Sayers' *The Mind of the Maker*.
- November 2021: Annual Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by LSF with Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry. One of our international students from Japan, "Horika," attended Christian worship for the first time ever and the meal immediately after the service with her family. She wrote to Pastor Andræ a couple days later: "Thank you for last Sunday. I'm happy to experience Sunday divine service and traditional Thanksgiving dinner!" Before, she knew nothing about Jesus and had never opened a Bible. She's now attending Bible study every week with us.
- First Trinity Homeless Ministry (FTHM), a daughter mission of the campus ministry, provided weekly lunch rounds (students from LSF, as well as non-churched students, commonly participate). The campus pastor or parish pastor begins with brief devotions. Distribution of bag lunches in the neighborhood includes prayer and an invitation to church. FTHM's quarterly distribution (students commonly participate) provide clothes, toiletries, and other necessities at the church, as well as prayer and invitation to church.
- Campus Pastor continues to serve on advisory council of the Beatrice Institute, as chaplain for the Pitt Pre-Med Hospice Volunteer Program, and as a member of the CMU Council of Religious Advisors, the Pitt Association of Chaplaincies, and the Chatham Multi-Faith Council, and is also a regular guest on WORD-FM.
- For two interviews with students, please go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZoVpHxU10es> and www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=L54AuTNYxUk.

Hope Community, Syracuse, NY

The Rev. Dwayne Hendricks

Hope Community Lutheran Church greets you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The congregation is grateful and thanks the English District for the financial support during the last four (4) years which means a lot to the church's growth.

Hope Community Lutheran Church has been reaching out and continues to reach out to more than eight elderly people in the community with food, prayer and words of encouragement.

Every year the church celebrates its anniversary and invites community members to fellowship with the church. These events are well attended and bring together the Ghanaian, Somalian and Sierra Leonean communities and also create an awareness of the church.

The church holds youth fellowship week every year and invite youth in the community to participate. The purpose of fellowship week is to teach young people in the church and community that they might grow in their relationship with the Lord as the Lord prepares them to serve Christ in all they do.

The church continues to have fast and prayer meetings, which is open to community members. These meetings give our members and the evangelism team the opportunity to reach out to the community,

pray for the lost, and share their faith with those who do not know Christ, inviting them to come to know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Luke Comfort Dog Ministry - Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta, GA

Ms. Judy Adams

Thank you for allowing us to bring the mercy, compassion, and proclamation to those suffering and in need through Luke Comfort Dog. During the past three years I have managed a team to bring Luke into the community, not only here in Alpharetta, but throughout the United States, if deployed. One hundred thirty golden retrievers across the nation have been trained thanks to Lutheran Church Charities. We never charge for a visit, and the dogs are purchased by LCMS churches in the United States.

Locally, Luke attends church each week, as well as Sunday school and youth group. During the week, Luke can work six hours a day, six days a week. You will see our team at many independent living facilities, hospitals, schools, funerals, malls, concerts, restaurants, and anywhere someone is in need.

Luke was deployed to Parkland, Florida after the school shootings that claimed 20 lives. He has been deployed to Florida and Alabama for multiple hurricanes.

Luke's team has made many personal one on one visits to those in need of comfort. A young girl that lost her dad to pancreatic cancer, a small child that lost her dad to suicide, a young man recovering from a brain tumor are just a few of the people Luke's team has touched with the love of the Gospel.

Luke's handler has written a book. The book is not about Luke but it starts with Luke. The Gospel with Luke is touch. Folks talk to Luke and begin the process of healing after a disaster. He will not talk back, but primarily listen. Once the book is complete we plan to offer that in addition to Luke as a tangible ministry tool for not only children, but people of all ages.

Luke often does public speaking engagements to explain the ministry to the community. We have spoken to Rotary clubs, hospital volunteers, schools and district and national LWML groups.

COVID-19 has not slowed down this team. Team Luke remained busy during the beginning stages of shutdown by dropping off meals for essential workers, visiting from afar patients that were alone, and mailing out over 1000 masks to those in need. Team members sewed, embroidered, delivered and offered the love of Jesus to those most vulnerable for loneliness. We always practice social distancing, hand washing and wearing masks.

I would like to thank everyone that has allowed us to bring Luke into their lives. I feel blessed to be the coordinator and primary caretaker for Luke. Maybe one person will learn about Jesus because we prayed with them!

LCMS U at the University of Arizona

The Rev. Marcus Zill

The last four years has been a time of several major unexpected transitions for campus ministry in Tucson. In 2018 the campus ministry was being served by Rev. Joshua Palmer, then assistant pastor at Catalina Lutheran Church, in conjunction with then Vicar Isaac Wirtz (now pastor at Mount Olive, Tucson).

Rev. Palmer, however, asked for and received a release from his call to Catalina Lutheran Church to pursue the start of a new mission congregation in Tucson through the Pacific Southwest District (PSD). Palmer was asked to serve as the interim campus pastor and did so for an additional 18 months. The English District has charted a new path forward and continues to maintain the oversight of its long-term campus ministry in Tucson.

In the Fall of 2020, Rev. Marcus Zill, who previously had served as the Synod's director of campus ministry until his position was eliminated for financial reasons during the COVID pandemic, was called through Faith Lutheran Church in Tucson to serve as the half-time campus pastor, while continuing some campus ministry work with the Synod. He was installed in January of 2021. Zill has begun utilizing and applying his vast experience to help the campus ministry navigate and move past the many challenges caused by the personnel changes, the dynamics that resulted from most students having been affiliated with Pastor Palmer's new PSD congregation, the impact of the COVID pandemic overall on the university and campus ministry alike, and the District's additional decision to withdraw its membership in the Campus Christian Center, which had served as the campus ministry's home for many, many years.

As a result of all these factors, the campus ministry is very much in a rebuilding phase. There is no short-term fix. However, that does not mean that the campus ministry is developing from scratch. The cupboard is certainly not bare. Not only does the District remain committed to campus ministry at the University of Arizona, but the support of the local area congregations in Southern Arizona is as strong as ever. The Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society, comprised of interested and talented individuals from area congregations, continues to be a tremendous help and support and will continue to be so going forward.

The campus ministry is no longer named Hold Fast Fellowship, but has rebranded simply as LCMS U Arizona, with the slogan, "No gimmicks. Just JESUS." Efforts are being made to reengage the local congregations, rebuild the student organization life on campus as the pandemic subsides and even expand involvement beyond the University of Arizona to Pima Community College and other area schools throughout the state. A concerted effort is also being made to contact congregations throughout the rest of the state in a more direct fashion and find ways to engage high school students long before they arrive as freshman by offering "Next Steps" seminars for them throughout Arizona and perhaps elsewhere.

This is not a time for small thinking. The need is great, the opportunities to retool and even expand what has been done in the past, are clearly evident and, of course, God is beyond faithful. We ask for the continued prayers of all as we work to chart a path forward and develop both a short-term and long-term plan for the development and growth of this foundational campus ministry with or without the utilization of the Campus Christian Center. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and financial

support. There is great optimism for the future of this ministry and the support of everyone in the District is as important as ever.

Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, MI

The Rev. Curtis Dwyer, The Rev. Dr. David Dressel & The Rev. James Robinson

Martin Luther Chapel at Michigan State University (MSU) seeks to serve the students, faculty and staff of MSU in addition to the resident members of East Lansing and the greater Lansing area. Martin Luther Chapel serves as a “church away from home” for students, inviting them to be involved in every aspect of the congregation’s ministry, in addition to offering college student specific ministry. During the academic year, the pastors meet with groups of student leaders every week for Bible study, faith discussion, leadership development, and to plan and implement events and activities. We maintain a registered student organization on campus, the Lutheran Student Organization, which allows us access to campus resources. In addition, students have been, or are currently, active in the Church Council, Stephen Ministry, music ministry, Bible studies, as worship assistants, and as paid workers in the church office. Students and resident members live out their faith side by side.

Our ministry has seen significant change since the last convention in 2018. Perhaps the biggest positive change is the calling of Rev. James Robinson to serve as the Associate Pastor, specifically tasked with ministry to the college student community. Pastor Robinson was called as a candidate from the Fort Wayne seminary and installed in June of 2019.

MSU shifted to remote instruction after spring break in March 2020 and continued to be remote for all but a few students through the entire 2020-21 school year. During the year, we continued to stay in contact with students through online meetings and incorporated them into our online worship whenever possible.

During the summer of 2021, the staff at Martin Luther Chapel undertook an ambitious project to contact every LCMS congregation in Michigan several times by various means in an effort to gather contact information for students who would be on campus in the fall of 2021. For every student we were able to identify, we reached out by email, postcard, and through social media to invite them to be involved in ministry while they are in East Lansing.

We welcomed students back to campus for the 2021 fall semester with a church carnival that included food, games and activities. We also had a table at “Sparticipation,” the annual activities fair on campus. We resumed student leader team meetings on campus and have begun rebuilding the student community. Every week we have students who visit worship for the first time, and Pastor Robinson faithfully follows up with each visitor. Student leaders regularly plan social events, retreats, and Bible studies as we continue to reach out to students on campus.

We continue to work closely with the Friendship House (International Student Ministry – Lansing Area). The current Director, Dan Winter, is a member of Martin Luther Chapel, and many members serve as teachers or conversation partners with the international students and their families. Even during the pandemic shutdown, the Friendship House continued to serve as an avenue for the Gospel, serving local international students as well as others around the world who were able to connect via their online classes.

Pastor Robinson, Pastor Dwyer, and Pastor Dressel are active in campus ministry efforts beyond the MSU campus. Pastor Robinson regularly leads chapel services at each Lutheran high school in Michigan, encouraging students to look for a campus ministry when they go to college. Pastor Dwyer serves as the chair of the Lutheran Campus Mission Association, a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, which seeks to “make disciples who make disciples on campus.” Pastor Dwyer also serves as the President of the MSU Religious Advisors Association, an organization comprised of professional religious leaders of many faiths who work together with the MSU administration to support students of all faiths on campus. Pastor Dressel serves as the chair of the English District Campus Ministry Task Force, which serves as a platform to encourage the various campus ministries within the English District (and beyond). Pastor Dressel also serves as a member of the Institutional Review Boards at MSU, which reviews all research involving human subjects in the bio-medical and social science areas.

Early in 2022 Martin Luther Chapel hosted a Campus Ministry Summit, a gathering of campus ministry professionals from the English District, Michigan District and beyond. The day and a half meeting provided participants with the opportunity to network and share ideas around reaching and serving students, especially on public university and college campuses. With the enthusiastic support of Bishop Hardy, we hope to make this a regular, and perhaps even annual, event.

Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries – Logos Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, PA

The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries (PLM) is an RSO of the LCMS, and its chief aim is to proclaim liberty in Christ.

The current primary project is establishing Logos Lutheran congregation in Center City Philadelphia. With a rented space centrally located just blocks from City Hall, PLM has established a presence in the heart of the city. Logos Lutheran began weekly Divine Service in 2017 with a core group of university students and young professionals. The group is very dedicated to the rich liturgical and sacramental life of the church. Members are also very intentional about their financial commitment to the Lord’s work in their midst.

Rev. Rob Kieselowsky serves as pastor of the congregation, and he is assisted by a year-long vicar who serves as university outreach point person. The vicarage program introduces young men to serving in a unique urban context in the eastern region of our country. It is our desire to see these men become interested in serving in the Northeast where congregations have struggled with high turnover rates in pastoral care. Philadelphia is the most underserved region in our synod, with a population of 6 million in the greater metropolitan region.

We greatly appreciate the district’s financial support. Bishop Hardy, Rev. Mathers, the Board of Directors, as well as many congregations and individuals, have been tremendous in their encouragement and support. We give thanks to our Heavenly Father for this partnership and His abundant grace.

Redeemer Crisis Center and Iglesia Cristiana Hispana, Cleveland, OH
Mrs. Diane Zellmer, Director

While 2022 continues to present challenges in our world, God's gift of perseverance, protection, and provision are clearly visible here! Here are just some of the ways He ushered in new expressions of hope, through serving, witnessing and celebrating:

14,000+ Volunteer hours (2021)
\$399,560 in labor value invested by committed volunteers (2021)
1,139 un-duplicated families were connected through programs and ministry outreach (2021)
355,254 lbs. of food were provided through 4,604 services (2021)
\$0.14 was our cost per meal... 200,640 meals were provided with a retail value of \$627,421.16 (2021)

When I was hungry...can you help? The center continues to provide a five- to seven-day supply of groceries on a monthly basis. In 2021 approximately 13,376 children, adults and seniors received 200,640 meals weighing more than 177 tons! To make this task a little easier and remain good stewards, the Center participates in a bulk buying program and utilizes USDA food commodities. Food donations have increased, and area congregations continue to sponsor additional fresh vegetables and bread.

When I was lonely...can you help? The Center continues to be a place of forgiveness, strength and healing. Broken families, mentally ill, lonely, and drug addicted are encouraged to join us for morning prayer. Concerns brought to the group include relationships, neighborhood, the Center's ministry, new babies and pregnancies, vocational focus, health, strength, thankfulness, healing, and forgiveness. Delivery of holiday food baskets for our senior apartment dwellers was provided by dedicated volunteers lessening the chance of COVID exposure for them. Many are eagerly awaiting the return of our monthly "Senior Tea Events," providing the community with fellowship and connection with neighbors. The Summer Youth & Lunch Program, available to children through the age of 18, continues to be a valuable program for our community. More than 60 children took advantage of this program last year. Take home packets were provided to families along with lunch. Teens used this time to build a resume, gain work experience, and gather references providing them with the edge needed to find employment and/or college money.

When I was naked...can you help? The Center was the instrument used by God to spread the news that we are robed in Christ's righteousness through baptism. Through the ministry of "Babies' Care Cupboard," with an average attendance of 12-24, people received an explanation of God's mercy and forgiveness. Five families requested baptisms of nine children and adults. Gifts, diapers are provided by area congregations and a grant from Concordia Lutheran Ministries. The donations received from churches and individuals continue to be given free of charge to the neighborhood. COVID and our "stay-at-home clean outs" provided a reserve of clothing that had never been seen. A furniture and appliance needs list is maintained so that donations and requests can be matched. Blankets are greatly appreciated by our families and those who continue to find themselves living under bridges, in tents, and on the streets.

Support from the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland, English District LCMS, Lutheran Urban Community Ministry, Thrivent, area churches, organizations, businesses, and individuals comes in many forms – cash, food, clothing, labor, furniture, toys and household items.

The blessing of dedicated workers reminds us of our purpose to share the love of God with our neighbors. Daily, weekly, or at a single event they come to the Center's rescue, continuing to lift our hearts and lighten the task of reaching all of God's creation!

"The King will answer them, "I can guarantee this truth: whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant [they seemed], you did for me." Matthew 25:40 God's Word

Redeemer Lutheran School, Verona, PA

Mrs. Gail Holzer, Principal

Redeemer Lutheran School (RLS) is a PreK-12 RSO ministering to the children and families in the Pittsburgh area. We currently have 271 children enrolled on two campuses, and continued growth is expected. The school remains faithful to its LCMS heritage; however, there is a continued challenge to bring LCMS teachers to Redeemer. This critical shortage of teachers means looking outside of the Lutheran faith to contract teachers. While we have been blessed with strong Christian teachers, the focus they bring to the classroom, while Christ-centered to be sure, does not recognize all the opportunities to integrate Lutheran teachings such as baptism. This requires additional training for new teachers.

Redeemer has been blessed with a solid financial position and a strong reputation in the Lutheran community. We hope that we might begin a building campaign to add a full-size gym and classrooms for the middle/high school program. In addition, to ensure we continue to bring highly qualified teachers to RLS, we are working to make sure teacher salaries are competitive in today's market. These are two large financial goals for our school that will take much support.

We are grateful for the grant support we've received in the past from the English District to enhance programming at the high school level. Students participate in several sports, robotics, and an award-winning musical program. It has been said before in an NLSA visit, "Redeemer is a small school that thinks like a big school." We will continue to strive for excellence in all we do, giving thanks to the Lord for ALL He has provided, allowing us to impact His Kingdom. The year 2023 will mark 40 years in ministry for RLS, starting as a preschool in 1983 and growing to include high school students today. It has been a joy to watch the Lord's hand opening doors and "making things happen" at Redeemer. Our story is clearly marked as God's design, and He continues to add new chapters and adventures each year.

ENGLISH DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Rev. Dr. R. Wayne Morton, Chairman

It says so right in the Constitution - the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: “The Synod is divided into districts This Constitution is also the constitution of each district of the Synod.”

“However, each district is at liberty to adopt such bylaws . . . as it deems expedient for its conditions . . .”

“. . . Boards . . . are elected by the districts as they are required for the execution of the business of the districts. . . .”

It says so right in the Bylaws - The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod - English District bylaws: “The Board [of Directors] shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the district’s business and legal affairs . . .”

“The Board of Directors shall report at each Convention.”

That’s why you’re reading this.

So if the Constitution of the Synod is the Constitution of the District, and the objectives of the Synod - conserving the unity of the faith, strengthening members in witnessing, recruiting and training professional church workers, providing opportunities for members to express Christian compassion, nurturing Christian education, supervising and caring for professional church workers - are the objectives of the District, does that mean that the English District is just like any other district?

Far from it, for when you read on in those same District Bylaws you read about what makes the English District unique:

“In fulfillment of [its] mission, [the English District] shall seek to utilize its unique character to:

- A. Assist congregations of the District in their ministries to their own communities with their own characteristics and needs;
- B. Serve as a progressive element in the church body, both in applying the Gospel to new and changing situations and in demonstrating concern about community problems and ecumenical opportunities;
- C. Begin new churches and support new ministries with particular emphasis on openness to new challenges;
- E. Assist ministries in communities that are changing;
- F. Focus on special, ethnic, urban and campus ministries.”

As for the operation of the District, the congregations of the District exercise their authority through the triennial District Convention. The Convention elects a District President to help carry out the District’s mission. The Convention also elects a Board of Directors to help carry out the District’s mission, whom it charges with both assisting and supervising the District President, and to whom it grants authority to exercise any and all of its legal powers. The Board develops End Statements (“Ends”) as the basis for its continual evaluation of the District President.

After considerable work by its End Statement Task Force, the Board of Directors adopted eight Ends for the 2018-2021 triennium. They grew out of the President/Bishop’s chosen theme, that fundamental command of our Lord from St. Matthew’s gospel, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart*

and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37).

English District End Statements 2018-2021:

Empowered by the Holy Spirit,

- The English District will be a model for the Synod in funding new missions and missionaries by our congregations participating in the Dollar for Missions (1-1-1) funding model.
- The English District helps its congregations become and remain healthy.
- Our congregations raise up church workers.
- Christian education is integrated into serving people of all ages.
- Our church workers and their families benefit from wellness resources.
- Our congregations exercise Christian care of college and university students.
- Our youth and young adults are engaged in the ministries of our congregations, District, and Synod.
- Our congregations collaborate on new missions and ministries.

In keeping with the practice first adopted by the Board that preceded it, the 2018-2021 Board of Directors made the decision that, in order to be as effective and responsive as possible, we would invest in meeting at congregations across the District rather than at a Detroit airport hotel. Little did we know that, beginning in March, 2020, the travel and meeting restrictions that came with the COVID-19 pandemic would force us into teleconference mode for about 13 months. Still, Peace - McMurray, PA, The Lutheran Church of the Shepherd King - West Bloomfield, MI; Catalina - Catalina, AZ; Risen Christ - Plymouth, MI; St. Paul - St. Clair Shores, MI; Greenfield Park - West Allis, WI; Martin Luther Chapel - East Lansing, MI; Celebration - Jacksonville, FL; Bethany - Fort Wayne, IN; The Lutheran Church of the Messiah - Princeton, NJ; and Faith - Naples, FL were all congregations that were both courageous and gracious enough to host a meeting of the District Board. And Pittsburgh, Arizona South, Milwaukee, Florida, Western Michigan, and Indiana all were circuits where lay and/or ordained/commissioned workers took time away from their jobs and ministries to meet and eat with the Board. The Board's visits to Peace, Martin Luther Chapel, Celebration, Bethany, and Faith - because we were able to schedule them over a weekend - gave us the added blessing of being able to worship with District congregations.

As a District, we owe thanks to the Lord of the Church for those who have served on the Board of Directors so ably and faithfully this triennium. The Board has an inherent balance; by District Bylaw it's composed of twelve voting members - six lay and six ordained/commissioned ministers. The lay members who have been serving on the Board are Chris Cassel, Jane Duffy, Carol George, Shirley Holle, Terry Leu, and Kristin Wellik. Those ordained and commissioned ministers who have been a part of the Board are Rev. Jamison Hardy, District President; Rev. Luke Zimmerman, District Secretary; Rev. Thomas Engler, Rev. Wayne Morton, Commissioned Minister Rod Lane, and Commissioned Minister Keith Vieregge.

In addition to those twelve, six other individuals serve on the board in an advisory (or non-voting) capacity:

- the Vice-President from each of the District's four geographic regions: Eastern - Rev. Ben Eder; Lake Erie - Rev. Jeff Miskus; Midwest - Rev. Rob Rogers; and Western - Rev. Todd Arnold;
- the Treasurer of the District, Sally Naglich;
- and the President of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Canada

Corporation, Jim Thielen.

Highlights of the Board's work on the District's behalf this triennium include:

- Sharing the 1-1-1 Funding Model for Mission with the Synod via a Board of Directors overture to the 2019 Synod Convention;
- Meeting with Synod President Harrison, First Vice-President Peter Lange, and Fifth Vice-President Christopher Esget during the triennial Synod visitation;
- Revising the policies that govern the board's, and the bylaws that govern the District's, operation;
- Voting to postpone the District convention until 2022;
- Approving the District convention location and funding (intentionally *reducing* the congregational assessment);
- Submitting proposed electoral circuits (with exception requests) for the 2023 Synod Convention;
- Electing a board member to serve on the English District Endowment Fund Board of Managers (EDEF), and receiving EDEF quarterly reports;
- Endorsing numerous and varied Endowment Fund Board of Managers' grants (e. g. outreach center renovation, mortgage payment assistance, Youth Gathering, church repairs, mission congregation support, flood damage repair, food pantry, vicar support);
- Reviewing, updating, strengthening (increasing limits) and broadening (new cybersecurity coverages) the District's insurance protection;
- Reinvesting part of the proceeds of the sale of the Bethany, Chicago property into Chicagoland - doling out congregational grants for everything from after-school programs to a stair lift to school repairs to study of the past work of the LCMS in Chicago that could teach us how to engage changing neighborhoods in urban centers in the future;
- Conferring the Roger D. Pittelko *Ille Dilexit Ecclesiam* award on the Rev. Roger D. Pittelko (posthumously) and the Rev. Frank J. Pies;
- Arranging an initial meeting between the LCMS President and the President of the Lutheran Church Canada to begin work revising the protocol documents between the two church bodies (in keeping with Omnibus Resolution A from the 2019 Synod Convention);
- Welcoming Redeemer, St. Clair Shores, MI back into the LCMS through the English District;
- Authorizing the President to borrow from LCEF monies in order that congregations of the Lutheran Church Canada's East District might have access again (through the Canada Corporation) to church extension dollars;
- Approving the transfer of congregations into and out of the District;
- Extending Divine Calls to LCEF Vice President Rev. Daniel Lepley and Assistant to the President - School Ministries Commissioned Minister Albert Amling;
- Approving new and revised constitutions from District congregations;
- Recognizing and honoring the long service to the District of the Rev. David Thiele with gifts to him and a charity of his choosing;
- Approving appointments (e. g. Circuit Visitors, Reconcilers, Board members);
- Assisting District congregations in re-deploying assets, in leaving a legacy;
- Approving the annual Ministry Plan (budget);
- Marking 15 years of faithful service of the District Treasurer/Business Manager with recognition and a gift;
- Cheering the District's School Ministry Executive's decision to forward unspent travel dollars during COVID-19 to school leaders to supply gifts to their staff;
- Annually establishing the President's salary (President's Salary Review Task Force);

- Annually reviewing the President's performance against the Board's End Statements;
- Modeling Christian stewardship in individually responding to the annual English District Endowment Fund appeal letter and fund-raising Gala;
- Renewing our partnership with (and financial commitment to) the LCMS Foundation that provides the District with a dedicated District Planned Giving Counselor who is available to assist congregations in setting up endowment funds and aid members in estate planning - whether or not either has the intention of including the District in its plan;
- Authorizing the District President to negotiate the English District's withdrawal and divestiture from membership in the Campus Christian Center at the University of Arizona;
- Maintaining the annual investment that allows us to continue as a managing partner in the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission;
- Voting to release the Faith - Butler, PA congregation and its property back to the mother congregation (St. Luke, Cabot, PA - Eastern District) from which it had split decades before, so that they might once again be a single congregation of God's faithful;
- Approving a complete reformatting of the District Bylaws that makes them much more usable and brings them into a form that matches Synod's bylaws and constitution; and
- Voting to receive St. Luke, La Mesa, CA - an independent Lutheran congregation that had left the ELCA over doctrinal issues - into the LCMS via the District.

For all the Board, thank you for allowing us to serve you and for supporting us in that service with your trust and with your prayers.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Chair

Each district of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is to have an archivist who is linked to Concordia Historical Institute (CHI), the archival agency for matters relating to the history of our Synod, districts, congregations, schools, and auxiliaries. It is an honor to serve in this capacity. Once in a while I am asked to find information for a District congregation or pastor concerning matters of historical interest. We are blessed by God to have preserved records and data. We have a small “museum” at the English District office in Farmington, Michigan. Many pictures are on display, as well as various books, articles, and artifacts.

Pastors and school principals, you play a very important role in the preservation of church and school history. We cannot rely on our memories of anniversary services of worship of the Lord God and congregational and school events decades later. Make sure that you or someone who writes well preserves a written and photographic record during or shortly after that dedication, school Christmas pageant or other event. There should be written documentation as well as a digital preservation. CHI strongly recommends both. Some of this history, succinctly shared, can go into newsletters. This helps parishioners and school families more deeply appreciate their congregation, house of worship, and/or school. Those who follow you will be grateful for your humble efforts to preserve historical records.

Just a reminder: anniversary milestones (25th, 50th, etc.) with special observances and Divine Services, often with a guest speaker, can be posted in *The Lutheran Witness* in the back section of Official Notices. Form an anniversary committee a year prior to plan and provide displays and celebrations. Concordia Historical Institute publishes a *Quarterly* (CHIQ). Consider subscribing. Whenever your church or school has a milestone anniversary, send a booklet and service folder commemorating that anniversary to CHI for your church's historical file.

Bishop Hardy appointed me to serve as Archivist in 2015. In that role I have written an updated history of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod titled, *The English District Saga: A Niche in the History of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America*, which was edited by the Rev. Luke Zimmerman, District Secretary. It includes years of research, including archived reports of our District and her antecedents spanning over two hundred years, and assistance from numerous District pastors. My sincerest thanks to all who have rendered encouragement, aid, suggestions, and editing in this process as well as generations of synodical district secretaries for their labors of “writing the history” in Convention *Workbooks* and *Proceedings*, and Board *Minutes*. *Soli Deo Gloria*.

CAMPUS MINISTRY TASK FORCE

The Rev. Dr. David Dressel, Chair

The campus ministries in the English District value the significant and meaningful support from the English District and its Bishop, Jamison Hardy. During one of our Zoom conference call meetings, he talked about how campus ministry bears long-term fruit and is an essential investment for the church here in North America and throughout the world. We in campus ministry give thanks for this mindset and find encouragement from this support and spirit!

The English District Campus Ministry Task Force generally meets every fall and spring semester in a Zoom conference call format. We have developed our **Rationale for campus ministry in the English District** which reads as follows:

Campus Ministry in the English District LCMS exists to encourage and strengthen young adult Christians, reach those who do not know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and care for all on our university and college campuses (students, their families, faculty, staff, administration, and campus communities) with the love of Christ.

Participants have included those involved in campus ministry as well as those seeking to start or grow their campus ministry from Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania/Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, University of Pittsburgh/Carnegie Mellon University, Slippery Rock University, Oberlin College, University of Toledo, Michigan State University, University of Arizona, Arizona State University, San Francisco Universities, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, a Lutheran Campus Mission Association representative, Pastor Derek Mathers, and Pastor Justin Laughridge, English District Mission Council Chair.

We encourage each other, share recent events, and talk about how we can be more effective in ministry. We look for opportunities and ways to plant new English District campus ministries (including International Student Ministries) through English District congregations, circuits or regions, while at the same time strengthening existing campus ministries.

This past January 31-February 1, 2022, the English District sponsored the 2nd Campus Ministry Summit at Martin Luther Chapel at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. The Summit was planned as an event to encourage and support campus ministry workers in the vital task of discipling students while they pursue their course of study at college. This Summit was a fast-paced, content rich, idea stimulating event that focused on the best ideas and practices for ministry on campus. We began with a 5:30 PM worship with Bishop Hardy as preacher, followed by dinner, introductions and theme setting. Tuesday morning (beginning at 8:30) and afternoon were packed with a variety of presenters and topics, including presenters from the university, alumni, servant event trips, student leadership teams, fundraising, small group ministry, international student outreach, and more. Campuses represented included Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Central Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University, Hillsdale College, Northern Illinois University, University of Arizona, Kettering University, University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, Grand Valley State University, Illinois State University, and Northwood University. This was made possible by God's people of the English District through 1-1-1 gifts. What a blessing! Please continue to pray for your campus ministries that are developing faith-filled leaders that go into (and help start) churches across North America and the world.

CANADA CORPORATION

Jim Thielen, Chair

The Purpose of the Canada Corporation is to:

1. Facilitate the mission of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod especially by promoting mission policy in Canada in consultation with our Canadian congregations.
2. Cooperate with those churches who are in fellowship, in order to maximize our attempt to reach the lost, the unchurched and the dechurched.
3. Administer the Canadian Church Extension Fund whose mission is to provide opportunities to make funds and services available in support of the Great Commission.

Canada Corporation was incorporated in 1954 under the name, "Mission Board of the English District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, in Canada". The name was changed in October 1961 to "The English District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod." The Board of Directors is authorized to borrow money, issue bonds, invest reserves, mortgage and sell property with power to delegate same to Directors or officers. In addition, the Corporation accepts deposits from congregations and members of congregations that become reserves for lending purposes in Canada. The Corporation pays interest on those deposits. The fiscal year of the Corporation coincides with the English District and ends on the 31st day of January of each year. All funds are held in Canadian banks and in Canadian currency.

The Board of Directors meet at least twice yearly; a fall Board and members meeting, and a spring teleconference Board meeting. The Board of Directors of the Corporation may administer the affairs of the Corporation in all things and make or cause to be made for the Corporation, in its name, any kind of contract which the Corporation may lawfully enter into and save as hereinafter provided, generally, may exercise all such powers in all such other acts and things as the Corporation is by its Charter or otherwise authorized to exercise and do.

Activities of the Canada Corporation:

- Make available loans to congregations so that they may execute their missions
 - o A process is in place for establishing interest rates on deposits from investors
 - o A process is in place to review proposed loans and approve applications for loans
 - o As of the date of writing this report, there are eight loans in place with congregations in Canada
 - o There are no non-performing loans at the time of writing this report.
- Manage investments
- Set interest rates on deposits based on a process of benchmarking to other major financial institutions in Canada; that process is conducted on a quarterly basis
- Manage investors, including unclaimed/stale accounts or missing investors

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP

The Rev. Daniel Grams, Chair

NEW CONGREGATION CONSTITUTION APPROVED *(Through Feb. 2022)*

Abiding Savior - North Royalton, OH
Agnus Dei - Marshall, MI
Blessed Sacrament - Hayden, ID
Our Savior - North Royalton, OH
Redeemer - St. Clair Shores, MI
Rehoboth Afaan Oromo - Philadelphia, PA
St. John's - Clarksburg, WV
St. Luke's - La Mesa, CA

REVISED CONSTITUTIONS APPROVED *(Through Feb. 2022)*

Angelica - Allen Park, MI
Apostolic - Moses Lake, WA
Ascension of Christ - Beverly Hills, MI
Calvary - Mechanicsburg, PA
Concordia - Berwyn, IL
Crosspoint - Sahuarita, AZ
Eternal Life - Mesa, AZ
Faith - Arlington Heights, IL
Faith - Naples, FL
Grace - Redford, MI
Grace - Wyoming, MI
Grace - Oberlin, OH
Martin Luther Chapel - Pennsauken, NJ
Our Saviour's - Chatham, ON
Peace in the Valley - Benson, AZ
Prince of Peace - Stroh, IN
Redeemer - Sarnia, ON
Redeemer - Fort Wayne, IN
Shepherd of the Pines - Payson, AZ
St. Paul's - Long Beach, CA

DISASTER RELIEF & HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE

The Rev. Brian Westgate, Chair

The English District's Disaster Relief & Human Care Committee's chairman watches for potential disasters in areas served by our congregations to determine if any help can be provided by District and/or Synod. In the past triennium, contacts were made with the New York/New Jersey Circuit and the Detroit Circuits due to flooding caused by storms (especially Zion, Detroit after massive flooding in the buildings), and Holy Cross, Hazelwood (Pittsburgh) after vandalism. Funds were provided for both Zion and Holy Cross.

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Rev. Raymond Kirk, Chair

Delegates, on behalf of the Board of Managers I count it a privilege and honour to report that during what turned out to be a quadrennium, the District's Endowment Fund successfully weathered significant financial market fluctuations. Moreover, the Fund experienced growth which produced increased distributable earnings now available for grants. As the Lord's servants, the managers endeavoured to be good stewards of the Fund's considerable assets in order to strengthen and advance the mission of the Gospel in and through the English District.

In quarterly teleconference meetings, prior to each Board of Directors meeting, the managers reviewed financial reports and monitored asset distribution within the two major investment funds to determine the need for asset reallocation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on financial markets, especially during its early months, there were significant fluctuations, like a roller coaster ride. However, to lessen any long-term effects on assets, staff, as a matter of course, monitored markets frequently and prudent adjustments were made.

Another primary board responsibility is to review submitted grant applications from congregations and ministries. They are considered under one of the following six categories: human care/disaster relief, new missions, scholarships, church worker debt reduction, campus ministry and other. If the managers decide a proposal is worthy of financial support, they recommend to the Board of Directors that a grant be awarded. During the quadrennium the endowment fund earnings supported 12 grants totaling \$110,000 as well as \$104,000 in scholarships, \$30,500 for church worker debt and an additional \$87,900 for other mission and ministry of the district under the six categories above. These funds come only from Endowment Fund earnings and never the principal, which means in the future the same principal will earn more money for future mission projects. The Fund, as of this writing, totals \$2.6 million and is truly a gift which keeps on giving in support of Gospel proclamation work. I commend to your reading the Treasurer's detailed financial report.

Though the pandemic limited our District's Gift Planning Counselor, Ron Grimm, from making frequent personal contacts, he made personal and teleconference contact with congregations, their pastors and lay leadership to promote multiple planned giving possibilities including the Endowment Fund. Among those possibilities is for parishes to establish their own foundation to promote good stewardship, truly a worthy undertaking which will have long term effects.

Many creative, committed, and generous people joined together in June 2021 for the District's first virtual gala in support of the Endowment Fund which raised nearly \$40,000. This anticipated annual event will become one more way in which to increase the Lord's mission efforts. 2022 marks the 16th anniversary of the District, in convention, establishing the Fund. Throughout the intervening years there has been steady progress in developing this key mission arm of the District which deserves an ever increasing level of support by individuals and congregations.

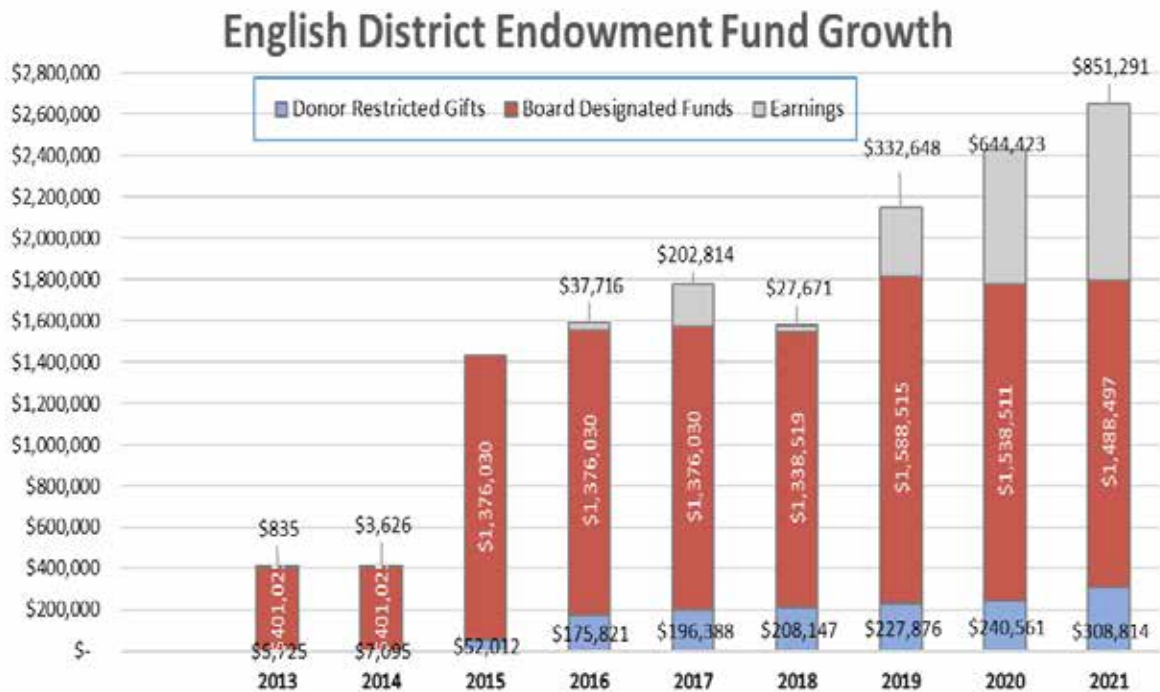
In closing allow me to note with gratitude the privilege of serving as a member of the Board of Managers since 2012, and now because of age considerations, I step down from further service with the prayer that God would oversee and prosper this unique tool in service of the Gospel.

English District Endowment Fund Financial Summary

	12/31/2018	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	12/31/2021
Board Designated	\$ 1,338,519	\$ 1,588,515	\$ 1,538,511	\$ 1,488,498
Earnings - Board Designated	38,163	302,982	572,956	742,120
Permanently Restricted - Gifts to Fund	43,192	57,671	70,056	133,059
Earnings - Temp. Restricted on Gifts	(942)	6,083	16,721	24,185
Perm. Restricted - Gifts for Scholarships	164,954	170,204	170,504	175,754
Earnings - Temp. Restricted for Scholarships	(9,550)	23,583	54,746	84,986
Total	\$ 1,574,338	\$ 2,149,039	\$ 2,423,494	\$ 2,648,602

Accounts

LCEF/Comerica checking	\$ (16,507)	\$ 8,208	\$ (2,266)	\$ 6,383
LCEF StewardAccount	80,473	175,142	132,527	10,154
Vanguard	759,722	984,394	1,126,944	1,280,927
Stifel Nicolaus/American Funds	750,650	981,295	1,166,289	1,351,138
Total	\$ 1,574,338	\$ 2,149,039	\$ 2,423,494	\$ 2,648,602



EVANGELIZATION TEAM

The Rev. Fred Reaman, Chair

The Evangelization Team of the English District serves to equip and encourage, enable and empower individual evangelism for all the members of every congregation of the English District and to equip congregations in the English District for outreach ministry to their community. The Evangelization Team meets via Zoom nine to ten times a year.

The Team is chaired by Rev. Fred Reaman, Greenfield Park, West Allis, Wisconsin. Members have included pastors Dr. Mark Wood, Eric Carlson, Tom Kuwazaki, John Diener, Jeffrey Teeple, and Daniel Warner.

Serving as advisors to the Team are Bishop Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy and Mission Executive Rev. Derek Mathers. Rev. Mark Wood, LCMS Director of Witness and Outreach Ministry, regularly attends the Evangelization Team meetings from the Office of National Mission and helps equip the Team with insight and resources for mission and ministry.

The Evangelization Team follows the leadership of our Bishop and the theme of “Love Your Neighbor As Yourself” with the underlying truth of sharing God’s Word: the Gospel is relational. We love ourselves enough to be saved.. Why don’t we love our neighbors *enough* for them to be saved? You’re hugging your church members every week – your “sheep” every week.. so why aren’t you hugging the “goats” too? “We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4: 19).

At the Fall Regional Pastors Conferences and the Professional Church Worker Conferences in spring, the Evangelization Team continued to support the goal of equipping and empowering individual evangelism with the use of Every One His Witness, Connect to Disciple, and Making Disciples for Life. These resources along with Re-Vitality workshops were transitioned into online resources with little to no cost to access these excellent tools. New learning modules are continuing to be created and can be found on Synod’s website and Facebook pages: <https://www.lcms.org/church-revitalization>. The new book “Connected to Christ” by Rev. Dr. Mark Wood was also highlighted, and multiple signed copies were gifted by author to pastors attending the 2021 fall regional conferences.

The Evangelization Team continues to work with the following foci: Because the Gospel is relational, we can best love our neighbor by sharing the Gospel with them. Encourage every congregation in the English District to set aside time each day as a time for prayer for evangelism, outreach and mission concerns. We know that when we are intentional in prayer, we are intentional in doing God’s will and work. We set the lofty goal of mission and outreach workshops in every English District congregation in this triennium. The goal is for every English District active ministry pastor to conduct online evangelism workshops to equip the saints to love their neighbors as much as themselves. Our goal is that every English District member will grow in their outreach activities.

The Evangelization Team is in need of more team members to serve. If you have a passion for sharing the Gospel and resourcing our district with the Good News, please speak with a team member.

LIFELINE COMMITTEE

Dr. Roni Grad, Chair

The likelihood is high that by the time you read this report, you will know the outcome of the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case that is currently being considered by the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. Regardless of the final decision, God continues to call us into the public square, to proclaim the sanctity of life from fertilization to forever. Should *Roe v. Wade* be overturned, the issue of abortion will simply revert to the states. And, of course, there are numerous other sanctity of life issues, including euthanasia/assisted suicide, sexual integrity, disability, aging, gender identity, critical theory (yes, this is a sanctity of life issue!), bioethics and more. For our brothers and sisters in our congregations in Canada, abortion and euthanasia/assisted suicide continue to be a national reality. Indeed, our voices are needed as much as ever.

The English District Lifeline team is here to help you be, in the words of our friends at Lutherans for Life, a Gospel-motivated voice for life in your community! We are working to rebuild the Lifeline webpage to be a tool to link you to the life-affirming resources of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, Lutherans for Life, other national organizations, and sister congregations. In so doing, our hope is to guide you to information to inform your life witness, as well as to opportunities to reach out to those at risk for abortion, euthanasia, and other such tragedies, to assure them of God's love for them, and their importance to Him, as ones for whom His Son died on the Cross and rose again from the tomb.

If your congregation has a sanctity of life webpage, we would love to share the link, please send the details to Dr. Roni Grad at roni.grad@gmail.com. Similarly, if you have an interest in and passion for the proclamation of the sanctity of life, we would love to have you join our Lifeline team! Please email Dr. Grad for more detail.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, came and lay down His life for His sheep, that they may have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10b-11). As you reach out to those not currently of His fold, we pray that God will give you the words they need to hear to draw them to Him, that they too may have life and have it abundantly. Amen.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE – ENGLISH DISTRICT

Darlene Keca, President

Greetings from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League English District (LWML ED)

This year the LWML is celebrating its 80th anniversary. I wonder if the women that created this organization in 1942 would have ever thought it possible that \$2,000,000 per biennium would be collected to support mission grants. The mite boxes may have changed in appearance, but they still serve the same purpose: supporting missions!

Here is a portion of the LWML League Pledge; it may provide you with an idea of our commitment:

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption, we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us...

The last four years have been interesting. As with many other organizations we needed to cancel our 2020 district convention due to the pandemic. However, we learned that the necessary convention business could be conducted via Zoom meetings and emails. So, mission grants were selected, bylaw amendments approved, and officers elected.

The grants that were selected and funded were:

- ✓ Military Share Foods Distributions – Operation Barnabas – Mechanicsburg, PA
- ✓ M.O.S.T Ministries Clean Water Filters – Ann Arbor, MI
- ✓ Epiphany Lutheran Church Food Truck – Dorr, MI
- ✓ Restoring Hope through Outreach Programs – Detroit, MI
- ✓ Soldiers of the Cross – St. Louis, MO
- ✓ Chaplain Scholarships for Medical Mission Trips – St. Louis, MO
- ✓ Grief Share – Grief Recovery Support Group Program – Tucson, AZ

The LWML English District Convention Theme for 2022 was "Open My Lips!" which is based on Psalm 51:15: *Oh Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.* At convention we had on-site projects that benefited the local community. Although business is a necessity, through Bible study we make spending time in God's word a priority. We had mission speakers from the Pittsburgh area, as well as some that received mission grant funds from our district in the past. We also enjoyed the time we had to reunite with friends from the past and make some new ones for the future.

Thank you for the continued support through prayer and encouragement. Without church workers, it would be difficult to maintain and increase interest from the women in our LCMS English District congregations to become involved in the LWML. For the pastors who continue to give their time to work with, encourage, support, and enlighten their LWML ladies, you are greatly appreciated.

Information on what is happening across our district and more detail regarding the mission grant recipients can be found on our district website at englishdistrictlwml.weebly.com.

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

MINISTERIAL HEALTH COMMISSION

The Rev. J. Derek Mathers & The Rev. Timothy Holzerland, Co-chairs

The English District Ministerial Health Commission (MHC) consists of volunteer men and women positioned by the District President to render direct help and supportive care to English District church workers and their families. The MHC acknowledges its call to assist the President/Bishop of the English District with the care and wellbeing of these individuals. In times of need, the Commission strives to be the understanding open door to compassionate and mindful presence listening, to give hope to those they serve, and to identify fitting supportive resources.

Presently and in the past, the MHC has been blessed with highly qualified volunteers. The MHC wishes to recognize Rev. Jon Gruen and Rev. Capt. Greg Lutz for their season of service and are extremely appreciative and grateful for the exceptional contributions and hard work of these past MHC members.

The MHC currently consists of parish nurses Sue Neff, Marlene Lindberg, Marianne Jackson, along with pastors Steven Sutterer, Justin Schmidt, Christian Just, Timothy Holzerland (co-chair) and Derek Mathers (co-chair). Together they envision being an ever-present and sustainable resource of caring and support.

During these recent unprecedented times, the MHC has been thoughtfully praying, re-examining, and reaffirming their calling and values. Confidentiality is of utmost importance and remains the cornerstone in all the Commission's endeavors. The work of the MHC can only be accomplished through deeply held values of integrity and trustworthiness. These values are never simply assumed; they must be earned. Earning this type of trust, so care and support is ever-present to church workers and their families, has been ongoing for the MHC since the last District convention.

The Ministerial Health Commission knows church workers and their families are human beings, individuals facing and experiencing the same personal challenges, weaknesses, deficiencies, addictions, and behaviors that exist among all people. For that reason, caring for and supporting church workers and their families continues to be the focus of the energies of the MHC. This takes building connections and possessing tools.

The MHC has established a direct connection and recognition with the Office of National Mission - Life Ministry. The Commission is a contributing participant of the Synod's Ministerial Care Coalition (meeting since 2013). The Ministerial Care Coalition's goal is to collaborate with other synodical organizations to support and foster conversations related to church worker wellness across the Synod.

The "Toolbox" of resources is an upcoming priority endeavor of the Ministerial Health Commission. The process of establishing a two-sided "Toolbox" has begun. The intent is that one side of the "Toolbox" houses resources church workers and their families can access without direct involvement of an MHC member. The plan is for the second side to contain resources MHC members can access and put forth to those district church workers and their families who contact them directly.

Each and every contact with the Ministerial Health Commission is confidential (not even the district president is informed). The MHC is available to consult with congregations, church workers, and church workers' families. Contact us at any time: <https://englishdistrict.org/ministerial-health-commission>.

MISSIONS COUNCIL

The Rev. Justin Laughridge, Chair

The three- (and now four-) year triennium that we embarked upon together as a district in 2018 has been a busy one for the Missions Council and the mission endeavors of the District. Thanks to the support of circuits, congregations, and individuals across our district, we have welcomed new congregations and supported and equipped campus ministries, international missions, new church plants, and the like. And so, together with you, we give thanks unto the Lord because He is good, and His mercies endure forever!

In the area of **mission starts and new congregations**, we welcomed Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel (Pittsburgh, PA), Tree of Life Lutheran Church (Inverness, FL), St. John's Lutheran Church (Clarksburg, WV), and Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church (Hayden, ID) into the English District. Each of these congregations was also a part of our 1-1-1 "A Dollar for Missions" initiative at various points in this triennium. We give thanks to the Lord for each one and to our circuits who collaborate to begin and support new missions such as these.

In the area of **campus ministry**, we have continued to support and equip an extensive variety of campus ministries across the district. Each of our four geographic regions is represented within our family of campus ministries, and it is important to note here that during the extremely challenging conditions that a global pandemic brought to this area of ministry, our campus ministries were strong and resilient, they boldly went about God's work in their communities, and they, as with the above-mentioned congregations, were an area of missions supported by 1-1-1 efforts in the 2020-21 support campaign. Please continue to keep these campus ministries in your prayers as they reach out to students across our district with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

In the area of **international missions**, the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM) is a key area of support. As a district, we are a Managing Partner to the DRLM, meaning that we participate in her twice-annual FOROs and are involved in the discussions of her operations and priorities in mission and outreach. This ministry has grown in God's grace over the years and is continuing to plant Lutheran churches, educate future workers for the Church across Latin America, and lead the way in local mercy work in the Dominican Republic. We continue to serve and support as a Managing Partner and give thanks to the Lord for all that is happening through His people in the DRLM.

Our English District Missions Council is here to serve you! During this triennium, we have been blessed with the opportunity to lead congregations in workshops like "re:Vitality" and "Structured for Missions." We have been honored to speak with and hear from circuits and congregations who are planting new ministries and missions. And we look forward to continuing this work with you in the triennium ahead, by God's Grace.

May HIS joy and peace be with you each day as you continue to serve Him!

1-1-1: A Dollar for Missions

The Rev. Justin Laughridge, Chair – English District Missions Council

During the 2018 English District Convention, The English District-LCMS launched a new model for funding missions (adopted on June 15, 2018) to which every congregation was invited and continues to be invited to participate. Participation is completely voluntary.

The Missions Council and our district leadership believe that as God's people see and hear what is being accomplished, specifically and directly in support and development of new missions and enhancing existing missions, more and more of us will want to be involved.

It's simple. Very simple. It is not burdensome, nor sacrificial. It involves every baptized member of the Body of Jesus in our congregations, from the newest baby baptized to the oldest member. It demonstrates the power of the beautiful body of Christ working together, prompted by faith. It shows how much can be accomplished by many, giving little.

While some agencies reasonably use a portion of every gift for administration, our English District has committed itself to assure that *every cent of every dollar given* goes fully to the 1-1-1 missions designated for the year.

Annually from September 1 through August 31 the following year, here is the plan:

\$1/per baptized member/per week.

Simple, right? Self-explanatory almost. Not burdensome, nor sacrificial. All can participate.

Here is what we, together as God's people of the English District, have been able to do, *above and beyond the district budget*, because of YOUR 1-1-1 gifts since 2018:

2018-19: We supported the work of Concordia Lutheran Mission in Myerstown, PA, and the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission. Concordia Lutheran Mission has since ceased operations, but we give thanks to the Lord for both of these ministries and the sharing of the Gospel that has happened through them.

2019-20: Gifts given during this year supported the mission of Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel (Hazelwood, PA) and Tree of Life Lutheran Church in Inverness, FL. The Pittsburgh Circuit and those connected to it followed God's leading to plant Holy Cross in the Hazelwood area, and we are thankful that they've answered that call. At Tree of Life, funds were used to support the ongoing mission of this new congregation as they share the Gospel in their community.

2020-21: The COVID-19 pandemic meant adjustments in ministry for almost everyone, and for 1-1-1 congregations, one of the adjustments was the support of our campus ministries across the district during this year of great change. We are thankful that those campus ministries have continued to connect their communities to Christ's love. As students returned to campuses and the 1-1-1 gift recipients changed, this year was a chance for all of our congregations to support this vital work of the Kingdom.

2021-22: Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church (Hayden, ID) & St. John's Lutheran Church (Clarksburg, WV) are the current 1-1-1 mission gift recipients. As new congregations, they have great excitement and capacity for sharing the Good News of the Gospel in their communities. They reach out in creative ways to those around them, they are well known publicly in those communities, and they demonstrate joy-filled love for God and His people by what they say and do. Please keep these congregations and all of the ministries of our English District in your prayers often.

You might hear members of our district who believe (or even say) that we can't support new missions or missionaries because of lack of funds. The Dollar for Missions gifts are given over and above our regular district gift. This simple funding model provides funding for our current designated 1-1-1 missions.

Please remember, our English District Missions Council does not start any new mission or ministry. Their role is to be supporters, equippers, encouragers, and resource sharers concerning missions supported by 1-1-1 and our district mission budget. This support may be expressed in time, giftedness, and finances.

Your congregation's participation in 1-1-1 allows us to dream big together. Thank you!

There is *power and strength* in *many* giving a little.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC LUTHERAN MISSION

Concordia the Reformer Seminary

The Rev. Joel Fritsche, President

The seminary in Santiago, Dominican Republic (DR) began its fifth academic year with nine residential students from seven countries. The seminary students are actively serving their field work throughout our missions, although it remains a challenge to send students to Santo Domingo on a weekly basis. One of the highlights of the fall semester has been our emphasis on community. On Thursdays, our Latin America & Caribbean regional team gathers at the seminary for chapel, meetings in the library, and lunch with the students. This has brought more people to campus and encouraged the students after more than a year of limited numbers in the building due to the pandemic. We are also making use of the new basketball court to foster community.

Regular volleyball games take place on Sunday afternoons, which include seminarians, faculty, missionaries, church members, and others from the Palmar Arriba community. Our biggest challenges these past few months were personnel related. Dr. David Preus accepted a reassignment to the LCMS Eurasia region and departed the field in December with his family. Prof. Sergio Fritzler was on extended leave in Argentina for three months for rest and to reconnect with family after three years of not being able to travel there mainly due to the pandemic. Thankfully, our academic coordinator, Dr. Roberto Bustamante (Argentina), was able to spend a few weeks on campus with us in September and again in January. We are actively seeking two new professors, especially for teaching in the areas of history and dogmatics. Please pray that the Lord will open some doors to provide us with new professors.

The biggest news to report is that after nearly two years of planning and waiting, our shipping container finally arrived with shelving and the remainder of books for our library. While we dedicated the library in September 2021, due to challenges in personnel, faculty travels, and other commitments, the library is not yet fully operational. With the arrival of the books and shelving, Dr. Naumann, our Library Coordinator, has mobilized the troops and even relocated his office to the library to see that it is organized and made operational as soon as possible. There is still much to do in the area of cataloging and shelving of new books as well as developing the policies and procedures of the library.

At the September 2021 FORO we mentioned the need for security updates to the building after a break-in the month prior. We will soon move forward with numerous updates to the exterior (electric fencing) and interior (electronic access system). The work has been stalled as the company contracted waits for materials to be shipped. We are very excited to be offering an in-person symposia in May for the first time since May 2019. Invitations are going out to leadership of partner churches to join us at the end of May for our symposia and graduation. The theme of the symposia is centered around the arrival of our new Spanish hymnal, Himnario Luterano. Our Mercy Center will also offer a practical workshop on liturgical and musical implementation. While the Mercy Center continues offering various workshops throughout the region, its main focus in 2022-23 will be the new hymnal.

Symposia week will culminate with the graduation of four men to be ordained as pastors and ten women to be consecrated as deaconesses for service in the DR. Additional graduations are also being planned in Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, and Venezuela for the other nearly 70 women completing our deaconess program. In February 2022 the LCMS Southern Illinois District at its convention adopted a resolution of support for the seminary. We are excited to see how this partnership grows and develops in the months and years ahead. Thank you to President Scharr and the members of the district mission

board for moving this forward! In addition to fostering community, two other priorities were highlighted at the last FORO, accreditation and promotion of the institution. The faculty of CMSCR is committed to moving forward in the area of accreditation, which includes national recognition of the seminary as an official educational institution in the DR as well as membership in an association of theological schools and seminaries. We are making progress in the first part, national recognition. We have retained a new lawyer who specializes in this area and are investigating the necessary steps to achieve national recognition. This will likely be a process that takes more than a year with the first year consisting primarily of work on gathering and producing the appropriate documentation that is needed by the government.

Regarding promotion of the institution, I am happy to report that our team of volunteer coordination worked hard to find and bring to the field a professional videographer, a member of an LCMS parish in Idaho. This gentleman recently spent a week with us getting video footage, photos, and interviews with students and faculty to produce a seminary promo video in Spanish to share with our partner churches throughout the region. He will spend an additional 100 hours of editing to complete work on the project. We expect to release the video this spring before the Symposia in May.

Finally, we are expecting two new residential pastoral formation students for the 2022-23 academic year. One is a single student from Cuba. The other is a married student from Mexico. We have another potential recruit from Guatemala. Two very dedicated fourth year students, Rafael Flores and Jeancarlos Ramirez will graduate in May. They are the first two graduates of a full four-year residential cohort. Please pray that the Lord will bring us another one or two men for our residential program next year. We will start a new cohort of deaconess students in fall 2022, adding Bolivia as a sixth country served by this program. Our pre-seminary program is being implemented in Mexico, led by Prof. Samuel Perez, with plans to expand to other partner churches in the months ahead. In December 2021 we signed a protocol document with the Lutheran Synod of Mexico that defines our collaboration together in theological education. The Lutheran Church in Panama is currently working on a revision of that document with plans to sign in the near future.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL ACCREDITATION (NLSA)

Gail Holzer, Accreditation Commissioner

It is my joy to continue working with English District education centers through the National Lutheran School Accreditation process. It has been a challenging few years for our schools and yet our leaders continue to strive for excellence and the high standards required by NLSA. The NLSA process allows schools to celebrate outstanding school practices and set goals to achieve new levels of excellence and service as they bring children and families the life-changing message of the Gospel. There is no greater privilege given to us than to share the love of Christ with others, and our schools and their leaders are outstanding witnesses to that love. Praise be to God.

COVID Changes to NLSA Protocol:

Part of the NLSA process is an on-site visit by a team of trained LCMS and community leaders usually lasting 2-3 days. During COVID the NAC, National Accreditation Commission, provided virtual alternatives for these visits allowing schools to move forward with the process. Following a 2- to 3-day virtual visit, a school had 12 months to schedule a short on-site visit with the district commissioner and/or director of schools and a member of the visiting team who then submitted a final report. Fairlawn Lutheran Early Childhood Center, Ohio and Redeemer Lutheran School, Pennsylvania had virtual visits with follow-up on-site visits.

Shepherd Award:

In 2021, the English District submitted a candidate to be considered for the NLSA Shepherd Award, **Pastor Eric Carlson of St. John, Hannibal**. The School Shepherd Award has been established by National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) to honor a faithful pastor who has provided outstanding encouragement, support, and service to his school. This award allows NLSA to recognize an outstanding school pastor and identify the practices and tangible means of support that have positively impacted the school he serves.

Guidelines for Shepherd Award Nomination

A pastor who is nominated

Recent NLSA Changes:

The National Accreditation Commission (NAC) acted on the following items in 2021: 1. NAC affirmed the recommendations of the Candidate Review Committee and awarded accreditation to 126 schools bringing the total number of accredited schools to 678. 2. It was affirmed by NAC that an adjustment to the NLSA annual fee (adopted by NAC in 2019 and adjusted in 2020) is enacted with the following rate schedule: 2021-2022: \$700, 2022-2023: \$750.

Summary:

The NAC is comprised of commissioners from each LCMS district and members of the school ministry staff; it meets twice a year. The December meeting is virtual, and the July meeting is in person in St. Louis. The Commission works together to ensure educational standards are updated and meet national requirements. Standards and requirements are reviewed and revised at the December meeting. School NLSA team reports are reviewed in July to determine accreditation status. Schools determined to meet all criteria are approved, those that need to revisit specific areas may be given a provisional status until changes are made.

The English District Accreditation Commission meets each year in May to evaluate the annual reports for each of its NLSA schools, documenting progress and reviewing school improvement plans. We then submit a district report to NAC. The English District Accreditation Commission works closely with school leaders through the accreditation process as consultants, team captains, visiting team members, and a resource for ideas or suggestions.

Value of Accreditation:

- Helps determine if a school meets or exceeds minimum quality standards.
- Involves staff, faculty, students, parents, congregation, and stakeholders in school evaluation and planning.
- Creates goals for school self-improvement.
- Provides a basis for determining eligibility for grants and other programs.

English District NLSA Highlights for 2018-2021 - 8 NLSA Schools

New to the English District NLSA:

Redeemer Lutheran Classical School, Fort Wayne, IN, Nathaniel Pullmann, Headmaster
Immanuel Lutheran Classical Academy, Alexandria, VA, Julia Habrecht, Headmaster
Open Arms Early Childhood Center, Alpharetta, GA, Kisha Torres, Director

English District Schools accredited:

Fairlawn Lutheran Early Childhood Center, Fairlawn, OH, Katie Bungard, Director
Hales Corners Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI, Pastor Chad Kogutkiewicz, Principal
Redeemer Lutheran School, Pittsburgh, PA, Gail Holzer, Executive Director/Administrator
St. John Lutheran School, Hannibal, MO, JoAnne Conoyer, Principal
West Portal Lutheran School, San Francisco, CA, Sherise Lee, Interim Principal

Keep all of our schools in your prayers and give thanks for the strong leadership and Christ-centered faculties who work tirelessly to bring the message of hope and salvation to students daily. They are without a doubt champion witnesses to Jesus' work on the cross and His resurrection.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Rev. Michael Scheer, Chair

I have been serving as the English District Stewardship Committee chair since 2018 and have attended the District Stewardship Leaders Conference each year it has been held. In 2018 the theme was "Training Steward Leaders" presented by Rev. Heath Curtis and Rev. Timothy Yeadon. In 2019 the Rev. Dr. Charles P. Arand presented on being "Stewards of God's Creation." The conference in 2020 had a number of presenters on the theme "Steward's by God's Design" while in 2021 no conference was held. In 2022 the presenter Gary Hoag spoke on "Practicing Biblical Generosity." Each of these conferences has provided valuable information for congregations that are struggling with stewardship as well as synodical resources that are available. I plan to provide a brief report to the convention regarding these resources and how they can be accessed by district congregations.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel, Chair

The Worship Committee, by appointment of the Bishop, consists of the Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel (First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA), the Rev. Brian Westgate (Redeemer, Oakmont, PA), the Rev. Ryan Beffrey (Epiphany, Dorr, MI), and the Rev. David Rutter (St. Paul's, St. Clair Shores, MI). Since October 2018, the committee has served the English District in several ways including organizing and assisting with the devotions and Divine Service at the Professional Church Workers Conferences, planning and leading the Divine Service for the Eastern Regional Pastoral Conferences in Ocean City, NJ, and organizing and assisting with the devotions, Divine Service, and Vespers at the June 2022 District Convention in Ann Arbor. The committee is grateful for the opportunity to serve the Church.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

DCE Rod Lane, Chair

The purpose of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is to create a resource for best practices for youth and family ministry in English District congregations and to facilitate regional and district-wide opportunities for our youth and families to grow in relationship with each other and in the one true faith of the Holy Trinity.

In 2018, under the direction of Rev. Derek Mathers, Assistant to the Bishop, a discussion with a few ministry partners took place. The objective was to see if we could put together a team to provide congregations with the tools they could use to facilitate youth activities and other family ministry activities.

In 2017 Rev. Derek Mathers started encouraging congregations to consider sending their youth to YouthLead (formerly Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF)), a conference for high school youth interested in building leadership skills and maturing in their faith. The English District has been successful encouraging congregation's youth to attend this forum. The majority of those attending are from our Midwest region and Canada. In 2019, the youth who attended LYF put together a devotion for one of the English District Board of Directors meetings.

The idea of a Youth Advisory Council originated at a recent YouthLead conference. It has been a slow start, and due to several factors, including the fact that LCMS Youth Ministry has taken two years off from hosting these events, the development phase has stalled.

YAC strives to increase attendance and encourages congregations to consider sending youth to St. Louis for the YouthLead conference where they will obtain resources and training to lead and mentor teens at their congregation as well as other District congregations.

We hope to relaunch YAC soon, gathering a board that will consist of high school students, post-high school youth, adult lay people, and other church workers. We ask for your prayers and consideration of how your congregation might participate in the present and future church.

OVERTURES

1 COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND THEOLOGY

2 3 Overture 1-01

4 5 To Revise Paragraph 3a) of the Operating Agreement Between the Lutheran Church-Canada (LC-C) and 6 The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS)

7 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention at Indianapolis, Indiana July 1986
8 unanimously approved the formation of an autonomous Lutheran Church-Canada out of the previous
9 three Synodical Districts of the LCMS in Canada, namely: The Ontario District, the Manitoba-
10 Saskatchewan District and the Alberta British Columbia District; and

11 WHEREAS, A protocol document, titled, “OPERATING AGREEMENT between LUTHERAN CHURCH–
12 CANADA and THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD, signed May 1987, was to provide a path for
13 the two separate but interdependent church bodies to govern their relationships going forward; and

14 WHEREAS, That Operating Agreement has worked fairly well over the thirty years it has been in place,
15 allowing the Lutheran Church-Canada to become established and standing on its own feet apart from
16 the mothering church. For example, it has been able to graduate from its two seminaries most if not all
17 the pastors needed to fill its vacancies; and

18 WHEREAS, In that Operating Agreement, Section 3 Membership Matters, a) CONGREGATIONS states:

19 “However, all congregations in Canada shall be regularly encouraged by The Lutheran
20 Church–Missouri Synod to join Lutheran Church–Canada as soon as possible, and
21 thereupon to sever their membership in The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod... Both
22 Church Bodies acknowledge that except as set forth in this paragraph, they will neither
23 accept new member congregations located in the country of the other, nor establish or
24 recognize mission or preaching stations in the country of the other, without the mutual
25 consent of the two church bodies.”; and

26 WHEREAS, Given this wording, the Agreement could be understood to restrict LCMS congregations and
27 pastors not only from planting daughter congregations, college/university campus ministry, or even
28 chaplaincy (hospital, police, fire, military), the very ways a congregation of Lutheran Christians would
29 want to be involved locally in mission in Canada; and

30 WHEREAS, In order to support the new synod and not be in competition with LC-C congregations
31 attempting to plant daughter congregations or begin other local efforts at outreach, LCMS
32 congregations in Canada voluntarily agreed to restrict their outreach efforts in accord with the
33 Operating Agreement. Now that the LC-C has been established over these three decades, the time
34 seems to have come for this voluntary restriction to be removed so that LCMS congregations in Canada
35 are able to act locally in such mission efforts in accord with the Scriptures, especially as stifling such
36 mission vision now would seem to be contrary to Scripture even if it works bureaucratically; and

37 WHEREAS, The only point of discussion that has caused debate between the two Synod presidents over
38 the years has really revolved around a handful of pastors and congregations who have wanted to leave
39 LC-C and join English District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. This has been interpreted as a
40 violation of Section 3a (LCMS congregations can and are encouraged to join the LC-C but it is not allowed
41 for an LC-C congregation to go the other way); and

42 WHEREAS, Those few congregations in Canada that have joined the English District after the formation
43 of the LC-C have had a variety of reasons for this change in membership, and have only done so after
44 due process in their Voters’ Assemblies; and

45 WHEREAS, This has not radically undermined the Operating Agreement, nor the stability of the LC-C, and
46 the East District in particular; and

47 WHEREAS, The fact that the Operating Agreement Section 3a specifically mentions that “mutual
48 agreement is required” to “accept new member congregations located in the country of the other”
49 means the two church bodies recognize that such cases might come up as an English District
50 congregation in Canada expanding its ministry with a satellite church; or a mission plant that wants to
51 remain in the English District when it is recognized as a congregation independent of its mother
52 congregation; or an LC-C congregation for other than doctrinal reasons decides it wants to join the
53 LCMS. It seems logical that for the incidental happening of these events, partner church bodies as close
54 as the LCMS and LC-C should be able to work through this; therefore be it

55 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention instructs the President of Synod to
56 draft a new section 3a with the President of Lutheran Church-Canada, also including in these discussions
57 the East Regional Pastor of LC-C and the Presidents of the English District and the SELC District, as well as
58 appropriate staff members. We ask that particular attention be given to these two issues in regard to
59 the current Operating Agreement – the free movement of congregations and pastors between LC-MS
60 and LC-C in both directions including those now in process, and the ability to plant daughter
61 congregations or other ministries such as chaplaincies, freely by LCMS churches; and be it further

62 *Resolved*, That this be done in a timely manner and that the LCMS Synodical President report to the next
63 Synodical Convention on progress in this revision; and be it further

64 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention reaffirm our desire to seek to continue good fraternal
65 cooperation between our two synods, supporting each other in times of need as well as celebration as
66 we have done over these past thirty-two years; and be it finally

67 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention direct LCMS congregations in Canada to do the same, through
68 such activities as preaching for one another in times of sickness or vacancy and sharing educational
69 opportunities, as together we seek to proclaim Christ Crucified and Risen for a fallen world.

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Submitted by
Canada East Circuit #7

1 **Overture 1-02**

2
3 **To Restore the Initial Intention of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program**

4
5 WHEREAS, The Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program was established by 2007 Resolution 5-01B; and

6 WHEREAS, Specific ministry pastors serve the Church under supervision because their theological
7 education has been formed in part by and for a specific ministry context (Bylaw 2.13.1(b)); and

8 WHEREAS, This supervision is essential for the ministry as well as the confidence of those served and the
9 Church at large that the ministry is conducted in a manner consistent with the Holy Scriptures and the
10 pastor's unconditional subscription to the Lutheran Confessions; and

11 WHEREAS, This supervision is not a perfunctory task, but one requiring close attention to the needs of the
12 specific ministry and the conduct of that ministry; and

13 WHEREAS, Any change in ministry context is by its nature inconsistent with the purpose of the SMP
14 Program and the contextual theological education of the specific ministry; and

15 WHEREAS, It is essential that a student beginning his theological education in a specific ministry context
16 be known by the people he serves; and

17 WHEREAS, "Residential seminary education is the preferred option for the preparation of men for pastoral
18 ministry" (2019 Resolution 6-02); and

19 WHEREAS, Confidence in the SMP Program will be increased by more clarity regarding the oversight and
20 supervision of the program; therefore be it

21 *Resolved*, An "SMP Program Oversight Board" be established; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.10.8 be inserted as follows:

23 **H. Specific Ministry Pastor Program Oversight Board**

24 3.10.8 The Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program Oversight Board shall be responsible for ensuring
25 that the specific ministry vicars and pastors are placed in ministry contexts which are
26 consistent with the intentions of the program. Specifically, it shall ensure that any placement
27 is not one which could expect to receive a candidate according to the process outlined in
28 Bylaw 2.5.

29 3.10.8.1 The SMP Program Oversight Board shall consist of the First Vice-President of the Synod as
30 chairman, the Secretary of the Synod, the Chief Mission Officer, a district president appointed
31 by the Council of Presidents, and the Executive Director of Pastoral Education.

32 3.10.8.2 The SMP Program Oversight Board shall establish and monitor the standards under which a
33 ministry and a man are suitable for a vicarage and placement in the SMP program after
34 consultation with the President of the Synod and the faculties of the seminaries.

35 (a) In consultation with the President of the Synod, it shall develop all necessary policies
36 to govern suitability of a ministry context for a specific ministry pastor and the suitability
37 for a man entering the SMP program.

38 3.10.8.2 Prior to acceptance by the Seminaries into the SMP program and initial placement as SMP
39 vicars, the SMP Program Oversight Board shall approve the placement of all vicars enrolling
40 in the SMP program.

41 (a) In order to be accepted into the SMP program and placed as a vicar, the applicant must
42 have fulfilled at least ten years of significant service in a congregation of the LCMS and
43 have been a member at the congregation in whose ministry he will serve for at least three
44 years.

45 (b) Subject to the conditions above, decisions to declare ministry contexts and applicants
46 for the SMP program suitable are at the sole discretion of the board.

47 (c) Once a ministry and applicant are declared suitable for the program, the seminary
48 admissions offices may enroll the student and the Council of Presidents may assign the
49 vicarage.

50 (d) If the board determines that the ministry and/or the applicant are not suited to the
51 purposes of the SMP program, the man shall be directed to apply to the seminaries for
52 admission in residential educational programs.

53 3.10.8.3 Prior to placing a specific ministry pastor in his first call, the SMP Program Oversight Board
54 shall review the suitability of the call according to the purposes of the program.

55 3.10.8.4 Prior to issuing a call to a specific ministry pastor who is an inactive member, the SMP Program
56 Oversight Board shall review the suitability of such a call according to the purposes of the
57 program and the specific contextual training received by the specific ministry pastor.

58 (a) The board may specify additional training needed as preparation to serve in a new
59 context.

60 and be it further

61 *Resolved*, Bylaw 3.3.2.2 be amended as follows:

62 ~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

63 3.3.2.2 The First Vice-President shall be a full-time executive and a nonvoting member of the Board
64 of Directors...

65 (d) He shall serve as the chairman of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program Oversight
66 Board.

67 and be it finally

68 *Resolved*, Bylaw 2.13.1 be amended as follows:

69 ~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

70 ***Specific Ministry Pastor Status and Limitations***

71 2.13.1 A "specific ministry pastor" is a minister of religion—ordained who has completed the
72 requirements for service as a specific ministry pastor and has been examined by one of the
73 Synod's seminaries, has received a regular call, and has been placed by the Council of
74 Presidents into a specific Word and Sacrament ministry context which has been approved by
75 the SMP Program Oversight Board. He is eligible to serve only in that specific ministry context
76 for which he has been trained and may not be offered or accept a call for ministry for which
77 he has not been certified ~~as determined by his district president.~~ He shall serve under the
78 supervision of his district president and another pastor who is not a specific ministry pastor.
79 Upon the termination of his call, a specific ministry pastor is automatically retained on the
80 roster of the Synod as an inactive member. He is not eligible for a call for at least one year
81 from the termination of the previous call. After such time, he may receive a regular call, upon
82 placement by the Council of Presidents into a specific Word and Sacrament ministry context
83 following the approval of the SMP Program Oversight Board.

84 (a) Because he is under supervision of another pastor and because a specific ministry
85 pastor's theological education has been formed in part by and for a specific ministry
86 context, he may not be placed or called into ecclesiastical roles that exercise pastoral
87 oversight outside the context of his call. An example of this is regular preaching or service
88 in a parish to which he has not been called, including during a pastoral vacancy.

89 (b) A specific ministry pastor is not eligible to

- 90 (1) serve as a voting delegate to a national convention of the Synod—but may serve
91 as an advisory delegate to national conventions and as a pastoral delegate to district
92 conventions;
93 (2) hold any elected or appointed office on the district or national Synod level that is
94 assigned by the Bylaws of the Synod to “a pastor” or “an ordained minister” (although
95 specific ministry pastors may serve in all other capacities, especially representing the
96 ministerial contexts in which they serve);
97 (3) supervise vicars; or
98 (4) serve as a circuit visitor.
- 99 (c) The ministers of religion—ordained records maintained by district presidents as well
100 as the official membership roster of the Synod shall distinguish between specific ministry
101 pastors and other pastors.
- 102 (d) The ministers of religion—ordained records maintained by district presidents as well
103 as the official membership roster of the Synod shall include the ordained minister under
104 whose supervision a specific ministry pastor serves.
- 105 (e) At any time a specific ministry pastor may continue his education through the
106 seminaries. Upon completion of the requirements and certification by a seminary he
107 shall be considered a minister of religion—ordained without the limitations above.
- 108 (1) His district president shall be responsible for informing the secretary of Synod of
109 the change in roster status.
- 110 (2) His district president shall publish this change in status in an official periodical of
111 the Synod.
- 112 (3) If the minister is currently an inactive member of the Synod, unless he has
113 restricted or suspended status, he shall be eligible for placement through the Council
114 of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments or become a candidate.
- 115 (f) When a specific ministry pastor serves within a parish which is also served by an
116 ordained minister who is not a specific ministry pastor, then that specific ministry pastor
117 shall be supervised by a pastor of that parish.
- 118 (g) When a specific ministry pastor serves in a parish which is not served by an ordained
119 minister who is not a specific ministry pastor then the specific ministry pastor shall be
120 supervised by an ordained minister who resides within the visitation circuit containing the
121 parish or within similar physical proximity.
- 122 (h) Excepting the district president, no ordained minister may supervise more than one
123 specific ministry pastor, unless it is required by Bylaw 2.13.1(f) above.

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Submitted by
Immanuel Evangelical-Lutheran Church
Alexandria, VA

1 **Overture 1-03**

2 **To Improve the Specific Ministry Pastor Program**

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4 WHEREAS, The 2007 LCMS Convention established the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program to help
5 congregations unable to support a pastor; and

6 WHEREAS, The SMP program was intended to further meet the needs of the church for pastors to serve
7 in specific ministry contexts as determined by congregations and districts, and

8 WHEREAS, The SMP program was established to ensure commitment to the biblical and confessional
9 understanding of The Office of the Holy Ministry, and, specifically, Article XIV of the Augsburg
10 Confession; and

11 WHEREAS, Both LCMS seminaries operate SMP programs which provide academic training to candidates
12 while serving concurrently in a specific ministry setting, and

13 WHEREAS, The graduates of the SMP program have been a blessing to the Synod and its congregations,
14 including congregations of the English District; and

15 WHEREAS, 2016 LCMS Convention Resolution 13-02A encourages Licensed Lay Deacons engaged in
16 Word and Sacrament ministry to either colloquize as an SMP or enter the SMP program, thus affirming
17 that the SMP program will continue to be a distinct recognized route to the ministry in the LCMS, and

18 WHEREAS, These positive intentions and benefits of the SMP route have been diminished or weakened
19 by various factors, including:

- 20 1. That men admitted to the SMP become ordained before completing their academic program,
21 with some administering the Word and the sacraments prior to ordination, and
- 22 2. That SMPs are not required to learn a biblical language, and
- 23 3. That there are men serving as SMPs in settings which could reasonably support a general pastor,
24 in direct conflict with the stated purpose of the SMP program and in contradiction to 2013 LCMS
25 Convention Resolution 5-04B, and
- 26 4. That the constitution and bylaws of the LCMS are not clear as to what might constitute or limit
27 specific ministry contexts; therefore be it

28 *Resolved*, That the English District give thanks to God for the faithful service of SMP's within
29 congregations of the District; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the English District memorialize the Synod to improve the SMP program in the following
31 ways:

- 32 1. That ordination be deferred until all SMP course work has been completed, in faithfulness to
33 Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession.
- 34 2. That all SMPs be required to complete a prescribed continuing education program which
35 includes the study of the biblical languages;
- 36 3. That District Presidents do not authorize SMPs to serve in settings which could reasonably
37 support a general pastor; and
- 38 4. That the Synod in convention establish parameters for specific ministry contexts; and be it
39 finally
- 40

41 *Resolved*, That the President/Bishop of the English District be encouraged to implement these
42 improvements already at the District level.

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Submitted by
Detroit-South and Detroit-North Circuits #11 & 12

1 Overture 1-04

2
3 To Address the Lutheran Teacher Shortage and Low Teacher Salaries by Initiating a Student Debt
4 Assistance Program for LCMS Commissioned Minister - Teacher
5

6 WHEREAS, Our Lutheran Schools struggle to find rostered teachers to serve in the classrooms of our High
7 Schools, Elementary Schools, and Child Development Centers¹; and

8 WHEREAS, Research has shown that a primary reason for this is the lower salary offered for teachers
9 within the Lutheran school systems^{2,3}; and

10 WHEREAS, Concordia Plans reported in 2021 that 27% of LCMS workers have student debt that averages
11 \$46,000 per student; and

12 WHEREAS, The reality of Student Loan Debt is an important part of the decision to seek employment
13 outside the Lutheran school; and

14 WHEREAS, It is a value that we fill our schools with rostered workers⁴; therefore be it

¹ 2019 Resolution 12–02A (p. 222 of 2019 LCMS *Convention Proceedings*):

WHEREAS, The number of new commissioned teachers has steadily declined since 2005 (Concordia University System [CUS] Board for University Education [BUE] statistics); and

WHEREAS, The fulfillment rate of requests for first-year Synod-trained candidates to LCMS calling entities has declined from 63 percent in 2010 to 30 percent in 2018 because of the lack of available Synod-trained candidates (CUS BUE statistics);

WHEREAS, The CUS only graduated 23 early childhood educators, 39 elementary educators, and 32 secondary educators in 2018 (CUS BUE statistics);

² Theme 8 of Office of National Mission’s “LCMS Church Worker Wellness Insights” presentation by Rev. Robert Zagore, Office of National Mission to Gospel 2019:

- ü Financial wellbeing is unique among worker needs in that the major problems are beyond the worker’s ability to change – most often the problem is that the workers are in a mathematically impossible situation
- ✓ Workers are under-paid for their skill level and workload
- ✓ Costs for health care are being pushed to the workers
- ✓ Young workers are burdened with significant student debt
- ü Many calling bodies are unable to pay their workers what is necessary
- ✓ “The toughest work is being done in the places that can pay the least” (i.e. dying congregations, inner-city churches, immigrant ministries, etc.)

³ 2019 R.63 - Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Lutheran Schools (p. 344-345 of 2019 LCMS *Convention Workbook*):

Lutheran education is a noble calling, yet it is facing significant challenges. Data support a real need for synodical entities to bring resolution to indebtedness for church workers. With the im-pending retirement of many teachers and administrators coupled with the diminishing numbers of Lutheran Teacher Diploma (LTD) candidates enrolling in the Concordia University System, there is an increased sense of urgency to recruit and retain qualified young people in the Lutheran teaching ministry. The desire to enter the vocation of education is lessening due to several factors including classroom management issues, public perception of the profession and state regulations. Additionally, many students are coming out of college with significant debt and are paid salaries below recommended levels. The trendline on debt and salary must change or the teacher shortage will likely continue. Teachers and administrators are in a great position to influence current and future students about the joys and rewards of church work and need to be intentional in their efforts to help recruit new students for the Concordia University System.

⁴ 2019 Resolution 12–02A (p. 221 of 2019 LCMS *Convention Proceedings*):

WHEREAS, the 2016 Synod Convention Res. 8-01A, “To Encourage and Strengthen the Lutheran Ethos of Our LCMS Early childhood Centers, Elementary Schools, and High Schools” specifically identified that a characteristic of a Lutheran school with a strong Lutheran ethos has “LCMS-trained Lutheran teachers...who know and are committed to the truths of the Scriptures as confessed in our Lutheran Confessions

15 *Resolved*, That the English District memorialize the Synod in Convention to develop a National Lutheran
16 Teacher Student Debt Assistance Program that recognizes the service of Lutheran Teachers through
17 Student Loan Debt Reduction; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That a special, designated offering to establish this program be taken during the National
19 Lutheran Schools Weeks of 2024, 2025, and 2026.

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Submitted by
English District Board of Directors

1 **Overture 1-05**

2 **To Admonish All Parishes to Celebrate the Mass Every Sunday,**
3 **Even if Civil Government Purports to Prohibit Celebration of the Mass**

4
5 WHEREAS, The earliest disciples of our Lord weekly devoted themselves to the Apostolic teaching and to
6 the "communion in the breaking of the bread" and to "the prayers" (*i.e.*, the Eucharistic Liturgy) every
7 Sunday (see, *e.g.*, Acts 2:42, 46); and

8 WHEREAS, This is the expressed will of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior (see, *e.g.*, Mark 14:22-25; Luke
9 22: 18-20; John 6:48-58; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26); and

10 WHEREAS, The Early Church celebrated the Mass every Sunday (see, *e.g.*, Justin Martyr, First Apology 66);
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Our Confessions explicitly proclaim that in our parishes, "we hold one communion every holy-
13 day, and, if any desire the Sacrament, also on other days, when it is given to such as ask for it. And this
14 custom is not new in the Church;" (see, *e.g.*, AC Art. XXIV, 34-39); and

15 WHEREAS, Our Confessions clearly state that "the Mass is celebrated among us with greater devotion and
16 earnestness than among [the Church of Rome]" and that "such worship pleases God, and such use of the
17 Sacrament cultivated piety toward God" (Augsburg Confession XXIV.1; Latin Text, XXIV.8); and

18 WHEREAS, The Mass must be celebrated in person (see, *e.g.*, FC SD VII, 79-82; see also, *e.g.*, the March
19 20, 2020, opinion of the Committee on Theology and Church Relations "Communion and COVID-19,"
20 which cites the February 18, 2006, CTCR "Opinion Concerning DVD Consecration," which itself cites the
21 CTCR's 1983 report "Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper"); and

22 WHEREAS, It is therefore the duty of all parish pastors to offer the blessed Sacrament of the Altar every
23 Sunday as the expressed will of our Lord, and any other day when a communicant might request it, as a
24 means of God's grace offered to his communicants; and

25 WHEREAS, The Apostles refused to obey purported prohibitions against celebrating the Mass, even in the
26 face of persecution (see, *e.g.*, Acts 5:29); and

27 WHEREAS, The Early Church refused to obey purported prohibitions against celebrating the Mass, even in
28 the face of persecution or death (Conc. The Martyrdom of St. Ignatius); and

29 WHEREAS, The Lutherans in Magdeburg withstood a year-long siege of their city (1550-1551) rather than
30 capitulate to the Augsburg Interim, the Emperor's demand to abolish the Lutheran Mass in favor of the
31 Roman Catholic Mass (see, *e.g.*, *Gottesdienst* article "The Magdeburg Confession of 1550" by Rev. Larry
32 Beane, 5 Oct. 2020); and

33 WHEREAS, The Magdeburg Confession of 1550 sets forth the Confessional Lutheran response to
34 purported prohibitions against celebrating the Mass according to our Lutheran Confessions; and

35 WHEREAS, Contrary to the will of Christ and our Confessions and the historic practice of the Church, many
36 of our parishes abolished weekly celebration of the Mass decades ago by their own uncompelled choice;
37 and

38 WHEREAS, Contrary to the will of Christ and our Confessions and the historic practice of the Church, many
39 of our parishes recently capitulated to unconstitutional, unlawful, and ungodly demands of civil
40 government to abolish the Mass; therefore be it

41 *Resolved*, That all parishes of the English District celebrate the Mass, otherwise known as the Divine
42 Service of Holy Communion, every single Sunday, and other days as their communicants might desire the
43 Mass; and be it further

44 *Resolved*, That as a District we repent before the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for our willful neglect of this
45 supreme gift of Christ for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation; and be it further

46 *Resolved*, That all pastors be extolled to uphold their vows of ordination wherein they have sworn to
47 administer the will of Christ in self-giving through the Holy Gospel in Word of the Gospel and the Gospel
48 of Holy Communion; and be it finally

49 *Resolved*, That all parishes stand with the Apostles, the Early Church, and the Lutherans of Magdeburg in
50 refusing civil government demands to abolish the Mass, and in doing so set the standard for faithfulness
51 and obedience to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ for the good of God's people and the hope of the world.

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Submitted by
Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church
Hayden, Idaho

1 **Overture 1-06**

2 **To Restructure Pastoral Training in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

3

4 WHEREAS, Our future pastors come from many different educational backgrounds, and

5 WHEREAS, Our Seminaries currently are required to teach them many subjects and are not able to give
6 them thorough grounding in all skills they may need, and

7 WHEREAS, Our Universities have the faculties and the ability to teach these skills; therefore be it

8 *Resolved*, That our Seminaries collaborate with our Universities to provide a thorough pre-seminary
9 education for all future seminarians; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That this pre-seminary program include courses in the Biblical languages and in education
11 skills, as well as overviews of all the books of both the Holy Bible and the Lutheran Confessions; and be it
12 further

13 *Resolved*, That this pre-seminary program be available through the curriculums of our Universities and
14 administered by them as well as in other formats, such as Concordia University Education Network
15 (CUENET); and be it finally

16 *Resolved*, That pastors have access to these programs for continuing education purposes and be
17 encouraged to utilize them.

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Submitted by
Pittsburgh Circuit #6

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22 **Overture 1-07**

23 **To Restructure Pastoral Training in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

24

25 WHEREAS, Our future pastors come from many different educational backgrounds, and

26 WHEREAS, Our Seminaries currently are required to teach them many subjects and are not able to give
27 them thorough grounding in all skills they may need, and

28 WHEREAS, Our Universities have the faculties and the ability to teach these skills; therefore be it

29 *Resolved*, That our Seminaries collaborate with our Universities to provide a thorough pre-seminary
30 education for all future seminarians; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That this pre-seminary program include courses in the Biblical languages and in education
32 skills, as well as overviews of all the books of both the Holy Bible and the Lutheran Confessions; and be it
33 further

34 *Resolved*, That this pre-seminary program be available through the curriculums of our Universities and
35 administered by them as well as in other formats, such as Concordia University Education Network
36 (CUENET); and be it finally

37 *Resolved*, That pastors have access to these programs for continuing education purposes and be
38 encouraged to utilize them.

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Submitted by
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Oakmont, PA

1 **Overture 1-08**

2 **To Restore Both Biblical Languages to the Education of Future Pastors on All Pathways to the**
3 **Office of the Holy Ministry**

4
5 WHEREAS, One of the major qualifications for a man aspiring to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry is
6 his ability to teach (1 Timothy 3:2); and

7 WHEREAS, “We believe, teach and confess that the only rule and norm according to which all teachings,
8 together with <all> teachers, should be evaluated and judged (2 Timothy 3:15-17) are the prophetic and
9 apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testament alone (FC Ep Summary 1); and

10 WHEREAS, To teach, a man in the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry should be able to understand the
11 Scripture as God breathed it out (2 Timothy 3:16); and

12 WHEREAS, The Old Testament was initially breathed out in Biblical Hebrew¹, and the New Testament in
13 Koine Greek; and

14 WHEREAS, Much in the Scriptures that points to Christ and Him-Crucified is embedded in the nuances of
15 both Biblical languages and can be lost in translation; and

16 WHEREAS, In AD 2018, the English District in Convention adopted Resolution 1-01, calling upon the LCMS
17 to require instruction in both Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek as prerequisites for admission to the Office
18 of the Holy/Public Ministry, that the English District encourage our seminaries, with synod funding, to
19 include Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek in the curricula for all of the pathways to the Office of the
20 Holy/Public Ministry, and that the English District urge our seminaries to develop continuing education
21 opportunities for all Pastors to obtain and review such training; and

22 WHEREAS, In AD 2019, the LCMS in Convention adopted Resolution 6-02, “To Promote Residential
23 Seminary Education as the Preferred Option for the Preparation of Men for Pastoral Ministry,” noting in
24 the 4th “Whereas” that, “‘Handling the Word of Truth’ (2 Tim. 2:15) rightly requires diligent study of God’s
25 Word and our Lutheran Confessions, with a foundational understanding of the original Biblical languages
26 ...”, and Resolution 6-03, “To Enhance the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program,” including instruction
27 in Biblical languages in the second, “Resolved,” yet the residential Alternate Route programs to General
28 Pastor Roster status require the study of Greek only, and the Center for Hispanic Studies and the Ethnic
29 Immigrant Institute for Theology, also routes to General Pastor Roster status, require no study of either
30 Biblical language; therefore be it

31 *Resolved*, That the English District once again call on the LCMS to require instruction in both Biblical
32 Hebrew and Koine Greek as prerequisites for admission to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry; and be
33 it further

34 *Resolved*, That the English District call on LCMS to encourage our seminaries, with Synod funding, to
35 include Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek in the curricula of all of the routes to the Office of the Holy/Public
36 Ministry; and be it finally

37 *Resolved*, That the English District call on LCMS to encourage our seminaries, with Synod funding, to
38 develop continuing education opportunities for all Pastors to obtain and review such training.

39 Note: Small portions of the Old Testament are written in Aramaic.

40
41 Submitted by
42 Arizona-South Circuit #20

1 **Overture 1-09**

2 **To Reconsider Allowing "Brain Death" Criteria for Determination of Death at End of Life**

3 WHEREAS, In 1981, the LCMS in convention adopted Resolution 8-05, encouraging organ donation at time
4 of death as an act of Christian love, but without binding consciences on the issue; and

5 WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that the time of death occurs when a person stops breathing (Genesis 25:8,
6 35:29; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46 and others), meaning when the heart and lungs stop; and

7 WHEREAS, Scripture is clear that God is the One who determines time of death (Genesis 6:3; Job 1:21;
8 Ecclesiastes 3:2; James 4:13-15 and others) and that when it pleases Him to call one out of this vale of
9 tears, even medical intervention will not prevent this (Matthew 6:27); and

10 WHEREAS, With the advent of organ transplantation in the 1960s, it became evident that vital organs
11 removed while the heart is still beating performed better in transplant than did those removed after the
12 heart had stopped, due to damage to the latter from lack of oxygen; and

13 WHEREAS, To avoid the charge of murder on the part of the transplant team, the concept of, "brain death"
14 was developed, namely, individuals being in a coma without apparent central nervous system activity and
15 deemed unlikely to survive, being considered dead, even with a still-beating heart; and

16 WHEREAS, The 1981 Uniform Declaration of Death Act, enacted in 39 American states and jurisdictions,
17 includes, "brain death" as a criterion for determination of death, and others rely on, "accepted medical
18 standards," which essentially do the same; furthermore, legislation in the Canadian province of Manitoba
19 defines death according to, "brain death" criteria and in the rest of Canada the determination is left to
20 physicians who essentially do the same; and

21 WHEREAS, Individuals meeting the criteria for, "brain death" often in fact do have residual brain function
22 which is not measured by the criteria for, "brain death," and "brain dead" individuals often survive long
23 after the determination has been made, even at times without mechanical support; and

24 WHEREAS, The function of other organs and tissues in the body is not dependent on the function of the
25 brain, an example being wound healing, which continues even after the determination of, "brain death";
26 furthermore, even babies in the womb at the time of determination of maternal, "brain death" may be
27 carried to term; and

28 WHEREAS, The guidance on determination of, "brain death" is based on opinion and not evidence, and
29 studies have shown that not all medical centers apply, "brain death" criteria in a uniform manner; and

30 WHEREAS, Secular bioethicists are becoming increasingly critical of the concept of, "brain death," yet are
31 merely calling for alternative ethical frameworks within which to remove vital organs from donors with
32 still-beating hearts; and

33 WHEREAS, Techniques are emerging, which allow for the donation of vital organs following the stoppage
34 of the heart, which optimize performance in the transplant recipient; and

35 WHEREAS, The concept of, "brain death" as a determinant of death is non-Scriptural, and use of, "brain
36 death" as a criterion to remove vital organs amounts to *de-facto* euthanasia; therefore be it

37 *Resolved*, That The English District encourage members of her congregations, as they complete *Durable*
38 *Power of Attorney for Health Care* paperwork, especially those who desire to donate organs, to consider
39 specifying in writing that they wish their medical team to use the Scripture-based criterion of
40 cardiopulmonary failure to determine that their earthly lives have ended; and be it further

41 *Resolved*, That The English District call on LCMS to similarly encourage congregation members Synod-
42 wide; and be it further

43 *Resolved*, That The English District and LCMS encourage Pastors to review this issue with parishioners in
44 the course of end of life planning discussions; and be it further

45 *Resolved*, That English District and LCMS Pastors remind those who regret having allowed loved ones to
46 be declared dead on the basis of, "brain death" criteria or having otherwise participated in the process
47 (for example, health care workers) that there is forgiveness in Jesus' blood shed at Calvary, and offer the
48 opportunity for individual Confession and Absolution; and be it finally

49 *Resolved*, That The English District call on LCMS to establish a task force consisting of members of CTCR,
50 Seminary professors, a District President, rostered Pastors of congregations, bioethicists, health care
51 professionals, laity and to encourage a representative from Lutherans for Life, as well as the LCMS Life
52 Ministry, to review the issue of determination of death at greater length, and report back to the 2026
53 Synodical Convention to include the addition of specific recommendations on this to the general
54 encouragement in the 1981 Resolution 8-05 to consider organ donation at time of death.

55
56
57

Submitted by
Arizona South Circuit #20

1 **COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS AND EVANGELIZATION**

2

3 **Overture 2-01**

4

5 **To Affirm the Need for Open Churches During Times of Plague, Pestilence and Pandemic**

6

7 WHEREAS, God has commanded us to set aside a day to gather together to “hear and use [His] Word,
8 and then to praise [Him], to sing and to pray” (Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 149:1;
9 Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:19-25; LC I Third Commandment 84); and

10 WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted His Supper for the forgiveness of sins, refreshment, comfort
11 and strength (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; LC V 72); and

12 WHEREAS, The Divine Service (Mass) was retained at the time of the Reformation, for the purpose of
13 hearing God’s Word, receiving the Lord’s Supper, and returning to Him our sacrifices of prayer, praise
14 and thanksgiving (Ap XXIV 1); and

15 WHEREAS, As our Lord was physically present with His Disciples at His institution of His Supper and
16 personally administered the elements to them, He calls His undershepherds, namely the men whom He
17 has called to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry, to administer His supper in person to His people
18 (John 20:22-23; AC V; AC VII 1; AC XXIV 30); and

19 WHEREAS, Jesus, through Whom all was created and being one with the Father (John 1:3, 10:30; Nicene
20 Creed, 2nd Article), at the time He instituted His Supper, understood the complexities of microbiology
21 and anticipated forthcoming plagues, yet did not call for the suspension of in-person gatherings around
22 His Word and Sacraments during such times; and

23 WHEREAS, We must therefore, “never think of the Sacrament as something harmful from which we had
24 better flee, but as a pure, wholesome, comforting remedy that grants salvation and comfort” (LC V 68);
25 and

26 WHEREAS, The evil one, having been cast from heaven, is continually at war with God’s people, and in
27 times of plague, uses fear to pull them apart from each other and from the receipt of His gifts (Luke
28 10:18; Revelation 12:10, 17; LC V 26); and

29 WHEREAS, When we gather together in person to receive God’s gifts, we are able to withstand the
30 attacks of the evil one (Ephesians 6:10-18; LC V 80-82); and

31 WHEREAS, Historically the Church has thus recognized herself as essential during times of plague,
32 notable examples including the 1527 plague at Wittenberg¹ and the 1597-98 plague at Unna²; and

33 WHEREAS, Historically, even in times of plague, Pastors have brought Absolution, God’s Word and
34 Sacrament to the sick and shut-ins when they were unable to be present at church and were near
35 death³; and

36 WHEREAS, The current global outbreak of the highly contagious SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), with the
37 attendant risks of morbidity and mortality, has generated tremendous fear, moving governments
38 around the world to lockdowns and shuttering of nonessential businesses; and

39 WHEREAS, Many state Governors and provincial Premiers have declared the Church to be nonessential,
40 shuttering congregations, even for outdoor gatherings, while declaring some businesses, such as
41 abortion facilities and casinos, to be essential, and keeping them open; and

42 WHEREAS, Due to concerns of disease spread and lack of personal protective equipment, Pastors have
43 been forbidden to visit those who are hospitalized and in long-term residential care facilities; and
44 WHEREAS, Where congregations have been allowed to remain open, officials have tried to dictate
45 practices regarding the administration of the Lord's Supper that are at variance with Christ's institution;
46 and
47 WHEREAS, We are to be subject to the governing authorities (Romans 13:1), yet where the authorities
48 contradict God's Word, we are to obey Him rather than men (Acts 5:29); therefore be it
49 *Resolved*, That the English District call on the LCMS to affirm that weekly in-person gathering is essential
50 for the health and well-being of God's people; and be it further
51 *Resolved*, That the English District call on the LCMS to affirm that where a man ordained to the Office of
52 the Holy/Public Ministry is present and available, congregations should continue the in-person
53 administration of the Lord's Supper, even during times of plague; and be it further
54 *Resolved*, That the English District call on the LCMS to affirm that congregations, using God's gifts of
55 science and reason, may take steps to lessen fear and risk, while not interfering with the administration
56 of the Lord's Supper as He instituted it; and be it further
57 *Resolved*, That the English District call on the LCMS to affirm that the bringing of Absolution, Word and
58 Sacrament to the sick and shut-in is essential to his/her well-being, and protective equipment should be
59 available for the Pastor as it is for the health care worker; and be it further
60 *Resolved*, That the English District call on the LCMS to affirm that in Christian freedom (Galatians 5:1)
61 and based on local realities, some congregations may need to temporarily and briefly suspend public
62 gatherings, but that the deliverance of Absolution, Word and Sacrament must continue; and be it
63 further
64 *Resolved*, That the English District call on the LCMS to affirm that, while respecting God's vocational calls
65 to local political leaders and public health authorities, she strongly opposes the forced closings of
66 congregations in times of plague, as well as the banning of contact with those hospitalized or in long-
67 term care facilities, as a contradiction of His Word and thus outside the Divinely-ordained bounds of
68 their offices in His Kingdom of the Left; and be it finally
69 *Resolved*, That the English District call on the LCMS to commend the Lutheran Center for Religious
70 Liberty, for their advocacy on this and other such concerns.

71 Notes:

- 72 1. Martin Luther, *Whether One May Flee From A Deadly Plague*, at [https://blogs.lcms.org/wp-](https://blogs.lcms.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Plague-blogLW.pdf)
73 [content/uploads/2020/03/Plague-blogLW.pdf](https://blogs.lcms.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Plague-blogLW.pdf) (accessed 5 October 2020)
- 74 2. Mark A. Preus, "Teach Us to Bear Your Blessed Cross: An Essay on Philipp Nicolai's Joy in the Face of
75 Death," in Ross Edward Johnson and John T. Pless, eds. *The Mercy of God in the Cross of Christ: Essays on*
76 *Mercy in honor of Glenn Merritt* (St. Louis: LCMS, 2016), pp. 299-307.
- 77 3. Luther, *Whether One May Flee*

78

79

80

Submitted by
Arizona-South Circuit #20

1 **Overture 2-02**

2

3

To Increase Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Opportunities Throughout Synod

4

5 WHEREAS, The Synod in Convention in the year 2019, Resolution 6-04, encouraged the pastors of
6 our Synod to attend continuing education courses every year; and

7 WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 4.8.2d requires pastors to attend two District-sponsored conferences each
8 year; and

9 WHEREAS, Historically many Pastoral Conferences, such as the Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference, were
10 held throughout the Synod; and

11 WHEREAS, Many other conferences are held throughout the Synod each year; therefore be it

12 *Resolved*, That those pastors who attend both District Conferences in a calendar year receive 1 CEU;
13 and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That Pastoral Conferences be restored where they no longer function and that those
15 who attend all meetings of these Conferences during the school year receive 1 CEU; and be it
16 further

17 *Resolved*, That other conferences held throughout the Synod be allowed to apply to the proper
18 authorities, be they Seminary or Synodical office, to be able to grant 1 CEU to those who
19 attend them; and be it finally

20 *Resolved*, That Synod investigate other ways to incentivize continuing education among her
21 pastors.

22

23

24

Submitted by
Pittsburgh Circuit #6

1 **Overture 2-03**

2

3 **To Increase Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Opportunities Throughout Synod**

4

5 WHEREAS, The Synod in Convention in the year 2019, Resolution 6-04, encouraged the pastors of
6 our Synod to attend continuing education courses every year; and

7 WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 4.8.2d requires pastors to attend two District-sponsored conferences each
8 year; and

9 WHEREAS, Historically many Pastoral Conferences, such as the Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference, were
10 held throughout the Synod; and

11 WHEREAS, Many other conferences are held throughout the Synod each year; therefore be it

12 *Resolved*, That those pastors who attend both District Conferences in a calendar year receive 1 CEU;
13 and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That Pastoral Conferences be restored where they no longer function and that those who
15 attend all meetings of these Conferences during the school year receive 1 CEU; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That other conferences held throughout the Synod be allowed to apply to the proper
17 authorities, be they Seminary or Synodical office, to be able to grant 1 CEU to those who attend
18 them; and be it finally

19 *Resolved*, That Synod investigate other ways to incentivize continuing education among her pastors.

20

21

22

23

Submitted by
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Oakmont, PA

1 COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND STRUCTURE

2
3 Overture 3-01

4 To Amend District Bylaw IV.A.4 to Remove All Term Limits

5
6 WHEREAS, The members of the English District must elect individuals for service as District officers
7 (Synod Bylaw 4.3.1), members of a Board of Directors (Synod Bylaw 4.5.1), members of a Committee on
8 Nominations (Synod Bylaw 4.7.2), and Circuit Visitors (Synod Bylaw 5.2.2); and

9 WHEREAS, Limitation of tenure for its elected officers may be determined by the English District (Synod
10 Bylaw 4.7.5); and

11 WHEREAS, Twenty-three of the thirty-five districts of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have no
12 term limits for the district president; and

13 WHEREAS, The current four-term limit for the District President can deter individuals from offering
14 themselves for service in that office; and

15 WHEREAS, Uniformity in limitation of tenure for elected officers, board and committee members is the
16 current agreed practice within the English District; therefore be it

17 *Resolved*, That the English District determine that its President and all elected officers, board and
18 committee members be made eligible to be elected to serve consecutively in the same office or
19 function without term limits; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Bylaws of the English District be so amended:

21 Article IV

22 Elections and Vacancies

23 A. Elections

- 24 1. All elections shall take place at the regular Convention.
- 25 2. The President and all elected officers, board and committee members shall be elected by a
26 majority of votes cast.
- 27 3. One Vice-President from each of the four regions shall be elected by the delegates. The
28 Convention shall determine their rank.
- 29 4. Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for
30 Stewardship, and Circuit Visitors shall serve without term limits. A person's tenure in the same
31 office or function shall not be limited. ~~These persons may be elected to their previous office or~~
32 ~~function after an interval of no less than three (3) years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired~~
33 ~~term after an interval of no less than two (2) years.;~~

34 and be it finally

35 *Resolved*, That any amendments to Bylaw Article IV.A.4 be implemented subsequent to the election of
36 the District President, officers, board and committee members at the Fifty-Seventh Convention of the
37 English District in 2021.

38
39 Submitted by
40 Milwaukee Circuit 17

1 Overture 3-02

2 To Amend District Bylaw IV.A.4 to Remove All Term Limits

3
4 WHEREAS, The members of the English District must elect individuals for service as District officers
5 (Synod Bylaw 4.3.1), members of a Board of Directors (Synod Bylaw 4.5.1), members of a Committee on
6 Nominations (Synod Bylaw 4.7.2), and Circuit Visitors (Synod Bylaw 5.2.2); and

7 WHEREAS, Limitation of tenure for its elected officers may be determined by the English District (Synod
8 Bylaw 4.7.5); and

9 WHEREAS, Twenty-three of the thirty-five districts of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have no
10 term limits for the district president; and

11 WHEREAS, The current four-term limit for the District President can deter individuals from offering
12 themselves for service in that office; and

13 WHEREAS, Uniformity in limitation of tenure for elected officers, board and committee members is the
14 current agreed practice within the English District; therefore be it

15 *Resolved*, That the English District determine that its President and all elected officers, board and
16 committee members be made eligible to be elected to serve consecutively in the same office or
17 function without term limits; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Bylaws of the English District be so amended:

19 Article IV

20 Elections and Vacancies

21 A. Elections

- 22
23 1. All elections shall take place at the regular Convention.
24
25 2. The President and all elected officers, board and committee members shall be elected by a
26 majority of votes cast.
27
28 3. One Vice-President from each of the four regions shall be elected by the delegates. The
29 Convention shall determine their rank.
30
31 4. Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for
32 Stewardship, and Circuit Visitors shall serve without term limits. A person's tenure in the same
33 office or function shall not be limited. ~~These persons may be elected to their previous office or~~
34 ~~function after an interval of no less than three (3) years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired~~
35 ~~term after an interval of no less than two (2) years.;~~

36
37 and be it finally

38 *Resolved*, That any amendments to Bylaw Article IV.A.4 be implemented subsequent to the election of
39 the District President, officers, board and committee members at the Fifty-Seventh Convention of the
40 English District in 2021.

41
42 Submitted by
43 Lutheran Church of the Prince of Peace
44 Menomonee Falls, WI

1 **Overture 3-03**

2
3 **To Reformat and Amend the Bylaws of the English District**

4
5 **Rationale**

6 During the past two triennia, the Commission on Constitutional Matters of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
7 has suggested that Districts of the Synod modernize the format of their bylaws, utilizing a numbering format similar
8 to the Bylaws of the Synod (e.g. 1.1.1.1 vs. I.A.1.a).

9 Additionally, the Synod Secretary has suggested that Districts of the Synod consider adding a provision to District
10 Bylaws corresponding to LCMS Bylaw 7.1.2. This would deal with the specific circumstance when the Synod
11 Convention modifies the Constitution or Bylaws of the Synod in such a way that District Bylaws must be adjusted,
12 generally in an obvious way, into compliance (cf. proposed Article 12.2).

13 Further review of the Bylaws of the District by the Board of Directors has identified where the requirements for
14 regional selections of district officers conflicts with the requirements outlined by Synod Bylaw Section 4.3. This
15 necessitates amending the Bylaws of the District to reflect the requirements established by the Synod. (*Language in*
16 *the proposal reflects these changes.*)

17 The Board of Directors also believes that language should be added to the Bylaws of the District that definitively
18 states the District’s relationship to the Synod as defined by the Synod Bylaws. This would be a new first article to be
19 added to the Bylaws of the District (cf. proposed Article 1.0).

20 Proposed language that is completely new to the Bylaws will be presented in underlined font.

21 Therefore be it

22 *Resolved*, That the English District meeting in convention adopt the following reformatted and amended bylaws:

23
24 **THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**
25 **ENGLISH DISTRICT**

26
27 **BYLAWS**

28
29 *Adopted in Convention: June 15, 1997*
30 *Revisions Adopted in Convention: June 20, 2009*
31 *Revised at request of Synod by Board of Directors: August 2011; May 2012*
32 *Revisions Adopted in Convention: June 29, 2012*
33 *Revisions Adopted in Convention: June 20, 2015*
34 *Revisions Adopted in Convention: June 21, 2018*
35 *Revisions and Reformatting Adopted in Convention: June 20, 2022*

36
37 **PREAMBLE**

38
39 In 1872 an initial conference of English-speaking Lutherans was held in Gravelton, Missouri. In 1888 the English
40 Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri was organized and in 1911 was invited to join the German Evangelical
41 Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States as the English Mission District. An agreement dated May 15, 1911,
42 in Saint Louis, Missouri (*Delegatensynod von Missouri, Ohio u.a. St.*, 1911, pp. 31-35) made the English District
43 official. Because of this origin the English District is unique among the districts of the Synod (Denver Convention
44 *Proceedings*, 1969, Resolution 5-15).

45
46 Since the English District is a district of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Constitution of the Synod is also
47 the Constitution of the District. Also, the Bylaws of the Synod are primarily the Bylaws of the District. The District’s
48 objectives are as stated in Article III of the Synod’s Constitution:

- 49 The Synod, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, shall—
- 50 1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3–6; 1 Cor. 1:10), work through its official structure
 - 51 toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a united defense against schism,
 - 52 sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;
 - 53 2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work
 - 54 of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;
 - 55 3. Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their
 - 56 continuing growth;
 - 57 4. Provide opportunities through which its members may express their Christian concern, love, and
 - 58 compassion in meeting human needs;
 - 59 5. Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish
 - 60 agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools and to support synodical
 - 61 colleges, universities, and seminaries;
 - 62 6. Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting,
 - 63 expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;
 - 64 7. Encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an appreciation of
 - 65 a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith;
 - 66 8. Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers, and other professional church
 - 67 workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties;
 - 68 9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of
 - 69 their official duties and the maintenance of their rights;
 - 70 10. Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their families in the
 - 71 event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death.

72

73 Thus in the light of the Synod’s objectives, the mission of the English District is to seize every opportunity to serve

74 the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, the whole Church in the whole world, and the whole person in the whole society,

75 and in fulfillment of this mission, it shall seek to utilize its unique character to:

- 76 1. Assist congregations of the District in their ministries to their own communities with their own
- 77 characteristics and needs;
- 78 2. Serve as a progressive element in the church body, both in applying the Gospel to new and changing
- 79 situations and in demonstrating concern about community problems and ecumenical opportunities;
- 80 3. Begin new churches and support new ministries with particular emphasis on openness to new challenges;
- 81 4. Assist in the revitalization of existing congregations and ministries;
- 82 5. Assist ministries in communities that are changing;
- 83 6. Focus on special, ethnic, urban and campus ministries;
- 84 7. Support mission initiatives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
- 85 8. Support life-long educational ministries within the District; and
- 86 9. Provide opportunities and avenues for congregations and their members to live out their love for God
- 87 through the Christian stewardship of their time, talents and treasures.

- 88
- 89 **1.0 RELATIONSHIP TO THE SYNOD**
- 90 **1.1 The Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod establish and define the relationship**
- 91 **of the District to the Synod.**
- 92 **1.2 All provisions of the District’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the provisions of the**
- 93 **Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the Synod in convention.**

94 1.3 In the event of dissolution of the District other than by direction from the Synod in convention, the assets
95 of the District, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred, consistent with applicable state and federal laws,
96 in the manner prescribed by the Bylaws of the Synod.

97

98 **2.0 RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE DISTRICT**

99 2.1 The congregations of the District shall exercise their authority through delegate convention which shall
100 consist of all duly certified delegates from member congregations, as defined in Synod Bylaw Section 4.2ff.

101 2.2 The District shall exercise its authority in harmony with the goals and directives of the Synod and under the
102 guidance of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.
103

104 2.3 The District shall delegate its authority as hereinafter prescribed. The exercise of such delegated authority
105 shall always be subject to review by the District.
106

107 **3.0 ADMINISTRATION**

108 3.1 The District shall establish an organizational structure for the effective operation of its programs and
109 conduct of its affairs which shall include the District Convention, the officers of the District, the Board of
110 Directors, and such other staff and personnel as that Board may deem necessary and appropriate.

111 3.2 The administration of the affairs shall be conducted on three levels:

112 (a) The District Convention, which shall consist of the District at large through its delegates in convention
113 assembled, and shall be the governing body of the District subject to the Constitution, Bylaws, and
114 Resolutions of Synod, and to these Bylaws.

115 (b) The Officers of the District, who shall have primary responsibility for the implementation of decisions
116 of the District Convention and the Board of Directors.

117 (c) The Board of Directors elected by the District Convention, which serves as the legal representative of
118 the District and the custodian of all property of the District. Between conventions, the Board shall
119 provide for implementation within the District of the decisions of the Synod and District conventions,
120 establish and review policy, determine general priorities, approve program budgets, allocate necessary
121 funds for the support of the Synod and District budgets, review program performance, make provisions
122 for necessary staff, and review the performance of the District President. It shall report its activities to
123 the Convention.
124

125 3.3 For purposes of conferences and elections requiring regional representation, the District shall be divided
126 into four regions: Eastern, Lake Erie, Midwestern, and Western:

127 (a) The President and Vice-Presidents of the District and the Board of Directors acting jointly shall
128 determine the membership of the four regions 24 months prior to Conventions of the District.

129 (b) For purposes of regional elections, individuals must meet the regional eligibility requirements outlined
130 within Synod Bylaw Section 4.3.
131

132 3.4 Dispute Reconcilers shall be chosen in such manner and exercise such jurisdiction as provided by Synod
133 Bylaw 1.10ff.
134

135 3.5 A Committee on Nominations shall be elected at each Convention to prepare the ballot for the next
136 Convention. One minister of religion—ordained and one minister of religion—commissioned or layperson
137 by name from each of the four regions of the District shall be elected. The Committee shall organize itself
138 as outlined in the District's *Corporate Operations Manual*.
139

140 3.6 A Committee for Stewardship shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to comply with the stewardship
141 programs and goals of the Synod, as required by Synod Bylaw 4.6.1.
142

- 143 **4.0 OFFICERS & STAFF**
144
- 145 4.1 The officers of the District are:
146 1. A President
147 2. One Vice-President from each of the four regions of the District, in line of succession, as prescribed by
148 these Bylaws.
149 3. A Secretary
150 4. A Treasurer, a layperson appointed by the Board of Directors
151 5. A Circuit Visitor for each Circuit established by the District
152
- 153 4.2 The duties of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Circuit Visitors are described in the
154 Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and these Bylaws.
155
- 156 4.3 The Vice-Presidents shall advise the President, serve as his representatives, and assist him in bringing to the
157 Board of Directors any needed recommendations.
158
- 159 4.4 All Executive Assistants and Staff shall be directly accountable to the President.
160
- 161 **5.0 ELECTIONS**
162
- 163 **5.1 *Terms of Office and Tenure***
- 164 5.1.1 Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for Stewardship, and
165 Circuit Visitors shall serve for a term of three years.
- 166 5.1.2 A person's tenure in the same office or function shall be limited to four (4) consecutive full three-year terms.
167 These persons may be elected to their previous office or function after an interval of no less than three (3)
168 years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an interval of no less than two (2) years.
169
- 170 **5.2 *Nomination and Election of District President***
- 171 5.2.1 Each member congregation of the District shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod
172 two (2) ordained ministers as candidates for District President:
- 173 (a) Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to
174 the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.
- 175 (b) Nominations for District President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months prior
176 to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook* the names
177 and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received nominating votes.
- 178 (c) The names of the five (5) ordained ministers who receive the highest number of nominating votes and
179 consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall be no opportunity provided for
180 additional nominations.
- 181 (d) The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience
182 and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be published and
183 distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.
- 184 5.2.2 The District Convention shall elect the District President:
185 (a) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
186 (b) Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from
187 consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.
188
- 189 **5.3 *Nomination and Election of District Vice-Presidents***
- 190 5.3.1 Each member congregation of a region of the District shall be entitled to nominate two (2) ordained
191 ministers from the clergy roster of the District who hold membership in a District congregation within its
192 region as candidates for Vice-President:

- 193 (a) Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to
 194 the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.
- 195 (b) Nominations for Vice-President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months prior to
 196 the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook* the names
 197 and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received nominating votes.
- 198 (c) The names of the three (3) ordained ministers from each region who receive the most nominating votes
 199 and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall be no opportunity provided for
 200 additional nominations.
- 201 (d) The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience
 202 and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be published and
 203 distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.
 204
- 205 5.3.2 The District Convention shall elect one (1) Vice-President from each of the four regions of the District:
- 206 (a) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
- 207 (b) Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from
 208 consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.
 209
- 210 5.3.3 Upon the election of the Vice-Presidents, a final election will take place ranking the Vice-Presidents by
 211 separate ballots with a simple majority of voting delegates determining the first, second, third, and fourth
 212 Vice-Presidents in line of succession.
 213
- 214 **5.4 Nomination and Election of Board of Directors**
- 215 5.4.1 Six months prior to the opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter
 216 soliciting names from the officers of the District and the congregational and individual members of the
 217 District, along with the laypersons of the congregations of the District:
- 218 (a) All suggested names shall be submitted to the Committee on Nominations no later than four months
 219 prior to the opening date of the Convention.
- 220 (b) All nominees for a particular regional position shall be members of District congregations within the
 221 boundaries of the region for which they are nominated.
- 222 (c) All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered to be nominees.
- 223 (d) The Committee on Nominations shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's
 224 experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning the individual's candidacy. These shall
 225 be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.
 226
- 227 5.4.2 The Committee on Nominations shall select at least two (2) candidates and at least one (1) alternate for
 228 each position.
- 229 5.4.3 The District Convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor:
- 230 (a) Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate at the District Convention. The delegate
 231 making such nomination must present the District Secretary written consent of the person whose name
 232 is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the convention that the nominee is able and willing to
 233 serve if elected.
- 234 (b) Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the District Convention for approval before
 235 being added to the ballot.
 236
- 237 5.4.4 The District Convention shall elect one (1) ordained minister from the Eastern or Lake Erie Region, one (1)
 238 ordained minister from the Midwestern or Western Region, two (2) commissioned ministers, and one (1)
 239 layperson from each of the four regions of the District:
- 240 (a) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
- 241 (b) Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from
 242 consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.

- 243 5.4.5 The District Convention shall elect two (2) laypersons as at-large members of the Board of Directors:
 244 (a) All candidates not elected to a Lay Regional Board of Director positions shall form the ballot for the
 245 Lay At-Large Board of Directors positions.
 246 (b) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
 247 (c) When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest
 248 votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the
 249 ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case
 250 the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot.

251
 252 **5.5 *Nomination and Election of District Secretary, Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers,***
 253 ***and Other Boards or Committees***

254 5.5.1 The Committee on Nominations shall select candidates for District Secretary, Committee on Nominations,
 255 Endowment Fund Managers, and other Boards or Committees. At least two (2) candidates and at least one
 256 (1) alternate shall be selected for each position:

- 257 (a) Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter
 258 soliciting names from the officers of the District and the congregational and individual members of the
 259 District, along with the laypersons of the congregations of the District.
 260 (b) All suggested names shall be submitted to the Committee on Nominations no later than four months
 261 prior to the opening date of the Convention.
 262 (c) All nominees for a particular regional position shall be members of District congregations within the
 263 boundaries of the region for which they are nominated.
 264 (d) All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered to be nominees.
 265 (e) The Committee on Nominations shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's
 266 experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning the individual's candidacy. These shall
 267 be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.
 268

269 5.5.2 The District Convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor:

- 270 (a) Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate at the District Convention. The delegate
 271 making such nomination must present the District Secretary written consent of the person whose name
 272 is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the convention that the nominee is able and willing to
 273 serve if elected.
 274 (b) Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the District Convention for approval before
 275 being added to the ballot.
 276

277 5.5.3 Election of these offices shall take place at the District Convention:

- 278 (a) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
 279 (b) When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes
 280 and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot,
 281 unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three
 282 highest candidates shall constitute the ballot.
 283

284 **6.0 VACANCIES**
 285

286 **6.1 *Office of District President***

287 6.1.1 In the event that the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve in that capacity
 288 because of prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of the office of President shall be
 289 performed by the 1st Vice-President, and the 1st Vice-President shall remain as the Acting President until
 290 the Board determines such illness or disability has been removed, the President resigns or dies, or the Board
 291 determines that the illness or disability is permanent.

- 292 6.1.2 In the event that the office of President becomes vacant because of the resignation, death or permanent
 293 disability of the President, the 1st Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President and shall serve until
 294 the next Convention. The successor need not terminate his current position while completing the unexpired
 295 term.
 296
- 297 6.1.3 Any Vice-President, who by the terms of this Article succeeds to the office of President, may decline such
 298 office, in which event:
 299 (a) The next ranking Vice-President shall become President of the District.
 300 (b) All other Vice-Presidents shall move up one rank.
 301 (c) The declining Vice-President shall fill the last ranking vacant Vice-Presidency.
 302
- 303 6.1.4 In the event that all Vice-Presidents decline the office of President, the ranking of the Vice-Presidents shall
 304 remain unchanged, and the 1st Vice-President shall serve as Acting President until the next convention,
 305 when a President shall be elected. He need not leave his current position while serving as Acting President.
 306
- 307 **6.2 Other Elected Positions**
- 308 6.2.1 A vacancy in the Vice-Presidents shall be filled by appointment by the District President, in consultation
 309 with the Circuit Visitors within that the region.
- 310 6.2.2 Vacancies that occur in the office of Circuit Visitor between conventions shall be filled by appointment by
 311 the District President.
- 312 6.2.3 A vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the voting members of the Board, in consultation with
 313 the Committee on Nominations.
- 314 6.2.4 A vacancy on the Committee on Nominations shall be filled by voting members of the Board of Directors,
 315 in consultation with the Committee on Nominations.
 316
- 317 6.2.5 Vacancies that occur in the office of District Endowment Fund Manager shall be filled:
 318 (a) A vacancy in any regional manager position shall be filled by appointment by the District President,
 319 subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
 320 (b) A vacancy in the Canadian representative position shall be filled by appointment by the Canada
 321 Corporation.
- 322 6.2.6 Persons appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors or other elected or appointed positions shall
 323 serve until successors have been elected by the Convention or appointed under the terms of the bylaws.
 324
- 325 **7.0 DISTRICT CONFERENCES, CIRCUIT FORUMS, AND CIRCUIT CONVOCATIONS**
 326
- 327 7.1 The President shall confer with the Board of Directors to arrange for the official conferences of the ordained
 328 and commissioned ministers of the District:
 329 (a) There shall be a plenary conference held annually for all ordained and commissioned ministers. In years
 330 when District Conventions are held, the plenary conference may be postponed at the discretion of the
 331 President and the Board of Directors.
 332 (b) There shall be a conference for ordained ministers held annually in each of the four regions of the
 333 District.
 334 (c) There shall be at least one conference for commissioned ministers held during each triennium.
 335
- 336 7.2 Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their Circuit Visitors to select their Circuit Visitors and conduct other
 337 business no later than the time established by the District. They shall follow the procedures stated in Synod
 338 Bylaws 5.2.2 and 5.3.
 339
- 340 7.3 The Circuit Visitor and any other officers of the circuit shall have the primary responsibility of preparing the
 341 agenda for the Circuit Convocation, following the procedures stated in Synod Bylaw 5.4.

- 342 **8.0 POWERS**
343
344 8.1 The District shall have legal powers as follows:
345 (a) To purchase, acquire, hold, administer, sell, transfer, mortgage and convey property of every
346 description, both personal and real, in the interest of the District.
347 (b) To accept, hold, administer, sell, transfer and convey legacies, gifts, donations, commercial papers and
348 legal documents of every description in the performance of its work.
349 (c) To delegate to the Board of Directors who shall exercise the aforementioned powers. No individual or
350 officer of the District shall have the power to usurp this authority.
- 351 8.2 No action on the part of the members of the Board of Directors shall be prerequisite to the borrowing of
352 money or the execution of any mortgage upon personality or realty.
353
354 8.3 There shall be no shares of stock issued in connection with the District.
355
- 356 **9.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
357
358 **9.1 *Membership and Composition***
359
360 9.1.1 The Board of Directors shall have no more than fifteen (15) voting members, as follows:
361 (a) The President of the District
362 (b) The Secretary of the District
363 (c) Two (2) ministers of religion—ordained, one of whom shall be elected from either the Eastern Region
364 or Lake Erie Region and one whom shall be elected from either the Midwestern Region or Western
365 Region
366 (d) Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned
367 (e) One (1) layperson elected from each of the four regions of the District.
368 (f) Two (2) laypersons elected from the District at large
369 (g) Up to three (3) at-large laypersons appointed by the elected voting members of the Board of Directors
370 to obtain needed additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.)
371
- 372 9.1.2 The Board of Directors shall have six (6) non-voting members:
373 (a) The Vice-Presidents of the District
374 (b) The Treasurer of the District
375 (c) The Chairman of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Canada Corporation)
376
- 377 9.1.3 The Board shall elect its own chair and vice-chair from among the voting members of the Board after each
378 convention. The President and Secretary shall be ineligible to be elected as chair or vice-chair.
379
- 380 9.1.4 Each Board member shall avoid conflicts of interest and shall disclose to the Board chair any potential
381 conflicts of interest, as defined in Synod Bylaw 1.5.2.
- 382 9.1.5 Members of the Board of Directors may be removed for cause, as defined in Synod Bylaw 1.5.8.
383
- 384 9.1.6 No member of the Board of Directors shall receive remuneration (beyond allowable reimbursement) for
385 service on the Board.
386
- 387 **9.2 *Powers and Duties***
388
389 9.2.1 The Board of Directors shall have such powers and duties as are accorded to it by the Constitution, Bylaws,
390 Articles of Incorporation, resolutions, and policies of the Synod, as well as those of the District. Subject to
391 such limitations, it shall operate within the applicable federal and state laws.
- 392 9.2.2 The Board's chief responsibility is developing and amending policy.

- 393 9.2.3 The Board shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business and legal
394 affairs and shall adopt policies and require procedures which assure that said management and supervision
395 is affected.
- 396 9.2.4 In fulfilling its functions and in coordinating its work with the Synod, the Board shall be guided generally by
397 the functions of the Board of Directors of the Synod as defined in Synod Bylaw 3.3.4ff as these apply to
398 districts.
- 399 9.2.5 Between Conventions it shall provide for implementation within the District of the decisions of the Synod
400 and District Conventions and allocate necessary funds for the support of the Synod and District budgets.
- 401 9.2.6 The Board of Directors shall report at each Convention.
402
- 403 9.2.7 The Board of Directors shall conduct, supervise, and manage all affairs of the District not otherwise
404 assigned.
405
- 406 **9.3 Meetings**
407
- 408 9.3.1 Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least four (4) times a year at such time and place
409 as the Board shall determine.
- 410 9.3.2 Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or upon request of seven (7)
411 board members at any time, by means of written or email notice, at least three (3) days in advance of the
412 time, place and purpose thereof to each director.
- 413 9.3.3 Meetings of the Board of Directors may be conducted electronically, using audio, video, or internet-based
414 conferencing technologies:
- 415 (a) In such cases, the technology must allow for each Board member to fully participate (hear, speak, have
416 or been given access to documents and other materials as appropriate), including the opportunity to
417 vote.
- 418 (b) Board members must be given a reasonable opportunity to access the electronic meeting. If a Board
419 member does not have access to the technology to be used, arrangements will be made for the
420 member to participate in person by coming to the District Office or other mutually agreed upon
421 location.
- 422 (c) Any Board member listening or watching shall acknowledge their presence to the meeting. These
423 names along with the attending Board members shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
424
- 425 9.3.4 A majority of voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any properly called or scheduled
426 meeting.
- 427 9.3.5 The Chair may authorize a Board member to participate in meetings of the Board by use of electronic
428 technology described in Bylaw 8.3.3. Such participation by a Board member shall be considered as being
429 present for the sake of establishing a quorum.
- 430 9.3.6 In situations where board members are not able to meet as described above, the Board of Directors may
431 take action by use of electronic ballot (i.e., e-mail, internet-based voting, etc.), provided all voting members
432 of the board cast a vote and the result of the voting is unanimous.
- 433 9.3.7 Minutes shall be kept of all meetings that record a summary of the major points of discussion and any
434 action(s) taken.
435
- 436 **9.4 Appointment of Officers and Agents**
437
- 438 9.4.1 The Board of Directors shall have power to appoint such other officers and agents as the Board may deem
439 necessary for the transaction of the business of the District.
440
- 441 9.4.2 The Board of Directors may require any officer or agent to file with the District a satisfactory fidelity bond.

442
443 **9.5 Execution of Instruments**
444
445 9.5.1 All checks, drafts, and orders for payment of money shall be signed in the name of the District and may be
446 countersigned by such officers or agents as the Board of Directors designates for that purpose or by the
447 Treasurer alone.
448
449 9.5.2 When the execution of any contract, conveyance or other instrument has been authorized without
450 specification of the executing officers, the President and the Secretary may execute the same in the name
451 of and on behalf of the District and may affix the corporate seal thereto. The Board of Directors shall have
452 power to designate the officers and agents who shall have authority to execute any instrument on behalf
453 of the District.
454
455 **9.6 Borrowing Authority**
456
457 9.6.1 The Board of Directors shall act on behalf of the District to borrow money the Board deems necessary and
458 appropriate:
459 (a) In such case the Board may authorize the proper officers of the District to make, execute and deliver
460 in the name of and on behalf of the District such notes, bonds and other evidence of indebtedness as
461 the Board should deem proper.
462 (b) The Board shall have full power to mortgage the property of the District, or any part thereof, as security
463 for such indebtedness, and no action on the part of the membership of the District shall be requisite to
464 the validity of any such note, bond, evidence of indebtedness or mortgage.
465
466 **9.7 Annual Budgetary Responsibilities**
467
468 9.7.1 The Board of Directors shall establish the annual District budget.
469
470 9.7.2 The Board of Directors shall establish the salary of the District President on an annual basis.
471
472 **9.8 District Corporate Operations Manual**
473
474 9.8.1 The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain the District's *Corporate Operations Manual* and shall
475 approve appropriate modifications.
476
477 9.8.2 Only the District in Convention shall have the power to amend the *Corporate Operations Manual* with
478 respect to sections dealing with the election of officers and the Board.
479
480 9.8.3 Modifications to the *Corporate Operations Manual* approved by the Board to any other sections shall be
481 reported at the next Convention.
482
483 **10.0 ENGLISH DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND**
484
485 10.1 The District shall establish and maintain an endowment fund, providing a stewardship opportunity for
486 congregations and their members and a resource for the support of District and Synod ministries. (The
487 structure and operation of the fund is described in the English District *Corporate Operations Manual*.)
488
489 10.2 The Board of Directors shall exercise oversight for the English District Endowment Fund (EDEF):
490 (a) The Board shall ensure that the EDEF Board of Managers reports on its work at least annually to the
491 Board.
492 (b) The Board shall elect one of its voting members to serve on the EDEF Board of Managers.
493
494 **11.0 CONFLICTS**
495
496 11.1 No article of the Bylaws of the District shall be valid which conflicts with the Constitution and Bylaws of the
497 Synod.

496
497 11.2 Any matter, rule or regulation not specifically herein contained in the Bylaws shall be governed by
498 comparable provision in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

499
500 **12.0 AMENDMENTS**

501
502 12.1 Changes, additions, and alterations to the Bylaws may be made by Conventions of the District:

503 (a) They shall not conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws of the Synod.

504 (b) They shall be separately considered and acted upon by the Board of Directors.

505 (c) They shall be submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod for review and
506 approval prior to consideration by a District convention.

507 (d) They shall be presented in writing to the District in convention.

508 (e) They shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting.

509
510 12.2 When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by
511 a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendments to the District Bylaws may be made by a two-thirds
512 majority of the District Board of Directors. Such amendments shall be drafted by the District Secretary and
513 shall be reviewed in advance by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod.

514

515

516

Submitted by
English District Board of Directors

1 Overture 3-04

2
3 To Amend District Bylaws IV.B and IV.C
4

5 WHEREAS, The current District Bylaws anticipate having multiple candidates for District President (*cf.*
6 *Bylaw IV.B.4*) and District Vice-President (*cf. Bylaw IV.C.4*); and

7 WHEREAS, Recent elections for District President and Vice-President have seen slates of nominees
8 without multiple candidates, leaving no choice for voting delegates; and

9 WHEREAS, Between the close of the nominations process and the election at the district convention,
10 circumstances may dictate that a nominee is no longer eligible to stand for election (eg. taking a call
11 outside of the region or the district, etc.) thus leaving voting delegates no option to nominate additional
12 candidates; and

13 WHEREAS, Other Districts within the Synod grant the ability of voting delegates to make floor nominations
14 where multiple candidates do not exist for District President and/or Vice-President; and

15 WHEREAS, No specific guidance is given in the current District Bylaws in case there is a tie for the final
16 places on the ballot for District President and Vice-President; therefore be it

17 *Resolved*, That District Bylaws IV.B and IV.C be amended as follows:
18

19 B. Nomination and Election of District President

- 20 1. Each member congregation of the District shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of
21 the Synod two (2) ordained ministers as candidates for District President.
- 22 2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a
23 letter to the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit
24 nominations.
- 25 3. Nominations for District President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months
26 prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook*
27 the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received nominating votes.
- 28 4. The names of the five (5) ordained ministers who receive the highest number of nominating votes
29 and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. When a tie occurs for the last place(s) on
30 the ballot, all names involved in the tie shall be included. There shall be no opportunity provided
31 for additional nominations. No nominations may be made on the floor of the convention unless
32 fewer than two candidates result from the congregation nominating process. Written consent and
33 biographical materials shall be presented to the District Secretary at or before the time of
34 nomination. If the opportunity for floor nominations is provided and results in having fewer than
35 two candidates, the slate of candidates shall be closed.
- 36
- 37 5. The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's
38 experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be
39 published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the
40 convention.
- 41
- 42 6. The District Convention shall elect the District President.
- 43 a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
- 44 b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from
45 consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared
46 elected.

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C. Nomination and Election of District Vice-Presidents

1. Each member congregation of a region of the District shall be entitled to nominate two (2) ordained ministers from the clergy roster of the District with residence in its designated region as candidates for Vice-President.
2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.
3. Nominations for Vice-President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook* the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received nominating votes.
4. The names of the three (3) ordained ministers residing within the boundaries of each region who receive the most nominating votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. When a tie occurs for the last place(s) on the ballot, all names involved in the tie shall be included. There shall be no opportunity provided for additional nominations. No nominations may be made from the floor of the convention unless fewer than two candidates result from the congregation nominating process. Floor nominations must be made by a voting delegate from the region served by the Vice-President. Written consent and biographical materials shall be presented to the District Secretary at or before the time of nomination. If the opportunity for floor nominations is provided and results in having fewer than three candidates, the slate of candidates shall be closed.
5. The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.
6. The District Convention shall elect one (1) Vice-President from each of the four regions of the District.
 - a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
 - b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.
7. Upon the election of the Vice-Presidents, a final election will take place ranking the Vice-Presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority of voting delegates determining the first, second, third, and fourth Vice-Presidents in line of succession.

Submitted by
Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church
Beverly Hills, Michigan

1 **Overture 3-05**

2

3

To Restrict Synod Conventions on Sundays

4

5 WHEREAS, Our congregations hold services every Sunday morning, and

6 WHEREAS, God our Father encourages us to sanctify the holy day by hearing God's Word, and

7 WHEREAS, Synod Conventions are a wonderful time for delegates to learn about the congregations in
8 the vicinity of the Convention and for area congregations to learn more about Synod and be supported
9 by their fellow Missouri Synod Lutherans, therefore be it

10 *Resolved*, That Synod Conventions be not scheduled in session on Sundays before 2:00 p.m., and be it
11 further

12 *Resolved*, That Convention delegates be encouraged to visit the LCMS congregations in the region of the
13 Convention.

14

15

16

Submitted by
Pittsburgh Circuit #6

1 **Overture 3-06**

2

3

To Restrict Synod Conventions on Sundays

4

5 WHEREAS, Our congregations hold services every Sunday morning, and

6 WHEREAS, God our Father encourages us to sanctify the holy day by hearing God's Word, and

7 WHEREAS, Synod Conventions are a wonderful time for delegates to learn about the congregations in
8 the vicinity of the Convention and for area congregations to learn more about Synod and be supported
9 by their fellow Missouri Synod Lutherans, therefore be it

10 *Resolved*, That Synod Conventions be not scheduled in session on Sundays before 2:00 p.m., and be it
11 further

12 *Resolved*, That Convention delegates be encouraged to visit the LCMS congregations in the region of the
13 Convention.

14

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Submitted by
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Oakmont, PA

1 **COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES**

2
3 **Overture 4-01**

4
5 **To Memorialize the LCMS to Have the Next Available Convention of Synod in Detroit, Michigan**

6
7 WHEREAS, Detroit, Michigan, has not hosted a Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
8 since 1965; and

9 WHEREAS, Since the Pittsburgh Convention in 1992 Synod has deemed it wise to move the triennial
10 Convention of Synod to various cities across the United States, assuming competitive rates for hotels,
11 travel, and convention sites, and thus helping create a deeper appreciation for our Synod and her
12 faithful, biblical, doctrinal stances, confession, and practices; and

13 WHEREAS, The Detroit metropolitan area has an historically large LCMS population and has notable
14 historic congregations, cemeteries, and history, as well as nearby Concordia University-Ann Arbor, and is
15 a major international airport and a hub of Delta Air Lines; and

16 WHEREAS, The Michigan District and English District have headquarter buildings in the nearby area, and
17 our partner synod, The Lutheran Church-Canada, has a concentration of congregations in Ontario and
18 just across the Detroit River in Windsor and nearby counties; and

19 WHEREAS, The Michigan and English Districts could team together in hosting the Convention; and

20 WHEREAS, Significant Lutheran heritage and sight-seeing is available in relatively-close Frankenmuth,
21 Michigan, as well as in Dearborn (Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village) and other cultural and
22 sports amenities; and

23 WHEREAS, The Detroit metro area is a huge mission field, a highly multi-ethnic milieu, and one of the
24 largest Black concentrations in the nation at a time when it would be wise for the LCMS to show her
25 support of the Black community, in particular; and

26 WHEREAS, The Detroit metro area is also home to a huge mission field of Arabic and Islamic peoples
27 who need to hear the Gospel of life and salvation in Jesus Christ; and

28 WHEREAS, The Detroit area congregations, schools, pastors, and church workers have demonstrated a
29 high level of confessional witness and missionary support (one of the OIM Regional Director families is
30 from Windsor, ON, and a member of a Detroit congregation); therefore, be it

31 *Resolved*, That our Synod be memorialized to approve having the next available Convention of The
32 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod after the 2023 Synod Convention in Detroit, Michigan.

33
34
35 Submitted by
36 Detroit-South Circuit #11 and
Detroit-North Circuit #12

1 Overture 4-02

2
3 To Recognize and Thank the LCMS for the Strengthened and Expanded "Soldiers of the Cross"
4 COVID-19 Response Initiative

5
6 WHEREAS, The Pandemic of 2020 shuttered schools in the middle of the school year, furloughed workers
7 and caused others to pivot towards a digital presence for which they were unprepared; and

8
9 WHEREAS, Many of our teachers and school workers were without the additional tuition or budget income
10 needed to support the immediate response to the transition and additional regulations that were placed
11 upon them through the Centers for Disease Control and the Executive orders of local, state, and national
12 government; and

13
14 WHEREAS, The need for compassionate support and financial assistance was great; and

15
16 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)
17 worked together to identify funds for immediate assistance for all who served in Lutheran ministries; and

18
19 WHEREAS, Many of our school and child development workers who were both rostered and lay benefited
20 from this generous act of compassion; and

21
22 WHEREAS, As of August 2021 more than \$1,577,835 was awarded to 939 workers; therefore be it

23
24 *Resolved*, That on behalf of the workers of our Lutheran churches, schools, and centers, the English District
25 in Convention publicly thank God for the generosity of His people, the LCMS and the LCEF for supporting
26 all who serve in our schools and child care centers.

27
28 Submitted by
29 English District Board of Directors

1 Overture 4-03

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3

**To Direct LCMS Life Ministry to Support Congregations in Developing
Mercy Ministries to Promote a Culture of Life**

4

5

6

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has long supported the pro-life movement, both politically and culturally; and

7

8

WHEREAS, There are many pro-life organizations whose primary purpose is to inform people on pro-life issues and engage them in the political process; and

9

10

WHEREAS, The duplication of these services wastes precious time and resources; and

11

WHEREAS, Establishing a culture of life begins in our churches and communities; therefore be it

12

Resolved, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the Life Ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be directed to support congregations in establishing new mercy ministries that support a culture of life; and be it further

13

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15

Resolved, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the Life Ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be directed to establish support and training material for the aforementioned ministries to write grants to support their efforts.

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Submitted by
Western Michigan Circuit #13

1 **Overture 4-04**

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**To Direct LCMS Life Ministry to Support Congregations in Developing
Mercy Ministries to Promote a Culture of Life**

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has long supported the pro-life movement, both politically and culturally; and

WHEREAS, There are many pro-life organizations whose primary purpose is to inform people on pro-life issues and engage them in the political process; and

WHEREAS, The duplication of these services wastes precious time and resources; and

WHEREAS, Establishing a culture of life begins in our churches and communities; therefore be it

Resolved, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the Life Ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be directed to support congregations in establishing new mercy ministries that support a culture of life; and be it further

Resolved, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the Life Ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be directed to establish support and training material for the aforementioned ministries to write grants to support their efforts.

Submitted by
Chicago-North Circuit #15
Chicago-South Circuit #16

1 Overture 4-05

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To Direct LCMS Life Ministry to Support Congregations in Developing
Mercy Ministries to Promote a Culture of Life

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WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has long supported the pro-life movement, both politically and culturally; and

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WHEREAS, There are many pro-life organizations whose primary purpose is to inform people on pro-life issues and engage them in the political process; and

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WHEREAS, The duplication of these services wastes precious time and resources; and

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WHEREAS, Establishing a culture of life begins in our churches and communities; therefore be it

12

Resolved, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the Life Ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be directed to support congregations in establishing new mercy ministries that support a culture of life; and be it further

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Resolved, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the Life Ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be directed to establish support and training material for the aforementioned ministries to write grants to support their efforts.

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Submitted by
Concordia Lutheran Church
Berwyn, IL

1 **Overture 4-06**

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**To Direct LCMS Life Ministry to Support Congregations in Developing
4 Mercy Ministries to Promote a Culture of Life**

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6 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has long supported the pro-life movement, both
7 politically and culturally; and

8 WHEREAS, There are many pro-life organizations whose primary purpose is to inform people on pro-life
9 issues and engage them in the political process; and

10 WHEREAS, The duplication of these services wastes precious time and resources; and

11 WHEREAS, Establishing a culture of life begins in our churches and communities; therefore be it

12 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the Life Ministry of The
13 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be directed to support congregations in establishing new mercy
14 ministries that support a culture of life; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the Life Ministry of The
16 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be directed to establish support and training material for the
17 aforementioned ministries to write grants to support their efforts.

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Submitted by
Milwaukee Circuit #17

RESOLUTIONS

1 COMMITTEE ON CHURCH & THEOLOGY

2 3 RESOLUTION 1-01

4 (*Overture 1-01*)

5 6 To Revise Paragraph 3a) of the Operating Agreement 7 Between the Lutheran Church-Canada (LC-C) and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

8
9 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention at Indianapolis, Indiana July 1986
10 unanimously approved the formation of an autonomous Lutheran Church-Canada out of the previous
11 three Synodical Districts of the LCMS in Canada, namely: The Ontario District, the Manitoba-
12 Saskatchewan District and the Alberta British Columbia District; and

13 WHEREAS, a protocol document, titled, "OPERATING AGREEMENT between LUTHERAN CHURCH-
14 CANADA and THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD", signed May 1987, was to provide a path for
15 the two separate but interdependent church bodies to govern their relationships going forward; and

16 WHEREAS, that Operating Agreement has worked fairly well over the thirty years it has been in place,
17 allowing the Lutheran Church-Canada to become established and standing on its own feet apart from
18 the mothering church. (For example, it has been able to graduate from its two seminaries most if not all
19 the pastors needed to fill its vacancies.) and

20 WHEREAS, in that Operating Agreement, Section 3 Membership Matters, a) CONGREGATIONS states:
21 "However, all congregations in Canada shall be regularly encouraged by The Lutheran Church-Missouri
22 Synod to join Lutheran Church-Canada as soon as possible, and thereupon to sever their membership in
23 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Both Church Bodies acknowledge that except as set forth in this
24 paragraph, they will neither accept new member congregations located in the country of the other, nor
25 establish or recognize mission or preaching stations in the country of the other, without the mutual
26 consent of the two church bodies."; and

27 WHEREAS, given this wording, the Agreement could be understood to restrict LCMS congregations and
28 pastors not only from planting daughter congregations, college/university campus ministry, or even
29 chaplaincy (hospital, police, fire, military), the very ways a congregation of Lutheran Christians would
30 want to be involved locally in mission in Canada; and

31 WHEREAS, the LC-C has now been established over these three decades, and the time seems to have
32 come for this voluntary restriction (which was mutually agreed upon by both synods in order to support
33 the new synod and not be in competition with LC-C congregations attempting to plant daughter
34 congregations or begin other local efforts at outreach) to be removed so that LCMS congregations in
35 Canada are able to act locally in such mission efforts in accord with the Scriptures, especially as stifling
36 such mission vision now would seem to be contrary to Scripture even if it works bureaucratically; and

37 WHEREAS, the only point of discussion that has caused debate between the two Synod presidents over
38 the years has revolved around a handful of pastors and congregations who have wanted to leave LC-C
39 and join English District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and this has been interpreted as a
40 violation of Section 3a (LCMS congregations can and are encouraged to join the LC-C but it is not allowed
41 for an LC-C congregation to go the other way); and

42 WHEREAS, those few congregations in Canada that have joined the English District after the formation
43 of the LC-C have had a variety of reasons for this change in membership, and have only done so after
44 due process in their Voters' Assemblies; and

45 WHEREAS, this has not radically undermined the Operating Agreement, nor the stability of the LC-C, and
46 the East District in particular; and

47 WHEREAS, the statement in the Operating Agreement Section 3a that “mutual agreement is required”
48 to “accept new member congregations located in the country of the other” recognizes that such cases
49 might come up (e.g., English District congregation in Canada expanding its ministry with a satellite
50 church; or a mission plant that wants to remain in the English District when it is recognized as a
51 congregation independent of its mother congregation; or an LC-C congregation for other than doctrinal
52 reasons decides it wants to join the LCMS), and it seems logical that for the incidental happening of such
53 events, partner church bodies as close as the LCMS and LC-C should be able to work through this;
54 therefore be it

55 *Resolved*, that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention instruct the President of Synod to
56 draft a new section 3a with the cooperation and agreement of the President of Lutheran Church-
57 Canada, also including in these discussions the East Regional Pastor of LC-C and the Presidents of the
58 English District and the SELC District, as well as appropriate staff members giving particular attention to
59 these two issues in regard to the current Operating Agreement: (1) the free movement of congregations
60 and pastors between LCMS and LC-C in both directions including those now in process, and (2) the
61 ability to plant daughter congregations or other ministries such as chaplaincies, freely by LCMS
62 churches; and be it further

63 *Resolved*, that this be done in a timely manner and that the LCMS Synodical President report to the next
64 Synodical Convention on progress in this revision; and be it further

65 *Resolved*, that the LCMS in convention reaffirm our desire to continue in good fraternal cooperation
66 between our two synods, supporting each other in times of need as well as celebration as we have done
67 over these past thirty-two years; and be it finally

68 *Resolved*, that the LCMS in convention direct LCMS congregations in Canada to do the same, through
69 such activities as preaching for one another in times of sickness or vacancy and sharing educational
70 opportunities, as together we seek to proclaim Christ Crucified and Risen for a fallen world.

1 OPERATING AGREEMENT

2 between

3 LUTHERAN CHURCH–CANADA

4 and

5 THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD

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12 **The Basis of Our Partnership**

13 Thankful to God for more than a century of work and accomplishments while The Lutheran
14 Church–Missouri Synod functioned through districts in Canada, the Lutheran Church–Canada and The
15 Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod joyfully enter into a formal partnership as two separate yet
16 interdependent bodies. We gratefully acknowledge that this partnership is deeply rooted in the Holy
17 Scripture which has produced a common bond of faith, doctrine and fellowship. Neither of us takes this
18 bond lightly, confessing together in agreement with and accepting without reservation, as we do:

- 19 a) The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule
20 and norm of faith and practice; and
21 b) All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated
22 statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles'
23 Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the
24 Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, the
25 Small Catechism of Luther and the Formula of Concord.

26 Our Confession is an unconditional commitment to the Holy Scripture as the inspired, infallible
27 and inerrant Word of God and to the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church as the correct
28 exposition of the Word of God.

29 We therefore confess boldly and zealously that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour, the Son of
30 God and the Son of Man. There is no salvation apart from Him. Our common faith and confession is
31 focused on God's atoning work in His Son, Jesus Christ, and is clearly stated in the doctrine of
32 justification by grace through faith without works. It is commitment to this article of faith as revealed in
33 the Holy Scripture that binds us together and forms the basis of our partnership.

34
35 **The Goal of Our Partnership**

36 Based on this common confession of faith, our partnership has the goal of fulfilling the mission
37 Christ has given to His church, namely, "You shall be My Witnesses...to the end of the earth." (Acts 1,8),
38 so that "every tongue may confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians
39 2,11). This goal shall be our chief endeavour. To this end, we pledge to work in partnership, utilizing the
40 resources God gives to each of our church bodies.

41
42 **The Objectives of Our Partnership**

43 In our efforts to fulfill Christ's commission, we will seek to cooperate in:

- 44 a) World mission outreach, in order that we may apply God-given talents to planning and utilizing
45 resources to bring the Gospel to the whole world;
46 b) Activities of higher education, in order to provide an adequate supply of needed full-time church
47 workers;
48 c) Efforts which address the needs of specialized ministries, in order to develop a growing church;
49 d) Programs of nurture, in order to help our respective members grow "to mature manhood"
50 (Ephesians 4,13) in their faith in Christ;

- 51 e) Programs which enable our respective members to put their faith into action, in order to
52 demonstrate genuine love and concern for all needs and conditions of people; and
53 f) Mass media and literature projects, in order to support both mission outreach and nurture in
54 cooperation with the auxiliaries and affiliates of our respective church bodies.
55

56 THEREFORE, in order that our goal and objectives may be pursued with all zeal and carried out
57 in Christian harmony, peace and joy, and in good order and decency, we agree to the following:

- 58 1. **Mutual Altar and Pulpit Fellowship.** We declare ourselves to be in altar and pulpit fellowship
59 with each other. Consequently, communicant members of member congregations of either church
60 body may freely participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion as administered at a
61 congregation of the other church body. In addition, the ordained ministers of each church body
62 may freely be invited by a congregation or other appropriate entity of the other church body to
63 lead or participate in the worship services, to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion, and
64 otherwise to engage in all activities as fully as such ministers would in the congregations and
65 other entities associated with their own church bodies.
- 66 2. **Fellowship with Other Church Bodies.** We deeply respect the fellowship and partnership we
67 have with each other in Christ. We therefore agree that each of us will consult with the other
68 before entering into fellowship or partnership with another church body or church federation. We
69 also agree, however, that each of us is finally responsible to the Lord of the church for decisions
70 taken in this matter.
- 71 3. **Membership Matters.** Each of us is a synodical union of member congregations, but which also
72 recognizes membership rights and responsibilities of ordained ministers and commissioned
73 ministers. The following describes the procedures that we have mutually agreed upon with
74 respect to member congregations and ordained and commissioned ministers who are members of
75 either church body:
- 76 a) **Congregations.** Congregations which are located in the United States may be members
77 only of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, and congregations which are located in
78 Canada may be members only of Lutheran Church–Canada except to the extent permitted
79 by this paragraph. Congregations which on May 21, 1988 were members of The Lutheran
80 Church–Missouri Synod through Synod's English District, Minnesota North District, or
81 SELC District, which do not elect to become members of Lutheran Church–Canada will
82 continue to be members of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, through their
83 respective district. Congregations which on May 21, 1988 were members of the Ontario
84 district, Alberta–British Columbia District or Manitoba and Saskatchewan District, which
85 do not elect to become members of Lutheran Church–Canada may continue to be
86 members of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod if accepted by a district of The
87 Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. However, all congregations in Canada shall be
88 regularly encouraged by The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod to join Lutheran Church–
89 Canada as soon as possible, and thereupon to sever their membership in The Lutheran
90 Church–Missouri Synod. All congregations that are members of The Lutheran Church–
91 Missouri Synod that initially or subsequently elect to become members of Lutheran
92 Church–Canada are hereby assured of a peaceful release from their membership in The
93 Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. Both church bodies acknowledge that except as set
94 forth in this paragraph, they will neither accept new member congregations located in the
95 country of the other, nor establish or recognize mission or preaching stations in the
96 country of the other, without the mutual consent of the two church bodies.
- 97 b) **Ordained and Commissioned Ministers.** The following will apply to ordained and
98 commissioned ministers as individual members.
- 99 i) Establishing individual members. Until either church body notifies the other that
100 it will cease to recognize the following procedure, any person who graduates
101 from a theological seminary or other educational institution operated by one of

102 the church bodies, and is declared eligible for a first call in that church body by
103 the faculty of that seminary or educational institution, shall be eligible to accept
104 first call from a congregation or other eligible calling entity of the other church
105 body through assignment by the Council of Presidents (acting as a Board of
106 Assignments) of that other church body. Upon ordination or commissioning, as
107 the case may be, and installation in accordance with the procedures adopted by
108 the church body in which the new member will serve, that person will thereupon
109 become a full member of that church body with all the rights and privileges, and
110 with the responsibilities, of a person who has graduated from, and been declared
111 eligible by the faculty of a seminary or educational institution of the church body
112 in which membership will be held.

113 ii) Transfers of individual members. Ordained and commissioned ministers who are
114 members of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod on May 21, 1988 may
115 transfer membership to Lutheran Church–Canada, and may subsequently again
116 transfer and retransfer membership between the church bodies, upon submitting
117 an application for such transfer to the president of the district of the church body
118 in which membership is currently held, and obtaining the concurrence of the
119 president of the district to which membership is to be transferred. Ordained and
120 commissioned ministers who become members of one of the church bodies may
121 transfer and retransfer membership upon application submitted to the president of
122 the district in which membership is currently held, according to procedures
123 established by the Council of Presidents of the two church bodies.

124 iii) Ecclesiastical supervision. Ordained and commissioned ministers shall at all
125 times be under the ecclesiastical supervision of the church body in which
126 membership is held, subject always to jurisdiction as regards its districts and
127 following procedures that may be established by that church body. An individual
128 who is a member of a church body whose membership has been suspended for
129 reasons of ecclesiastical supervision shall be ineligible for transfer while his or
130 her membership is suspended.

131 iv) Limits on transfers. An ordained or commissioned minister whose membership in
132 a church body has been terminated by resignation or by expulsion shall be
133 ineligible for transfer to the other body unless and until he or she has been
134 reinstated by the church body in which membership was last held.

135 v) Publication of rosters. Each church body will endeavour to publish in its
136 respective Annual lists of the ordained ministers and commissioned ministers
137 who are members of the other church body, in order that congregations and other
138 calling entities will have ready access to the names of ministers in the other
139 church body which they may wish to consider for calls.

140 vi) Limitations on the application of this paragraph. Both church bodies declare that
141 this paragraph 3 states their mutual agreement on handling membership matters.
142 However, they both also declare that it is not their intention or desire to establish
143 a basis for any claim of right in or on behalf of any individual member as to any
144 matter dealt with in this paragraph.

145 4. **Common Participation in Certain Meetings.** We acknowledge that common participation in
146 certain meetings will be beneficial in our mutual desires to pursue the goal and objectives referred
147 to in this Protocol Document. This will be particularly true as to meetings of the respective
148 Council of Presidents, but it may also be applied to various other boards, commissions and
149 councils. Each of us, therefore, will periodically invite representatives of the other church body to
150 such common meetings and to full participation (excluding only voting) in such meetings.

151 5. **Auxiliaries and Other Recognized Service Organizations.** Each of us expects to relate to
152 certain auxiliaries and other recognized service organizations through which mission and ministry

153 not conducted directly by us or our congregations, but which we wish to encourage, can be
154 carried out. While the standards and conditions for granting and continuing such affiliations may
155 differ because of conditions and needs that are unique to each of us, we pledge our continuing
156 best efforts to maintaining the highest level of consistency of standards and conditions for the
157 common recognition of auxiliaries and other service organizations.

158 6. **Assets and Liabilities.** We have mutually identified certain assets that are to be used exclusively
159 in connection with the mission and ministry of Lutheran Church–Canada, without regard to
160 historical factors associated with the acquisition of those assets. Those assets, and certain
161 liabilities identified with them, are described on a schedule of assets and liabilities which
162 accompanies this Protocol Document. We both hereby acknowledge that those assets, subject to
163 those liabilities, from the date of this Protocol Document, exclusively are the rights and
164 responsibilities of Lutheran Church–Canada. Any assets and liabilities not identified on that
165 schedule shall be and remain the assets and liabilities of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

166 7. **Assignment of Corporate Entities.** While The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod has
167 functioned in Canada, it has done so through certain corporate entities, some of which yet exist at
168 the date of this Protocol Document. Those entities are Lutheran Church–Canada (as an
169 administrative unit of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod); the Ontario District; the Manitoba
170 and Saskatchewan District; the Alberta–British Columbia District; Concordia Lutheran Seminary
171 and Concordia College, Edmonton; Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines;
172 and Lutheran Church Extension Fund–Missouri Synod/Canada. We agree that these corporate
173 entities (in the case of the district, after they have been "decommissioned" as districts of Synod,
174 which shall be deemed to take place on the day before the effective date of this Protocol
175 Agreement) shall, on the effective date of this Protocol Agreement, become the property of
176 Lutheran Church–Canada, to be used and/or merged, consolidated or dissolved as and when
177 determined by Lutheran Church–Canada. We understand that ownership of these corporations
178 entitles Lutheran Church–Canada to all assets and claims of assets, subject to all actual and
179 contingent liabilities, connected with those corporations on the effective date of this Protocol
180 Agreement.

181 8. **Cooperative Efforts Under Operating Agreements.** We agree to make regular and reasonable
182 efforts to cooperate in connection with acquiring goods and services which each of us needs or
183 wants in connection with our respective activities, and in distributing goods and rendering
184 services that each of us provides in connection with our respective functions. Specific
185 understandings that we may mutually achieve from time to time in connection with acquiring and
186 providing goods and services through cooperative efforts shall be the subject of "operating
187 agreements" which we may enter into and change periodically. In addition, we agree to review
188 and consider updating each operating agreement at least on three-year intervals.

189 9. **Solicitation of Funds.** We agree that those who administer both church bodies must be aware of
190 requests for funding addressed by one church to the other, or to members and entities affiliated
191 with the other. To implement this, we agree that all projects of either partner requiring funding
192 from the other partner, its districts, congregations or individual constituents will have the
193 approval of the boards of directors of both The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod and Lutheran
194 Church–Canada. We also agree that inquiries by individuals, congregations, and districts/circuits
195 addressed to either church body will be referred to the respective boards of directors for decision
196 before any solicitation of funds is initiated. We further agree that projects begun with funding
197 from sources outside both partners will not become the responsibility of either partner unless
198 agreed to by one partner or both partners during the planning stage.

199 10. **Amendments to the Protocol Document.** This Protocol Document may be modified by our
200 mutual agreement as determined from time to time by our respective boards of directors. Any
201 modification will become the subject of a written amendment signed on behalf of both of us.
202

203 We pray that the Holy Spirit will both bless and guide our joint efforts in meeting the challenges
204 placed before us by the Lord, and which are summarized in this document. God helping us, we pledge our
205 best efforts in meeting the goal and objectives of our partnership.

206
207 May 1987

Lutheran Church–Canada

208
209 By "Edwin Lehman"

210
211

212
213 The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod

214
215 By "Ralph Bohlmann"

1 **RESOLUTION 1-02**

2 *(Overture 1-02)*

3 **To Establish a Specific Ministry Pastor Program Oversight Board and**
4 **to Revise the Bylaws Governing the SMP Program**

5
6 WHEREAS, The Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program was established by 2007 Resolution 5-01B; and

7 WHEREAS, Specific ministry pastors serve the Church under supervision because their theological
8 education has been formed in part by and for a specific ministry context (Bylaw 2.13.1(b)); and

9 WHEREAS, This supervision is essential for the ministry as well as the confidence of those served and the
10 Church at large that the ministry is conducted in a manner consistent with the Holy Scriptures and the
11 pastor's unconditional subscription to the Lutheran Confessions; and

12 WHEREAS, This supervision is not a perfunctory task, but one requiring close attention to the needs of the
13 specific ministry and the conduct of that ministry; and

14 WHEREAS, Any change in ministry context is by its nature inconsistent with the purpose of the SMP
15 Program and the contextual theological education of the specific ministry; and

16 WHEREAS, It is essential that a student beginning his theological education in a specific ministry context
17 be known by the people he serves; and

18 WHEREAS, "Residential seminary education is the preferred option for the preparation of men for pastoral
19 ministry" (2019 Resolution 6-02); and

20 WHEREAS, Confidence in the SMP Program will be increased by more clarity regarding the oversight and
21 supervision of the program; therefore be it

22 *Resolved*, An "SMP Program Oversight Board" be established; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, that Bylaw 3.10.8 be inserted as follows:

24 **H. Specific Ministry Pastor Program Oversight Board**

25 3.10.8 The Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program Oversight Board shall be responsible for ensuring
26 that the specific ministry vicars and pastors are placed in ministry contexts which are
27 consistent with the intentions of the program. Specifically, it shall ensure that any placement
28 is not one which could expect to receive a candidate according to the process outlined in
29 Bylaw 2.5.

30 3.10.8.1 The SMP Program Oversight Board shall consist of the First Vice-President of the Synod as
31 chairman, the Secretary of the Synod, the Chief Mission Officer, a district president appointed
32 by the Council of Presidents, and the Executive Director of Pastoral Education.

33 3.10.8.2 The SMP Program Oversight Board shall establish and monitor the standards under which a
34 ministry and a man are suitable for a vicarage and placement in the SMP program after
35 consultation with the President of the Synod and the faculties of the seminaries.

36 (a) In consultation with the President of the Synod, it shall develop all necessary policies
37 to govern suitability of a ministry context for a specific ministry pastor and the suitability
38 for a man entering the SMP program.

39 3.10.8.2 Prior to acceptance by the Seminaries into the SMP program and initial placement as SMP
40 vicars, the SMP Program Oversight Board shall approve the placement of all vicars enrolling
41 in the SMP program.

42 (a) In order to be accepted into the SMP program and placed as a vicar, the applicant must
43 have fulfilled at least ten years of significant service in a congregation of the LCMS and
44 have been a member at the congregation in whose ministry he will serve for at least three
45 years.

46 (b) Subject to the conditions above, decisions to declare ministry contexts and applicants
47 for the SMP program suitable are at the sole discretion of the board.

48 (c) Once a ministry and applicant are declared suitable for the program, the seminary
49 admissions offices may enroll the student and the Council of Presidents may assign the
50 vicarage.

51 (d) If the board determines that the ministry and/or the applicant are not suited to the
52 purposes of the SMP program, the man shall be directed to apply to the seminaries for
53 admission in residential educational programs.

54 3.10.8.3 Prior to placing a specific ministry pastor in his first call, the SMP Program Oversight Board
55 shall review the suitability of the call according to the purposes of the program.

56 3.10.8.4 Prior to issuing a call to a specific ministry pastor who is an inactive member, the SMP Program
57 Oversight Board shall review the suitability of such a call according to the purposes of the
58 program and the specific contextual training received by the specific ministry pastor.

59 (a) The board may specify additional training needed as preparation to serve in a new
60 context.

61 and be it further

62 *Resolved*, Bylaw 3.3.2.2 be amended as follows:

63 ~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

64 3.3.2.2 The First Vice-President shall be a full-time executive and a nonvoting member of the Board
65 of Directors...

66 (d) He shall serve as the chairman of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program Oversight
67 Board.

68 and be it finally

69 *Resolved*, Bylaw 2.13.1 be amended as follows:

70 ~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

71 ***Specific Ministry Pastor Status and Limitations***

72 2.13.1 A "specific ministry pastor" is a minister of religion—ordained who has completed the
73 requirements for service as a specific ministry pastor and has been examined by one of the
74 Synod's seminaries, has received a regular call, and has been placed by the Council of
75 Presidents into a specific Word and Sacrament ministry context which has been approved by
76 the SMP Program Oversight Board. He is eligible to serve only in that specific ministry context
77 for which he has been trained and may not be offered or accept a call for ministry for which
78 he has not been certified ~~as determined by his district president.~~ He shall serve under the
79 supervision of his district president and another pastor who is not a specific ministry pastor.
80 Upon the termination of his call, a specific ministry pastor is automatically retained on the
81 roster of the Synod as an inactive member. He is not eligible for a call for at least one year
82 from the termination of the previous call. After such time, he may receive a regular call, upon
83 placement by the Council of Presidents into a specific Word and Sacrament ministry context
84 following the approval of the SMP Program Oversight Board.

85 (a) Because he is under supervision of another pastor and because a specific ministry
86 pastor's theological education has been formed in part by and for a specific ministry
87 context, he may not be placed or called into ecclesiastical roles that exercise pastoral
88 oversight outside the context of his call. An example of this is regular preaching or service
89 in a parish to which he has not been called, including during a pastoral vacancy.

90 (b) A specific ministry pastor is not eligible to

91 (1) serve as a voting delegate to a national convention of the Synod—but may serve
92 as an advisory delegate to national conventions and as a pastoral delegate to district
93 conventions;

94 (2) hold any elected or appointed office on the district or national Synod level that is
95 assigned by the Bylaws of the Synod to “a pastor” or “an ordained minister” (although
96 specific ministry pastors may serve in all other capacities, especially representing the
97 ministerial contexts in which they serve);

98 (3) supervise vicars; or

99 (4) serve as a circuit visitor.

100 (c) The ministers of religion—ordained records maintained by district presidents as well
101 as the official membership roster of the Synod shall distinguish between specific ministry
102 pastors and other pastors.

103 (d) The ministers of religion—ordained records maintained by district presidents as well
104 as the official membership roster of the Synod shall include the ordained minister under
105 whose supervision a specific ministry pastor serves.

106 (e) At any time a specific ministry pastor may continue his education through the
107 seminaries. Upon completion of the requirements and certification by a seminary he
108 shall be considered a minister of religion—ordained without the limitations above.

109 (1) His district president shall be responsible for informing the secretary of Synod of
110 the change in roster status.

111 (2) His district president shall publish this change in status in an official periodical of
112 the Synod.

113 (3) If the minister is currently an inactive member of the Synod, unless he has
114 restricted or suspended status, he shall be eligible for placement through the Council
115 of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments or become a candidate.

116 (f) When a specific ministry pastor serves within a parish which is also served by an
117 ordained minister who is not a specific ministry pastor, then that specific ministry pastor
118 shall be supervised by a pastor of that parish.

119 (g) When a specific ministry pastor serves in a parish which is not served by an ordained
120 minister who is not a specific ministry pastor then the specific ministry pastor shall be
121 supervised by an ordained minister who resides within the visitation circuit containing the
122 parish or within similar physical proximity.

123 (h) Excepting the district president, no ordained minister may supervise more than one
124 specific ministry pastor, unless it is required by Bylaw 2.13.1(f) above.

1 **RESOLUTION 1-03**

2 *(Overture 1-03)*

3

4

5

6

**To Decline Overture 1-03
(To Improve the Specific Ministry Pastor Program, p. 4-6)**

7 WHEREAS, 2022 Overture 1-03 has been received by Floor Committee 1; and

8 WHEREAS, Overture 1-03 is a copy, verbatim, of the same resolution submitted to, and acted upon, by
9 the 2018 English District in Convention; and

10 WHEREAS, 2022 Overture 1-03 was accepted as a resolution by the 2018 English District in Convention,
11 and forwarded as an Overture to the 2019 LC-MS Synodical Convention; and

12 WHEREAS, At the 2019 Synodical Convention the Overture was combined by the Floor Committee on
13 Pastoral Ministry and Seminaries (see pg. 159 in the attached 2019 LC-MS Convention Proceedings) with
14 several other Overtures of the same topic, the SMP Program; and

15 WHEREAS, The Overture was significantly changed in the process, eliminating the requirement that SMP
16 candidates complete all coursework before Ordination; and

17 WHEREAS, A motion from the floor was made to restore the eliminated language by amendment to the
18 combined Resolution; and

19 WHEREAS, Said amendment was rejected by the Synod in Convention, and the Resolution was passed
20 without it; and

21 WHEREAS, English District 2022 Convention Overture 1-02 proposes the establishment of an Oversight
22 Board for the SMP Program, satisfying many of the "resolveds" in Overture 1-03; be it therefore

23 *Resolved*, That the English District 2022 Floor Committee 1 respectfully declines consideration of
24 Overture 1-03.

1 **RESOLUTION 1-04**

2 *(Overture 1-04)*

3
4 **To Establish a National Lutheran Teacher Student Debt Assistance Program for LCMS**
5 **Commissioned Minister - Teachers**

6
7 WHEREAS, Our Lutheran Schools struggle to find rostered teachers to serve in the classrooms of our High
8 Schools, Elementary Schools, and Child Development Centers¹; and

9 WHEREAS, Research has shown that a primary reason for this is the lower salary offered for teachers
10 within the Lutheran school systems^{2,3}; and

11 WHEREAS, Concordia Plans reported in 2021 that 27% of LCMS workers have student debt that averages
12 \$46,000 per student; and

13 WHEREAS, The reality of Student Loan Debt is an important part of the decision to seek employment
14 outside the Lutheran school; and

15 WHEREAS, It is a value that we fill our schools with rostered workers⁴; therefore be it

¹ 2019 Resolution 12–02A (p. 222 of 2019 LCMS *Convention Proceedings*):

 WHEREAS, The number of new commissioned teachers has steadily declined since 2005 (Concordia University System [CUS] Board for University Education [BUE] statistics); and

 WHEREAS, The fulfillment rate of requests for first-year Synod-trained candidates to LCMS calling entities has declined from 63 percent in 2010 to 30 percent in 2018 because of the lack of available Synod-trained candidates (CUS BUE statistics);

 WHEREAS, The CUS only graduated 23 early childhood educators, 39 elementary educators, and 32 secondary educators in 2018 (CUS BUE statistics);

² Theme 8 of Office of National Mission’s “LCMS Church Worker Wellness Insights” presentation by Rev. Robert Zagore, Office of National Mission to Gospel 2019:

- ü Financial wellbeing is unique among worker needs in that the major problems are beyond the worker’s ability to change – most often the problem is that the workers are in a mathematically impossible situation
- ✓ Workers are under-paid for their skill level and workload
- ✓ Costs for health care are being pushed to the workers
- ✓ Young workers are burdened with significant student debt
- ü Many calling bodies are unable to pay their workers what is necessary
- ✓ “*The toughest work is being done in the places that can pay the least*” (i.e. dying congregations, inner-city churches, immigrant ministries, etc.)

³ 2019 R.63 - Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Lutheran Schools (p. 344-345 of 2019 LCMS *Convention Workbook*):

 Lutheran education is a noble calling, yet it is facing significant challenges. Data support a real need for synodical entities to bring resolution to indebtedness for church workers. With the im-pending retirement of many teachers and administrators coupled with the diminishing numbers of Lutheran Teacher Diploma (LTD) candidates enrolling in the Concordia University System, there is an increased sense of urgency to recruit and retain qualified young people in the Lutheran teaching ministry. The desire to enter the vocation of education is lessening due to several factors including classroom management issues, public perception of the profession and state regulations. Additionally, many students are coming out of college with significant debt and are paid salaries below recommended levels. The trendline on debt and salary must change or the teacher shortage will likely continue. Teachers and administrators are in a great position to influence current and future students about the joys and rewards of church work and need to be intentional in their efforts to help recruit new students for the Concordia University System.

⁴ 2019 Resolution 12–02A (p. 221 of 2019 LCMS *Convention Proceedings*):

 WHEREAS, the 2016 Synod Convention Res. 8-01A, “To Encourage and Strengthen the Lutheran Ethos of Our LCMS Early childhood Centers, Elementary Schools, and High Schools” specifically identified that a characteristic of a Lutheran school with a strong Lutheran ethos has “LCMS-trained Lutheran teachers...who know and are committed to the truths of the Scriptures as confessed in our Lutheran Confessions

- 16 *Resolved*, That the English District memorialize the Synod in Convention to develop a National Lutheran
17 Teacher Student Debt Assistance Program that recognizes the service of Lutheran Teachers through
18 Student Loan Debt Reduction; and be it finally
- 19 *Resolved*, That all LCMS congregations be encouraged to contribute towards a special, designated offering
20 to establish this program to be taken during the National Lutheran Schools Weeks of 2024, 2025, and
21 2026.

1 **RESOLUTION 1-05**

2 *(Overture 1-05)*

3

4 **To Exhort All Parishes to Celebrate the Mass Every Sunday Even if Civil Government Interferes**

5

6 WHEREAS, The earliest disciples of our Lord weekly devoted themselves to the Apostolic teaching and to
7 the “communion in the breaking of the bread” and to “the prayers” (*i.e.*, the Eucharistic Liturgy) every
8 Sunday (see Acts 2:42, 46); and

9 WHEREAS, This is the expressed will of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior (Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22: 18-20;
10 John 6:48-58; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26); and

11 WHEREAS, The Early Church celebrated the Mass every Sunday (Justin Martyr, First Apology 66); and

12 WHEREAS, Our Confessions explicitly proclaim that in our parishes, “we hold one communion every holy-
13 day, and, if any desire the Sacrament, also on other days, when it is given to such as ask for it. And this
14 custom is not new in the Church;” (AC Art. XXIV, 34-39); and

15 WHEREAS, Our Confessions clearly state that “the Mass is celebrated among us with greater devotion and
16 earnestness than among [the Church of Rome]” and that “such worship pleases God, and such use of the
17 Sacrament cultivated piety toward God” (AC XXIV.1; Latin Text, XXIV.8); and

18 WHEREAS, The Mass must be celebrated in person¹; and

19 WHEREAS, It is therefore the responsibility of all parish pastors to offer the blessed Sacrament of the Altar
20 every Sunday as the expressed will of our Lord, and any other day when a communicant might request it,
21 as a means of God’s grace offered to his communicants; and

22 WHEREAS, The Apostles refused to obey purported prohibitions against celebrating the Mass, even in the
23 face of persecution (Acts 5:29); and

24 WHEREAS, The Early Church refused to obey purported prohibitions against celebrating the Mass, even in
25 the face of persecution or death (Conc. The Martyrdom of St. Ignatius); and

26 WHEREAS, The Lutherans in Magdeburg withstood a year-long siege of their city (1550-1551) rather than
27 capitulate to the Augsburg Interim, the Emperor’s demand to abolish the Lutheran Mass in favor of the
28 Roman Catholic Mass²; and

29 WHEREAS, The Magdeburg Confession of 1550 sets forth the Confessional Lutheran response to
30 purported prohibitions against celebrating the Mass according to our Lutheran Confessions; and

31 WHEREAS, Contrary to the will of Christ and our Confessions, many of our parishes have abolished weekly
32 celebration of the Mass by their own uncompelled choice; and

33 WHEREAS, Contrary to the will of Christ and our Confessions, many of our parishes recently yielded to
34 demands of civil government effectively prohibiting the Mass; therefore be it

35 *Resolved*, That all parishes of the English District celebrate the Mass, otherwise known as the Divine
36 Service of Holy Communion, every single Sunday, and other days as their communicants might desire the
37 Mass; and be it further

¹ See, *e.g.*, FC SD VII, 79-82; see also, *e.g.*, the March 20, 2020, opinion of the Committee on Theology and Church Relations “Communion and COVID-19,” which cites the February 18, 2006, CTCR “Opinion Concerning DVD Consecration,” which itself cites the CTCR’s 1983 report “Theology and Practice of the Lord’s Supper”

² See, *e.g.*, *Gottesdienst* article “The Magdeburg Confession of 1550” by Rev. Larry Beane, 5 Oct. 2020

38 *Resolved*, That as a District we repent before the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for any willful neglect of this
39 supreme gift of Christ for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation; and be it further

40 *Resolved*, That all pastors be extolled to uphold their vows of ordination wherein they have sworn to
41 administer Christ in our Lord's self-giving through the Holy Gospel in the Word of the Gospel and in the
42 Gospel of Holy Communion; and be it finally

43 *Resolved*, That all parishes stand with the Apostles, the Early Church, and the Lutherans of Magdeburg in
44 refusing civil government demands that effectively prevent the Mass, and in doing so set the standard for
45 faithfulness and obedience to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ for the good of God's people and the hope
46 of the world.

1 **RESOLUTION 1-06**

2 *(Overtures 1-06, 1-07, 1-08)*

3
4 **To Restore Both Biblical Languages to the Education of Future Pastors on All Pathways**
5 **to the Office of the Holy Ministry**
6

7 WHEREAS, One of the major qualifications for a man aspiring to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry is
8 his ability to teach (1 Timothy 3:2); and

9 WHEREAS, "We believe, teach and confess that the only rule and norm according to which all teachings,
10 together with <all> teachers, should be evaluated and judged (2 Timothy 3:15-17) are the prophetic and
11 apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testament alone (FC Ep Summary 1); and

12 WHEREAS, To teach, a man in the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry should be able to understand the
13 Scripture as God breathed it out (2 Timothy 3:16); and

14 WHEREAS, The Old Testament was initially breathed out in Biblical Hebrew¹, and the New Testament in
15 Koine Greek; and

16 WHEREAS, Much in the Scriptures that points to Christ and Him-Crucified is embedded in the nuances of
17 both Biblical languages and can be lost in translation; and

18 WHEREAS, In AD 2018, the English District in Convention adopted Resolution 1-01, calling upon the LCMS
19 to require instruction in both Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek as prerequisites for admission to the Office
20 of the Holy/Public Ministry, that the English District encourage our seminaries, with synod funding, to
21 include Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek in the curricula for all of the pathways to the Office of the
22 Holy/Public Ministry, and that the English District urge our seminaries to develop continuing education
23 opportunities for all Pastors to obtain and review such training; and

24 WHEREAS, In AD 2019, the LCMS in Convention adopted Resolution 6-02, "To Promote Residential
25 Seminary Education as the Preferred Option for the Preparation of Men for Pastoral Ministry," noting in
26 the 4th "Whereas" that, "'Handling the Word of Truth' (2 Tim. 2:15) rightly requires diligent study of God's
27 Word and our Lutheran Confessions, with a foundational understanding of the original Biblical languages
28 ...", and Resolution 6-03, "To Enhance the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program," including instruction
29 in Biblical languages in the second, "Resolved," yet the residential Alternate Route programs to General
30 Pastor Roster status require the study of Greek only, and the Center for Hispanic Studies and the Ethnic
31 Immigrant Institute for Theology, also routes to General Pastor Roster status, require no study of either
32 Biblical language; therefore be it

33 *Resolved*, That the English District once again call on the LCMS to require instruction in both Biblical
34 Hebrew and Koine Greek as prerequisites in all programs leading to admission to the Office of the
35 Holy/Public Ministry; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the English District call on LCMS to encourage our seminaries, with Synod funding, to
37 include Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek in the curricula of all of the routes to the Office of the Holy/Public
38 Ministry; and be it finally

39 *Resolved*, That the English District call on LCMS to encourage our seminaries, with Synod funding, to
40 develop continuing education opportunities for all Pastors to obtain and review such training.

41 Note:

- 42 1. Small portions of the Old Testament are written in Aramaic.

1 **RESOLUTION 1-07**

2 *(Overture 1-09)*

3

4 **To Reconsider Allowing “Brain Death” Criteria for Determination of Death at End of Life**

5

6 WHEREAS, In 1981, the LCMS in convention adopted Resolution 8-05, encouraging organ donation at time
7 of death as an act of Christian love, but without binding consciences on the issue; and

8 WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that the time of death occurs when a person stops breathing (Genesis 25:8,
9 35:29; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46 and others), meaning when the heart and lungs stop; and

10 WHEREAS, Scripture is clear that God is the One who determines time of death (Genesis 6:3; Job 1:21;
11 Ecclesiastes 3:2; James 4:13-15 and others) and that when it pleases Him to call one out of this vale of
12 tears, even medical intervention will not prevent this (Matthew 6:27); and

13 WHEREAS, With the advent of organ transplantation in the 1960s, it became evident¹ that vital organs
14 removed while the heart is still beating performed better in transplant than did those removed after the
15 heart had stopped, due to damage to the latter from lack of oxygen; and

16 WHEREAS, To avoid the charge of murder on the part of the transplant team, the concept of “brain death”
17 was developed², namely, individuals being in a coma without apparent central nervous system activity
18 and deemed unlikely to survive, being considered dead, even with a still-beating heart; and

19 WHEREAS, The 1981 Uniform Declaration of Death Act, enacted in 39 American states and jurisdictions,
20 includes “brain death” as a criterion for determination of death, and others rely on, “accepted medical
21 standards,” which essentially do the same; furthermore, legislation in the Canadian province of Manitoba
22 defines death according to “brain death” criteria and in the rest of Canada the determination is left to
23 physicians who essentially do the same; and

24 WHEREAS, Individuals meeting the criteria for “brain death” often in fact do have residual brain function
25 which is not measured by the criteria for “brain death,” and “brain dead” individuals often survive long
26 after the determination has been made, even at times without mechanical support; and

27 WHEREAS, The function of other organs and tissues in the body is not dependent on the function of the
28 brain, an example being wound healing, which continues even after the determination of “brain death”;
29 furthermore, even babies in the womb at the time of determination of maternal “brain death” may be
30 carried to term; and

31 WHEREAS, The guidance on determination of “brain death” is based on opinion and not evidence, and
32 studies have shown that not all medical centers apply “brain death” criteria in a uniform manner; and

33 WHEREAS, Secular bioethicists are becoming increasingly critical of the concept of “brain death,” yet are
34 merely calling for alternative ethical frameworks within which to remove vital organs from donors with
35 still-beating hearts; and

36 WHEREAS, Techniques are emerging, which allow for the donation of vital organs following the stoppage
37 of the heart, which optimize performance in the transplant recipient; and

¹ David Rodríguez-Arias, “The Dead Donor Rule as Policy Indoctrination”, in *Hastings Center Report*, volume 48, issue 54, pages s40-s41. December 25, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hast.952>

² *Ibid.*

38 WHEREAS, The concept of “brain death” as a sole determinant of death is non-Scriptural, and use of “brain
39 death” as a criterion to remove vital organs amounts to *de-facto* euthanasia; therefore be it

40 *Resolved*, That the English District encourage members of her congregations, as they complete *Durable*
41 *Power of Attorney for Health Care* paperwork, especially those who desire to donate organs, to consider
42 specifying in writing that they wish their medical team to use the Scripture-based criterion of
43 cardiopulmonary failure to determine that their earthly lives have ended; and be it further

44 *Resolved*, That the English District call on LCMS to similarly encourage congregation members Synod-wide;
45 and be it further

46 *Resolved*, That the English District and LCMS encourage Pastors to review this issue with parishioners in
47 the course of end of life planning discussions; and be it further

48 *Resolved*, That English District and LCMS Pastors remind those who regret having allowed loved ones to
49 be declared dead solely on the basis of “brain death” criteria or having otherwise participated in the
50 process (for example, health care workers) that there is forgiveness in Jesus’ blood shed at Calvary, and
51 offer the opportunity for individual Confession and Absolution; and be it finally

52 *Resolved*, That the English District call on LCMS to establish a task force consisting of members of CTCR,
53 Seminary professors, a District President, rostered Pastors of congregations, bioethicists, health care
54 professionals and laity (with invitations to participate extended to a representative from Lutherans for
55 Life, as well as the LCMS Life Ministry), to review the issue of determination of death at greater length,
56 and report back to the 2026 Synodical Convention to include the addition of specific recommendations
57 on this to the general encouragement in the 1981 Resolution 8-05 to consider organ donation at time of
58 death.

1 **COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS AND EVANGELIZATION**

2
3 **RESOLUTION 2-01**

4 *(Overture 2-01)*

5
6 **To Affirm the Need for Open Churches During Times of Plague, Pestilence and Pandemic**

7
8 WHEREAS, God has commanded us to set aside a day to gather together to “hear and use [His] Word, and
9 then to praise [Him], to sing and to pray” (Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 149:1; Colossians
10 3:16; Hebrews 10:19-25; LC I Third Commandment 84); and

11 WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted His Supper for the forgiveness of sins, refreshment, comfort
12 and strength (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; LC V 72); and

13 WHEREAS, The Divine Service (Mass) was retained at the time of the Reformation, for the purpose of
14 hearing God’s Word, receiving the Lord’s Supper, and returning to Him our sacrifices of prayer, praise, and
15 thanksgiving (Ap XXIV 1); and

16 WHEREAS, As our Lord was physically present with His disciples at His institution of His Supper and
17 personally administered the elements to them, He calls His undershepherds, namely the men whom He
18 has called to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry, to administer His supper in person to His people (John
19 20:22-23; AC V; AC VII 1; AC XXIV 30); and

20 WHEREAS, Jesus, through Whom all was created and being one with the Father (John 1:3, 10:30; Nicene
21 Creed, 2nd Article), at the time He instituted His Supper, understood the complexities of microbiology and
22 anticipated forthcoming plagues, yet did not call for the suspension of in-person gatherings around His
23 Word and Sacraments during such times; and

24 WHEREAS, We must therefore, “never think of the Sacrament as something harmful from which we had
25 better flee, but as a pure, wholesome, comforting remedy that grants salvation and comfort” (LC V 68);
26 and

27 WHEREAS, The evil one, having been cast from heaven, is continually at war with God’s people, and in
28 times of plague, uses fear to pull them apart from each other and from the receipt of His gifts (Luke 10:18;
29 Revelation 12:10, 17; LC V 26); and

30 WHEREAS, When we gather together in person to receive God’s gifts, we are able to withstand the attacks
31 of the evil one (Ephesians 6:10-18; LC V 80-82); and

32 WHEREAS, Historically the Church has thus recognized herself as essential during times of plague, notable
33 examples including the 1527 plague at Wittenberg¹ and the 1597-98 plague at Unna²; and

34 WHEREAS, Historically, even in times of plague, pastors have brought Absolution, God’s Word and
35 Sacrament to the sick and shut-ins when they were unable to be present at church and were near death³;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, The current global outbreak of the highly contagious SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), with the
38 attendant risks of morbidity and mortality, has generated tremendous fear, moving governments around
39 the world to lockdowns and shuttering of nonessential businesses; and

40 WHEREAS, Many state governors and provincial premiers have declared the Church to be nonessential,
41 shuttering congregations, even for outdoor gatherings, while declaring some businesses, such as
42 abortion facilities and casinos, to be essential and keeping them open, is a violation of the Free Exercise
43 Clause of the First Amendment (See SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES. Case No. 20A87 ROMAN

44 CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK v. ANDREW M. CUOMO, GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK ON
 45 APPLICATION FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF [November 5, 2020]
 46 (https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20a87_4g15.pdf); and
 47 WHEREAS, Due to concerns of disease spread and lack of personal protective equipment, pastors and
 48 churches have been threatened, fined, attacked and forbidden to visit those who are hospitalized and in
 49 long-term residential care facilities; and
 50 WHEREAS, Where congregations have been allowed to remain open, pastors have tried to dictate
 51 practices regarding the administration of the Lord’s Supper that are at variance with Christ’s institution;
 52 and
 53 WHEREAS, We are to be subject to the governing authorities (Romans 13:1), yet where the authorities
 54 contradict God’s Word, we are to obey Him rather than men (Acts 5:29); therefore be it
 55 *Resolved*, That the English District call on the LCMS to affirm that weekly in-person gathering is essential
 56 for the health and well-being of God’s people; be more legally active in protecting churches and pastors;
 57 and be it further
 58 *Resolved*, That the English District call on the LCMS to affirm that where a man ordained to the Office of
 59 the Holy/Public Ministry is present and available, congregations should continue the in-person
 60 administration of the Lord’s Supper, even during times of plague; and be it further
 61 *Resolved*, That the English District call on the LCMS to affirm that congregations, using God’s gifts of
 62 science and reason, may take steps to lessen fear and risk, while not interfering with the administration
 63 of the Lord’s Supper as He instituted it; and be it further
 64 *Resolved*, That the English District call on the LCMS to affirm that the bringing of Absolution, Word and
 65 Sacrament to the sick and shut-in is essential to his/her well-being, and protective equipment should be
 66 available for the pastor as it is for the health care worker; and be it further
 67 *Resolved*, That the English District call on the LCMS to affirm that in Christian freedom (Galatians 5:1) and
 68 based on local realities, some congregations may need to temporarily and briefly suspend public
 69 gatherings, but that the deliverance of Absolution, Word and Sacrament must continue; and be it further
 70 *Resolved*, That the English District call on the LCMS to affirm that, while respecting God’s vocational calls
 71 to local political leaders and public health authorities, she strongly opposes the forced closings of
 72 congregations in times of plague, as well as the banning of contact with those hospitalized or in long-term
 73 care facilities, as a contradiction of His Word and thus outside the Divinely-ordained bounds of their
 74 offices in His Kingdom of the Left; and be it finally
 75 *Resolved*, That the English District call on the LCMS to commend the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty,
 76 for their advocacy on this and other such concerns.

77 Notes:

- 78 1. Martin Luther, *Whether One May Flee From A Deadly Plague*, at [https://blogs.lcms.org/wp-](https://blogs.lcms.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Plague-blogLW.pdf)
 79 [content/uploads/2020/03/Plague-blogLW.pdf](https://blogs.lcms.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Plague-blogLW.pdf) (accessed 5 October 2020)
- 80 2. Mark A. Preus, “Teach Us to Bear Your Blessed Cross: An Essay on Philipp Nicolai’s Joy in the
 81 Face of Death,” in Ross Edward Johnson and John T. Pless, eds. *The Mercy of God in the Cross of*
 82 *Christ: Essays on Mercy in honor of Glenn Merritt* (St. Louis: LCMS, 2016), pp. 299-307.
- 83 3. *Whether One May Flee From A Deadly Plague*. Martin Luther, *Luther’s Works, Vol. 43:*
 84 *Devotional Writings II*, ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 43
 85 (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999), 119–38.

1 **RESOLUTION 2-02**
2 *(Overtures 2-02 and 2-03)*

3

4 **To Increase Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Opportunities Throughout Synod**

5

6 WHEREAS, The Synod in Convention in the year 2019, Resolution 6-04, encouraged the pastors of
7 our Synod to attend continuing education courses every year, and

8 WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 4.8.2d requires pastors to attend two District-sponsored conferences each
9 year, and

10 WHEREAS, Historically many pastoral conferences, such as the Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference, were
11 held throughout the Synod, and

12 WHEREAS, Many other conferences are held throughout the Synod each year; therefore be it

13 *Resolved*, That those pastors who attend both District Conferences in a calendar year receive 1 CEU;
14 and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That pastoral conferences be restored where they no longer function and that those who
16 attend all meetings of these conferences during the school year receive 1 CEU; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That other conferences held throughout the Synod be allowed to apply to the proper
18 authorities, be they Seminary or Synodical office, to be able to grant 1 CEU to those who attend
19 them; and be it finally

20 *Resolved*, That Synod investigate other ways to incentivize continuing education among her pastors and
21 be mindful of a recently adopted document entitled, "Board for National Mission Policies for the Office
22 of National Mission Under The Seven Mission Priorities of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
23 Adopted October 2020".

1 **COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND STRUCTURE**

2
3 **RESOLUTION 3-01**

4 *(Overture 3-03)*

5 **To Reformat and Amend the Bylaws of the English District**

6
7 **Rationale**

8 During the past two triennia, the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
9 Synod has suggested that districts of the Synod modernize the format of their bylaws, utilizing a numbering format
10 similar to the Bylaws of the Synod (*e.g. 1.1.1.1 vs. I.A.1.a*). CCM also requests that the Bylaws state the Board of
11 Directors only supervises the District President in his non-ecclesiastical supervisory duties (*cf. 3.2[c]*). CCM has also
12 expressed confusion over the relation of 8.2 to 9.6.1(b); in response the District Secretary discovered that 8.2 had
13 been incorrectly amended between 2009 and 2012. This proposal restores the Bylaw as it was before this
14 amendment; it has the meaning that congregations and rostered church workers need not approve borrowing of
15 money or execution of mortgages, which power is delegated to the Board of Directors in 9.6.1.

16 Additionally, the Synod Secretary has suggested that Districts of the Synod consider adding a provision to District
17 Bylaws corresponding to LCMS Bylaw 7.1.2. This would deal with the specific circumstance when the Synod
18 Convention modifies the Constitution or Bylaws of the Synod in such a way that District Bylaws must be adjusted,
19 generally in an obvious way, into compliance (*cf. proposed Article 12.2*).

20 Further review of the Bylaws of the District by the Board of Directors has identified where the requirements for
21 regional selections of district officers conflicts with the requirements outlined by Synod Bylaw Section 4.3. This
22 necessitates amending the Bylaws of the District to reflect the requirements established by the Synod. (*cf. 3.3b,*
23 *5.3.1, 5.3.1.c, 5.4.1.b, and 5.5.1.c*.)

24 The Board of Directors also believes that language should be added to the Bylaws of the District that definitively
25 states the District’s relationship to the Synod as defined by the Synod Bylaws. This would be a new first article to be
26 added to the Bylaws of the District (*cf. proposed Article 1.0*).

27 Proposed language that is completely new to the Bylaws will be presented in underlined font.

28 Therefore be it

29 *Resolved*, That the English District meeting in convention adopt the following reformatted and amended bylaws:

30
31 **THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**
32 **ENGLISH DISTRICT**

33
34 **BYLAWS**

35
36 *Adopted in Convention: June 15, 1997*

37 *Revisions Adopted in Convention: June 20, 2009*

38 *Revised at request of Synod by Board of Directors: August 2011; May 2012*

39 *Revisions Adopted in Convention: June 29, 2012*

40 *Revisions Adopted in Convention: June 20, 2015*

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42 *Revisions and Reformatting Adopted in Convention: June 20, 2022*

43
44 **PREAMBLE**

45
46 In 1872 an initial conference of English-speaking Lutherans was held in Gravelton, Missouri. In 1888 the English
47 Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri was organized and in 1911 was invited to join the German Evangelical
48 Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States as the English Mission District. An agreement dated May 15, 1911,
49 in Saint Louis, Missouri (*Delegatensynod von Missouri, Ohio u.a. St., 1911, pp. 31-35*) made the English District

50 official. Because of this origin the English District is unique among the districts of the Synod (Denver Convention
51 *Proceedings*, 1969, Resolution 5-15).

52

53 Since the English District is a district of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, the Constitution of the Synod is also
54 the Constitution of the District. Also, the Bylaws of the Synod are primarily the Bylaws of the District. The District's
55 objectives are as stated in Article III of the Synod's Constitution:

56 The Synod, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, shall—

- 57 1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3–6; 1 Cor. 1:10), work through its official structure
58 toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a united defense against schism,
59 sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;
- 60 2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work
61 of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;
- 62 3. Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their
63 continuing growth;
- 64 4. Provide opportunities through which its members may express their Christian concern, love, and
65 compassion in meeting human needs;
- 66 5. Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish
67 agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools and to support synodical
68 colleges, universities, and seminaries;
- 69 6. Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting,
70 expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;
- 71 7. Encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an appreciation of
72 a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith;
- 73 8. Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers, and other professional church
74 workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties;
- 75 9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of
76 their official duties and the maintenance of their rights;
- 77 10. Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their families in the
78 event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death.

79 Thus in the light of the Synod's objectives, the mission of the English District is to seize every opportunity to serve
80 the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, the whole Church in the whole world, and the whole person in the whole society,
81 and in fulfillment of this mission, it shall seek to utilize its unique character to:

- 82 1. Assist congregations of the District in their ministries to their own communities with their own
83 characteristics and needs;
- 84 2. Serve as a progressive element in the church body, both in applying the Gospel to new and changing
85 situations and in demonstrating concern about community problems and ecumenical opportunities;
- 86 3. Begin new churches and support new ministries with particular emphasis on openness to new challenges;
- 87 4. Assist in the revitalization of existing congregations and ministries;
- 88 5. Assist ministries in communities that are changing;
- 89 6. Focus on special, ethnic, urban and campus ministries;
- 90 7. Support mission initiatives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
- 91 8. Support life-long educational ministries within the District; and
- 92 9. Provide opportunities and avenues for congregations and their members to live out their love for God
93 through the Christian stewardship of their time, talents and treasures.

- 94 1.0 **RELATIONSHIP TO THE SYNOD**
- 95 1.1 The Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod establish and define the relationship
96 of the District to the Synod.
- 97 1.2 All provisions of the District's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the provisions of the
98 Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the Synod in convention.
- 99 1.3 In the event of dissolution of the District other than by direction from the Synod in convention, the assets
100 of the District, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred, consistent with applicable state and federal laws,
101 in the manner prescribed by the Bylaws of the Synod.
- 102
- 103 2.0 **RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE DISTRICT**
- 104 2.1 The congregations of the District shall exercise their authority through delegate convention which shall
105 consist of all duly certified delegates from member congregations, as defined in Synod Bylaw Section 4.2ff.
- 106 2.2 The District shall exercise its authority in harmony with the goals and directives of the Synod and under the
107 guidance of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.
- 108
- 109 2.3 The District shall delegate its authority as hereinafter prescribed. The exercise of such delegated authority
110 shall always be subject to review by the District.
- 111
- 112 3.0 **ADMINISTRATION**
- 113 3.1 The District shall establish an organizational structure for the effective operation of its programs and
114 conduct of its affairs which shall include the District Convention, the officers of the District, the Board of
115 Directors, and such other staff and personnel as that Board may deem necessary and appropriate.
- 116 3.2 The administration of the affairs shall be conducted on three levels:
- 117 (a) The District Convention, which shall consist of the District at large through its delegates in convention
118 assembled, and shall be the governing body of the District subject to the Constitution, Bylaws, and
119 Resolutions of Synod, and to these Bylaws.
- 120 (b) The Officers of the District, who shall have primary responsibility for the implementation of decisions
121 of the District Convention and the Board of Directors.
- 122 (c) The Board of Directors elected by the District Convention, which serves as the legal representative of
123 the District and the custodian of all property of the District. Between conventions, the Board shall
124 provide for implementation within the District of the decisions of the Synod and District conventions,
125 establish and review policy, determine general priorities, approve program budgets, allocate necessary
126 funds for the support of the Synod and District budgets, review program performance, make provisions
127 for necessary staff, and review the performance of the District President in his non-ecclesiastical
128 supervisory duties. It shall report its activities to the Convention.
- 129 3.3 For purposes of conferences and elections requiring regional representation, the District shall be divided
130 into four regions: Eastern, Lake Erie, Midwestern, and Western:
- 131 (a) The President and Vice-Presidents of the District and the Board of Directors acting jointly shall
132 determine the membership of the four regions 24 months prior to Conventions of the District.
- 133 (b) For purposes of regional elections, ~~individuals will be considered a part of the geographical region in~~
134 ~~which they reside.~~ individuals must meet the regional eligibility requirements outlined within Synod
135 Bylaw Section 4.3.
- 136 3.4 Dispute Reconcilers shall be chosen in such manner and exercise such jurisdiction as provided by Synod
137 Bylaw 1.10ff.
- 138 3.5 A Committee on Nominations shall be elected at each Convention to prepare the ballot for the next
139 Convention. One minister of religion—ordained and one minister of religion—commissioned or layperson

- 140 by name from each of the four regions of the District shall be elected. The Committee shall organize itself
141 as outlined in the District's *Corporate Operations Manual*.
- 142 3.6 A Committee for Stewardship shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to comply with the stewardship
143 programs and goals of the Synod, as required by Synod Bylaw 4.6.1.
- 144
- 145 **4.0 OFFICERS & STAFF**
- 146 4.1 The officers of the District are:
- 147 1. A President
- 148 2. One Vice-President from each of the four regions of the District, in line of succession, as prescribed by
149 these Bylaws.
- 150 3. A Secretary
- 151 4. A Treasurer, a layperson appointed by the Board of Directors
- 152 5. A Circuit Visitor for each Circuit established by the District
- 153 4.2 The duties of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Circuit Visitors are described in the
154 Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and these Bylaws.
- 155 4.3 The Vice-Presidents shall advise the President, serve as his representatives, and assist him in bringing to the
156 Board of Directors any needed recommendations.
- 157 4.4 All Executive Assistants and Staff shall be directly accountable to the President.
- 158
- 159 **5.0 ELECTIONS**
- 160
- 161 **5.1 *Terms of Office and Tenure***
- 162 5.1.1 Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for Stewardship, and
163 Circuit Visitors shall serve for a term of three years.
- 164 5.1.2 A person's tenure in the same office or function shall be limited to four (4) consecutive full three-year terms.
165 These persons may be elected to their previous office or function after an interval of no less than three (3)
166 years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an interval of no less than two (2) years.
- 167 **5.2 *Nomination and Election of District President***
- 168 5.2.1 Each member congregation of the District shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod
169 two (2) ordained ministers as candidates for District President:
- 170 (a) Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to
171 the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.
- 172 (b) Nominations for District President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months prior
173 to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook* the names
174 and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received nominating votes.
- 175 (c) The names of the five (5) ordained ministers who receive the highest number of nominating votes and
176 consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall be no opportunity provided for
177 additional nominations.
- 178 (d) The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience
179 and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be published and
180 distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.
- 181 5.2.2 The District Convention shall elect the District President:
- 182 (a) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

- 183 (b) Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from
184 consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.
- 185 **5.3 *Nomination and Election of District Vice-Presidents***
- 186 5.3.1 Each member congregation of a region of the District shall be entitled to nominate two (2) ordained
187 ministers from the clergy roster of the District ~~with residence in its designated region~~ who hold membership
188 in a District congregation within its region as candidates for Vice-President:
- 189 (a) Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to
190 the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.
- 191 (b) Nominations for Vice-President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months prior to
192 the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook* the names
193 and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received nominating votes.
- 194 (c) The names of the three (3) ordained ministers ~~residing within the boundaries of~~ from each region who
195 receive the most nominating votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall
196 be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.
- 197 (d) The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience
198 and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be published and
199 distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.
- 200 5.3.2 The District Convention shall elect one (1) Vice-President from each of the four regions of the District:
- 201 (a) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
- 202 (b) Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from
203 consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.
- 204 5.3.3 Upon the election of the Vice-Presidents, a final election will take place ranking the Vice-Presidents by
205 separate ballots with a simple majority of voting delegates determining the first, second, third, and fourth
206 Vice-Presidents in line of succession.
- 207 **5.4 *Nomination and Election of Board of Directors***
- 208 5.4.1 Six months prior to the opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter
209 soliciting names from the officers of the District and the congregational and individual members of the
210 District, along with the laypersons of the congregations of the District:
- 211 (a) All suggested names shall be submitted to the Committee on Nominations no later than four months
212 prior to the opening date of the Convention.
- 213 (b) All nominees for a particular regional position ~~must reside~~ shall be members of District congregations
214 within the boundaries of the region for which they are nominated.
- 215 (c) All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered to be nominees.
- 216 (d) The Committee on Nominations shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's
217 experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning the individual's candidacy. These shall
218 be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.
- 219 5.4.2 The Committee on Nominations shall select at least two (2) candidates and at least one (1) alternate for
220 each position.
- 221 5.4.3 The District Convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor:
- 222 (a) Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate at the District Convention. The delegate
223 making such nomination must present the District Secretary written consent of the person whose name
224 is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the convention that the nominee is able and willing to
225 serve if elected.
- 226 (b) Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the District Convention for approval before
227 being added to the ballot.

- 228 5.4.4 The District Convention shall elect one (1) ordained minister from the Eastern or Lake Erie Region, one (1)
 229 ordained minister from the Midwestern or Western Region, two (2) commissioned ministers, and one (1)
 230 layperson from each of the four regions of the District:
- 231 (a) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
- 232 (b) Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from
 233 consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.
- 234 5.4.5 The District Convention shall elect two (2) laypersons as at-large members of the Board of Directors:
- 235 (a) All candidates not elected to a Lay Regional Board of Director positions shall form the ballot for the
 236 Lay At-Large Board of Directors positions.
- 237 (b) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
- 238 (c) When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest
 239 votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the
 240 ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case
 241 the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot.
- 242 **5.5 *Nomination and Election of District Secretary, Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers,***
 243 ***and Other Boards or Committees***
- 244 5.5.1 The Committee on Nominations shall select candidates for District Secretary, Committee on Nominations,
 245 Endowment Fund Managers, and other Boards or Committees. At least two (2) candidates and at least one
 246 (1) alternate shall be selected for each position:
- 247 (a) Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter
 248 soliciting names from the officers of the District and the congregational and individual members of the
 249 District, along with the laypersons of the congregations of the District.
- 250 (b) All suggested names shall be submitted to the Committee on Nominations no later than four months
 251 prior to the opening date of the Convention.
- 252 (c) All nominees for a particular regional position ~~must reside~~ shall be members of District congregations
 253 within the boundaries of the region for which they are nominated.
- 254 (d) All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered to be nominees.
- 255 (e) The Committee on Nominations shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's
 256 experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning the individual's candidacy. These shall
 257 be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.
- 258 5.5.2 The District Convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor:
- 259 (a) Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate at the District Convention. The delegate
 260 making such nomination must present the District Secretary written consent of the person whose name
 261 is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the convention that the nominee is able and willing to
 262 serve if elected.
- 263 (b) Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the District Convention for approval before
 264 being added to the ballot.
- 265 5.5.3 Election of these offices shall take place at the District Convention:
- 266 (a) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
- 267 (b) When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes
 268 and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot,
 269 unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three
 270 highest candidates shall constitute the ballot.
 271

- 272 **6.0 VACANCIES**
- 273 **6.1 *Office of District President***
- 274 6.1.1 In the event that the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve in that capacity
275 because of prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of the office of President shall be
276 performed by the 1st Vice-President, and the 1st Vice-President shall remain as the Acting President until
277 the Board determines such illness or disability has been removed, the President resigns or dies, or the Board
278 determines that the illness or disability is permanent.
- 279 6.1.2 In the event that the office of President becomes vacant because of the resignation, death or permanent
280 disability of the President, the 1st Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President and shall serve until
281 the next Convention. The successor need not terminate his current position while completing the unexpired
282 term.
- 283 6.1.3 Any Vice-President, who by the terms of this Article succeeds to the office of President, may decline such
284 office, in which event:
- 285 (a) The next ranking Vice-President shall become President of the District.
- 286 (b) All other Vice-Presidents shall move up one rank.
- 287 (c) The declining Vice-President shall fill the last ranking vacant Vice-Presidency.
- 288 6.1.4 In the event that all Vice-Presidents decline the office of President, the ranking of the Vice-Presidents shall
289 remain unchanged, and the 1st Vice-President shall serve as Acting President until the next convention,
290 when a President shall be elected. He need not leave his current position while serving as Acting President.
- 291 **6.2 *Other Elected Positions***
- 292 6.2.1 A vacancy in the Vice-Presidents shall be filled by appointment by the District President, in consultation
293 with the Circuit Visitors within that the region.
- 294 6.2.2 Vacancies that occur in the office of Circuit Visitor between conventions shall be filled by appointment by
295 the District President.
- 296 6.2.3 A vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the voting members of the Board, in consultation with
297 the Committee on Nominations.
- 298 6.2.4 A vacancy on the Committee on Nominations shall be filled by voting members of the Board of Directors,
299 in consultation with the Committee on Nominations.
- 300
- 301 6.2.5 Vacancies that occur in the office of District Endowment Fund Manager shall be filled:
- 302 (a) A vacancy in any regional manager position shall be filled by appointment by the District President,
303 subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- 304 (b) A vacancy in the Canadian representative position shall be filled by appointment by the Canada
305 Corporation.
- 306 6.2.6 Persons appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors or other elected or appointed positions shall
307 serve until successors have been elected by the Convention or appointed under the terms of the bylaws.
- 308
- 309 **7.0 DISTRICT CONFERENCES, CIRCUIT FORUMS, AND CIRCUIT CONVOCATIONS**
- 310
- 311 7.1 The President shall confer with the Board of Directors to arrange for the official conferences of the ordained
312 and commissioned ministers of the District:
- 313 (a) There shall be a plenary conference held annually for all ordained and commissioned ministers. In years
314 when District Conventions are held, the plenary conference may be postponed at the discretion of the
315 President and the Board of Directors.
- 316 (b) There shall be a conference for ordained ministers held annually in each of the four regions of the
317 District.

- 318 (c) There shall be at least one conference for commissioned ministers held during each triennium.
319
- 320 7.2 Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their Circuit Visitors to select their Circuit Visitors and conduct other
321 business no later than the time established by the District. They shall follow the procedures stated in Synod
322 Bylaws 5.2.2 and 5.3.
323
- 324 7.3 The Circuit Visitor and any other officers of the circuit shall have the primary responsibility of preparing the
325 agenda for the Circuit Convocation, following the procedures stated in Synod Bylaw 5.4.
- 326
- 327 **8.0 POWERS**
328
- 329 8.1 The District shall have legal powers as follows:
- 330 (a) To purchase, acquire, hold, administer, sell, transfer, mortgage and convey property of every
331 description, both personal and real, in the interest of the District.
- 332 (b) To accept, hold, administer, sell, transfer and convey legacies, gifts, donations, commercial papers and
333 legal documents of every description in the performance of its work.
- 334 (c) To delegate to the Board of Directors who shall exercise the aforementioned powers. No individual or
335 officer of the District shall have the power to usurp this authority.
- 336 8.2 No action on the part of the members of the ~~District Board of Directors~~ shall be prerequisite to the
337 borrowing of money or the execution of any mortgage upon ~~personalty~~ ~~personality~~ or realty.
338
- 339 8.3 There shall be no shares of stock issued in connection with the District.
- 340
- 341 **9.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
342
- 343 **9.1 *Membership and Composition***
- 344 9.1.1 The Board of Directors shall have no more than fifteen (15) voting members, as follows:
- 345 (a) The President of the District
- 346 (b) The Secretary of the District
- 347 (c) Two (2) ministers of religion—ordained, one of whom shall be elected from either the Eastern Region
348 or Lake Erie Region and one whom shall be elected from either the Midwestern Region or Western
349 Region
- 350 (d) Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned
- 351 (e) One (1) layperson elected from each of the four regions of the District.
- 352 (f) Two (2) laypersons elected from the District at large
- 353 (g) Up to three (3) at-large laypersons appointed by the elected voting members of the Board of Directors
354 to obtain needed additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.)
- 355 9.1.2 The Board of Directors shall have six (6) non-voting members:
- 356 (a) The Vice-Presidents of the District
- 357 (b) The Treasurer of the District
- 358 (c) The Chairman of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Canada Corporation)
- 359 9.1.3 The Board shall elect its own chair and vice-chair from among the voting members of the Board after each
360 convention. The President and Secretary shall be ineligible to be elected as chair or vice-chair.
- 361 9.1.4 Each Board member shall avoid conflicts of interest and shall disclose to the Board chair any potential
362 conflicts of interest, as defined in Synod Bylaw 1.5.2.

- 363 9.1.5 Members of the Board of Directors may be removed for cause, as defined in Synod Bylaw 1.5.8.
- 364 9.1.6 No member of the Board of Directors shall receive remuneration (beyond allowable reimbursement) for
365 service on the Board.
- 366 **9.2 Powers and Duties**
- 367 9.2.1 The Board of Directors shall have such powers and duties as are accorded to it by the Constitution, Bylaws,
368 Articles of Incorporation, resolutions, and policies of the Synod, as well as those of the District. Subject to
369 such limitations, it shall operate within the applicable federal and state laws.
- 370 9.2.2 The Board's chief responsibility is developing and amending policy.
- 371 9.2.3 The Board shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business and legal
372 affairs and shall adopt policies and require procedures which assure that said management and supervision
373 is affected.
- 374 9.2.4 In fulfilling its functions and in coordinating its work with the Synod, the Board shall be guided generally by
375 the functions of the Board of Directors of the Synod as defined in Synod Bylaw 3.3.4ff as these apply to
376 districts.
- 377 9.2.5 Between Conventions it shall provide for implementation within the District of the decisions of the Synod
378 and District Conventions and allocate necessary funds for the support of the Synod and District budgets.
- 379 9.2.6 The Board of Directors shall report at each Convention.
- 380 9.2.7 The Board of Directors shall conduct, supervise, and manage all affairs of the District not otherwise
381 assigned.
- 382 **9.3 Meetings**
- 383 9.3.1 Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least four (4) times a year at such time and place
384 as the Board shall determine.
- 385 9.3.2 Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or upon request of seven (7)
386 board members at any time, by means of written or email notice, at least three (3) days in advance of the
387 time, place and purpose thereof to each director.
- 388 9.3.3 Meetings of the Board of Directors may be conducted electronically, using audio, video, or internet-based
389 conferencing technologies:
- 390 (a) In such cases, the technology must allow for each Board member to fully participate (hear, speak, have
391 or been given access to documents and other materials as appropriate), including the opportunity to
392 vote.
- 393 (b) Board members must be given a reasonable opportunity to access the electronic meeting. If a Board
394 member does not have access to the technology to be used, arrangements will be made for the
395 member to participate in person by coming to the District Office or other mutually agreed upon
396 location.
- 397 (c) Any Board member listening or watching shall acknowledge their presence to the meeting. These
398 names along with the attending Board members shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 399 9.3.4 A majority of voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any properly called or scheduled
400 meeting.
- 401 9.3.5 The Chair may authorize a Board member to participate in meetings of the Board by use of electronic
402 technology described in Bylaw 8.3.3. Such participation by a Board member shall be considered as being
403 present for the sake of establishing a quorum.
- 404 9.3.6 In situations where board members are not able to meet as described above, the Board of Directors may
405 take action by use of electronic ballot (i.e., e-mail, internet-based voting, etc.), provided all voting members
406 of the board cast a vote and the result of the voting is unanimous.

- 407 9.3.7 Minutes shall be kept of all meetings that record a summary of the major points of discussion and any
408 action(s) taken.
- 409 **9.4 Appointment of Officers and Agents**
- 410 9.4.1 The Board of Directors shall have power to appoint such other officers and agents as the Board may deem
411 necessary for the transaction of the business of the District.
- 412 9.4.2 The Board of Directors may require any officer or agent to file with the District a satisfactory fidelity bond.
- 413 **9.5 Execution of Instruments**
- 414 9.5.1 All checks, drafts, and orders for payment of money shall be signed in the name of the District and may be
415 countersigned by such officers or agents as the Board of Directors designates for that purpose or by the
416 Treasurer alone.
- 417 9.5.2 When the execution of any contract, conveyance or other instrument has been authorized without
418 specification of the executing officers, the President and the Secretary may execute the same in the name
419 of and on behalf of the District and may affix the corporate seal thereto. The Board of Directors shall have
420 power to designate the officers and agents who shall have authority to execute any instrument on behalf
421 of the District.
- 422 **9.6 Borrowing Authority**
- 423 9.6.1 The Board of Directors shall act on behalf of the District to borrow money the Board deems necessary and
424 appropriate:
- 425 (a) In such case the Board may authorize the proper officers of the District to make, execute and deliver
426 in the name of and on behalf of the District such notes, bonds and other evidence of indebtedness as
427 the Board should deem proper.
- 428 (b) The Board shall have full power to mortgage the property of the District, or any part thereof, as security
429 for such indebtedness, and no action on the part of the membership of the District shall be requisite to
430 the validity of any such note, bond, evidence of indebtedness or mortgage.
- 431 **9.7 Annual Budgetary Responsibilities**
- 432 9.7.1 The Board of Directors shall establish the annual District budget.
- 433 9.7.2 The Board of Directors shall establish the salary of the District President on an annual basis.
- 434 **9.8 District Corporate Operations Manual**
- 435 9.8.1 The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain the District's *Corporate Operations Manual* and shall
436 approve appropriate modifications.
- 437 9.8.2 Only the District in Convention shall have the power to amend the *Corporate Operations Manual* with
438 respect to sections dealing with the election of officers and the Board.
- 439 9.8.3 Modifications to the *Corporate Operations Manual* approved by the Board to any other sections shall be
440 reported at the next Convention.
- 441
- 442 **10.0 ENGLISH DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND**
- 443 10.1 The District shall establish and maintain an endowment fund, providing a stewardship opportunity for
444 congregations and their members and a resource for the support of District and Synod ministries. (The
445 structure and operation of the fund is described in the English District *Corporate Operations Manual*.)
- 446
- 447 10.2 The Board of Directors shall exercise oversight for the English District Endowment Fund (EDEF):
- 448 (a) The Board shall ensure that the EDEF Board of Managers reports on its work at least annually to the
449 Board.
- 450 (b) The Board shall elect one of its voting members to serve on the EDEF Board of Managers.
- 451

- 452 11.0 CONFLICTS
453
454 11.1 No article of the Bylaws of the District shall be valid which conflicts with the Constitution and Bylaws of the
455 Synod.
- 456 11.2 Any matter, rule or regulation not specifically herein contained in the Bylaws shall be governed by
457 comparable provision in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
- 458
- 459 12.0 AMENDMENTS
460
- 461 12.1 Changes, additions, and alterations to the Bylaws may be made by Conventions of the District:
- 462 (a) They shall not conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws of the Synod.
- 463 (b) They shall be separately considered and acted upon by the Board of Directors.
- 464 (c) They shall be submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod for review and
465 approval prior to consideration by a District convention.
- 466 (d) They shall be presented in writing to the District in convention.
- 467 (e) They shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting.
- 468
- 469 12.2 When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by
470 a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendments to the District Bylaws may be made by a two-thirds
471 majority of the District Board of Directors. Such amendments shall be drafted by the District Secretary and
472 shall be reviewed in advance by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod.

1 **RESOLUTION 3-02**

2 *(Overtures 3-01 and 3-02)*

3
4 **To Amend English District Bylaw 5.1 to Remove Term Limits**

5
6 *The numeric references to the District Bylaws used in this resolution assume favorable adoption of the*
7 *District Bylaw reformatting proposed in Resolution 3-01. If that reformatting proposal is not adopted,*
8 *this resolution will be withdrawn and a revised resolution will be presented to the delegates by the Floor*
9 *Committee.*

10
11 WHEREAS, The members of the English District must elect individuals for service as District officers (Synod
12 Bylaw 4.3.1), members of a Board of Directors (Synod Bylaw 4.5.1), members of a Committee on
13 Nominations (Synod Bylaw 4.7.2), and Circuit Visitors (Synod Bylaw 5.2.2); and

14
15 WHEREAS, Limitation of tenure for its elected officers may be determined by the English District (Synod
16 Bylaw 4.7.5); and

17
18 WHEREAS, Twenty-three of the thirty-five districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have no term
19 limits for the District President; and

20
21 WHEREAS, The current four-term limit for the District President can deter individuals from offering
22 themselves for service in that office; and

23
24 WHEREAS, Uniformity in limitation of tenure for elected officers, board, and committee members is the
25 current agreed practice within the English District; therefore be it

26
27 *Resolved*, That the English District determine that its President and all elected officers, board, and
28 committee members be made eligible to serve consecutively in the same office or function without term
29 limits; and be it further

30
31 *Resolved*, that Bylaw 5.1 of the English District be so amended:

32
33 **5.1 Terms of Office and Tenure**

34 5.1.1 Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for
35 Stewardship, and Circuit Visitors shall serve for a term of three years.

36 5.1.2 A person's tenure in the same office or function shall not be limited, ~~to four (4) consecutive full~~
37 ~~three year terms. These persons may be elected to their previous office or function after an~~
38 ~~interval of no less than three (3) years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an interval~~
39 ~~of no less than two (2) years.~~

40
41 And be it finally

42
43 *Resolved*, that any amendments to Bylaw 5.1 be implemented subsequent to the election of the District
44 President, officers, board and committee members at the fifty-seventh Convention of the English District
45 in 2022.

1 **RESOLUTION 3-03**

2 *(Overture 3-04)*

3 **To Amend District Bylaws 5.2 and 5.3**

4
5 *The numeric references to the District Bylaws used in this resolution assume favorable adoption of the*
6 *District Bylaw reformatting proposed in Resolution 3-01. If that reformatting proposal is not adopted,*
7 *this resolution will be withdrawn and a revised resolution will be presented to the delegates by the Floor*
8 *Committee.*

9
10 WHEREAS, The current District Bylaws anticipate having multiple candidates for District President (*cf.*
11 *Bylaw 5.2.1*) and District Vice-President (*cf. Bylaw 5.3.1*); and

12
13 WHEREAS, Recent elections for District President and Vice-President have seen slates of nominees
14 without multiple candidates, leaving no choice for voting delegates; and

15
16 WHEREAS, Between the close of the nominations process and the election at the district convention,
17 circumstances may dictate that a nominee is no longer eligible to stand for election (eg. taking a call
18 outside of the region or the district, etc.) thus leaving voting delegates no option to nominate additional
19 candidates; and

20
21 WHEREAS, Other Districts within the Synod grant the ability of voting delegates to make floor nominations
22 where multiple candidates do not exist for District President and/or Vice-President; and

23
24 WHEREAS, No specific guidance is given in the current District Bylaws in case there is a tie for the final
25 places on the ballot for District President and Vice-President; therefore be it

26
27 *Resolved*, That District Bylaws 5.2 and 5.3 be amended as follows:

28
29 ***5.2 Nomination and Election of District President***

30 5.2.1 Each member congregation of the District shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster
31 of the Synod two (2) ordained ministers as candidates for District President:

32 (a) Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall
33 send a letter to the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to
34 submit nominations.

35 (b) Nominations for District President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four
36 months prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the
37 *Convention Workbook* the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received
38 nominating votes.

39 (c) The names of the five (5) ordained ministers who receive the highest number of nominating
40 votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. When a tie occurs for the last
41 place(s) on the ballot, all names involved in the tie shall be included. ~~There shall be no~~
42 opportunity provided for additional nominations.

43 (d) The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's
44 experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall
45 be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the
46 convention.

47 (e) No nominations may be made on the floor of the convention unless fewer than two
48 candidates result from the congregation nominating process. Written consent and
49 biographical materials shall be presented to the District Secretary at or before the time of

50 nomination. If the opportunity for floor nominations is provided and results in having
51 fewer than two candidates, the slate of candidates shall be closed.

- 52
53 5.2.2 The District Convention shall elect the District President:
54 (a) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
55 (b) Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated
56 from consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be
57 declared elected.
58

59 **5.3 Nomination and Election of District Vice-Presidents**

- 60 5.3.1 Each member congregation of a region of the District shall be entitled to nominate two (2)
61 ordained ministers from the clergy roster of the District who hold membership in a District
62 congregation within its region as candidates for Vice-President:
63 (a) Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall
64 send a letter to the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to
65 submit nominations.
66 (b) Nominations for Vice-President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four
67 months prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the
68 *Convention Workbook* the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received
69 nominating votes.
70 (c) The names of the three (3) ordained ministers from each region who receive the most
71 nominating votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. When a tie occurs
72 for the last place(s) on the ballot, all names involved in the tie shall be included. There
73 shall be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.
74 (d) The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's
75 experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall
76 be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the
77 convention.
78 (e) No nominations may be made on the floor of the convention unless fewer than two
79 candidates result from the congregation nominating process. Written consent and
80 biographical materials shall be presented to the District Secretary at or before the time of
81 nomination. If the opportunity for floor nominations is provided and results in having
82 fewer than two candidates, the slate of candidates shall be closed.

- 83
84
85 5.3.2 The District Convention shall elect one (1) Vice-President from each of the four regions of the
86 District:
87 (a) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
88 (b) Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated
89 from consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be
90 declared elected.
91
92 5.3.3 Upon the election of the Vice-Presidents, a final election will take place ranking the Vice-
93 Presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority of voting delegates determining the first,
94 second, third, and fourth Vice-Presidents in line of succession.

1 **RESOLUTION 3-04**
2 *(Overture 3-05 and 3-06)*

3
4
5

To Restrict Synod Conventions on Sundays

6 WHEREAS, Our congregations hold services every Sunday morning, and

7 WHEREAS, God our Father encourages us to sanctify the holy day by hearing God's Word, and

8 WHEREAS, Synod Conventions are a wonderful time for delegates to learn about the congregations in the
9 vicinity of the Convention and for area congregations to learn more about Synod and be supported by
10 their fellow Missouri Synod Lutherans, therefore be it

11 *Resolved*, That Synod Conventions be not scheduled in session on Sundays before 2:00 p.m., and be it
12 finally

13 *Resolved*, That Convention delegates be encouraged to visit the LCMS congregations in the region of the
14 Convention.

1 **COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES**

2

3 **RESOLUTION 4-01**

4 *(Overture 4-01)*

5

6 **To Memorialize the LCMS to Have the Next Available Convention of Synod in Detroit, Michigan**

7

8 WHEREAS, Detroit, Michigan, has not hosted a Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
9 since 1965; and

10 WHEREAS, Since the Pittsburgh Convention in 1992 Synod has deemed it wise to move the triennial
11 Convention of Synod to various cities across the United States, assuming competitive rates for hotels,
12 travel, and convention sites, and thus helping create a deeper appreciation for our Synod and her
13 faithful, biblical, doctrinal stances, confession, and practices; and

14 WHEREAS, The Detroit metropolitan area has an historically large LCMS population and has notable
15 historic congregations, cemeteries, and history, as well as nearby Concordia University-Ann Arbor, and is
16 a major international airport and a hub of Delta Air Lines; and

17 WHEREAS, The Michigan District and English District have headquarter buildings in the nearby area, and
18 our partner synod, The Lutheran Church-Canada, has a concentration of congregations in Ontario and
19 just across the Detroit River in Windsor and nearby counties; and

20 WHEREAS, The Michigan and English Districts could team together in hosting the Convention; and,

21 WHEREAS, Significant Lutheran heritage and sight-seeing is available in relatively-close Frankenmuth,
22 Michigan, as well as in Dearborn (Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village) and other cultural and
23 sports amenities; and

24 WHEREAS, The Detroit metro area is a huge mission field, a highly multi-ethnic milieu, and one of the
25 largest Black concentrations in the nation at a time when it would be wise for the LCMS to show her
26 support of the Black community, in particular; and

27 WHEREAS, The Detroit metro area is also home to a huge mission field of Arabic and Islamic peoples
28 who need to hear the Gospel of life and salvation in Jesus Christ; and

29 WHEREAS, The Detroit area congregations, schools, pastors, and church workers have demonstrated a
30 high level of confessional witness and missionary support (one of the OIM Regional Director families is
31 from Windsor, ON, and a member of a Detroit congregation); therefore, be it

32 *Resolved*, That the English District memorialize the 2023 Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church—
33 Missouri Synod to hold a regular convention in Detroit, Michigan as soon as possible.

1 **RESOLUTION 4-02**

2 *(Overture 4-02)*

3

4 **To Recognize and Thank the LCMS for the Strengthened and Expanded “Soldiers of the Cross”**
5 **COVID-19 Response Initiative**

6

7 WHEREAS, The Pandemic of 2020 shuttered schools in the middle of the school year, furloughed workers
8 and caused others to pivot towards a digital presence for which they were unprepared; and

9 WHEREAS, Many of our teachers and school workers were without the additional tuition or budget income
10 needed to support the immediate response to the transition and additional regulations that were placed
11 upon them through the Centers for Disease Control and the Executive orders of local, state, and national
12 government; and

13 WHEREAS, The need for compassionate support and financial assistance was great; and

14 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)
15 worked together to identify funds for immediate assistance for all who served in Lutheran ministries; and

16 WHEREAS, Many of our school and child development workers who were both rostered and lay benefited
17 from this generous act of compassion; and

18 WHEREAS, As of August 2021 more than \$1,577,835 was awarded to 939 workers; therefore be it

19 *Resolved*, That on behalf of the workers of our Lutheran churches, schools, and centers, the English District
20 in Convention publicly thank God for the generosity of His people, the LCMS and the LCEF for supporting
21 all who serve in our schools and child care centers.

1 **RESOLUTION 4-03**
2 *(Overtures 4-03, 4-04, 4-05, 4-06)*

3
4
5
6

**To Direct LCMS Life Ministry to Support Congregations in Developing
Mercy Ministries to Promote a Culture of Life**

7 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has long supported the pro-life movement, both
8 politically and culturally; and

9 WHEREAS, There are many pro-life organizations whose primary purpose is to inform people on pro-life
10 issues and engage them in the political process; and

11 WHEREAS, The duplication of these services wastes precious time and resources; and

12 WHEREAS establishing a culture of life begins in our churches and communities; therefore be it

13 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the Life Ministry of The
14 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be directed to support congregations in establishing new mercy
15 ministries that support a culture of life; and be it finally

16 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the Life Ministry of The
17 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be directed to establish support and training material for the
18 aforementioned ministries to write grants to support their efforts.

2022 ENGLISH DISTRICT NOMINATION REPORT

District President

Synod Bylaw 4.3.1 requires the election of a District President by each District:

A president shall be elected from the clergy roster of the Synod by each district. Two or more vice-presidents, a secretary, and a circuit visitor for each circuit established by the district shall be elected from the clergy roster of the district. In the case of regional selections, nominees shall be from the clergy roster of the district with membership in a congregation in the designated region. (This shall also be the case for all other regional selections.)

Synod Bylaw 4.7.1 permits Districts to develop their own nominating process in harmony with the provisions of the Synod Bylaws:

Each district may adopt regulations for the nomination and election of its president; the nomination, selection, election, ranking, and succession in case of vacancies of its vice-presidents; and the nomination or selection of any regional officers or regional board of directors members, as long as these provisions do not conflict with the Bylaws of the Synod.

District Bylaw IV.B outlines the process that the English District has established for the nomination and election of its District President:

B. Nomination and Election of District President

1. Each member congregation of the District shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod two (2) ordained ministers as candidates for District President.
2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.
3. Nominations for District President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook* the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received nominating votes.
4. The names of the five (5) ordained ministers who receive the highest number of nominating votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.
5. The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.
6. The District Convention shall elect the District President.
 - a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
 - b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.

Following this nominating process, each congregation of the English District had opportunity to nominate two members of the ordained clergy roster of the Synod to serve as District President. Fifty-six (56) congregations submitted District President nominating ballots that were received by the February 20, 2022 deadline (*Eastern Region – 17; Lake Erie Region – 20; Midwestern Region – 10; Western Region – 9*).

Individuals nominated for District President are listed below by the number of nominations each received:

Jamison Hardy	53
Daniel Grams	3
Jeffrey Miskus	3
Martin Erhardt	2
David Petersen	2
Thomas Eggebrecht	1
Christopher Esget	1
Matthew Harrison	1
Daniel Lepley	1
Robert Rogers	1
Christopher Seifferlein	1
Douglas Spittel	1
Luke Zimmerman	1

The slate of candidates for District President is limited to the five (5) individuals who receive the highest number of nominating votes and consent to stand for election. Of the thirteen (13) individuals receiving nominations, one (1) consented to stand for election. No floor nominations are permitted for this office.

The following ordained ministers, listed in alphabetical order, are the candidates for District President:

Jamison Hardy

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy

College/University: Concordia, Mequon
Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne
Grad School: Walden University
Other Degrees: Walden University

Grad Yr/Degree: 1996/BS-Ed
Grad Yr/Degree: 2000/MDiv
Grad Yr/Degree: 2009/MPA
Grad Yr/Degree: 2012/DBA

Congregations Served:

Our Savior, Hartland, MI	Year(s): 2020-present
Peace, McMurray, PA	Year(s): 2008-2020
Our Savior, Pittsburgh, PA (became Peace, merger)	Year(s): 2000-2008
Hope, Upper St. Clair, PA (became Peace, merger)	Year(s): 2000-2008

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: District President (2015-Present); Vice President Eastern Region (2009-2015); Board of Directors; Circuit Visitor/Counselor, Pittsburgh Circuit; Vice President/Treasurer, Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference; Mission Action Council, Eastern Region of Eastern District; 30 Year Mission Study Committee; Chairman, District Convention Floor Committee #1 on Structure; District Nominations Committee

Synod: LCMS World Relief & Human Care - Kenya, South Africa, Sudan; Convention Delegate (2004, 2010, 2016); Vice Chair, Committee #11 on Structure for Synod Convention; Vice Chair, Committee #3 on Structure; Vice Chair, Task Force Future Seminary Education; Council of Presidents

Other (church, community, etc.): LFCU Board of Directors (2018-present); Board of Directors, Concordia Lutheran Ministries (CLM); Chairman, Personnel Committee, CLM; Co-chair, Fire Relief Committee, CLM; Executive Committee, CLM; Chairman, Pittsburgh Reformation Rally; President, Mt. Lebanon, Lions Club; President and Vice President, McMurray Rotary Club; Board of Directors, District 14b Lions Club International; Non-profit Caucus Pennsylvania State Senate; Board of Directors, Elected Member of the School Board of Directors for Peters Township, PA; Wrestling coach; Youth Commission, Charente County Committee

Experience with Policy-Based Governance Boards: I have worked with policy-based governance as a member of the board of directors of the English District. Additionally, I have studied policy-based governance as a doctoral student in business administration.

It is with humility that I consent to the nomination as Bishop/President. I have been truly blessed these last seven years to serve the Lord of the Church in this manner as Bishop/President. I am amazed daily at the caliber of our lay leaders and fellow brothers in the ministry. Over the last two years specifically, I have witnessed many examples of faithfulness and courage in the face of potential disaster and difficulty. As was asked in the scriptures, "Whom shall I send," many have stood tall and said, "Here am I Lord; send me." I, too, stand ready as the master has need of workers to go out in the harvest field and labor for the sake of the Gospel. I look forward with great joy at the opportunity to serve the English District now and into the future.

2022 ENGLISH DISTRICT NOMINATION REPORT

District Vice-President

Synod Bylaw 4.3.1 requires the election of Vice-Presidents by each District:

A president shall be elected from the clergy roster of the Synod by each district. Two or more vice-presidents, a secretary, and a circuit visitor for each circuit established by the district shall be elected from the clergy roster of the district. In the case of regional selections, nominees shall be from the clergy roster of the district with membership in a congregation in the designated region. (This shall also be the case for all other regional selections.)

Synod Bylaw 4.7.1 permits Districts to develop their own nominating process in harmony with the provisions of the Synod Bylaws:

Each district may adopt regulations for the nomination and election of its president; the nomination, selection, election, ranking, and succession in case of vacancies of its vice-presidents; and the nomination or selection of any regional officers or regional board of directors members, as long as these provisions do not conflict with the Bylaws of the Synod.

District Bylaw IV.C outlines the process that the English District has established for the nomination and election of its District Vice-Presidents:

- C. Nomination and Election of District Vice-Presidents
 1. Each member congregation of a region of the District shall be entitled to nominate two (2) ordained ministers from the clergy roster of the District with residence in its designated region as candidates for Vice-President.*
 2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.
 3. Nominations for Vice-President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook* the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received nominating votes.
 4. The names of the three (3) ordained ministers residing within the boundaries of each region who receive the most nominating votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates.* There shall be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.
 5. The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.
 6. The District Convention shall elect one (1) Vice-President from each of the four regions of the District.
 - a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
 - b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.
 7. Upon the election of the Vice-Presidents, a final election will take place ranking the Vice-Presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority of voting delegates determining the first, second, third, and fourth Vice-Presidents in line of succession.

(The regional residency requirement of District Bylaw IV.C.1 and IV.C.4 adopted in 2018 was superseded by the congregational membership requirement of Synod Bylaw 4.3.1 adopted in 2019, which has been applied to the nomination and election process.)*

Following this nominating process, each congregation of the English District had opportunity to nominate two members of the ordained clergy roster of the District holding congregational membership within its region to serve as District Vice-President. Fifty (50) congregations submitted qualifying District Vice-President nominating ballots that were received by the February 20, 2022 deadline (*Eastern Region – 16; Lake Erie Region – 19; Midwestern Region – 8; Western Region – 7*).

Individuals receiving qualifying nominations for District Vice-President are listed below by District Region and the number of nominations each received:

<u>Eastern Region</u>		<u>Lake Erie Region</u>	
Douglas Spittel	8	Jeffrey Miskus	13
Eric Andrae	3	Daniel Grams	8
Robert Kieselowsky	3	Justin Laughridge	1
Martin Erhardt	1	Derek Mathers	1
Christopher Esget	1		
David Miller	1	<u>Midwestern Region</u>	
Gordon Naumann	1	Robert Rogers	8
Christopher Seifferlein	1	Anthony Oliphant	1
Larry Vogel	1		
Brian Westgate	1	<u>Western Region</u>	
		Todd Arnold	6
		Michael Morehouse	2

The slate of candidates for District Vice-President is limited to the three (3) ordained ministers from each region who receive the highest number of nominating votes and consent to stand for election. No floor nominations are permitted for this office.

The nominating process for Midwestern Region Vice-President and Western Region Vice-President led to fewer than three individuals receiving nominating votes in both regions. This results in having fewer than three (3) candidates appear on the ballot for those two elections.

The following ordained ministers, listed in alphabetical order by District Region, are the candidates for District Vice-President:

<u>Eastern Region</u>	<u>Midwestern Region</u>
Martin Erhardt	Robert Rogers
Robert Kieselowsky	
Douglas Spittel	<u>Western Region</u>
	Todd Arnold
<u>Lake Erie Region</u>	Michael Morehouse
Daniel Grams	
Justin Laughridge	
Jeffrey Miskus	

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – EASTERN REGION

The Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt

College/Univ.: Valparaiso University

Grad Yr/Degree: 1996/BS-Chem/Econ

Seminary: Princeton Theol. Seminary/LCMS colloquy

Grad Yr/Degree: 2010/M.Div.

Other Degrees: Univ. of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign

Grad Yr/Degree: 2001/Ph.D.-Chem

Congregations Served:

Messiah, Princeton, NJ

Year(s): 2011-Present

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, 2015-Present

Other (church, community, etc.): Lutheran Chaplain, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ (2011-Present)

Statement concerning candidacy: *Concluding seven years as a circuit visitor, I look forward to devoting myself more fully to my parish and local campus ministry, but I value the English District and am willing to serve as a vice-president if elected.*

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – EASTERN REGION (cont.)

The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

College/Univ.: Philadelphia Biblical Univ
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne
Other Degrees: Univ. of Virginia
Other: Jerusalem University

Grad Yr/Degree: 2000/BS-Biblical Studies
Grad Yr/Degree: 2011/M.Div.
Grad Yr/Degree: 2007/M.Ed.
1998/Semester abroad

Congregations Served:

St. John, Springfield, PA	Year(s): 2012-Present
Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, Exec. Dir.	Year(s): 2012-Present
Immanuel, Alexandria, VA (Headmaster)	Year(s): 2010-2012
Trinity Christian School, Fairfax, VA (HS teacher)	Year(s): 2002-2007

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Mission Council (2018-Present); Circuit Visitor (2015-2018 and 2019-Present); Chairman, Committee on Nominations (2018-Present); Traveled to Hong Kong and China with Bishop Hardy and Mission Executive Derek Mathers (2016)

LCMS: Vicarage Supervisor (2016-Present)

Other (church, community, etc.): Bible study volunteer, Philadelphia Federal Detention Center; Vice President, Homeowners Association

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Helped establish two new congregations in Philadelphia; Assisted in the colloquy process of several men; Assisted Ethiopian, Indonesian and Korean congregations in their partnership with the English District; Taught high school history for five years at an interdenominational school which introduced me to Christians from a number of different backgrounds; Served on several school committees, assisted other teachers with educational technology issues, and coached the varsity baseball team.

Prior service on a board of directors: I serve on the board of directors for Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries as Executive Director. I served on the church council and was school board chairman as a layman at Immanuel Lutheran Church (Alexandria, VA) prior to enrolling at the seminary.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I have really enjoyed my time in the English District and appreciate the gracious support of district leadership. I am happy to serve the district in any way I can. I would consider it a true honor to participate in the work of the district in a greater way.*

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – EASTERN REGION (cont.)

The Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel

College/Univ.: Concordia College, Ann Arbor
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne
Other Degrees: Pittsburgh Theol. Seminary

Grad Yr/Degree: 1986/BA
Grad Yr/Degree: 1990/M.Div.
Grad Yr/Degree: 2007/D.Min.

Congregations Served:

First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA
Holy Cross, Pittsburgh, PA (Mission)
John Huss, Arnold, PA

Year(s): 1998-Present
Year(s): 2017-Present
Year(s): 1990-1998

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, Eastern District (2009-2012, 2013-2016); Circuit Secretary, Central Circuit, SELC District (1994-1997)

LCMS: President, Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (LCMS RSO) (2019-Present); Board of Directors, Concordia Lutheran Ministries (LCMS RSO) (2013-2019); Treasurer, Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (LCMS RSO) (2016-2018); Executive Board, Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference (LCMS) (1991-Present)

Other (church, community, etc.): Scout Leader, Boy Scouts of America - Troop, District, and Council Levels (2000-2013); Committee Member, Three Rivers Rowing Association (2015-2016)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Published journal articles including several in Concordia Theological Quarterly; Initiated and overseen mission outreaches to Hispanics, universities, Blind community, Deaf community, the homeless and marginally housed populations; Chief missionary and pastor for Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel, our mission church in the Hazelwood neighborhood of Pittsburgh

Prior service on a board of directors: I have served on several Boards of Directors. While serving on the board at Concordia Lutheran Ministries, I served as the chairman of the personnel committee and nominating committee as well as serving on the foundation board, strategic planning committee, and CEO succession committee. During my tenure with Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries, we have started a new endowment fund, a new missions grant fund, and I have overseen our governance committee as we updated our articles of incorporation and by-laws as well as the renewal of our RSO status with the LCMS.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I will give to the English District that which God has given me - a love for Jesus, His Word and Sacraments, and those for whom Christ died. I offer my 32 years of pastoral knowledge in the care of souls, mission planting, Gospel outreach, funding, and management to assist our District congregations and Church workers in their various callings and locations. Our English District is a wonderful gift to the Church. By God's grace I will do all that I am able to help the District flourish in spreading the Good News of Jesus.*

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – LAKE ERIE REGION

The Rev. Daniel Grams

College/Univ.: Concordia, Ann Arbor

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Other: Notre Dame

Grad Yr/Degree: 1998/BA-Religious Studies

Grad Yr/Degree: 2002/M.Div.

Masters-Non-profit Admin.

Congregations Served:

Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI

St. Paul, Luxemburg, WI

Holy Trinity, Garfield, NJ

Trinity, Palo Alto, CA (Vicarage)

Year(s): 2013-Present

Year(s): 2010-2013

Year(s): 2002-2010

Year(s): 2000-2001

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, English District (2015-Present); Circuit Visitor, SELC District (2009-2010); Chair, English District Committee on Constitutions and Membership; English District Evangelization Committee; SELC District Nominations Committee, Outreach Committee; Michigan District Nominations Committee; NJ District LWML Zone Counselor

Synod: Convention Delegate (1998, 2016); Floor Committee Member

Other (church, community, etc.): Board member, Care Net Pregnancy Information Center of Berkley/Detroit; Interim Principal, St. Paul Lutheran School, Luxemburg, WI; Fire Department Chaplain, Garfield, NJ; Board member, Loaves & Fishes Interfaith Food Pantry, Garfield, NJ

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Instructor - Concordia Lutheran Institute on the Holy Ministry South Sudan; Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission Foro participant

Prior service on a board of directors: Care Net Pregnancy Center Board – Board Secretary, Development Committee (2014-Present); Executive Masters of Non-profit Administration (Board Relations, Fund Development, Financial Management, Legal Issues, types of courses.)

Statement concerning candidacy: *It would be an honor to work alongside our President/Bishop in support of his vision for our district. The Regional Vice President supports pastors and congregations as together we navigate the turbulent context in which we find ourselves called to preach the Word, administer the Sacraments, and care for all people. It is important that church leaders understand the anxieties many congregations are experiencing and assist them in planning for sustainable ministry in the future.*

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – LAKE ERIE REGION (cont.)

The Rev. Justin Laughridge

College/Univ.: Concordia University, River Forest
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Grad Yr/Degree: 2004/BA-Sec. Ed.
Grad Yr/Degree: 2008/M.Div.

Congregations Served:

St. Luke, Toronto, ON

Year(s): 2019-Present

Morning Star, Lakeside, CA

Year(s): 2015-2019

Crossroads, San Diego, CA

Year(s): 2014-2019

First, El Cajon, CA

Year(s): 2008-2014

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Missions Council Chairperson (2015-Present); Missions Council Member (2013-2015); Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission FORO Representative (2016-Present); Floor Committee Member for District Convention (2012, 2015, 2018); Convention Pastoral Delegate (2009, 2012, 2015, 2018)

Synod: Convention Pastoral Delegate (2016)

Other (church, community, etc.): Youth Basketball Coach (2008-2011); Cub Scout Den Leader (2016-2019); Willowdale Community Leaders Summit (2020); Willowdale Community Parks Committee Member (2020-Present); Finch P.S. Parent Council Officer (2021-Present)

Statement concerning candidacy: *I am truly honoured to receive this nomination and, if elected, would serve faithfully to the best of my abilities. One of the greatest strengths of the English District is her ability to share the Gospel faithfully across many different contexts -- in large cities and small towns, and among people of many different backgrounds and cultures. I am thankful for the opportunity to support and equip that mission in any way that I can.*

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – LAKE ERIE REGION (cont.)

The Rev. Jeffrey Miskus

College/Univ.: University of Windsor

Grad Yr/Degree: 1990/BA-Psychology

Seminary: Concordia Luth. Theol. Sem., St. Catharines

Grad Yr/Degree: 1994/M.Div.-Exegetics

Congregations Served:

St. Mark, Mississauga, ON

Year(s): 2000-Present

St. John's, Warman, SK

Year(s): 1994-2000

Peace, Martensville, SK

Year(s): 1994-2000

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: 1st Vice President of English District (2016-Present); 4th Vice President of English District (2014-2016); Circuit Visitor (2002-2010); Secretary-Canada Corporation Board of Directors (CCEF) (2010-Present); Chair, Lake Erie Regions Annual Church Workers Conference (2015-Present); Chair, English District's Virtual Gala 2021 "Thy Strong Word" and 2022 "Rooted in Christ"

Synod: EIIT Mentor (2012-2016); SMP Mentor (2013-2017)

Other (church, community, etc.): Community Fun Fair Board Member (raising funds for 2 Christian food banks in the city of Mississauga) (2012-2022); past soccer and hockey coach; Chair, charity dinner for flood relief in Mozambique

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications:

As Vice President I have ordained and installed pastors in our district at the request of our Bishop and have visited and counselled congregations and pastors at the request of our Bishop. I've been honoured to preach and teach at our district's conferences and was blessed to serve as an EIIT Mentor from 2012-2016 and an SMP Mentor from 2013-2017. As VP I am a non-voting member of the English District Board of Directors (2014-Present) and have faithfully attended the quarterly meetings since becoming a VP in 2014.

Prior service on a board of directors: Member/Secretary, Board of Directors of Canada Corporation (Canadian Church Extension Fund) which manages the investments made to the fund, sets interests rates, and considers loan requests from congregations in Canada seeking to borrow funds for capital projects. Vice President of the English District - Advisory Member of the English District Board of Directors. This board directs the President/Bishop in his ministry and oversight of the English District.

Statement concerning candidacy: *It has been an honor to serve our beloved English District as 1st Vice President over the past 4 years. I'm always ready and prepared to stand in for our Bishop/President should that need arise. I thank our Lord Jesus for the opportunity he has given me to serve you as a District since 2014. I am excited to continue to serve the Lord's Church in these capacities if that is our Lord's good and gracious will.*

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – MIDWEST REGION

The Rev. Robert Rogers

College/Univ.: Concordia University Texas
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Grad Yr/Degree: 1986/BA-Communications
Grad Yr/Degree: 1990/M.Div.

Congregations Served:

Trinity, Villa Park, IL
Our Savior, Louisville, KY
Messiah, Seattle, WA

Year(s): 2004-Present

Year(s): 2002-2004

Year(s): 1990-2002

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Midwest Regional Vice President (2014-Present); Circuit Visitor; Northwest District - Board of Youth Ministry; Olympic Zone Counselor, LWML

Synod: Convention Pastoral Delegate (2007)

Other (church, community, etc.): District Representative and Trustee, Lutheran Child and Family Services of IL; Police Chaplain, Villa Park Police Department

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Graduate work in Pastoral Counseling at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary (2003-04); CPE Baptist East Hospital, Louisville, KY (2003); Currently pursuing a D.Min. from Institute of Lutheran Theology, Brookings, S.D. (2018-Present)

Statement concerning candidacy: *I have gladly served the Lord as the English District Midwest Vice-President since 2014 and will continue doing my best for the congregations and pastors of the Midwest Region.*

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – WESTERN REGION

The Rev. Todd Arnold

College/Univ.: North Central College

Grad Yr/Degree: 1979/BA-Chem/Biology

Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Grad Yr/Degree: 1996/M.Div.

Other: Advanced pastoral studies, San Francisco Theol. Seminary

Congregations Served:

Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ

Year(s): 2016-Present

West Portal Church and School, San Francisco, CA

Year(s): 2008-2016

Shepherd of the Pines, Payson, AZ

Year(s): 1996-2008

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Vice President-Western Region (2015-Present); Board of Directors (2015-Present); Western Regional Fall Pastors Conference host committee & host church

Synod: Circuit Coordinator, *Ablaze*; Convention Delegate

Other (church, community, etc.): Alpha Pregnancy Center (SF) Board of Directors (served one term as president); New Beginnings Crisis Pregnancy Center (Payson) Board of Directors (served one term as president)

Prior service on a board of directors: English District Board of Directors; New Beginnings CPC Board of Directors, Payson, AZ; Alpha Pregnancy Center Board of Directors, San Francisco, CA - I was on both of these boards for several years and served as Chairman of both for one term; Bridgemont High School, San Francisco School Board

Statement concerning candidacy: *I have served as pastor in three of the region's circuits. It has been an honor and a joy serving these past 7 years as the Western Region V.P. representing the circuits of the region. I'd be happy to do so for three more years.*

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – WESTERN REGION (cont.)

The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse

College/Univ.: Adrian College
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne
Grad. Sch./Sem.: Trinity Ev. Div. School

Grad Yr/Degree: 1987/BBA-Mgmt/German
Grad Yr/Degree: 1998/M.Div.-History
Grad Yr/Degree: 2017/D.Min./Pastoral Min.

Congregations Served:

Catalina, Tucson, AZ
US Army/ARNG/Brigade Chaplain

Year(s): 1998-Present
Year(s): 1999-2006

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, Arizona South Circuit (2018-Present); University of Arizona Campus Christian Center Board of Directors (2007-2018)

Synod: Operation Barnabas Advisory Group (2007-Present); Vicar Supervisor, CTSFW (Full-time 2014-Present; Summers 2000 & 2001); Board of Regents, Concordia University, Irvine, CA, (2010-2016)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Army National Guard Officer, Command and Leadership positions (1985-1998); Chaplain, Saddlebrooke Rotary (1999-2004) AZ South Lutheran Servanthood School Instructor (1999-Present); Planned and officiated LCMS Veterans' Day Services for community (2007-2019, 2021)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Self-employed financial advisor, Series 7, Series 3, Series 6 licensed (1989-1996); Management and bookkeeping experience (1980-1987)

Prior service on a board of directors: Vice-President, U of AZ Campus Christian Center Board of Directors; Board of Regents, Concordia University Irvine and Academic Course Review Committee

Statement concerning candidacy: *I am willing to let my name stand for any English District position for which I have been nominated. I am Christ's servant to His Church and am honored to serve Him in roles that benefit His Church, the Body of Christ.*

2022-2025 Circuit Visitor Election Report

Synod Bylaw 5.2.2 establishes the process by which Circuit Visitors are selected for each Visitation Circuit within the Synod:

5.2.2 The circuit visitor shall hold his position by virtue of his selection by the circuit forum and ratification by the district convention.

(a) Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their circuit visitors to select their circuit visitors no later than the time established by the district. When in-person meetings are burdensome (e.g., geographically large circuits), a circuit may select another manner of meeting (e.g., e-meeting technologies) that is suitable and made available to all participants, taking into consideration the need to provide for an open and fair exchange of ideas and secure, private, and confidential voting.

(b) Prior to the day of the circuit forum, nominations for candidates for the office of circuit visitor may be submitted by a voting congregation of the circuit and suggested by the district president, in consultation with the praesidium of the district.

(c) Each circuit may adopt procedures and methods that will insure efficiency and accuracy, including the use of mechanical, electronic, or other methods of casting, recording, or tabulating votes. The privilege of voting shall be exercised by the representatives from each member congregation of the circuit, who shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by the congregation (Bylaw 5.3.2).

(d) All nominated pastors serving congregations and emeriti pastors whose names were nominated prior to the day of the circuit forum shall be eligible for election in accordance with section 4.3 of these Bylaws.

(1) Following presentations of pertinent information regarding each pastor as listed in Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (c) and circuit visitor responsibilities as provided hereafter in this bylaw, each voter shall submit the names of two pastors on the initial ballot.

(2) The three pastors (or more in case of a tie vote) who receive the highest number of votes in this preliminary ballot shall be placed on the next ballot. Each voter shall vote for only one candidate.

(3) Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one pastor shall have received a simple majority of all votes cast, who shall be declared the nominee.

(e) Immediately following the circuit forum, the circuit visitor shall report in writing the results of the selection process to the secretary of the district in preparation for ratification by the district convention.

(f) In the event that a circuit visitor has not been selected by a circuit forum or has been selected but is no longer available to serve, thus resulting in no circuit visitor selection being included on the convention slate of circuit visitors for a circuit, the district president shall make the selection, which selection shall then be included on the convention slate of circuit visitors.

(g) The convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment.

(h) The convention shall then ratify the slate of circuit visitors, which ratification shall constitute election.

A February 20, 2022 deadline was set for Circuit Forums to be held by each Visitation Circuit. Thirteen (13) circuits submitted results of elections. Where Circuits did not hold elections, an election of a Circuit Visitor did not occur, or no report was submitted, the District President selected the Circuit Visitor, as prescribed in Synod Bylaw 5.2.2(f).

The following is the slate of Circuit Visitors to be ratified at the District Convention:

Circuit 1 - New York/New Jersey

Rev. Gordon Naumann

Circuit 13 - Western Michigan

Rev. Peter Burfeind

Circuit 2 - Philadelphia

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

Circuit 14 - Indiana

Rev. Chad Trouten

Circuit 3 - Florida

Rev. William Douthwaite, III

Circuit 15 - Chicago-North

Rev. Anthony Oliphant

Circuit 4 - Georgia

Rev. David Miller

Circuit 16 - Chicago-South

Rev. Doug Hoag

Circuit 5 - Buffalo

Rev. Dwayne Hendricks

Circuit 17 - Milwaukee

Rev. Fred Reaman

Circuit 6 - Pittsburgh

Rev. Brian Westgate

Circuit 18 - St. Louis

Rev. Jonathan Gruen

Circuit 7 - Canada-East

Rev. Dr. Terry Hursh

Circuit 19 - Arizona-North

Rev. Steven Resner

Circuit 8 - Canada-West

Rev. James Leistico

Circuit 20 - Arizona-South

Rev. Dr. John Stieve

Circuit 9 - Cleveland-Akron

Rev. Jonathan McCall

Circuit 21 - Nevada/Utah

Rev. Arthur Drehman

Circuit 10 - Cleveland

Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer

Circuit 22 - San Diego

Rev. James Huenink

Circuit 11 - Detroit-South

Rev. Bradford Scott

Circuit 23 - Los Angeles

Rev. Robert Dargatz

Circuit 12 - Detroit-North

Rev. Timothy Holzerland

Circuit 24 - San Francisco

Rev. Curtis Binz

2022 ENGLISH DISTRICT NOMINATION REPORT
Secretary, Board of Directors, Endowment Fund Board of Managers,
and Committee on Nominations

Each District of the Synod is required to elect a Secretary (Synod Bylaw 4.3.1), a Board of Directors (Synod Bylaw 4.5.1), and a Committee on Nominations (Synod Bylaw 4.7.2). These requirements are fulfilled by the District, as it elects a Secretary from the clergy roster of the District; a Board of Directors with ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, and laypersons elected from each region or combination of regions (District Bylaw VIII.A); and a Committee on Nominations with ordained ministers and commissioned ministers or laypersons elected from each region (District Bylaw II.E).

Additionally, Districts may elect other officers, boards, and commissions as are required for execution of the business of the District (Synod Constitution XII.4). Using that authority, the English District has established a Board of Managers for its Endowment Fund. Managers are elected from each region (Endowment Fund Governing Documents 5.3.1).

Synod Bylaw 4.7.1 permits Districts to develop their own nominating process in harmony with the provisions of the Synod Bylaws:

Each district may adopt regulations for the nomination and election of its president; the nomination, selection, election, ranking, and succession in case of vacancies of its vice-presidents; and the nomination or selection of any regional officers or regional board of directors members, as long as these provisions do not conflict with the Bylaws of the Synod.

The nominating process for the Board of Directors is outlined in District Bylaw IV.D; the nominating process for District Secretary, Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers, and Other Boards or Committees is outlined in District Bylaw IV.E. Following those processes, congregations of the District, members of the District, and members of District congregations had opportunity to nominate individuals for election as Secretary, Directors of the District, members of the Committee on Nominations, and Managers of the Endowment Fund (District Bylaw IV.D.1; District Bylaw IV.E.2). This process began in September 2020; the deadline for submitting nominations was February 20, 2022 (District Bylaw IV.D.2; District Bylaw IV.E.3).

Nominations received were submitted to the Committee on Nominations for it to review and prepare a slate of candidates for election by the Convention Delegates. The slate of candidates prepared by the Committee on Nominations and their biographical statements, grouped by office, are listed on the following pages. The slate of candidates can be amended by the Convention, following the procedure for floor nominations established by District Bylaws IV.D.7 and IV.E.7.

CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY

Rev. Luke Zimmerman

The Rev. Luke Zimmerman

College/Univ.: Central Michigan University
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: 1999/BS-Geography & Pol. Sci.
Grad Yr/Degree: 2003/M.Div.-Historical Theol.

Congregations Served:

Calvary, Mechanicsburg, PA
St. John's, Casey, IA/Zion, Dexter, IA

Year(s): 2008-Present

Year(s): 2004-2008

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District – Secretary (2015-Present); Committee on Constitutions (2009-2015);
Committee on Nominations (2015); Philadelphia Circuit Visitor (2014)

Synod: Delegate, Synod Convention, 2007, 2010, 2013; 2016 Res. 11-10 LCMS Task Force on
Nominations & Elections

Other (church, community, etc.): Hampden Township, PA Election Poll Worker (2020–Present); Board of
Directors, Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries (2014-2017); LWML Zone Pastoral Counselor (2006-2008,
2018-2021); Contributing Author - *Concordia Pulpit Resources*; Contributor - *Treasury of Daily Prayer*;
Regular Guest – KFUE-AM Morning Show (“His Time”/“Sharper Iron”)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Historical Theology Department Assistant, Concordia
Theological Seminary (2003-2004 Academic Year).

Prior service on a board of directors: I have served on the English District Board of Directors, a policy-
based governance board, as its Secretary for two terms. I also have past experience as a member of a
Board of Directors for Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, an LCMS-affiliated RSO.

Statement concerning candidacy: *The English District has given me the privilege to serve as its Secretary since 2015. If the convention delegates believe that they should entrust that role and its duties to me for another term, I will gladly serve our District and its congregations in that way. If not, I will offer my assistance to whomever is elected.*

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ORDAINED (Eastern/Lake Erie)

Rev. Peter Burfeind
Rev. Daniel Grams
Rev. Robert Kieselowsky
Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel
Rev. Luke Zimmerman

ORDAINED (Midwestern/Western)

Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse
Rev. Dr. David Petersen

COMMISSIONED (At Large)

Lucas Fitzgerald
Rod Lane
Keith Vieregge

LAY (Eastern)

Rande Casaday
Carol George
Connor Hagey
Steve Kurtz
William Magill

LAY (Lake Erie)

Tom Habitz
Terry Leu

LAY (Midwestern)

William Bussing
Gail Grieser

LAY (Western)

Shirley Holle
Thomas Honebrink
Kristin Wellik

LAY (At-Large)

This slate of candidates will be announced at the District Convention. All candidates not elected to a Lay Regional Board of Directors position shall form the ballot for the two Lay At-Large Board of Directors positions.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS

The Rev. Peter Burfeind

College/University: Marquette University
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Grad Yr/Degree: 1991/History
Grad Yr/Degree: 1996/M.Div.

Congregations Served:

Agnus Dei, Marshall, MI
Nat'l Missionary-Toledo and Univ of Toledo
Holy Cross, Toledo, OH
St. John the Divine, Chicago, IL

Year(s): 2018-Present
Year(s): 2016-2018
Year(s): 1998-2016
Year(s): 1996-1998

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor (2021-Present)

Synod: National Missionary to Toledo and the University of Toledo; Doctrinal Review

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Army Chaplain (2012-Present); Author of "Gnostic America: A Reading of Contemporary American Culture & Religion according to Christianity's Oldest Heresy"

Statement concerning candidacy: *I have varied experience -- as an Army Chaplain, national missionary, dual parish pastor, campus pastor, circuit visitor -- to understand the varieties of challenges faced by the Church in the modern world. My studies on the rise of neo-Gnosticism in the culture today (resulting in a book and various speaking and writing engagements) I believe, equip me to have a unique perspective that will provide a necessary voice as our Church faces an increasingly adverse culture.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS (cont.)

The Rev. Daniel Grams

College/University: Concordia, Ann Arbor
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne
Other: Notre Dame

Grad Yr/Degree: 1998/BA-Religious Studies
Grad Yr/Degree: 2002/M.Div.
Masters-Non-profit Admin.

Congregations Served:

Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI
St. Paul, Luxemburg, WI
Holy Trinity, Garfield, NJ
Trinity, Palo Alto, CA (Vicarage)

Year(s): 2013-Present
Year(s): 2010-2013
Year(s): 2002-2010
Year(s): 2000-2001

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, English District (2015-Present); Circuit Visitor, SELC District (2009-2010); Chair, English District Committee on Constitutions and Membership; English District Evangelization Committee; SELC District Nominations Committee, Outreach Committee; Michigan District Nominations Committee; NJ District LWML Zone Counselor

Synod: Convention Delegate (1998, 2016); Floor Committee Member

Other (church, community, etc.): Board member, Care Net Pregnancy Information Center of Berkley/Detroit; Interim Principal, St. Paul Lutheran School, Luxemburg, WI; Fire Department Chaplain, Garfield, NJ; Board member, Loaves & Fishes Interfaith Food Pantry, Garfield, NJ

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Instructor, Concordia Lutheran Institute on the Holy Ministry South Sudan; Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission Foro Participant

Prior service on a board of directors: Care Net Pregnancy Center Board – Board Secretary, Development Committee (2014-Present); Executive Masters of Non-profit Administration (Board Relations, Fund Development, Financial Management, Legal Issues, types of courses.)

Statement concerning candidacy: *It would be an honor to serve the member congregations of the District on the Board of Directors. My parish service combined with board experience and my non-profit degree give me a good perspective to bring to this position.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS (cont.)

The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

College/Univ: Philadelphia Biblical Univ
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne
Other Degrees: Univ. of Virginia
Other: Jerusalem University

Grad Yr/Degree: 2000/BS-Biblical Studies
Grad Yr/Degree: 2011/M.Div.
Grad Yr/Degree: 2007/M.Ed.
1998/Semester abroad

Congregations Served:

St. John, Springfield, PA	Year(s): 2012-Present
Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries	Year(s): 2012-Present
Immanuel, Alexandria, VA (Headmaster)	Year(s): 2010-2012
Trinity Christian School, Fairfax, VA (HS teacher)	Year(s): 2002-2007

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Mission Council (2018-Present); Circuit Visitor (2015-2018 and 2019-Present); Chairman, Committee on Nominations (2018-Present); Traveled to Hong Kong and China with Bishop Hardy and Mission Executive Derek Mathers (2016)

Synod: Vicarage Supervisor (2016-Present)

Other (church, community, etc.): Philadelphia Federal Detention Center Bible Study volunteer; Homeowners Association vice president

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Helped establish two new congregations in Philadelphia; Assisted in the colloquy process of several men; Assisted Ethiopian, Indonesian and Korean congregations in their partnership with the English District; Taught high school history for five years at an interdenominational school which introduced me to Christians from a number of different backgrounds; Served on several school committees, assisted other teachers with educational technology issues, and coached the varsity baseball team.

Prior service on a board of directors: I serve on the board of directors for Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries as Executive Director. I served on the church council and was school board chairman as a layman at Immanuel Lutheran Church (Alexandria, VA) prior to enrolling at the seminary.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I have really enjoyed my time in the English District and appreciate the gracious support of district leadership. I am happy to serve the district in any way I can. I would consider it a true honor to participate in the work of the district in a greater way.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS (cont.)

The Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel

College/Univ: Concordia College, Ann Arbor
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne
Other Degrees: Pittsburgh Theol. Seminary

Grad Yr/Degree: 1986/BA
Grad Yr/Degree: 1990/M.Div.
Grad Yr/Degree: 2007/D.Min.

Congregations Served:

First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA
Holy Cross, Pittsburgh, PA (Mission)
John Huss, Arnold, PA

Year(s): 1998-Present
Year(s): 2017-Present
Year(s): 1990-1998

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, Eastern District (2009-2012, 2013-2016); Circuit Secretary, Central Circuit, SELC District (1994-1997)

Synod: President, Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (LCMS RSO) (2019-Present); Board of Directors, Concordia Lutheran Ministries (LCMS RSO) (2013-2019); Treasurer, Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (LCMS RSO) (2016-2018); Executive Board, Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference (LCMS) (1991-Present)

Other (church, community, etc.): Scout Leader, Boy Scouts of America - Troop, District, and Council Levels (2000-2013); Committee Member, Three Rivers Rowing Association (2015-2016)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Published journal articles including several in Concordia Theological Quarterly; Initiated and overseen mission outreaches to Hispanics, universities, Blind community, Deaf community, the homeless and marginally housed populations; Chief missionary and pastor for Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel, our mission church in the Hazelwood neighborhood of Pittsburgh

Prior service on a board of directors: I have served on several Boards of Directors. While serving on the board at Concordia Lutheran Ministries, I served as the chairman of the personnel committee and nominating committee as well as serving on the foundation board, strategic planning committee, and CEO succession committee. During my tenure with Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries, we have started a new endowment fund, a new missions grant fund, and I have overseen our governance committee as we updated our articles of incorporation and by-laws as well as the renewal of our RSO status with the LCMS.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I will give to the English District that which God has given me - a love for Jesus, His Word and Sacraments, and those for whom Christ died. I offer my 32 years of pastoral knowledge in the care of souls, mission planting, Gospel outreach, funding, and management to assist our District congregations and Church workers in their various callings and locations. Our English District is a wonderful gift to the Church. By God's grace I will do all that I am able to help the District flourish in spreading the Good News of Jesus.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS (cont.)

The Rev. Luke Zimmerman

College/Univ.: Central Michigan University
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: 1999/BS-Geography & Pol. Sci.
Grad Yr/Degree: 2003/M.Div.-Historical Theol.

Congregations Served:

Calvary, Mechanicsburg, PA
St. John's, Casey, IA/Zion, Dexter, IA

Year(s): 2008-Present
Year(s): 2004-2008

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District – Secretary (2015-Present); Committee on Constitutions (2009-2015);
Committee on Nominations (2015); Philadelphia Circuit Visitor (2014)

Synod: Delegate, Synod Convention, 2007, 2010, 2013; 2016 Res. 11-10 LCMS Task Force on
Nominations & Elections

Other (church, community, etc.): Hampden Township, PA Election Poll Worker (2020–Present); Board of
Directors, Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries (2014-2017); LWML Zone Pastoral Counselor (2006-2008,
2018-2021); Contributing Author - Concordia Pulpit Resources; Contributor - Treasury of Daily Prayer;
Regular Guest – KFUE-AM Morning Show (“His Time”/“Sharper Iron”)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Historical Theology Department Assistant, Concordia
Theological Seminary (2003-2004 Academic Year).

Prior service on a board of directors: I have served on the English District Board of Directors, a policy-
based governance board, as its Secretary for two terms. I also have past experience as a member of a
Board of Directors for Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, an LCMS-affiliated RSO.

Statement concerning candidacy: *Through my role as District Secretary, I have been a member of the
English District Board of Directors since 2015. If the Convention Delegates believe that my service on the
Board of Directors should continue in a different capacity than Secretary, I will strive to fulfill those duties
and responsibilities as well as possible.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

MIDWESTERN / WESTERN REGIONS

The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse

College/University: Adrian College
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne
Grad. Sch./Sem.: Trinity Ev. Div. School

Grad Yr/Degree: 1987/BBA-Mgmt/German
Grad Yr/Degree: 1998/M.Div.-History
Grad Yr/Degree: 2017/D.Min./Pastoral Min.

Congregations Served:

Catalina, Tucson, AZ
US Army/ARNG/Brigade Chaplain

Year(s): 1998-Present
Year(s): 1999-2006

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, Arizona South Circuit (2018-Present); University of Arizona Campus Christian Center Board of Directors (2007-2018)

Synod: Operation Barnabas Advisory Group (2007-Present); Vicar Supervisor, CTSFW (Full-time 2014-Present; Summers 2000 & 2001); Board of Regents, Concordia University, Irvine, CA, (2010-2016)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Army National Guard Officer, Command and Leadership positions (1985-1998); Chaplain, Saddlebrooke Rotary (1999-2004); AZ South Lutheran Servanthood School Instructor (1999-Present); Planned and officiated LCMS Veterans' Day Services for community (2007-2019, 2021)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Self-employed financial advisor, Series 7, Series 3, Series 6 licensed (1989-1996); Management and bookkeeping experience (1980-1987)

Prior service on a board of directors: Vice-President, U of AZ Campus Christian Center Board of Directors; Board of Regents, Concordia University Irvine and Academic Course Review Committee

Statement concerning candidacy: *I am willing to let my name stand for any English District position for which I have been nominated. I am Christ's servant to His Church and am honored to serve Him in roles that benefit His Church, the Body of Christ.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

MIDWEST / WESTERN REGIONS (cont.)

The Rev. Dr. David Petersen

College/University: Central Michigan University
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: 1991/BS-History
Grad Yr/Degree: 1996/M.Div.
Grad Yr/Degree: 2013/STM
Grad Yr/Degree: 2018/D.Min.

Congregations Served:

Redeemer, Ft. Wayne, IN
Grace, Fairgrove, MI

Year(s): 2000-Present
Year(s): 1996-2000

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Synod: Doctrinal Review; Set Apart to Serve committee; CTS adjunct faculty

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Chair, Akron-Fairgrove Ministerial Alliance (1996-2000)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Regular guest on Issues, Etc.; contributor to The Lutheran Witness and The Lutheran Witness Online; departmental editor for *Gottesdienst: the Journal of Lutheran Liturgy*.

Prior service on a board of directors: Founding Chair of Bach Collegium Ft. Wayne (2001-2005), oversaw board and application process for 501(c)(3) status, initial planning and implementation of mission statement, constitution, and by-laws. Ran meetings, oversaw and chaired a number of fundraisers and community events. Governance was Carver, policy-based.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I have been in the English District for a long time and would welcome the opportunity to give back and serve on the board.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – COMMISSIONED

Lucas Fitzgerald

College/University: Loyola Marymount Univ. Grad Yr/Degree: 1997/BA-English
College/University: Concordia, Irvine Grad Yr/Degree: 2000/MA-Reformation Theology
Other: Graduate/Seminary coursework in Apologetics, Greek, Systematic Theology, LCMS History, etc.

Present Congregation: Immanuel, Orange, CA

Congregations/Schools Served:

Pacific Lutheran High School, Gardena, CA Year(s): 1999-Present

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Pacific Southwest District – Co-leader, 2019 Southern California Life Conference; presenter, Lutheran Educators Conference; Nominating Committee; Lutheran Educator of the Year; advisory delegate, Synod Convention (2016)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Elder, school board member, evangelism team member for annual Easter invitations - Immanuel, Orange, CA; accreditation leader/team member for Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Board of Directors member and principal, Pacific Lutheran High School (PLHS); successfully balanced seven-figure school budget and effectively run the school through God's grace

Prior service on a board of directors: PLHS board member (2010-Present) – policy based; Immanuel Lutheran School, Orange, CA school board member – policy based

Statement concerning candidacy: *It would be a blessing to serve the Lord's church, and I would contribute a confessional approach to this task while also adding a seasoned leader's voice to district's affairs.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – COMMISSIONED (cont.)

Rod Lane

College/University: Concordia, Seward
College/University: Concordia, St. Paul

Grad Yr/Degree: 1997/BA-Management
Grad Yr/Degree: 2010/DCE-colloquy

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Lincoln, NE

Congregations/Schools Served:

Redeemer, Lincoln, NE

Year(s): 2007-Present

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Board of Directors (2019-Present); Chair, Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI); hosted/coordinated, district HS servant event (2017); District Gala Team (2021-2022)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Redeemer Lutheran Church - DCE in Family, Education, Youth and Outreach (2010-Present); lay worker in youth and education (2007-2010)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications:

Prior service on a board of directors: Currently serve on English District Board of Directors; serve on oversight board for developmentally disabled - primary duties include chart reviews, overseeing individual freedoms and making recommendations as deemed necessary for team

Statement concerning candidacy: *I have served for the last two plus years and enjoy my service to the district. I believe it is a good use of my time and talents. I believe I'm a good resource for the board and welcome the challenges that come with serving on the Board of Directors.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – COMMISSIONED (cont.)

Keith Vieregge

College/University: Concordia, Ann Arbor

Grad Yr/Degree: 1978/AA-Education

College/University: Concordia, Seward

Grad Yr/Degree: 1981/BS-Education

College/University: Concordia, River Forest

Grad Yr/Degree: 1988/MCM-Church Music

College/University: Wayne State, Detroit

Grad Yr/Degree: 2011/MEd-Human Performance

Present Congregation: Our Savior, Hartland, MI

Congregations/Schools Served:

Our Savior, Hartland, MI

Year(s): 2021-Present

St. Luke, Clinton Twp., MI

Year(s): 2012-2019

Peace, Sussex, WI

Year(s): 1999-2008

Our Shepherd, Birmingham, MI

Year(s): 1994-1999

Lamb of God, Flower Mound, TX

Year(s): 1991-1994

Grace, St. Petersburg, FL

Year(s): 1984-1991

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Board of Directors (2021-Present)

Prior service on a board of directors: Currently serve on English District Board of Directors

Statement concerning candidacy: *I am available and willing to serve in this capacity.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

EASTERN REGION

Rande Casaday

College/University: California Univ. of PA

Grad Yr/Degree: 1975/BA

College/University: Univ. of Pittsburgh

Grad Yr/Degree: 1976/MBA

Present Congregation: Peace, McMurray, PA

Occupation: Branch Manager/Financial Advisor

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Stifel

Year(s): 2012-Present

Wells Fargo

Year(s): 1993-2012

Legg Mason Investments

Year(s): 1987-1993

Wilson Ford – Owner

Year(s): 1983-1987

Ford Motor Company

Year(s): 1976-1986

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Church President, Hope Lutheran Church and Peace Lutheran Church

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Chairman, Finance Committee, Concordia Lutheran Ministries; Board of Directors, Concordia Lutheran Ministries; Foundation Board of Directors, Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Prior service on a board of directors: I am currently on the Board of Directors of Concordia Lutheran Ministries. My duties include being Chairman of the Finance Committee and a member of the Strategy Committee. Additionally, I am on the Foundation Board of Directors for Concordia Lutheran Ministries.

Statement concerning candidacy: *God has blessed me in countless ways and I get great pleasure in using my talents to serve the Church and its ministries.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

EASTERN REGION (cont.)

Carol George

College/University: University of Pittsburgh
Grad. School: Edinboro University of Penns.
Counseling/1982

Grad Yr/Degree: 1975/BA-Political Science
Grad Yr/Degree: 1982/MA-Rehab

Present Congregation: Trinity, Erie, PA

Occupation: Rental Property Owner/Manager

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Carol Properties Corp. - owner/manager	Year(s): 2006-Present
George Gulf Properties I, LLC - owner	Year(s): 2000-2019
George Properties - owner/manager	Year(s): 1984-Present
Serenity Rehabilitation Center - counselor	Year(s): 1983-1984
Sarah Reed Children's Home - counselor	Year(s): 1982-1983

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District Board of Directors, 2015-Present; District Stewardship Committee, 2013-Present; Convention Delegate, 2000, 2003, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2022

Synod: Convention Delegate, 2010, 2016; National Stewardship Leadership Conference, 2014

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Call Committee, Trustee (previously Head Trustee), Stephen Ministries/Stephen Ministry Leader, Chairman/Member of Scholarship Committee, Music Coordinator, VBS Music Volunteer and several other church committees; LWML Zone Delegate 2005 Convention, Previous board positions: Lake Erie Ballet Board of Directors; Search Committee for Lake Erie Ballet Executive Director; Erie Day School Board of Directors, President of Parent Board of Erie Day School and Search Committee of Erie Day School

Prior service on a board of directors: For the past six years, I have been a member of the Board of Directors of the English District, served on several task forces, and have attended every quarterly meeting. My service on this board and on the boards of other non-profit organizations has included revising bylaws, establishing mission and vision statements, drafting job descriptions, allocating resources, promoting communications, recruiting leadership, delegating responsibilities, and creating collaborative relationships with other boards and industries.

Statement concerning candidacy: *It would be an honor to continue my service on the Board of Directors of the English District. I have been a member of an English District congregation for over 40 years. Baptized and raised in the LCMS, I follow several generations of service to our Synod. I am well informed about the District's work, and I endorse its mission. I traveled to Hong Kong and Thailand where I visited with LCMS missionaries at our mission churches. I believe in the importance and value of our English District, and I am grateful for this opportunity to serve our Lord and His Church.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

EASTERN REGION (cont.)

Connor Hagey

College/University: Shippensburg Univ.

Grad Yr/Degree: 2003/BS-Business

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Oakmont, PA

Occupation: Senior Health Care Director

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Concordia Lutheran Ministries - Director

Year(s): 2013-Present

PNC Bank - Investment Operations

Year(s): 2006-2013

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Committee on Nominations

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: As a Director with Concordia Lutheran Ministries, LCMS RSO, I am blessed to interact with LCMS groups from across the country. I am also blessed to sit on multiple Endowment Boards as well. Additionally, I serve as Chairman of the Board for Redeemer Lutheran School, another LCMS RSO.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I am blessed and honored to be considered for serving the English District in any way I can.*

Stephen Kurtz

Present Congregation: Mt. Calvary, Lititz, PA

Occupation: Development Director

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Katallasso Health Center - Development Director

Year(s): 2020-Present

Cityview Church (non-denom), York, PA - Pastor

Year(s): 2004-2020

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Congregation Council Member, Outreach Board Chair

Prior service on a board of directors: I have served on all types of boards from management-style board to a cooperative board governance style. I chaired our local congregation board for over 10 years. I presently serve on a policy-type, non-profit board.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I am happy to serve the district in this capacity.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

EASTERN REGION (cont.)

William Magill

Present Congregation: Celebration, St John's, FL

Occupation: Company Owner

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Drive Line Service of Jacksonville - Owner	Year(s): 1989-Present
Neapco, Inc - National Sales Manager	Year(s): 1982-1989
Edbro, Inc - VP North American Operations	Year(s): 1979-1982
Florig Equip. Co. - Sales Manager	Year(s): 1964-1979

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Board of Directors; LCEF Loan Committee

Other (congregation, community, etc.): President (2 terms), Elder/Head Elder (15 years), Team Leader, South Africa Mission Trips

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: President- National Association, Truck Body & Equip Assoc.; President, Homeowners Association (20 yrs)

Prior service on a board of directors: Served on multiple boards as listed above. Various types of governance utilized based on type of organization. Served on English District Board (2011-2012)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

LAKE ERIE REGION

Tom Habitz

College/University: University of Michigan
College/University: Wayne State University

Grad Yr/Degree: 2003/BA-Economics
Grad Yr/Degree: 2008/MUP-Urban Planning

Present Congregation: Zion, Detroit, MI

Occupation: Urban Planner

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Convention Delegate (2012)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Zion Lutheran Church: Chairman, Voters Assembly (current); Chairman, Board of Deacons (current); Member, Board of Endowment (current); Chairman, Lutheran Center Association of Greater Detroit (past)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals, City of Hamtramck (current); Member, Plan Commission, City of Hamtramck (current); Secretary, Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium (current)

Prior service on a board of directors: The Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium is a volunteer 10-member board of concerned citizens working a historic preservation project. As Board Secretary, I am responsible for recording and certifying official documents including meeting minutes, managing Board votes including elections, and filing official organizational documents. The Zoning Board of Appeals is a statutory quasi-judicial body in the city I reside. As Chairman, I preside over meetings. I recently drafted a new set of bylaws for the Board which have been adopted for use. In form they are similar to the English District document provided to me. As Chairman of the Voters in my congregation, I work closely with the pastor and parish council to set agendas, organize meetings, and run them efficiently and in a Christian manner.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I am honored to be nominated to serve the Lord's Church in the proposed capacity. I am a very active member at my present congregation, which includes serving as a regular Subdeacon and coordinating our other Altar servers. The nature of our congregation, and my role within it, is such that I am exposed to and able to contribute to essentially all parish affairs, from the liturgical through the business and facilities. I have a passion for maintaining our Gospel presence within our historic church building and within our old neighborhood in Detroit. Considering my professional experience as an urban planner with a local health system, my service to my congregation, and numerous other volunteer opportunities, I have developed a set of skills that could be utilized by the District Board of Directors (further enumerated above).*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

LAKE ERIE REGION (cont.)

Terry Leu

College/University: Ashland College

Grad Yr/Degree: 1978/BS-Elem Ed

Present Congregation: Prince of Peace, Medina, OH

Occupation: Retired - Self-employed, retail sales

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Terleu Enterprises, DBA Rolston Poultry - Owner

Year(s): 1992-2016

Leu Brothers Meats

Year(s): 1978-1992

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Member, District Board of Directors (2012-Present); Board Representative and Secretary, Endowment Fund Board of Managers (2016-Present); District Coordinator, 2022 National Youth Gathering

Synod: Lay Delegate, Synod Convention (2001, 2004, 2013); Advisory Delegate, Synod Convention (2016)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Currently - Head Elder; Endowment Fund Chairman; Lay Youth Worker; Head of the Call Committee

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Active in the Cleveland & Akron Circuits; Have attended both Synod and District Conventions; Attended 11 Youth Gatherings; President of the Pine Valley Golf League

Prior service on a board of directors: I have worked under the Carver Model of Corporate Governance. Also owning my own business for more than 20 years gave me experience in leadership and decision making.

Statement concerning candidacy: *Because of my tenure on the Board of Directors, I feel that I can help provide continued direction and leadership, stability, along what has been a very successful path for the last decade.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

MIDWESTERN REGION

William Bussing

College/Univ.: Purdue University

Grad Yr/Degree: 1976/BS-Chem. Engineering

College/Univ.: Purdue University

Grad Yr/Degree: 1978/MS-Chem. Engineering

College/Univ.: Univ. of Chicago

Grad Yr/Degree: 1987/MBA

Present Congregation: Advent, Zionsville, IN

Occupation: Retired

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Cabot Corporation – Director Global Raw Material Purchasing

Year(s): 2011-2016

BP - Director Commercial & Manufacturing

Year(s): 1999-2011

Amoco - Various Engineering, Commercial and Finance Roles

Year(s): 1978-1999

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Lay Delegate, New England District Convention (2015)

Synod: Lay delegate, LCMS Conventions, (2010 and 2016)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Zion, Hinsdale, IL: Board of Education, Board of Elders; St. Paul, Brookfield, IL: Board of Education, Board of Deacons; Good Shepherd, Toledo, OH: Board of Elders; First, Boston, MA: Board of Elders; Advent, Zionsville, IN: Board of Elders

Prior service on a board of directors: Board of Directors, New Zealand Refining Company (2001-2005), publicly listed company in NZ; Board of Directors, Toledo Symphony Orchestra (2007-2011), performing arts organization in NW OH; Board of Directors, Singapore Refining Company (2001-2005), privately held joint venture company in Singapore; Board of Directors, SAPREF (2001-2005), privately held joint venture company in South Africa; Ernst & Young Directors Course - 2002 curriculum for directors of public companies

Statement concerning candidacy: *I have always been willing to be of service to the congregations where my wife and I have been members. Over the past 45 years, we have had the opportunity to live in a diverse set of locations, to be members of multiple wonderful LCMS congregations and create great relationships with both lay people and clergy across the Missouri Synod. My professional career has provided a broad range of responsibilities as well as leadership and management experiences.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

MIDWESTERN REGION (cont.)

Gail Grieser

College/Univ.: Ithaca College

Grad Yr/Degree: BA-English

College/Univ.: Indiana University

Grad Yr/Degree: M.Ed.

Other: Ohio University

Grad Yr/Degree: Journalism

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Ft. Wayne, IN

Occupation: Retired teacher

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

LCMS – Missionary

Year(s): 2014-2017

Ivy Tech College – Asst. English Professor

Year(s): 2000-2014

Bethlehem Lutheran School – Teacher (Gr. 5-8)

Year(s): 2003-2006

Zion Lutheran Academy

Year(s): 1995-2000

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Redeemer, Ft. Wayne: Board of Education (25 years), Congregational Services, Altar Guild; Court-appointed Special Advocate volunteer for best interest of abused and neglected children (services supervised by Allen County Superior Court)

Statement concerning candidacy: *I love LCMS. It has been the foundation of my adult life. I want to serve on the board to be of service to my LCMS family and help build a stronger community.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

WESTERN REGION

Shirley Holle

College/Univ.: Western Illinois University
College/Univ.: Florida International University
Other: University of Virginia

Grad Yr/Degree: 1973/BS-Math Education
Grad Yr/Degree: 1980/BS-Computer Science
Grad Yr/Degree: 1976/Minor-Economics

Present Congregation: Catalina, Catalina, AZ

Occupation: Realtor

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Long Realty - Realtor	Year(s): 2000-Present
Dillard Group Real Estate - Personal Assistant	Year(s): 1992-2000
Holle Computer Consultant, Self-employed	Year(s): 1981-1992
Lutheran HS of South Florida - Teacher, girls basketball coach	Year(s): 1973-1977

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District Board of Directors (2015-Present); President, LWML English District (2010-2014); VP of Christian Life, LWML English District (2002-2008); English District Gala Committee (2019-Present); Accent Editor, LWML English District (2018-Present)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Bible study leader; various LWML positions at church and zone levels in the Rocky Mountain District, Oklahoma District and English District; served on 2013 LWML Pittsburgh Convention Committee as one of six host presidents; AAL secretary, vice president, branch coordinator, AAL volunteer training specialist (1988-2000)

Prior service on a board of directors: English Board of Directors; Board of Education for Lutheran HS of South Florida (1977-1980); National LWML Board of Directors, (2010-2014)

Statement concerning candidacy: *Items of importance for the LCMS English District to consider include: strong support of campus ministry, recruiting top-quality church workers, helping them financially to obtain their degrees and then working strongly with congregations to provide a respectable salary and pay off loan debt. Strong support of missions including: mission churches, missions of compassion and need, Hispanic missions and non-English speaking missions.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

WESTERN REGION (cont.)

Thomas Honebrink

College/Univ.: Concordia College, St. Paul

Degree/Field/Year: 1989/BA-Environmental Sci.

Present Congregation: Catalina, Catalina, AZ

Occupation: Lay Deacon

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Catalina Lutheran Church – Lay Deacon (Music)

Year(s): 2014-Present

Casas Christian School – Teacher (Middle School Science)

Year(s): 2016-2020

Oro Valley Pediatrics – Administrator

Year(s): 2008-2015

Atonement Lutheran School – Bookkeeper

Year(s): 1999-2001

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Rule Coordinator

Year(s): 1994-1998

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Committee on Nominations (2015, 2018); Convention Lay Delegate (2006)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Congregation: Elder, Financial Secretary, Bell Choir Director, Youth Director, Bible study leader, School Board Chair, Substitute Teacher; Advisory Board Chair, Town of Oro Valley Parks & Recreation; Youth Sports Coach; Board Member, Family First Pregnancy Care Center; Volunteer, Tohono Chul Park

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Board member, Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society; Provost, Lutheran Servanthood School; Board member, Southern Arizona Foundation for Education-Lutheran; Council member, Concordia St. Paul Alumni; Volunteer-Conservation Officer, Peace Corps; served on additional extension and community-based boards and groups domestically and abroad

Prior service on a board of directors: Over the course of serving on boards related to LCMS elementary education, town advisory councils, crisis pregnancy centers, heritage societies, sports leagues, church organization and more, I have been exposed to a variety of modes and models but particularly advisory, cooperative, and policy-based models.

Statement concerning candidacy: *Having been blessed by Lutheran education from first grade through college, it has been my pleasure to serve in various capacities throughout my life in natural response to all that the Lord has given me. I have enjoyed serving the Lord at the congregational, circuit, and district levels as well as in my community. May the Lord bless His church at her convention and all who serve in His name.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

WESTERN REGION (cont.)

Kristin Wellik

College/Univ.: University of Arizona

Grad Yr/ Degree: 1987/BA-Marketing

Present Congregation: Ascension, Tucson, AZ

Occupation: Financial Planning

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

RW Greene & Assoc., Inc. – Sales & Administration

Year(s): 1987-Present

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Board of Directors (2018-2022)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Ascension Lutheran Church: Member since 1995, Congregational President (4 yrs), Confirmation Teacher (10 yrs), High School Youth Leader (3 yrs), Congregation Secretary (5 yrs), VBS Teacher (multiple yrs); LCMS-U at Univ. of Arizona: Board Secretary (4 yrs)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Junior League of Tucson: President, Secretary, Fund Development Director, and several chairmanships during 16 yrs of active membership; board positions provided opportunities to participate in Association conferences and training conferences; currently a sustaining member; Boy Scouts of America: District Membership Chair (4 yrs), Pack Trainer (3 yrs), Den Leader (6 yrs); Sigma Kappa Sorority: Collegiate Chapter President (included participation at national conference), Corporation Board President (after graduation)

Prior service on a board of directors: For the past four years, I have served on the English District Board of Directors as the Lay Member-at-Large. Ascension Lutheran Church: served as board secretary during transition from a board system to the Carver Governance Model. I participated in the writing of a new Constitution/Bylaws, and creation of policies. Once we became a governance board, I served as secretary and president. Junior League of Tucson: operated under a board and council system. All of my board experiences have been with non-profit organizations and have used Robert's Rules of Order at meetings.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I would welcome the opportunity to serve another term on the Board of Directors. I have enjoyed visiting congregations and schools around the district at our quarterly meetings. I have had the privilege of participating in salary reviews, financial audits, last year's virtual gala, and serving as the advisory delegate for the board at the Synod Convention. As a lay member of the board, I believe I provide a different perspective to the business at hand. Volunteer service has always been a part of my adult life. I possess leadership, communication, organizational, problem-solving, and creative skills. I value volunteerism and I am one of those people who enjoy meetings, really.*

CANDIDATES FOR ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

EASTERN REGION

Michael Coffey

LAKE ERIE REGION

Tom Habitz

Rev. Dr. Terry Hursh

MIDWESTERN REGION

Matthew Thompson

Rex Toepke

WESTERN REGION

Rev. Fred Gerlach

Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse

Paul Sticha

EASTERN REGION

Michael Coffey

College/University: Cornell University

Grad Yr/Degree: 1963/BS-Agriculture

Present Congregation: Trinity, Scarsdale, NY

Occupation: Retired

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

C & C Moving & Storage - Owner

Year(s): 1989-2015

Moving Company - Sales Manager

Year(s): 1970-1989

General Foods Company - Sales Rep

Year(s): 1963-1970

City of White Plains, NY - Elected Councilman (4 terms)

Year(s): 1973-1993

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Delegate, 7 District Conventions; Endowment Fund Board of Managers (2018-Present)

Synod: Delegate, 2 LCMS Conventions; Floor Committee, LCMS Convention

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Member, School Board; Trinity Lutheran Church: President, Elder, Treasurer, Chairman of Call Committee; member of Trinity since 1953

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Councilman-20 years; elected president of council; Chairman of Recreation Advisory Committee; Chairman of City Personnel Committee; extensive budget experience; Past president, White Plains Lions Club; Past president, neighborhood association

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: It has been a pleasure to serve my church to do the mission of our church.

Statement concerning candidacy: *Currently serving on the Endowment Fund Board of Managers, 2018-Present.*

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

LAKE ERIE REGION

Tom Habitz

College/University: University of Michigan

Grad Yr/Degree: 2003/BA-Economics

College/University: Wayne State University, Detroit

Grad Yr/Degree: 2008/MUP-Urban Planning

Present Congregation: Zion, Detroit, MI

Occupation: Urban Planner

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Convention Delegate (2012)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Zion Lutheran Church: Chairman, Voters Assembly (current); Chairman, Board of Deacons (current); Member, Board of Endowment (current); Chairman, Lutheran Center Association of Greater Detroit (past)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals, City of Hamtramck (current); Member, Plan Commission, City of Hamtramck (current); Secretary, Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium (current)

Prior service on a board of directors: The Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium is a volunteer 10-member board of concerned citizens working a historic preservation project. As Board Secretary, I am responsible for recording and certifying official documents including meeting minutes, managing Board votes including elections, and filing official organizational documents. The Zoning Board of Appeals is a statutory quasi-judicial body in the city I reside. As Chairman, I preside over meetings. I recently drafted a new set of bylaws for the Board which have been adopted for use. In form they are similar to the English District document provided to me. As Chairman of the Voters in my congregation, I work closely with the pastor and parish council to set agendas, organize meetings, and run them efficiently and in a Christian manner.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I am honored to be nominated to serve the Lord's Church in the proposed capacity. I am a very active member at my present congregation, which includes serving as a regular Subdeacon and coordinating our other Altar servers. The nature of our congregation, and my role within it, is such that I am exposed to and able to contribute to essentially all parish affairs, from the liturgical through the business and facilities. I have a passion for maintaining our Gospel presence within our historic church building and within our old neighborhood in Detroit. Considering my professional experience as an urban planner with a local health system, my service to my congregation, and numerous other volunteer opportunities, I have developed a set of skills that could be utilized by the District Endowment Board (further enumerated above).*

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

LAKE ERIE REGION (cont.)

The Rev. Dr. Terry Hursh

College/Univ.: Indiana University

Grad Yr/Degree: 1978/BA

College/Univ.: Ohio Northern Law School

Grad Yr/Degree: 1981/Juris Doctor

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: 1993/MDiv

Other: Certifications: Civil Mediator-Indiana (1999); Chaplaincy-Indiana (2000)

Present Congregation: Retired - St. Mark, Mississauga, ON

Congregations Served:

St. Mark, Mississauga, ON – Pastoral Assistant

Year(s): 2018-Present

Hope, Kitchener, ON – Senior Pastor

Year(s): 2005-2017

Holy Cross, Indianapolis, IN – Assistant Pastor

Year(s): 1997-2005

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: District Stewardship Executive, Florida-Georgia District; Circuit Visitor, English District

Synod: Department of Stewardship, International Center, St. Louis; Regional Planned Giving Counselor, LCMS Foundation, St. Louis, MO; Executive Director, Lutheran Child & Family Services, Indianapolis, IN

Other (congregation, community, etc.): President, Lawrence IN Chamber of Commerce; Vice President, Ft. Harrison Re-use Authority, Indianapolis, IN; Judge, Marion County Court, Indianapolis, IN; Board Member, Immigrant Mission Field Network

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: The management of large budgets and appropriation of endowment funds has woven through most of my vocational experiences.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: As a former Stewardship Executive, LCMS Foundation Counselor and Executive Director of Lutheran Child & Family Services, I have had extensive experience in managing God-given resources to better further His kingdom.

Statement concerning candidacy: *It would be an honor to serve on the Endowment Board. I think I could offer a fresh perspective that is grounded in years of experience. If chosen, I would commit myself to thoroughly understand and grasp the board's agenda and be guided by the Holy Spirit in all my actions and votes while on the Board.*

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

MIDWESTERN REGION

Matthew Thompson

College/Univ.: Univ. of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign Grad Yr/Degree: 2004/BA-Financial Mgmt

Present Congregation: Trinity, Villa Park, IL

Occupation: Wealth Management

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Stewardship Director, Trinity Lutheran Church; Board Member since 2010

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: I am co-founder of Ark Wealth Partners, a financial services practice that provides comprehensive planning council for just north of \$200 million in client assets currently. I have held this position for almost 20 years, and stewardship of client resources is the primary value we lead with in our fiduciary guidance. My hope would be to leverage these gifts as an asset to the mission of the district.

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

MIDWESTERN REGION (cont.)

Rex Toepke

College/Univ.: Illinois State Univ., Normal, IL

College/Univ.: Joliet Jr. College, Joliet, IL

Grad Yr/Degree: BS-Education

Grad Yr/Degree: Acct & Programming

Present Congregation: Trinity, New Lenox, IL

Occupation: Retired

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Northern Trust Company - 2nd VP-Trust tax

Year(s): 16 yrs.

Other Community Banks

Year(s): 27 yrs.

Joliet Junior College - Adjunct programming

Year(s): 21 yrs.

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Endowment Fund Board of Managers (2018-Present)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Trinity Lutheran Church: Treasurer (6 yrs.), Council President (6 yrs.), Property Committee (1 yr.); Assistant Leader and Chaplain, Boy Scouts of America (7 yrs.)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Board member, New Lenox School District (12 yrs.); English District Endowment Fund Board of Managers (4 yrs)

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: My time as a school board member and on our church council has given me the experience of working with fellow members of a board to make positive decisions. My banking experience in investing and taxation provides an understanding of the markets and products for investing.

Statement concerning candidacy: *With my background in banking (accounting, tax and finance), I have a set of skills and talents that I wish to share with the district.*

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

WESTERN REGION

The Rev. Fred Gerlach

College/University: Pace University

Grad Yr/Degree: 1979/BBA-Public Accting

College/University: Concordia Seminary, St Louis

Grad Yr/Degree: 2005/MDiv

Congregations Served:

Family of Christ, Phoenix, AZ

Year(s): 2018-Present

Bethany, Ewing, NJ

Year(s): 2005-2018

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Endowment Fund Board of Managers (2013-Present)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): ASU Campus Ministry; Ewing Alcohol and Drug Alliance (Substance Abuse prevention)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Worked 20 years in the finance and banking industries

Statement concerning candidacy: *I have served 8 years on the Endowment Board where it's a blessing to help congregations with their mission outreach.*

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

WESTERN REGION (cont.)

The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse

College/University: Adrian College
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne
Grad. Sch./Sem.: Trinity Ev. Div. School

Grad Yr/Degree: 1987/BBA-Mgmt/German
Grad Yr/Degree: 1998/M.Div.-History
Grad Yr/Degree: 2017/D.Min./Pastoral Min.

Congregations Served/Work Experience:

Catalina, Tucson, AZ

Year(s): 1998-Present

US Army/ARNG/Brigade Chaplain

Year(s): 1999-2006

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, Arizona South Circuit (2018-Present); University of Arizona Campus Christian Center Board of Directors (2007-2018)

Synod: Operation Barnabas Advisory Group (2007-Present); Vicar Supervisor, CTSFW (Full-time 2014-Present; Summers 2000 & 2001); Board of Regents, Concordia University, Irvine, CA, (2010-2016)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Army National Guard Officer, Command and Leadership positions (1985-1998); Chaplain, Saddlebrooke Rotary (1999-2004); AZ South Lutheran Servanthood School Instructor (1999-Present); Planned and officiated LCMS Veterans' Day Services for community (2007-2019, 2021)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Self-employed financial advisor, Series 7, Series 3, Series 6 licensed (1989-1996); Management and bookkeeping experience (1980-1987)

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: I have a degree in Business

Administration/Management. I owned a Financial Services business and managed over \$15M in individuals' personal assets. I am pastoring a congregation that has, at the end of her second year of a capital campaign, exceeded the three-year goal of \$500,000.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I am willing to let my name stand for any English District position for which I have been nominated. I am Christ's servant to His Church and am honored to serve Him in roles that benefit His Church, the Body of Christ.*

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

WESTERN REGION (cont.)

Paul Sticha

Coll./Univ.: Univ. of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Grad Yr/ Degree: 1976/BBA-Economics

Grad. School: Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison

Grad Yr/ Degree: 1981/MS-Actuarial Science

Present Congregation: Catalina, Catalina, AZ

Occupation: Retired

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Sentry Insurance - Actuary

Year(s): 1981-2014

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Other (congregation, community, etc.): St. Paul, Stevens Point, WI: Member (1985-2014); Catalina, Catalina, AZ: Member (2014-Present)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Treasurer, Sentry Credit Union Board of Directors (15 yrs.); Secretary of Finance Committee, current HOA (4 yrs.); AARP Tax Aide (6 yrs.); St. Paul, Stevens Point, WI: Financial Secretary (8 yrs.), Stewardship Board (10 yrs.)

Statement concerning candidacy: *I am interested in using my mathematical talents and familiarity with financial documents to serve the district.*

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: I have a good background and general knowledge in the financial area that may fit with some of these tasks. I do not have any direct experience in promotion activities. Also, I would not be currently able to attend any meetings in person.

CANDIDATES FOR COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

ORDAINED (Eastern)

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky
Rev. Brian Westgate

COMMISSIONED/LAY (Eastern)

Connor Hagey

ORDAINED (Lake Erie)

Rev. Mark Braden
Rev. Peter Burfeind

COMMISSIONED/LAY (Lake Erie)

Terry Leu

ORDAINED (Midwestern)

Rev. Gregory Michel
Rev. Dr. David Petersen
Rev. C. J. Wright

COMMISSIONED/LAY (Midwestern)

Gail Grieser
Rod Lane

ORDAINED (Western)

Rev. Fred Gerlach
Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse

COMMISSIONED/LAY (Western)

Roni Grad
Karina Lindsey von Hindenburg

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

EASTERN REGION

The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

College/Univ.: Philadelphia Biblical Univ
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne
Other Degrees: Univ. of Virginia
Other: Jerusalem University

Grad Yr/Degree: 2000/BS-Biblical Studies
Grad Yr/Degree: 2011/M.Div.
Grad Yr/Degree: 2007/M.Ed.
1998/Semester abroad

Congregations Served:

St. John, Springfield, PA	Year(s): 2012-Present
Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, Exec. Dir.	Year(s): 2012-Present
Immanuel, Alexandria, VA (Headmaster)	Year(s): 2010-2012
Trinity Christian School, Fairfax, VA (HS teacher)	Year(s): 2002-2007

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Mission Council (2018-Present); Circuit Visitor (2015-2018 and 2019-Present); Chairman, Committee on Nominations (2018-Present); Traveled to Hong Kong and China with Bishop Hardy and Mission Executive Derek Mathers (2016)

LCMS: Vicarage Supervisor (2016-Present)

Other (church, community, etc.): Bible Study volunteer, Philadelphia Federal Detention Center; Vice President, Homeowners Association

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Helped establish two new congregations in Philadelphia; Assisted in the colloquy process of several men; Assisted Ethiopian, Indonesian and Korean congregations in their partnership with the English District; Taught high school history for five years at an interdenominational school which introduced me to Christians from a number of different backgrounds; Served on several school committees, assisted other teachers with educational technology issues, and coached the varsity baseball team.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I have really enjoyed my time in the English District and appreciate the gracious support of district leadership. I am happy to serve the district in any way I can. I would consider it a true honor to participate in the work of the district in a greater way.*

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

EASTERN REGION (cont.)

The Rev. Brian Westgate

College/University: Martin Luther College
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne
Other: Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Grad Yr/Degree: 2004/BA
Grad Yr/Degree: 2011/M.Div.

Congregations Served:

Redeemer, Oakmont, PA
Faith, Butler, PA

Year(s): 2016-Present
Year(s): 2011-2016

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor; Chair, Human Care-Disaster Relief Committee; Worship Committee; Chair, Structure and Administration Floor Committee; Committee on Nominations

Synod: Convention Delegate (2016)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Board of Directors, Redeemer Lutheran School; Board of Directors, Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (served as secretary, president and various seats); Substitute organist

Statement concerning candidacy: *It will be an honor to serve on this committee again in 2025.*

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

LAKE ERIE REGION

The Rev. Mark Braden

College/University: Concordia Univ., Ann Arbor

Grad Yr/Degree: 1988/BA/Human Res

College/University: Eastern Michigan Univ.

Grad Yr/Degree: 1995/MS-Hosp Mgt/Educ

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: 2003/M.Div.

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: 2011/STM

Other Degrees: AA/Culinary Arts/1987

Congregations Served:

Zion, Detroit, MI

Year(s): 2009-Present

Zion, Cleghorn, WI

Year(s): 2004-2008

St. Paul, Modena, WI

Year(s): 2004-2008

St. Paul, Steinke Valley, WI (monthly pulpit relief)

Year(s): 2004-2008

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Chairman, Church & Theology Floor Committee (2018, 2022)

Synod: Adjunct Faculty, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne (2003-2004, 2006-Present); Adjunct Faculty, Concordia University Ann Arbor (2013 & 2014); Pastoral Delegate, Synodical Convention (2007 & 2010); Office of International Missions - Multiple international trips to teach theology (2006-Present)

Other (church, community, etc.): International Fellow, Luther Academy (2014-Present); Host Pastor and Conference Administrator, Saint Michael Liturgical Conference (2009-Present); Departmental Editor, Gottesdienst Magazine (2014-Present); Lutheran Center Association, Board of Directors (2013-Present), currently Chairman of Board; Keynote Presenter, St. Andrew Theological Conference (2014 & 2015); Keynote Presenter, St. Mark Theological Conference (2017); Past Board Member, Lutheran City Ministries, Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit; Past Member, Board of Directors of Chamber of Commerce, Dearborn, MI; Director, Fairlane Music Guild (Chamber Music Series) (1994-1997); North Wisconsin District Scholarship Committee (2005-2008); Spanish Teacher, Eau Claire Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI (2004-2007); Spanish Teacher, Emmanuel Lutheran School, Dearborn, MI (2009-2011)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: 18 years of professional experience as a Director, Area Manager, Manager and Supervisor at state universities, extensive background in committee service, financial management, budgeting, facilities administration, union negotiations and training and development

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

LAKE ERIE REGION (cont.)

The Rev. Peter Burfeind

College/University: Marquette University
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Grad Yr/Degree: 1991/History
Grad Yr/Degree: 1996/M.Div.

Congregations Served:

Agnus Dei, Marshall, MI
Nat'l Missionary-Toledo and Univ of Toledo
Holy Cross, Toledo, OH
St. John the Divine, Chicago, IL

Year(s): 2018-Present
Year(s): 2016-2018
Year(s): 1998-2016
Year(s): 1996-1998

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor (2021-Present)

Synod: National Missionary to Toledo and the University of Toledo; Doctrinal Review

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Army Chaplain (2012-Present); Author of "Gnostic America: A Reading of Contemporary American Culture & Religion according to Christianity's Oldest Heresy"

Statement concerning candidacy: *I have varied experience -- as an Army Chaplain, national missionary, dual parish pastor, campus pastor, circuit visitor -- to understand the varieties of challenges faced by the Church in the modern world. My studies on the rise of neo-Gnosticism in the culture today (resulting in a book and various speaking and writing engagements) I believe, equip me to have a unique perspective that will provide a necessary voice as our Church faces an increasingly adverse culture.*

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

MIDWEST REGION

The Rev. Gregory Michel

College/University: Concordia University, Chicago
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Grad Yr/Degree: 1992/BA-Theol. Lang.
Grad Yr/Degree: 1996/M.Div.

Congregations Served:

Peace, New Berlin, WI

Year(s): 2017-Present

St. Matthew, Milan, IL

Year(s): 2005-2017

St. Peter's/Trinity, Wausau, WI

Year(s): 1998-2005

St. John's, Hannibal, MO (Assoc.)

Year(s): 1996-1998

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District Committee on Nominations (2022); English District Midwest Regional Pastors Conference Committee Chairman (2021-Present); Central Illinois District Pastoral Conference Committee (2006-2008), Chairman (2007-2008); North Wisconsin District Pastoral Advisor for Orphan Grain Train (2001-2005)

Synod: Concordia Seminary Alumni Council (2004-2005); Concordia Seminary – North Wisconsin District Alumni Representative (2004-05), Central Illinois District Alumni Representative (2008-17); PALS Facilitator (2013-17); Delegate, Synod Convention (2016, 2019)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Coach, Local Little League (2007-2009); Treasurer, Local Little League Board of Directors (2008-2013); Board of Directors, Christ Lutheran High School (2008-2013); Treasurer, Milan Community Christian Assistance Fund (2008-2015); Tutor Assistant, Classical Conversations (2018-2019)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Tutor Assistant, Homeschool Organization (2018-2019); Bradley University Parents Board of Directors (2019-Present), Executive Committee (2020-Present), President-elect (2021-2022), President (2022-Present)

Statement concerning candidacy: *It's been a humble privilege to serve on the Nominations Committee, and I would be open to serving again in this capacity.*

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

MIDWEST REGION (cont.)

The Rev. Dr. David Petersen

College/University: Central Michigan University
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: 1991/BS-History
Grad Yr/Degree: 1996/M.Div.
Grad Yr/Degree: 2013/STM
Grad Yr/Degree: 2018/D.Min.

Congregations Served:

Redeemer, Ft. Wayne, IN
Grace, Fairgrove, MI

Year(s): 2000-Present
Year(s): 1996-2000

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Synod: Doctrinal Review; Set Apart to Serve committee; CTS adjunct faculty

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Chair, Akron-Fairgrove Ministerial Alliance (1996-2000)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Regular guest on Issues, Etc.; contributor to The Lutheran Witness and The Lutheran Witness Online; departmental editor for *Gottesdienst: the Journal of Lutheran Liturgy*.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I have been in the English District for a long time and would welcome the opportunity to give back and serve.*

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

MIDWEST REGION (cont.)

The Rev. C. J. Wright

College/University: Chicago State University
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Grad Yr/Degree: 1983/BS-History
Grad Yr/Degree: 1986/M.Div. (Colloquy)

Congregations Served:

Christ English, Chicago, IL
Ebenezer, Chicago, IL

Year(s): 2000-Present
Year(s): 1998-2000

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: District Reconciler

Synod: Board of Black Ministry; Task Force for planting churches

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: I served as vice-president, then as president of the Black Student Union in seminary. I was an executive board member of the Metropolitan Alliance of Congregations West (MAC West) in Chicago. I have served as a board member on several advisory councils (aviation education for minorities; business recruitment for minority participation). I continue to serve on various community boards (police and community relations; drug rehab program; job recruitment); Founding Chair of Bach Collegium Ft. Wayne (2001-2005), oversaw board and application process for 501(c)(3) status, initial planning and implementation of mission statement, constitution, and by-laws; ran meetings, oversaw and chaired a number of fundraisers and community events

Statement concerning candidacy: *Did not know that I was nominated, but I am willing to serve. From looking at the job description, the experience that I have gained working with government and private sector businesses and organizations, in particular, the different by-laws and other governing language that these entities adhered to will assist and enable me to perform the duties of this position.*

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

WESTERN REGION

The Rev. Fred Gerlach

College/University: Pace University

Grad Yr/Degree: 1979/BBA-Public Accting

College/University: Concordia Seminary, St Louis

Grad Yr/Degree: 2005/MDiv

Congregations Served:

Family of Christ, Phoenix, AZ

Year(s): 2018-Present

Bethany, Ewing, NJ

Year(s): 2005-2018

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Endowment Fund Board of Managers (2013-Present)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): ASU Campus Ministry; Ewing Alcohol and Drug Alliance
(Substance Abuse prevention)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Worked 20 years in the finance and banking industries

Statement concerning candidacy: *I have served 8 years on the Endowment Board where it's a blessing to help congregations with their mission outreach.*

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

WESTERN REGION (cont.)

The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse

College/University: Adrian College

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne

Grad. Sch./Sem.: Trinity Ev. Div. School

Grad Yr/Degree: 1987/BBA-Mgmt/German

Grad Yr/Degree: 1998/M.Div.-History

Grad Yr/Degree: 2017/D.Min./Pastoral Min.

Congregations Served:

Catalina, Tucson, AZ

US Army/ARNG/Brigade Chaplain

Year(s): 1998-Present

Year(s): 1999-2006

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, Arizona South Circuit (2018-Present); University of Arizona Campus Christian Center Board of Directors (2007-2018)

Synod: Operation Barnabas Advisory Group (2007-Present); Vicar Supervisor, CTSFW (Full-time 2014-Present; Summers 2000 & 2001); Board of Regents, Concordia University, Irvine, CA (2010-2016)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Army National Guard Officer, Command and Leadership positions (1985-1998); Chaplain, Saddlebrooke Rotary (1999-2004); AZ South Lutheran Servanthood School Instructor (1999-Present); Planned and officiated LCMS Veterans' Day Services for community (2007-2019, 2021)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Self-employed financial advisor, Series 7, Series 3, Series 6 licensed (1989-1996); Management and bookkeeping experience (1980-1987)

Statement concerning candidacy: *I am willing to let my name stand for any English District position for which I have been nominated. I am Christ's servant to His Church and am honored to serve Him in roles that benefit His Church, the Body of Christ.*

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

EASTERN REGION

Connor Hagey

College/University: Shippensburg Univ.

Grad Yr/Degree: 2003/BS-Business

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Oakmont, PA

Occupation: Senior Health Care Director

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Concordia Lutheran Ministries - Director

Year(s): 2013-Present

PNC Bank - Investment Operations

Year(s): 2006-2013

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Committee on Nominations

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: As a Director with Concordia Lutheran Ministries, LCMS RSO, I am blessed to interact with LCMS groups from across the country. I am also blessed to sit on multiple Endowment Boards as well. Additionally, I serve as Chairman of the Board for Redeemer Lutheran School, another LCMS RSO.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I am blessed and honored to be considered for serving the English District in any way I can.*

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

LAKE ERIE REGION

Terry Leu

College/University: Ashland College

Grad Yr/Degree: 1978/BS-Elem Ed

Present Congregation: Prince of Peace, Medina, OH

Occupation: Retired - Self-employed, retail sales

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Terleu Enterprises, DBA Rolston Poultry - Owner

Year(s): 1992-2016

Leu Brothers Meats

Year(s): 1978-1992

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Member, District Board of Directors (2012-Present); Board Representative and Secretary, Endowment Fund Board of Managers (2016-Present); District Coordinator, 2022 National Youth Gathering

Synod: Lay Delegate, Synod Convention (2001, 2004, 2013); Advisory Delegate, Synodical Convention (2016)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Currently - Head Elder; Endowment Fund Chairman; Lay Youth Worker; Head of the Call Committee

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Active in the Cleveland & Akron Circuits; Have attended both Synod and District Conventions; Attended 11 Youth Gatherings; President of the Pine Valley Golf League

Statement concerning candidacy: *Because of my tenure on the Board of Directors, I feel that I can help provide continued direction and leadership, stability, along what has been a very successful path for the last decade.*

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

MIDWEST REGION

Gail Grieser

College/Univ.: Ithaca College

Grad Yr/Degree: BA-English

College/Univ.: Indiana University

Grad Yr/Degree: M.Ed.

Other: Ohio University

Grad Yr/Degree: Journalism

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Ft. Wayne, IN

Occupation: Retired teacher

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

LCMS – Missionary

Year(s): 2014-2017

Ivy Tech College – Asst. English Professor

Year(s): 2000-2014

Bethlehem Lutheran School – Teacher (Gr. 5-8)

Year(s): 2003-2006

Zion Lutheran Academy

Year(s): 1995-2000

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Redeemer, Ft. Wayne: Board of Education (25 years), Congregational Services, Altar Guild; Court-appointed Special Advocate volunteer for best interest of abused and neglected children (services supervised by Allen County Superior Court)

Statement concerning candidacy: *I love LCMS. It has been the foundation of my adult life. I want to serve on the board to be of service to my LCMS family and help build a stronger community.*

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

MIDWEST REGION (cont.)

Rod Lane

College/University: Concordia, Seward

Grad Yr/Degree: 1997/BA-Management

College/University: Concordia, St. Paul

Grad Yr/Degree: 2010/DCE-colloquy

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Lincoln, NE

Congregations/Schools Served:

Redeemer, Lincoln, NE

Year(s): 2007-Present

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Board of Directors (2019-Present); Chair, Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI); hosted/coordinated, district HS servant event (2017); District Gala Team (2021-2022)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Redeemer Lutheran Church - DCE in Family, Education, Youth and Outreach (2010-Present); lay worker in youth and education (2007-2010)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications:

Statement concerning candidacy: *I have served for the last two plus years and enjoy my service to the district. I believe it is a good use of my time and talents. I believe I'm a good resource for the board and welcome the challenges that come with serving on the Committee on Nominations.*

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

WESTERN REGION

Roni Grad

College/University: Boston University

Grad Yr/Degree: 1982/BA

College/University: Boston University

Grad Yr/Degree: 1982/MD

Present Congregation: Catalina, Tucson, AZ

Occupation: Retired Physician

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Univ. of Arizona – Assoc. Prof.

Year(s): 2008-2016

UAB – Assoc. Prof.

Year(s): 1998-2008

Private Practice, San Antonio, TX

Year(s): 1995-1997

Univ. of New Mexico – Asst. Prof.

Year(s): 1991-1995

Univ. of Arizona – Instructor/Asst. Prof.

Year(s): 1988-1991

Medical residency and fellowship

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: District Life Coordinator; Chair, Lifeline Committee; Chair, Reformation 500 Committee (2015-2017)

Synod: Delegate, Synod Convention (2016); Resolution 13-01A Task Force (2017-2018)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Catalina Lutheran Church: Chair, Life Team; Chair, Children/Youth Education; Usher; hymnody planning committee; church council; deacon in training; circuit forum president, Arizona South Circuit 20; Lutherans for Life Board of Directors; Family First Pregnancy Care Center Board of Directors

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: David's Harp Board of Directors (center for musical development); Faculty Advisor, LCMS Campus Ministry (U of AZ) (2009-2016); LCMS Campus Ministry Board of Directors (2016-2019)

Statement concerning candidacy: *I am honored to be nominated and would be blessed to assist in identifying leaders for our district.*

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

WESTERN REGION (cont.)

Karina Lindsey von Hindenburg

College/University: California State Univ-Stanislaus Grad Yr/Degree: 1990/BA-Pol. Science

Present Congregation: Catalina, Tucson, AZ

Occupation: Retired Church Secretary

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Good Shepherd, Inglewood, CA – Secretary Year(s): 2018-2020

Our Savior, Westchester – Bookkeeper Year(s): 2014-2016

Park Lutheran HS, Gardena, CA – Store Manager Year(s): 2012-2014

CaWest Construction, Fresno, CA – Office Manager Year(s): 2008-2010

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District: Committee on Nominations (2022); Pacific Southwest District (PSD): Lay Delegate (2012, 2015, 2018)

Synod: Lay Delegate (PSD), Synod Convention (2013)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): LWML Zone VP of Christian Life; Chair, Congregational Board of Evangelism

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Board of Directors, Lutherans in Africa (2012-2019); Traveled to Kenya to teach Lutheran Catechesis to Deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya

Statement concerning candidacy: *As the wife of a Lutheran pastor and educator, and attendee of many conferences and conventions, I know many in the district (and synod) and can readily communicate with them.*

1 **RESOLUTION 1-03A**

2 *(Overture 1-03)*

3

4

To Decline Overture 1-03

5

(To Improve the Specific Ministry Pastor Program, p. 4-6)

6

7 WHEREAS, 2022 Overture 1-03 has been received by Floor Committee 1; and

8 WHEREAS, Overture 1-03 is a copy, verbatim, of the same resolution submitted to, and acted upon, by
9 the 2018 English District in Convention; and

10 WHEREAS, 2022 Overture 1-03 was accepted as a resolution by the 2018 English District in Convention,
11 and forwarded as an Overture to the 2019 LC-MS Synodical Convention; and

12 WHEREAS, At the 2019 Synodical Convention the Overture was combined by the Floor Committee on
13 Pastoral Ministry and Seminaries (2019 Synod Res. 6-03A; text provided on following pages) with several
14 other Overtures of the same topic, the SMP Program; and

15 WHEREAS, The Overture was significantly changed in the process, eliminating the requirement that SMP
16 candidates complete all coursework before Ordination; and

17 WHEREAS, A motion from the floor was made to restore the eliminated language by amendment to the
18 combined Resolution; and

19 WHEREAS, Said amendment was rejected by the Synod in Convention, and the Resolution was passed
20 without it; and

21 WHEREAS, English District 2022 Convention Overture 1-02 proposes the establishment of an Oversight
22 Board for the SMP Program, satisfying many of the “resolveds” in Overture 1-03; be it therefore

23 *Resolved*, That the English District 2022 Floor Committee 1 respectfully declines consideration of
24 Overture 1-03.

25 6. PASTORAL MINISTRY AND SEMINARIES | PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2019 (67TH) LCMS CONVENTION
26 (pages 159-160)

27 To Enhance the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program RESOLUTION 6-03A Report R66 (CW, 375–
28 84)

29 Overtures 6-02–03, 6-05–09 (CW, 448–52); Overture L6-22 (TB, 1:33)

30 **WHEREAS**, Jesus said “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to
31 the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matt. 9:37– 38); and

32 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the Synod states that “the Synod, under Scripture and Lutheran
33 Confessions, shall...recruit and train pastors” and as part of that duty Synod in its 2007 Convention
34 passed Res. 5-01B establishing the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program; and

35 **WHEREAS**, The Pastoral Formation Committee “shall be responsible for ensuring that the Synod’s
36 objective of training pastors is fulfilled consistently,” and “The committee shall consider long term
37 strategic direction of the pastoral formation within the Synod and facilitate discussion of the same
38 with the two seminary boards of regents in their annual joint meeting.” (Bylaws 3.10.4 and 3.10.4.5);
39 and

40 **WHEREAS**, The 2016 Res. 13-03 Task Force report noted the existence of Notprediger, emergency
41 pastors, in the early Reformation, which were seen as a temporary way of providing more men to
42 serve in the ministry by abbreviating their training, with the full intention of preparing these men and
43 future men with more comprehensive instruction in the future, so that when the church sends a man
44 regularly to preach and teach and administer the sacraments he be called and ordained and thus
45 clearly recognized as a pastor; and

46 **WHEREAS**, The task force also recommended that the Pastoral Formation Committee “work with the
47 seminary boards of regents to recommend any needed improvements to the standards for pastoral
48 formation, including the interplay of academics and confession”; and

49 **WHEREAS**, The Lord of the Church has blessed and privileged our Synod for over 172 years, providing
50 pastors for the care of souls entrusted to them, and over the years the total number of pastors has been
51 declining, and for over a decade the SMP program has provided our church body an opportunity to care
52 for flocks in specific Word and Sacrament ministry contexts, and the total number of specific ministry
53 pastors continues to increase; therefore be it Resolved, That the SMP vicars and pastors be commended
54 for their service to the Savior, the congregations, and the Synod, and that the seminaries, districts,
55 district presidents, SMP Committee, and the Pastoral Formation Committee be commended for
56 faithfully carrying out their respective responsibilities by order of, and in the name of, the congregations
57 of the Synod, for the sake of the mission; and be it further

58 **Resolved**, That the Pastoral Formation Committee work to enhance the curriculum and standards of the
59 SMP program between the two seminaries, in light of the curriculum and standards of the residential
60 seminaries, including instruction in biblical languages; and be it further Resolved, That the Pastoral
61 Formation Committee review the SMP program regarding the optimal timing

62 for vicarage and ordination and report its recommendations to the joint boards of regents at its 2020
63 meeting, as well as to the Synod at large; and be it further

64 **Resolved**, That the joint board of regents prepare an overture to the Synod on the timing of vicarage and
65 ordination for the SMP program for consideration in convention in 2022; and be it further

66 **Resolved**, That the Council of Presidents in coordination with the Pastoral Formation Committee draft
67 guidelines and training to enhance the mentoring and supervision of specific ministry pastors, taking into
68 account the wide variety of abilities of pastors and the contexts in which they serve, to assist district
69 presidents, circuit visitors, and supervising pastors in supporting the SMP pastors under their care; and
70 be it finally Resolutions Resolved, That the LCMS encourage the districts to provide funding for SMP
71 students as needed, so that no one be deprived of entering or completing the SMP program due to
72 financial hardships.

73 **Action:** Adopted (7) In Session 6, Res. 6-03A was read and introduced by the committee, and the
74 Pastoral Formation Committee expressed, through Chief Mission Officer Kevin Robson, its support.
75 The chair, noting the orders of the day, inquired of delegates and found they desired debate; when
76 discussion resumed in Session 7, it was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by adding to
77 Res. 6-03A the third resolve of Res. 6-03 (TB, 1:96), as follows:

78 Resolved, That the provisions of the SMP program as outlined in 2007 Res. 5-01B be modified to
79 require students enrolling in the SMP programs after the 2020 academic year to finish all academic
80 requirements of the SMP program before ordination and placement on the minister of religion–
81 ordained roster of the Synod; and be it further

82 After discussion, it was moved and seconded to close debate on the amendment; this carried [Yes:
83 883; No: 29]. The amendment failed [Yes: 304; No: 617].

84 There being objection to proceeding to a vote on the main motion, closure of debate was moved,
85 seconded, and carried [Yes: 782; No: 127], whereupon Res. 6- 03A was adopted as presented [Yes: 643;
86 No: 272].

1 **RESOLUTION 1-8**

2 **To Encourage our Seminaries to Increase Educational Training as Part of Pastoral Formation**

3
4 WHEREAS, The Scriptures teach that a requirement of the Pastoral Office is to be “able to teach” (1 Tim
5 2:3; 2 Tim 2:2, 24); and

6 WHEREAS, It is expected of our Pastors to be the primary teachers of both the young and adult
7 catechism classes, and of Bible classes, and much of the work of the Pastor is teaching; and

8 WHEREAS, While it is acknowledged that Pastors have sufficient knowledge to be qualified as teachers,
9 they may lack the tools needed to be effective in their teaching and efficient in their preparation; and

10 WHEREAS, Pastoral candidates are not required to complete courses on the philosophies, techniques
11 and practice of teaching that would provide them with tools to help them be more effective teachers;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The English District in Convention in 2015 passed Resolution 1-5, “To Require Educational
14 Training as Part of Pastoral Formation”, and as a result letters were sent to both seminaries encouraging
15 them to “offer at least two teacher training classes as required courses for graduation”; and

16 WHEREAS, No significant increase in teacher training has been implemented at our seminaries, be it
17 therefore

18 *Resolved* That the seminaries again be strongly encouraged require for graduation from any program
19 leading to ordination at least two teacher training classes, which include skills in class management,
20 tools for lesson preparation, and instruction in the philosophy of education as is appropriate in Lutheran
21 Christian education.

1 **RESOLUTION 1-9**

2
3 **To Prevent Harmful Philosophies, Ideologies and Contemporary Movements Contrary to the Christian**
4 **Faith from Damaging Our Congregations, Schools, Colleges and Seminaries**
5

6 WHEREAS, God created all people equal, but not interchangeable (Gen 1:26-27), and

7 WHEREAS, God created male and female, and no other gender (Gen 1:27), and

8 WHEREAS, The fall into sin ruined and perverted the creation (Gen 3:14-19), which was once very good
9 (Gen 1:31), hence an order was instituted by God for the relationship between man and woman (Gen
10 3:16), and

11 WHEREAS, After the fall into sin, man and woman remained equal but not interchangeable (Gen 3:20),
12 and

13 WHEREAS, All people are subject to the stain of original sin, but now also have been equally redeemed
14 by the blood of Christ as the only way to be reconciled to God and to each other (Rom 3:23-26), and

15 WHEREAS, Because of sin, racism (the sinful notion that some races are inherently superior or inferior to
16 others), misunderstanding, and strife are present in the world and experienced in our congregations and
17 communities; and

18 WHEREAS, Christ teaches us to love all peoples and nations, and consequently The Lutheran Church—
19 Missouri Synod (LCMS) abhors racism, and in convention has passed resolutions repudiating all racism,
20 (see 1992 Res. 3-03 and 2019 Res. 11-04A); and

21 WHEREAS, Contemporary ideologies and movements such as Black Lives Matter (BLM), “Diversity,
22 Equity and Inclusion” (DEI), and “Critical Race Theory” (CRT) have become common, multifaceted, and
23 controversial theories, based in non-Christian and anti-Christian tenets, which divide people based solely
24 on the basis of “sexual orientation” or race; therefore be it

25 *Resolved*, That the LCMS reject any doctrine that teaches that one’s race, ancestry, or nationality are
26 inherently superior to the race, ancestry, or nationality of another; or that any individual is inherently
27 racist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously, based solely on his or her race, ancestry, or
28 nationality; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the LCMS reject any doctrine that assumes or allows for any categories of gender other
30 than those intrinsic to God’s created order, viz. “male and female” (Gen. 1:27); and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention reject BLM, DEI, CRT, and similar ideologies and world
32 views, as they are contrary to Scripture and counterproductive to true racial conversation and
33 reconciliation, for they pursue “equality of outcome” or “equity” between racial groups, which requires
34 treating individuals unequally based on race; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, that the English District, together with all our congregations, schools, universities and
36 seminaries, also reject all organizations, ideologies, philosophies, movements, petitions, and doctrines
37 that present the BLM, DEI or CRT world views, or related anti-Scriptural world views or doctrines in a
38 positive manner; and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That the congregations of the LCMS English District be encouraged to engage members of
40 their communities in conversations that build unity among all men in light of the Saving Gospel of Jesus
41 Christ; and be it further

42 *Resolved*, That we commend those within the LCMS English District who, in the light of our Lord's charge
43 known as the "Great Commission", intentionally proclaim and work to reach out with the Gospel of
44 Jesus to all peoples regardless of race, gender, nationality or ethnicity with the goal of bringing them
45 into the blessed unity we have in Christ our Head (Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 12:27; Eph 2:19-22, 4:25); and be it
46 finally

47 *Resolved*, That the English District memorialize the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as it gathers at its
48 2023 Convention to do the same.

1 **RESOLUTION 3-03a**

2
3 **To Amend District Bylaws 5.2 and 5.3**

4
5 *The numeric references to the District Bylaws used in this resolution assume favorable adoption of the*
6 *District Bylaw reformatting proposed in Resolution 3-01. If that reformatting proposal is not adopted,*
7 *this resolution will be withdrawn and a revised resolution will be presented to the delegates by the Floor*
8 *Committee.*

9
10 WHEREAS, The current District Bylaws anticipate having multiple candidates for District President (*cf.*
11 *Bylaw 5.2.1*) and District Vice-President (*cf. Bylaw 5.3.1*); and

12
13 WHEREAS, Recent elections for District President and Vice-President have seen slates of nominees
14 without multiple candidates, leaving no choice for voting delegates; and

15
16 WHEREAS, Between the close of the nominations process and the election at the district convention,
17 circumstances may dictate that a nominee is no longer eligible to stand for election (eg. taking a call
18 outside of the region or the district, etc.) thus leaving voting delegates no option to nominate additional
19 candidates; and

20
21 WHEREAS, Other Districts within the Synod grant the ability of voting delegates to make floor nominations
22 where multiple candidates do not exist for District President and/or Vice-President; and

23
24 WHEREAS, No specific guidance is given in the current District Bylaws in case there is a tie for the final
25 places on the ballot for District President and Vice-President; therefore be it

26
27 *Resolved*, That District Bylaws 5.2 and 5.3 be amended as follows:

28
29 ***5.2 Nomination and Election of District President***

30 5.2.1 Each member congregation of the District shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of
31 the Synod two (2) ordained ministers as candidates for District President:

32 (a) Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send
33 a letter to the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit
34 nominations.

35 (b) Nominations for District President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four
36 months prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention*
37 *Workbook* the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received nominating
38 votes.

39 (c) The names of the five (5) ordained ministers who receive the highest number of nominating
40 votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. When a tie occurs for the last
41 place(s) on the ballot, all names involved in the tie shall be included, up to a total of eight (8)
42 candidates on the ballot. If the total of candidates would exceed this number, the District
43 Secretary will conduct a blind draw of the names of those tied for the last place on the ballot
44 to determine the final ballot. ~~There shall be no opportunity provided for additional~~
45 nominations.

46 (d) The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's
47 experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be

48 published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the
49 convention.

50 (e) No nominations may be made on the floor of the convention unless fewer than two
51 candidates result from the congregation nominating process. No individual who had
52 previously been nominated by a congregation may be nominated from the floor. Written
53 consent and biographical materials shall be presented to the District Secretary at or before
54 the time of nomination. If the opportunity for floor nominations is provided and results in
55 having fewer than two candidates, the slate of candidates shall be closed.

56

57 5.2.2 The District Convention shall elect the District President:

58 (a) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

59 (b) Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from
60 consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared
61 elected.

62

63 **5.3 Nomination and Election of District Vice-Presidents**

64 5.3.1 Each member congregation of a region of the District shall be entitled to nominate two (2)
65 ordained ministers from the clergy roster of the District who hold membership in a District
66 congregation within its region as candidates for Vice-President:

67 (a) Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send
68 a letter to the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit
69 nominations.

70 (b) Nominations for Vice-President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months
71 prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention*
72 *Workbook* the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received nominating
73 votes.

74 (c) The names of the three (3) ordained ministers from each region who receive the most
75 nominating votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. When a tie occurs
76 for the last place(s) on the ballot, all names involved in the tie shall be included, up to a total
77 of six (6) candidates on the ballot. If the total of candidates would exceed this number, the
78 District Secretary will conduct a blind draw of the names of those tied for the last place on
79 the ballot to determine the final ballot. ~~There shall be no opportunity provided for additional~~
80 nominations.

81 (d) The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's
82 experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be
83 published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the
84 convention.

85 (e) No nominations may be made on the floor of the convention unless fewer than two
86 candidates result from the congregation nominating process. No individual who had
87 previously been nominated by a congregation may be nominated from the floor. Written
88 consent and biographical materials shall be presented to the District Secretary at or before
89 the time of nomination. If the opportunity for floor nominations is provided and results in
90 having fewer than two candidates, the slate of candidates shall be closed.

91

92

- 93 5.3.2 The District Convention shall elect one (1) Vice-President from each of the four regions of the
94 District:
- 95 (a) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
 - 96 (b) Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from
97 consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared
98 elected.
- 99
- 100 5.3.3 Upon the election of the Vice-Presidents, a final election will take place ranking the Vice-
101 Presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority of voting delegates determining the first,
102 second, third, and fourth Vice-Presidents in line of succession.

1 **RESOLUTION 4-01a**

2
3 **To Memorialize the LCMS to Have the Next Available Convention of Synod in Detroit, Michigan**

4
5 WHEREAS, Detroit, Michigan, has not hosted a Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
6 since 1965; and,

7 WHEREAS, Since the Pittsburgh Convention in 1992 Synod has deemed it wise to move the triennial
8 Convention of Synod to various cities across the United States, assuming competitive rates for hotels,
9 travel, and convention sites, and thus helping create a deeper appreciation for our Synod and her
10 faithful, biblical, doctrinal stances, confession, and practices; and,

11 WHEREAS, The Detroit metropolitan area has an historically large LCMS population and has notable
12 historic congregations, cemeteries, and history, as well as nearby Concordia University-Ann Arbor, and is
13 a major international airport and a hub of Delta Air Lines; and,

14 WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.1.9(j) of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states that “A district may submit an
15 invitation to host the convention. In such case, a host group shall determine the minimum requirements
16 from the convention manager, agree to provide any needed local support, and submit a proposal to the
17 Board of Directors of the Synod for evaluation and consideration;” and,

18 WHEREAS, The Michigan District and English District have headquarter buildings in the nearby area, and
19 our partner synod, The Lutheran Church-Canada, has a concentration of congregations in Ontario and
20 just across the Detroit River in Windsor and nearby counties; and,

21 WHEREAS, The Michigan and English Districts could team together in hosting the Convention; and,

22 WHEREAS, Significant Lutheran heritage and sight-seeing is available in relatively-close Frankenmuth,
23 Michigan, as well as in Dearborn (Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village) and other cultural and
24 sports amenities; and,

25 WHEREAS, The Detroit metro area is a huge mission field, a highly multi-ethnic milieu, and one of the
26 largest Black concentrations in the nation at a time when it would be wise for the LCMS to show her
27 support of the Black community, in particular; and,

28 WHEREAS, The Detroit metro area is also home to a huge mission field of Arabic and Islamic peoples
29 who need to hear the Gospel of life and salvation in Jesus Christ; and,

30 WHEREAS, The Detroit area congregations, schools, pastors, and church workers have demonstrated a
31 high level of confessional witness and missionary support (one of the OIM Regional Director families is
32 from Windsor, ON, and a member of a Detroit congregation); therefore, be it

33 *Resolved*, That the English District, together with the Michigan District, determine to act as host by
34 determining the minimum requirements from the convention manager, agreeing to provide any needed
35 local support, and submitting a proposal to the Board of Directors of the Synod and be it further

36 *Resolved*, that upon consultation and approval from the Board of Directors of the Synod, the English
37 District, together with the Michigan District, invite the next available Convention of The Lutheran
38 Church—Missouri Synod to Detroit, Michigan after the 2023 Synod Convention.

1 **RESOLUTION 4-02a**

2
3 **To Recognize and Thank the LCMS for the Strengthened and Expanded “Soldiers of the Cross”**
4 **COVID-19 Response Initiative**

5
6 WHEREAS, The Pandemic of 2020 shuttered schools in the middle of the school year, furloughed workers
7 and caused others to pivot towards a digital presence for which they were unprepared; and

8 WHEREAS, Many of our teachers and school workers were without the additional tuition or budget income
9 needed to support the immediate response to the transition and additional regulations that were placed
10 upon them through the Centers for Disease Control and the Executive orders of local, state, and national
11 government; and

12 WHEREAS, The need for compassionate support and financial assistance was great; and

13 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)
14 worked together to identify funds for immediate assistance for all who served in Lutheran ministries; and

15 WHEREAS, Many of our school and child development workers who were both rostered and lay benefited
16 tremendously from this generous act of compassion; and

17 WHEREAS, As of August 2021 more than \$1,577,835 was awarded to 939 workers; and

18 WHEREAS, This support has been even further extended and is still ongoing; therefore be it

19 *Resolved*, That on behalf of the workers of our Lutheran churches, schools, and centers, the English District
20 in Convention publicly thank God for the generosity of His people, the LCMS and the LCEF for supporting
21 all who serve in our schools and child care centers.

1 **RESOLUTION 4-03a**

2

3

**To Direct LCMS Life Ministry to Support Congregations in Developing
4 Mercy Ministries to Promote a Culture of Life**

5

6 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has long supported the pro-life movement, both
7 politically and culturally; and

8 WHEREAS, A one-million dollar grant has been established by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
9 available as matching funds for congregations to support local life issues; and

10 WHEREAS, There are many pro-life organizations whose primary purpose is to inform people on pro-life
11 issues and engage them in the political process; and

12 WHEREAS, The duplication of these services wastes precious time and resources; and

13 WHEREAS, Establishing a culture of life begins in our churches and communities; therefore be it

14 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the Life Ministry of The
15 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continue to support congregations in establishing new mercy
16 ministries that support a culture of life; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the Life Ministry of The
18 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continue to establish support and training material for the
19 aforementioned to write grants and support their efforts; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod to extend life ministries, support,
21 and training materials, including but not limited to production of policy manuals, grant writing
22 instruction, guidance to life ministry agencies, encouragement to access grants from allied institutions,
23 and maintaining LifeLine as a resource for life and mercy ministries.

SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS



Rev. Keith Speaks grew up in Loami, Illinois, a small town southwest of Springfield. He graduated from New Berlin High School in 1979. Paula and Keith were married August 21, 1982. Together they have been blessed with three sons: Aaron and his wife Sarah, with granddaughter #1, Evie, and grandson #1, Emerson, in North Carolina; Jacob, with granddaughter #2, Harper, in Milwaukee; and Jordan, who is single, living in Milwaukee.

Pastor Keith played football, baseball, and basketball, ran track and played tennis throughout high school. He played small college baseball and basketball. Then he travelled around the country playing rugby.

Pastor Keith is a 1987 graduate of Concordia, Chicago and a 1990 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Pastor Keith has served parishes in Iowa, Texas, North Carolina, and now Hales Corners Lutheran Church in Wisconsin.



Lt. Gen. (Ret.) William G. Boykin serves as Family Research Council's Executive Vice President.

He was one of the original members of the U.S. Army's Delta Force. He was privileged to ultimately command these elite warriors in combat operations, having been involved in numerous high-profile missions, including the 1980 Iran hostage rescue attempt, the 1992 hunt for Pablo Escobar in Colombia, and the "Black Hawk Down" incident in Mogadishu, Somalia. He is an author and teaches at Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia. Later, William Boykin commanded all the Army's Green Berets as well as the Special Warfare Center and School.

In all, Lt. Gen. Boykin spent 36 years in the army, serving his last four years as the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence. He has a passion for spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and encouraging Christians to become warriors in God's Kingdom.

William and his wife Ashley enjoy spending time with their five children and growing number of grandchildren.



Jack Phillips opened Masterpiece Cakeshop in 1993 and has served the community of Lakewood, Colorado ever since.

Jack serves all customers; but as a creative professional, he can't create custom cakes that would express messages or celebrate events in conflict with his religious beliefs. For example, he's declined to create custom cakes that celebrate Halloween or express anti- American themes. In July 2012, two men asked Jack to design a custom wedding cake celebrating their same-sex marriage. Jack politely declined the request but offered to design cakes for other occasions or to sell them anything else in his shop.

The couple filed a complaint with the Colorado Civil Rights Division alleging that Jack and his shop discriminated against them on the basis of sexual orientation. On June 4, 2018, the Supreme Court ruled 7 to 2 in Jack's favor, finding that the government acted with impermissible hostility toward his faith. Despite the Supreme Court's ruling, the State of Colorado targeted Jack again for declining to create a custom cake with a pink and blue design to celebrate and reflect a gender transition. In response, Jack sued various state officials in federal court, and after more evidence of the Commission's anti-religious bias surfaced, the state agreed to end its campaign against Jack.

Most recently, the lawyer who sparked Colorado's second prosecution filed a private lawsuit against Jack based on his decision not to create the requested gender transition cake. Jack's attorneys are currently defending him against this lawsuit.



Jake Warner serves as legal counsel with Alliance Defending Freedom, where he is a key member of the Center for Conscience Initiatives.

Since joining ADF in 2017, Warner has focused on protecting the conscience rights of individuals being unjustly forced to compromise their beliefs under threat of heavy fines and punishment. His practice also includes defending the freedom of Christians to exercise their faith in the marketplace without government interference.

Prior to joining ADF, Warner served as a judicial law clerk to Senior United States District Judge Malcolm J. Howard in the Eastern District of North Carolina. Before his clerkship, Warner also engaged in private practice with the firm of Perry, Perry & Perry, in Kinston, North Carolina, where he primarily represented criminal defendants in both federal and state courts.

Warner earned his J.D. at the Regent University School of Law, graduating magna cum laude in 2011. He obtained his B.A. in history and political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2006.

Warner is admitted to practice in Arizona, North Carolina, and the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as several federal district and appellate courts.



Jim Sanft has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Concordia Plans since 2008.

Prior to joining CPS in 1999, Sanft worked in the group insurance industry as an actuary for Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. in Lincoln, Nebraska and with Minnesota Life (now Securian) in St. Paul, Minnesota. He began his professional career as a mathematics and computer science teacher at Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Jim has a B.S. in Education from Concordia University, Nebraska and a M.S. in Mathematics and Statistics from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Sanft is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and is a member of the American Academy of Actuaries.

An active leader in the church benefits community, Jim serves as Chair of the Church Alliance (CA), a coalition of his peers from nearly 40 church benefit programs, including mainline and evangelical Protestant denominations, branches of Judaism, and Catholic dioceses, schools and institutions. This work frequently takes Sanft to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Congress, regulators, and other officials to discuss issues and concerns of church benefit plans. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Church Benefits Association (CBA). Collectively, CBA and CA organizations provide retirement and health benefits to more than one million clergy, lay workers, and their family members. Sanft has also served on the Policy Board of Directors of the American Benefits Council as the CA representative.

Jim and his wife Janell are blessed with three sons and daughters-in-law, along with one incredible grandson! They make their home in Columbia, Illinois and are members of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri. Jim enjoys traveling and hiking with Janell, golfing with his sons and sharing their love for Manchester United soccer and Nebraska Cornhusker football.

2022 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #1 - New York</u>			
Ewing, NJ	Bethany	Rev. Dr. Elwood Mather	Bradley Bastedo
Flushing, NY	Immanuel		
Palisades Park, NJ	Grace		
Palisades Park, NJ	New Jersey Chowon	Rev. Phillip Sang Rey	
Pennsauken, NJ	Martin Luther Chapel		
Princeton, NJ	Messiah	Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt	Herbert Gishlick
Scarsdale, NY	Trinity	Rev. Gordon Naumann	Kenneth Connelly
St Albans, NY	Redeemer	Rev. Steven Hicks	
Valley Stream, NY	Our Saviour		
<u>Circuit #2 - Philadelphia</u>			
Alexandria, VA	Immanuel	Rev. Noah Rogness	Josef Hageman
Blue Bell, PA	Gloria Dei		
Chesapeake, VA	Faith		James Dobberteen
Lititz, PA	Mount Calvary	Rev. Christopher Seifferlein	Steve Kurtz
Mechanicsburg, PA	Calvary	Rev. Luke Zimmerman	James Blockus
Philadelphia, PA	Rehoboth Afaan		
Springfield, PA	Saint John	Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	John Zampino
Warminster, PA	Grace		
<u>Circuit #3 - Florida</u>			
Inverness, FL	Tree of Life		Ron Hansen
Naples, FL	Faith		
Ocala, FL	Trinity		
Palm Coast, FL	Shepherd of the Coast	Rev. William Douthwaite	Marsha Asbury
Saint John's, FL	Celebration	Rev. Steve De Santo	William Gilzinger
<u>Circuit #4 - Georgia</u>			
Alpharetta, GA	Christ the Shepherd	Rev. Aaron Sterling	Gary Church
Atlanta, GA	Ascension	Rev. David Miller	Brian Beckman
<u>Circuit #5 - Buffalo</u>			
Albion, PA	Holy Trinity	Rev. Michael Taylor	Dale Klobusnik
Amherst, NY	Calvary		
Buffalo, NY	Nazareth	Rev. Dwayne Hendricks	
Erie, PA	Trinity	Rev. Travis Schmidt	Carol George
Kenmore, NY	Pilgrim	Rev. Ben Eder	Ruth Whitmer
North Tonawanda, NY	Redeemer		
Syracuse, NY	Hope Community		
<u>Circuit #6 - Pittsburgh</u>			
Clarksburg, WV	Saint John's	Rev. Stanley Lacey	Ray Higginbotham
McMurray, PA	Peace	Rev. Justin Schmidt	Rick Crain
Oakmont, PA	Redeemer	Rev. Brian Westgate	Connor Hagey
Pittsburgh, PA	First Trinity	Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel	Brandon Price
Slippery Rock, PA	All Saints		Peter Rigney

2022 CONVENTION DELEGATES

	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #7 - Canada East</u>		
Aurora, ON	Christ	Bob Ernst
Golden Lake, ON	Saint John's	
Mississauga, ON	Saint Mark	Ken Freeman
Pembroke, ON	Saint John's	Paul Douglas
Toronto, ON	Saint Luke	Ian Farquharson
Toronto, ON	Saint Matthew	David Issenberg
<u>Circuit #8 - Canada West</u>		
Chatham, ON	Our Saviour's	
Kitchener, ON	Hope	
Mitchell, ON	Grace	Rev. Gerald Luck
Sarnia, ON	Redeemer	Ruth Luck
Windsor, ON	Gethsemane	
Windsor, ON	Peace	Rev. James Leistico
<u>Circuit #9 - Cleveland-Akron</u>		
Akron, OH	Concordia	Mark Thomas
Fairlawn, OH	Fairlawn	
Fairlawn, OH	Grace	
North Royalton, OH	Our Savior	Rev. Jonathan McCall
Streetsboro, OH	Saint Thomas	Rev. Dr. Christian Just
<u>Circuit #10 - Cleveland-West</u>		
Cleveland, OH	Holy Cross	Rev. Michael Sheer
Cleveland, OH	Iglesia	Dan Kenney
Elyria, OH	Grace	Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr.
Medina, OH	Prince of Peace	Rev. Daniel Haberkost
North Olmsted, OH	Ascension	Rev. Joshua Ulm
Oberlin, OH	Grace	Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer
<u>Circuit #11 - Detroit-South</u>		
Allen Park, MI	Angelica	Rev. Jonathan Sachs
Allen Park, MI	Christ Our Redeemer	Edward Stephens
Detroit, MI	Zion	Rev. Mark Braden
Grosse Pte Woods, MI	Christ the King	Rev. Randy Boelter
Plymouth, MI	Risen Christ	Joel Solomon
Sylvania, OH	King of Glory	Edward Fleck
Toledo, OH	Good Shepherd	Rev. Paul Schmidlin
		Rev. Bradford Scott
		Matthew Davenport

2022 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #12 - Detroit-North</u>			
Beverly Hills, MI	Ascension of Christ	Rev. Daniel Grams	David Lambert
Redford, MI	Grace	Rev. Timothy Halboth	Ralph Trendle
Saint Clair Shores, MI	Redeemer	Rev. Todd Seaver	David Kursinsky
Saint Clair Shores, MI	Saint Paul's	Rev. David Rutter	Paul Blackwell
Sandusky, MI	Holy Redeemer		
Shelby Township, MI	Epic	Rev. John Hile	David Boer
West Bloomfield, MI	Shepherd King	Rev. Timothy Holzerland	Tony Pauza
West Branch, MI	New Beginnings	Rev. Daniel Jansen	Richard Hegenauer
<u>Circuit #13 - Western Michigan</u>			
Bellaire, MI	Hope	Rev. Wade Seaver	Andrew Fleet
Dorr, MI	Epiphany	Rev. Ryan Beffrey	Ashley Beffrey
East Lansing, MI	Martin Luther Chapel	Rev. James Robinson	Richard Bearup
Grand Rapids, MI	Hope	Rev. Christopher Nuttelman	Jay Harnish
Hartland, MI	Our Savior	Rev. Christopher Thoma	Scott Morris
Howell, MI	Immanuel	Rev. Eric Forss	Dukane Carlos
Lakeview, MI	Holy Trinity	Rev. Alexander Sabol	
Marshall, MI	Agnus Dei	Rev. Peter Burfeind	Aidan Quick
Wyoming, MI	Grace	Rev. Zachary Marklevitz	Jeff DeYoung
<u>Circuit #14 - Indiana</u>			
Fort Wayne, IN	Bethany	Rev. Chad Trouten	Dain Christensen
Fort Wayne, IN	Redeemer	Rev. Dr. David Petersen	Colin Casey
Fort Wayne, IN	Jacob's Well		
Fremont, IN	Peace	Rev. Jeffrey Teeple	Michael Carr
Hudson, IN	Prince of Peace	Rev. Brian Pratt	
La Porte, IN	Trinity		
Zionsville, IN	Advent	Rev. Marcus Mackay	Monte Weimer
<u>Circuit #15 - Chicago-North</u>			
Arlington Heights, IL	Faith		
Chicago, IL	Bethany		
Chicago, IL	Bethesda	Rev. Dr. Paul Bacon	Roop Charles
Chicago, IL	Christ English	Rev. C. J. Wright	
Chicago, IL	Grace English		
Elk Grove Village, IL	Holy Spirit	Rev. Daniel Greg	Jerry Jacobson
Elmhurst, IL	Redeemer	Rev. Anthony Oliphant	Francine Holmes
Villa Park, IL	Trinity	Rev. Robert Rogers	Scott Golz
<u>Circuit #16 - Chicago-South</u>			
Berwyn, IL	Concordia		
Chicago, IL	Chatham Fields		
Chicago, IL	Ephphatha		
Chicago, IL	Faith		
Chicago, IL	New Hope		
Chicago, IL	Saint John the Divine		
Elmhurst, IL	Messiah		
Markham, IL	Markham		
New Lenox, IL	Trinity	Rev. Douglas Hoag	Timothy King

2022 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #17 - Milwaukee</u>			
Forest Lake, MN	Messiah	Rev. Gregory Musolf	
Hales Corners, WI	Hales Corners	Rev. Keith Speaks	Tim Dittloff
Hastings, MN	Hope	Rev. Kenneth Boudreau	Christopher Nelson
Janesville, WI	Saint Mark	Rev. Brad Urlaub	Andrew Speth
Lake Mills, WI	Christ		
Menomonee Falls, WI	Prince of Peace	Rev. Thomas Engler	Norm Schwantes
New Berlin, WI	Peace	Rev. Gregory Michel	Susan Slotke
Racine, WI	Living Hope		
Sheboygan, WI	Saint Mark		
Watertown, WI	Faith	Rev. Seth Hoepfner	
West Allis, WI	Greenfield Park		Charles Porter
<u>Circuit #18 - Saint Louis</u>			
Hannibal, MO	Saint John's		
Lee's Summit, MO	Beautiful Savior	Rev. Jonathan Gruen	Christopher Troester
Lincoln, NE	Redeemer	Rev. Joel Dietrich	Doug Garrison
O'Fallon, MO	Peace		
St Louis, MO	Chapel of the Cross		David Stahlhut
Vine Grove, KY	Grace	Rev. Ryan Schneider	Regis (Terry) O'Neil
<u>Circuit #19 - Arizona-North</u>			
Mesa, AZ	Eternal Life		
Overgaard, AZ	Faith		
Parker, AZ	Messiah		
Payson, AZ	Shepherd of the Pines		
Phoenix, AZ	Family of Christ	Rev. Fred Gerlach	
Pinetop, AZ	Shepherd of the Mountains	Rev. Daniel Warner	John Bremer
<u>Circuit #20 - Arizona-South</u>			
Benson, AZ	Peace in the Valley	Rev. Ron York	
Cortaro, AZ	Messiah		
Green Valley, AZ	Risen Savior	Rev. Todd Arnold	Richard Loesch
Rio Rico, AZ	Christus Rex		
Sahuarita, AZ	Crosspoint		Keith Christiansen
Tucson, AZ	Ascension		Andy Wellik
Tucson, AZ	Catalina		Shirley Holle
Tucson, AZ	Faith	Rev. Marcus Zill	Judy Hughes
Tucson, AZ	Holy Trinity		
Tucson, AZ	Mount Olive	Rev. Isaac Wirtz	Jonathan Wiens
<u>Circuit #21 - Nevada/Utah</u>			
Mesquite, NV	Prince of Peace	Rev. Robert Bruggeman	Colin Metzger
Saint George, UT	Our Savior's	Rev. Arthur Drehman	

2022 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #22 - San Diego</u>			
Borrego Springs, CA	Borrego		
El Cajon, CA	First	Rev. James Huenink	Leslie Lucas
La Mesa, CA	St. Luke's		
San Diego, CA	Living Water	Rev. Steven Duescher	
<u>Circuit #23 - Los Angeles</u>			
Long Beach, CA	Saint Paul's		
Los Angeles, CA	Highland Park		
Mission Hills, CA	Chapel of the Cross	Rev. Manuel De La Rosa	Josue De La Rosa
Orange, CA	Immanuel	Rev. Robert Dargatz	Lawrence Washburn
Palm Desert, CA	Peace	Rev. Steve Okpiz	Dawn Okpiz
San Dimas, CA	Trinity		
Sherman Oaks, CA	Sherman Oaks	Rev. Titus Utecht	David Seaver
<u>Circuit #24 - San Francisco</u>			
Danville, CA	Messiah	Rev. Peter Ledic	Joel Ross
Fremont, CA	Hope		
Hayden, ID	Blessed Sacrament	Rev. Marcus Williams	Nathaniel MacPherson
Moses Lake, WA	Apostolic	Rev. Winston Grieser	
San Francisco, CA	New Life	Rev. Charles Fox	Ed Yee
San Francisco, CA	West Portal	Rev. Curtis Binz	Richard Bass

2022 CIRCUIT YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

CIRCUIT

New York/New Jersey Circuit #1
Pittsburgh Circuit #6
Canada-East Circuit #7
Canada-East Circuit #7
Canada-East Circuit #7
Canada-East Circuit #7
Canada-West Circuit #8
Canada-West Circuit #8
Cleveland-West Circuit #10
Cleveland-West Circuit #10
Western Michigan Circuit #13
Western Michigan Circuit #13
Chicago-North Circuit #15
Milwaukee Circuit #17
San Francisco Circuit #24

REPRESENTATIVE

Mayongo Kolubah
Robbie Crain
Nyalieb Philip Gai
Chuddier Gattour
Jackie Wuol-Kouth
Nyathiel Wuol-Kouth
Emma Leistico
Jonathan Leistico
Kyle Dombrowski
Syd Lloyd
Corbyn Cook
Nathaniel Hardy
Jacob Kimble
Carter Pichler
Noah MacPherson

JUBILARIANS – ORDAINED

Ordination/Colloquy Anniversary

25 years (1994, 1995, 1996, 1997)

The Rev. Todd W. Arnold
The Rev. Peter A. Bauernfeind
The Rev. Peter M. Burfeind
The Rev. John H. Diener
The Rev. Curtis E. Dwyer
The Rev. John T. Kelling
The Rev. Eric R. Linthicum
The Rev. Gregory R. Lutz
The Rev. Gregory S. Michel
The Rev. Peter E. Mills
The Rev. Jeffrey G. Miskus
The Rev. Dr. R. Wayne Morton
The Rev. Steven J. Okpiz
The Rev. Dr. David H. Petersen
The Rev. Robb C. Ring
The Rev. Jonathan B. Sachs
The Rev. Raymond W. Scholle
The Rev. Robert J. Stevens
The Rev. Chad D. Trouten
The Rev. Charles E. Varsogea
The Rev. Nicholas D. Wirtz
The Rev. Marcus T. Zill

30 years (1989, 1990, 1991, 1992)

The Rev. David C. Adams
The Rev. Thomas E. Engler
The Rev. Eric C. Forss
The Rev. James A. Gau
The Rev. Henry V. Gerike
The Rev. Mel H. Graham
The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth
The Rev. Timothy A. Holzerland
The Rev. Daniel L. Jansen
The Rev. Dale W. Kaster
The Rev. Wallace J. Kimari
The Rev. Gregory S. Musolf
The Rev. Steven J. H. Resner
The Rev. Robert A. Rogers
The Rev. Travis J. Schmidt
The Rev. Dr. David R. Schmitt
The Rev. Keith A. Speaks
The Rev. Dr. Douglas H. Spittel

35 years (1984, 1985, 1986, 1987)

The Rev. Stephen C. Alles
The Rev. Wayne C. Berkesch
The Rev. William Douthwaite, III
The Rev. Steven J. Duescher
The Rev. Ben C. Eder
The Rev. Daniel R. Haberkost
The Rev. Patrick D. Henry
The Rev. J. Derek Mathers
The Rev. Bradford C. Maxon
The Rev. Karl E. Schmidt

35 years (1984, 1985, 1986, 1987) cont.

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan E. Shaw
The Rev. Steven E. Sutterer
The Rev. David S. Tannahill
The Rev. Michael S. Taylor
The Rev. Donald E. Treglown
The Rev. Robert E. Voelker
The Rev. Clarence J. Wright, Sr.

40 years (1979, 1980, 1981, 1982)

The Rev. Dr. Frederic W. Baue
The Rev. Thomas P. Braun
The Rev. Kevin P. Elseroad
The Rev. Dr. James L. Hoke
The Rev. Kenneth J. Kramer
The Rev. Peter Ledic
The Rev. Allen D. Lunneberg
The Rev. Prentice D. Marsh
The Rev. Dr. Elwood E. Mather, III
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Naumann
The Rev. Kevin K. Saylor
The Rev. George D. Schaetzle
The Rev. Robert W. Tauscher
The Rev. David L. Thiele
The Rev. Dr. Larry M. Vogel

45 years (1974, 1975, 1976, 1977)

The Rev. Robert A. Dargatz
The Rev. Luther P. Esala
The Rev. Joel M. Holls
The Rev. David R. Liefeld
The Rev. Paul R. Schmidlin
The Rev. Norman A. Timmermann

50 years (1969, 1970, 1971, 1972)

The Rev. Jeffrey O. Anderson
The Rev. Dr. David A. Dressel
The Rev. Dr. Roger C. Ellis
The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Fitzpatrick
The Rev. Dr. John M. Goerss
The Rev. Paul J. H. Haberstock
The Rev. Raymond V. Kirk
The Rev. Paul R. Koester
The Rev. Dr. Garry D. McClure
The Rev. Edward F. Radke
The Rev. Dr. David H. Ritt
The Rev. Dr. John W. Stieve
The Rev. John A. Strohschein
The Rev. Roger R. Stuenkel
The Rev. Dr. Dusan Toth
The Rev. Mark L. Viets

55 years (1964, 1965, 1966, 1967)

The Rev. Dr. Paul E. Bacon
The Rev. Norman A. Bumby
The Rev. Robert F. Burke
The Rev. Paul H. Dorr
The Rev. Michael P. Drews
The Rev. Richard L. Ingmire
The Rev. Dr. Keith L. Johnson
The Rev. Charles D. Lentner
The Rev. Larry L. Leuthaeuser
The Rev. Neville Mirtschin
The Rev. Theodore G. Predoehl
The Rev. Myron K. Prok
The Rev. Dr. Vernon L. Schindler
The Rev. Paul R. Sutterer
The Rev. Charles A. Weinrich
The Rev. Dr. David J. Zersen

60 years (1959, 1960, 1961, 1962)

The Rev. Hans O. Andrae
The Rev. Dr. Richard D. Drews
The Rev. Dr. Simon S. C. Johann
The Rev. Dr. Peter E. Mealwitz
The Rev. William E. Meier
The Rev. Joseph Molitoris
The Rev. William Naumann
The Rev. Richard W. Patt
The Rev. Arthur C. Repp, Jr.
The Rev. Dr. Daniel G. Reuning
The Rev. Dr. Louis N. Scholl
The Rev. Dr. David T. Stein
The Rev. Dr. Arthur R. Stennett
The Rev. C. David Stuckmeyer

65 years (1954, 1955, 1956, 1957)

The Rev. Howard E. Claycombe, Jr.
The Rev. Robert F. Mayer
The Rev. Raymond W. Wypich

70 years (1949, 1950, 1951, 1952)

The Rev. Dr. Daniel Pourchot



PARTICIPATING VENDORS

Located in the Ministry Tent

Camp Restore Detroit
Chime Master
Christian Olive Art
Concordia Center for the Family
Concordia Historical Institute
Concordia Historical Institute
Concordia Plan Services
Concordia Publishing House
Concordia Seminary
Concordia Theological Seminary
Concordia University Chicago
Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor
Campus Ministry
English District Saga book signing
Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society
Immigrant Mission Field Network
International Lutheran Council
Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)
LCMS Foundation
LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces
LCMS Office of National Mission
Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)
Luther Classical College
Lutheran Bible Translators
Lutheran Confessional Church Pakistan
Lutheran Federal Credit Union
Lutheran Heritage Foundation
Lutheran Hour Ministries
Lutherans for Life of Ohio
Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries
Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM)
Universal Church Directory

1 **RESOLUTION 3-05**

2 **To Amend the Articles of Incorporation of the English District**

3
4 WHEREAS, The English District is incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in the State of Illinois; and
5 WHEREAS, Section 110.20 of the State of Illinois General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986 states
6 how not-for-profit corporations can amend their articles of incorporation:

7
8 Sec. 110.20. Amendments by Directors and Members. Where a corporation has members
9 entitled to vote on amendments, one or more amendments shall be adopted in the following
10 manner:

11 (a) The board of directors shall adopt a resolution setting forth the proposed amendment
12 and directing that it be submitted to a vote at a meeting of members entitled to vote on
13 amendments which may be either an annual or a special meeting;

14 (b) Written or printed notice setting forth the proposed amendment or a summary of the
15 changes to be effected thereby shall be given to each member entitled to vote on amendments
16 at such meeting within the time and in the manner provided in this Act for the giving of notice of
17 meetings of members. If such meeting be an annual meeting, the proposed amendment, or a
18 summary as aforesaid, may be included in the notice of such annual meeting;

19 (c) At such meeting, at which there is a quorum of members, a vote of the members entitled
20 to vote on the proposed amendment shall be taken. The proposed amendment shall be adopted
21 by receiving the affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of the votes present and voted either in person
22 or by proxy, unless any class of members is entitled to vote as a class in respect thereof, in which
23 event the proposed amendment shall be adopted by receiving the affirmative vote of at least
24 two-thirds of the votes of the class present and voted either in person or by proxy;

25 (d) The articles of incorporation or the bylaws of a corporation may supersede the two-
26 thirds vote requirement of subsection (c) by specifying any smaller or larger vote requirement
27 not less than a majority of the votes which members entitled to vote on such amendment shall
28 vote, either in person or by proxy, at a meeting at which there is a quorum.

29 ; and

30
31 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in its 2016 convention adopted Resolution 9-02A
32 regarding the Articles of Incorporation of the Districts of the LCMS, and also amended the Synod’s
33 Bylaws, adding Bylaw 1.5.3.6:

34
35 Notwithstanding anything in the Bylaws to the contrary, the Articles of Incorporation or other
36 governing documents of each agency shall provide:

37 (a) That all provisions of its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the provisions
38 of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the Synod in convention; and

39 (b) That in the event of dissolution other than by direction from the Synod in convention, the
40 assets of such agency, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred, consistent with applicable
41 state and federal laws, as follows:

42 (1) In the case of a synodwide corporate entity, district, university, college, or seminary,
43 to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as may be more specifically described
44 elsewhere in these Bylaws;

45 (2) In the case of a corporation formed by an agency (as defined in these Bylaws), to the
46 agency that formed the dissolving corporation, or if such forming agency is not then in
47 existence, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod itself.

48 An agency may submit any concerns related to the inclusion of subsections (a) or (b) in its
49 governing documents to the Board of Directors of the Synod, and the Board of Directors may
50 determine to permit the removal or modification of these provisions for an affected agency.

51 ; and

52 WHEREAS, The Articles of Incorporation of the English District must comply with both the Bylaws of the
53 Synod and the civil law of the State of Illinois; and

54 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the English District has adopted a resolution that sets forth proposed
55 amendments to the Articles of Incorporation of the English District meet those requirements; therefore
56 be it

57 *Resolved*, That the English District in Convention amend its Articles of Incorporation to read as follows:

58

59 **Article 1 — Name**

60 The name of this corporation shall be “The English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
61 Synod.”

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64 **Article 2 — Purposes**

65 a. This corporation shall be a religious not-for-profit corporation.

66 b. The purposes of the corporation are:

67 1. To unify in a corporate body the congregations, pastors, and commissioned ministers who
68 are members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod rostered with the English District.

69 2. To carry out with the resources of the English District the objectives of The Lutheran
70 Church—Missouri Synod, as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and
71 Bylaws of said Synod.

72 c. This corporation is not a condominium association under the Condominium Property Act, a
73 Cooperative Housing Corporation as defined in Section 216 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954,
74 or a Homeowner’s Association which administers a common-interest community as defined in
75 subsection (c) of Section 9-102 of the code of Civil Procedure.

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78 **Article 3 — Membership and Directors**

79 a. The membership of this corporation is the congregations, and the ordained and
80 commissioned ministers of religion of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod rostered with
81 the English District. The power of this corporation shall be lodged with the accredited pastoral
82 and lay delegates of those same congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
83 which are rostered with the English District.

84 b. The Board of Directors of the corporation shall be comprised of the President, the Vice
85 Presidents, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of this corporation, and such additional directors
86 who shall be elected from time to time in accordance with the Bylaws of this corporation.

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89 **Article 4 — Meetings**

90 This corporation shall have general meetings in the years prescribed by the HANDBOOK of Synod.
91 Special meetings may be called in such manner as may be provided by the Constitution and Bylaws
92 of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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95 **Article 5 — Officers**

96 a. The officers of this corporation shall consist of a President, Vice Presidents as specified by the
97 bylaws of this corporation, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

98 b. The officers and members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the general meetings
99 of the corporation for such terms as shall be specified by the Bylaws of this corporation and
100 shall serve until their successors are duly elected and have qualified.

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Article 6 — Property

This corporation shall have power to acquire by gift, grants, demise, devise, bequest, purchase, or otherwise, property of every kind and description, real, personal, or mixed; to hold and use such property and deal with, or dispose of, any or all such property by sale, exchange, or gift, when necessary or expedient to carry out the objectives and purposes of the corporation; provided that all such property shall be acquired, dealt with, or disposed of in a manner not in conflict with the laws of the State of Illinois or the laws of any State in which said property is located.

Article 7 — Constitution and Bylaws

- a. The Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is also the Constitution of this corporation.
- b. The Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall primarily be the Bylaws of this corporation. This corporation may adopt additional bylaws that are not in conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.
- c. All provisions of these Articles of Incorporation and associated Bylaws are subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention.

Article 8 — Dissolution

- d. In the event this corporation is dissolved or its existence otherwise terminates or is terminated, all of its assets, minus its liabilities, shall be transferred to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- e. If, however, on the date of such proposed dissolution, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, is no longer in existence, the assets of the corporation may be distributed to any other Section 501(c)(3) organization as designated by the Board of Directors.

Article 9 — Amendments

Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a regularly called meeting of this corporation by a majority of the voting delegates present at such meeting, provided such amendments are not inconsistent with the Constitution or the laws of the United States or the State of Illinois or the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and with prior approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of said Synod.

**The 57th Convention of the English District
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
June 20-22, 2022**

Deferred by one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod met in convention June 20-22, 2022, at the Ann Arbor, MI campus of Concordia University. The Convention Theme was “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind” drawn from our Lord Jesus’ teaching recorded in Luke 10:27.

Prior to the convention, floor committees utilized teleconferencing technology that had become familiar to delegates during the pandemic to hold open hearings. These took place on Saturday, June 4, 2022.

Delegate orientation was provided during the morning of Monday, June 20. An opportunity for delegates to meet candidates for various offices to be elected took place during the midday.

OPENING DIVINE SERVICE – MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2022

At 1:30 PM, convention attendees and other guests gathered at the Chapel of the Holy Trinity for the opening Divine Service.

The Divine Service was sponsored by Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church – Hartland, MI. It was conducted according to the order of *Lutheran Service Book* Divine Service, Setting Three with the propers from the *Lutheran Service Book Lectionary* for the First Sunday after Trinity. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, served as preacher; Rev. Christopher Thoma, pastor of Our Savior, served as celebrant. Other liturgical leaders included District President Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel, and the Vice-Presidents of the District. Rev. Brian Westgate and a choir from Our Savior supplied musical leadership. The offering collected at the service was designated to benefit our missionaries in Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

Following the Divine Service, a group picture of convention delegates and other attendees was taken.

FIRST SESSION – MONDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 20, 2022

Delegates and guests assembled in the gymnasium of Concordia University—Ann Arbor, Michigan. At 3:30 PM, Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, President of the English District, called the Convention to order. President Hardy conducted the Rite of Opening a Convention of a District.

Following the opening of convention, President Hardy introduced two individuals who would help conduct the convention: Rev. John Stieve, parliamentarian; Rev. Luke Zimmerman, Secretary of the English District.

At 3:35 PM, President Hardy presented the Convention Agenda and the Proposed Standing Rules for the Convention to be adopted by the delegates. Motion: ***“To adopt the standing rules.”*** Motion carried. Following the adoption of the standing rules, the agenda was presented for adoption. Motion: ***“To adopt the agenda as presented.”*** Motion carried.

Following adoption of the agenda and the standing rules, President Hardy made several announcements about an anonymous matching grant of \$25,000 given to the District. The same donor offered a grant for congregations to conduct truck stop ministry. He also informed the delegates about a partnership with the Synod Office of National Mission and the Northern Illinois District to restart St John the Divine – Chicago, IL. Another matching grant of \$10,000 has also been offered to the District; President Hardy invited delegates to match the grant before the convention ends.

President Hardy invited two guests to greet the convention attendees: Dr. William Cario, Interim President of Concordia University Wisconsin, Ann Arbor and Rev. Dr. David Maier, President of the Michigan District—LCMS.

At 4:05 PM, Rev. R. Wayne Morton, Chairman of the English District Board of Directors, offered the Board’s Report for the 2018—2022 triennium extended. Prior to this report, Rev. Morton informed the delegates that the Board of Directors at its June 19, 2022 meeting designated \$500,000 for congregational restarts and mission plants. Rev. Morton’s presentation highlighted some of the congregational visits made by the Board as they met during the past triennium. He also spoke of the activities carried out by the Board, as well as the End Statements established by the Board for the past triennium. Following Rev. Morton’s report, a gift from the Board in recognition of his 13 years of service on the Board, including his two-triennium tenure as Chairman of the Board, was presented to him. President Hardy also commended several Board members for their time of service that was ending at the convention: Rev. Ben Eder – 10 years; Mrs. Jane Duffy – 10 years; Mr. Chris Cassel – 7 years; Rev. Thomas Engler – 4 years.

At 4:30 PM, Secretary Zimmerman provided the initial credentials report for the Convention. The credentials report at the opening of the convention at 3:30 PM on June 20, 2022, was as follows:

Voting Delegates – Ordained:	89
Voting Delegates – Lay:	85
Total Voting Delegates:	174
<i>Total Advisory Delegates:</i>	<i>29</i>
Youth Representatives:	15
Board Members:	2
District Staff:	7
Guests/Presenters:	30
Total in Attendance:	257

The credentials report was accepted.

At 4:32 PM, President Hardy summoned the Elections Committee to the dais to conduct the election of District President and District Vice-Presidents. Secretary Zimmerman outlined the processes by which nominations for District President and District Vice-Presidents took place prior to the Convention. Following that presentation, Rev. Jeffrey Teeple, Convention Chaplain, offered prayers for delegates who were about to elect the Praesidium of the District.

Rev. Robert Tauscher, Chairman of the Elections Committee, provided a brief tutorial to the delegates about the electronic voting devices that would be used for elections and other votes.

Following this, Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for District President:

Rev. Jamison Hardy

With no other candidates standing for election, the Elections Committee instructed the Secretary to cast one vote for Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy for District President. The result of the election was 1-0. Rev. Jamison Hardy was elected to a third term as District President. He invited his wife Wendy to the dais where photos of them were taken.

At 4:45 PM, the convention then moved to the election and ranking of District Vice-Presidents.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for District Vice-President (Eastern Region):

Rev. Martin Erhardt

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

Rev. Douglas Spittel

The ballot for District Vice-President (Eastern Region) was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Martin Erhardt	31	(19.25 %)
Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	47	(29.19 %)
Rev. Douglas Spittel	83	(51.55 %)

Rev. Douglas Spittel was elected to a first term as District Vice-President (Eastern Region).

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for District Vice-President (Lake Erie Region):

Rev. Daniel Grams

Rev. Justin Laughridge

Rev. Jeffrey Miskus

The ballot for District Vice-President (Lake Erie Region) was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Daniel Grams	68	(40.72 %)
Rev. Justin Laughridge	18	(10.78 %)
Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	81	(48.50 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes, the name of Rev. Justin Laughridge was removed and a second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Daniel Grams	66	(39.76 %)
Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	100	(60.24 %)

Rev. Jeffrey Miskus was elected to a second term as District Vice-President (Lake Erie Region).

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for District Vice-President (Midwestern Region):

Rev. Robert Rogers

With no other candidates standing for election, the Elections Committee instructed the Secretary to cast one vote for Rev. Robert Rogers for District Vice-President (Midwestern Region). The result of the election was 1-0. Rev. Robert Rogers was elected to a third term as District Vice-President (Midwestern Region).

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for District Vice-President (Western Region):

Rev. Todd Arnold
Rev. Michael Morehouse

The ballot for District Vice-President (Western Region) was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Todd Arnold	82	(49.70 %)
Rev. Michael Morehouse	83	(50.30 %)

Rev. Michael Morehouse was elected to a first term as District Vice-President (Western Region).

At 4:55 PM, the convention proceeded to rank the newly-elected Vice-Presidents. Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of elected Vice-Presidents was presented and instructed delegates to vote for who should serve as First Vice-President of the English District. The results of the first ballot were posted:

Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	65	(37.79 %)
Rev. Michael Morehouse	22	(12.79 %)
Rev. Robert Rogers	33	(19.19 %)
Rev. Douglas Spittel	52	(30.23 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Rev. Michael Morehouse's name was removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	79	(45.66 %)
Rev. Robert Rogers	38	(21.97 %)
Rev. Douglas Spittel	56	(32.37 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Rev. Robert Rogers' name was removed. A third ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	97	(57.40 %)
Rev. Douglas Spittel	72	(42.60 %)

Rev. Miskus was ranked as First Vice-President of the English District.

The slate of candidates for Second-Vice President of the English District was presented. A first ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Michael Morehouse	39	(22.94 %)
Rev. Robert Rogers	47	(27.65 %)
Rev. Douglas Spittel	84	(49.41 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Rev. Morehouse's name was removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Robert Rogers	59	(34.91 %)
Rev. Douglas Spittel	110	(65.09 %)

Rev. Spittel was ranked as Second Vice-President of the English District.

The slate of candidates for Third Vice-President of the English District was presented. The ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Michael Morehouse	79	(46.47 %)
Rev. Robert Rogers	91	(53.53 %)

Rev. Rogers was ranked as Third Vice-President of the English District. Rev. Morehouse was ranked as Fourth Vice-President of the English District.

President Hardy thanked Rev. Tauscher and the Elections Committee for completing the election and ranking of the District Vice-Presidents.

At 5:00 PM, President Hardy declared the Convention to be in recess until 6:45 PM. Delegates were dismissed to the Ministry Tent, then to the cafeteria for dinner.

SECOND SESSION – MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 20, 2022

At 6:45 PM, delegates and guests reconvened in the gymnasium. President Hardy brought the Convention to order.

After the convention was brought to order, the English District Ministerial Health Commission presented a video about its work among the rostered workers of the District and their families. After the video, President Hardy thanked the Ministerial Health Commission members.

Convention Essay Summary

President Hardy introduced Rev. Keith Speaks, pastor of Hales Corners Lutheran Church – Hales Corners, WI, as the Convention Essayist.

Rev. Speaks introduced his essay with three Scripture Readings alluding to unity and bonds among the LORD's people: Psalm 133 that praises the unity of the LORD's people; Jesus' High Priestly Prayer in John 17 that also speaks of unity of believers; Romans 14:19 that exhorts Christ's disciples to make effort that leads to peace and mutual edification.

Rev. Speaks then shifted attention to the calling of Christians described in Ephesians 4:1-6 and 1 Peter 3:8-9. His comments noted his own lack of meeting those divine standards established in the Scriptures, while suggesting that others could come to the same conclusion about themselves.

Rev. Speaks then posited that loving, trusting relationships are built on common ground, leading to the question: What do we have in common within the English District?

The essay continued with comments about the matter of churchmanship, speaking about what it is and the marks by which it is known. He suggested several marks that a ministry team within his congregation identified:

- Abiding by the Golden Rule (*Mt 7:12*)
- Having actions governed by the 8th Commandment
- Being men and women of peace (*Mt 5:9*)
- Trusting that brothers and sisters in the Church are faithful in their context
- Humility
- Investing in one another; collaborating instead of competing, recognizing same mission and ministry
- Praying for fellow believers
- Enacting Jesus' teaching about conflict among believers (*Mt 18:15-17*)

Rev. Speaks asked what might be accomplished if the Church and her members would be identified by those marks of churchmanship that stand in direct contrast to the character of the world that is hostile to the Christian faith. Perhaps that difference might draw others to inquire about such a life of discipleship.

At 7:30 PM, Secretary Zimmerman provided the second credentials report of the Convention. The credentials report at the opening of the convention at 6:45 PM on June 20, 2022, was as follows:

Voting Delegates – Ordained:	90
Voting Delegates – Lay:	86
Total Voting Delegates:	176
<i>Total Advisory Delegates:</i>	<i>31</i>

Youth Representatives:	15
Board Members:	2
District Staff:	7
Guests/Presenters:	33
Total in Attendance	264

The credentials report was accepted.

At 7:33 PM, President Hardy summoned Rev. Tauscher to the dais to conduct the elections for District Secretary and the other positions on the District Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for District Secretary:

Rev. Luke Zimmerman

President Hardy directed a delegate to cast one vote for District Secretary. The result of the election was 1-0. Rev. Luke Zimmerman was elected to a third term as District Secretary.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors (Ordained – Eastern/Lake Erie Regions):

Rev. Peter Burfeind

Rev. Daniel Grams

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

The ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Peter Burfeind	22	(13.58 %)
Rev. Daniel Grams	68	(41.98 %)
Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	72	(44.44 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Rev. Peter Burfeind’s name was removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Daniel Grams	76	(46.34 %)
Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	88	(53.66 %)

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky was elected to a first term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors (Ordained – Midwestern/Western Regions):

Rev. David Petersen

With no other candidates standing for election, the Elections Committee instructed the Secretary to cast one vote for Rev. David Petersen for the Board of Directors. The result of the election was 1-0. Rev. David Petersen was elected to a first term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors (Commissioned):

Lucas Fitzgerald

Rod Lane

Keith Vieregge

Rev. Tauscher reminded the delegates that two commissioned ministers are to be elected to serve on the Board of Directors. Balloting would be conducted until one individual would receive a majority of votes. After that was done, balloting would be conducted with the remaining names until one of those would receive a majority of votes.

The ballot for the first commissioned minister on the Board of Directors was conducted and the results posted:

Lucas Fitzgerald	41	(26.62 %)
Rod Lane	74	(48.05 %)
Keith Vieregge	39	(25.32 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Keith Vieregge's name was removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Lucas Fitzgerald	50	(32.47 %)
Rod Lane	104	(67.53 %)

Mr. Rod Lane was elected to a second term on the Board of Directors.

The convention proceeded to conduct the ballot for the second commissioned minister on the Board of Directors and the results were posted:

Lucas Fitzgerald	94	(61.44 %)
Keith Vieregge	59	(38.56 %)

Mr. Lucas Fitzgerald was elected to a first term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for Board of Directors (Lay – Eastern Region):

Rande Casaday
Carol George
Connor Hagey
Steve Kurtz
William Magill

The ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rande Casaday	21	(14.69 %)
Carol George	56	(39.16 %)
Connor Hagey	14	(9.79 %)
Steve Kurtz	34	(23.78 %)
William Magill	18	(12.59 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of Rande Casaday, Connor Hagey, and William Magill were removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Carol George	91	(57.23 %)
Steve Kurtz	68	(42.77 %)

Ms. Carol George was elected to a third term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for Board of Directors (Lay – Lake Erie Region):

Tom Habitz
Terry Leu

The ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Tom Habitz	53	(33.97 %)
Terry Leu	103	(66.03 %)

Mr. Terry Leu was elected to a fourth term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for Board of Directors (Lay – Midwestern Region):

William Bussing
Gail Grieser

The ballot was conducted and the results posted:

William Bussing	66	(43.14 %)
Gail Grieser	87	(56.86 %)

Ms. Gail Grieser was elected to first term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors (Lay – Western Region):

Shirley Holle
Thomas Honebrink
Kristin Wellik

The ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Shirley Holle	47	(30.72 %)
Thomas Honebrink	57	(37.25 %)
Kristin Wellik	49	(32.03 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Shirley Holle’s name was removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Thomas Honebrink	80	(51.61 %)
Kristin Wellik	75	(48.39 %)

Mr. Thomas Honebrink was elected to a first term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher reminded delegates that all candidates for Board of Directors (Lay) who were not elected to regional seats would form the slate of candidates for the two Lay (At-Large) seats on the Board of Directors.

The convention proceeded with balloting for the first Board of Directors (Lay – At-Large) seat. The first ballot was held and the results were posted:

William Bussing	19	(11.66 %)
Rande Casaday	8	(4.91 %)
Thomas Habitz	25	(15.34 %)
Connor Hagey	12	(7.36 %)
Shirley Holle	29	(17.79 %)
Steve Kurtz	20	(12.27 %)
William Magill	5	(3.07 %)
Kristin Wellik	45	(27.61 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of William Bussing, Rande Casaday, Connor Hagey, Steve Kurtz, and William Magill were removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Thomas Habitz	64	(40.00 %)
Shirley Holle	32	(20.00 %)
Kristin Wellik	64	(40.00 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Shirley Holle’s name was removed. A third ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Thomas Habitz	76	(45.78 %)
Kristin Wellik	90	(54.22 %)

Kristin Wellik was elected to a second term on the Board of Directors.

The convention continued with balloting for the second Board of Directors (Lay – At-Large) seat. The first ballot was held and the results were posted:

William Bussing	8	(4.82 %)
Rande Casaday	11	(6.63 %)
Thomas Habitz	78	(46.99 %)
Connor Hagey	4	(2.41 %)
Shirley Holle	40	(24.10 %)
Steve Kurtz	18	(10.84 %)
William Magill	7	(4.22 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of William Bussing, Rande Casaday, Connor Hagey, Steve Kurtz, and William Magill were removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Thomas Habitz	113	(68.48 %)
Shirley Holle	52	(31.52 %)

Mr. Thomas Habitz was elected to a first term on the Board of Directors.

President Hardy thanked Rev. Tauscher for conducting the election of District Secretary and Board of Directors. He also thanked all candidates who stood for election.

At 7:55 PM, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 3 (Administration & Structure) to the dais. Floor Committee 3 moved adoption of Resolution 3-01: "To Reformat and Amend the Bylaws of the English District" (*Convention Workbook, pp. 4-64 to 4-74*). The changes to the format and content of the District Bylaws were explained to the delegates. Following brief discussion, the motion carried [Y - 153; N - 9].

Floor Committee 3 then moved adoption of Resolution 3-05: "To Amend the Articles of Incorporation of the English District" (*June 20 Workbook Addendum, p. 6-24 to 6-26*). The rationale behind amending the Articles of Incorporation was provided to the delegates. Following discussion, the motion carried [Y - 157; N - 7].

At 8:00 PM, President Hardy invited Samuel Preus from Lutheran Classical College to present a video and speak about the development of a new Lutheran institution of higher education. Mr. Preus explained about the nature of this college as a distinctly Lutheran college and why it is being established, hoping to enroll its first students in Fall 2025.

To close the evening, President Hardy thanked the pastors and members of congregations for conducting their ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those who continued to bring Christ's gifts to His disciples in many various ways.

At 8:25 PM, President Hardy declared the Convention to be in recess until 8:00 AM on Tuesday, June 21, 2022. Delegates were provided strawberry shortcake and ice cream and then dismissed for the evening.

THIRD SESSION – TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 21, 2022

At 8:00 AM, delegates and guests reconvened in the gymnasium. President Hardy brought the Convention to order.

Morning prayers were conducted by Rev. Jeffrey Miskus, First Vice-President of the English District, and Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel. Rev. Miskus provided a devotional homily based on Jude 17-25.

At 8:20 AM, President Hardy introduced a slide presentation of the congregations and school added to the District Roster during the 2018-2022 triennium extended:

- Agnus Dei – Marshall, MI
- Blessed Sacrament – Hayden, ID
- Redeemer – St. Clair Shores, MI
- Rehoboth Afaan Oromo – Philadelphia, PA
- St. John’s – Clarksburg, WV
- St. Luke’s – La Mesa, CA
- Eternal Life – Mesa, AZ
- Holy Trinity – Albion, PA
- Hope – Bellaire, MI
- Immanuel – Alexandria, VA
- Immanuel – Orange, CA
- Trinity – San Dimas, CA
- Redeemer Classical School – Fort Wayne, IN

President Hardy invited representatives from the Synod’s two seminaries to the dais to greet the delegates. A video about the seminaries was shown to the delegates. Delegates were informed about the need for students to take up the vocations of church work. The seminary representatives asked pastors to involve their parishioners to develop future church work students.

Summary of Synod President’s Report

At 8:25 AM, President Hardy invited Synod President Harrison to present his report of the Synod to the delegates. In his report, he highlighted the blessings that were found even during the challenges faced in COVID-19 pandemic; an unexpected blessing was that contributions to the Synod actually increased by \$1 million. He spoke about the 963 Soldiers of the Cross amplified grants that were distributed during the pandemic made possible by the generosity of Synod members. He mentioned the 30 post-COVID “Take Heart” Doxology retreats provided to church workers; more are being offered.

Synod President Harrison informed delegates about the 7-03 Task Force dealing with the Concordia University System concerning Lutheran identity and mission. The task force is looking at reforming the governance structure of the Synod universities. The proposal would divide the governance responsibilities of the universities, allowing more self-governance in the business aspects of the schools, while establishing more ecclesiastical oversight. He also spoke about the recent controversies at the universities, particularly one involving a professor at Concordia University Wisconsin speaking about the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) movement entering the school. He indicated that he is moving toward appointing a task force to address the matter of anti-racism.

Synod President Harrison informed delegates about church relations between the Synod and other Lutheran church bodies. One partner church highlighted was the Malagasy Lutheran Church. The Synod

has over 40 official partner Lutheran church bodies around the world; including those, around 90 total church bodies are in dialogue with the Synod at various levels. He also commented about the religious freedom issues faced by members of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland, one of the most recent partner churches of the Synod. Developments with Lutherans in South Sudan may lead to a new partnership. He also reported that over \$3 million has been raised to support individuals affected by the war in Ukraine.

Synod President Harrison commented favorably about the continued work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League to support activities in the Synod. He stated that the number of Synod missionaries is low due to COVID-19. Despite this, the average missionary is currently funded for one year out. Another international development is the Livonian Lutheran Project, a church planting project in Europe. The seminary in the Dominican Republic has graduated over 200 pastors and 160 deaconesses in the past decade; a new hymnal in Spanish has also been produced, which will also be made available in a mobile application. Developments in Lutheran church bodies in Taiwan and Japan have led to processes to disaffiliate with church bodies and seminaries in those locations. At the same time, the Synod is affiliated with 15 seminaries in Africa to train church workers. The seminary in India has been recently rebuilt after being destroyed by a typhoon.

Synod President Harrison noted new conferences in the *Making Disciples for Life* program are being held. Within the Synod, 20,000 individuals have been trained to serve in Lutheran Emergency Response Teams (LERT). This has helped to expand domestic disaster relief efforts. He discussed the 1 John 3 Million Dollar Life Match that is currently in place to help fund life ministry efforts taking place in congregations. The Synod Youth Gathering to be held in 2022 has 19,000 registrants. A new Child Protection Program is being developed for the Synod.

Synod President Harrison stated that the Synod is in its best financial shape ever. This is due both to increased giving to the Synod and implementation of budgetary constraints.

Synod President Harrison spoke about the matter of church planting. A review of church planting has been conducted by the Synod, leading to several conclusions being incorporated into a new church planting initiative. The Synod is implementing a \$2 million church planting grant to be distributed in matching grants to congregations involved in planting new churches.

A question-and-answer session followed President Harrison's report. Delegates asked about various topics:

- What has resulted from the official visit to Concordia University Texas?
- How to encourage individuals, particularly from immigrant families, to take up the vocation of church work.
- If the Council of Presidents is addressing congregations trying to creating long-distance members via online worship services.
- Would a Synod campus ministry position be reestablished if the Synod is reaching financial stability?
- What standard is there for mentally disabled/low-functioning individuals to be communed?
- What plans might be developed to reconnect individuals who have been baptized/confirmed, but now have disconnected from parish involvement?

At 10:00 AM, President Hardy called on Rev. Dr. David Stechholz, President Emeritus of the English District, to offer greetings to the Convention.

Following this, President Hardy informed the delegates that there would be a break in convention business until 10:30 AM.

At 10:30 AM, President Hardy reconvened the meeting. He reminded delegates about the ongoing mission collection with its \$10,000 matching grant.

President Hardy then called for approval of the minutes of the June 20 sessions of the Convention. Secretary Zimmerman directed the delegates' attention to the copies of the minutes from the June 20 sessions of the Convention (*June 21 Workbook Addendum, pp. 6-27 to 6-37*). Motion: **"To approve the minutes as presented."** Motion carried [Y - 95; N - 3].

At 10:33 AM, President Hardy had the District Evangelization Team present a video about their work within the District. The video focused on the individual members of the team and how the team functions, as well as the tools for evangelism that are available to District congregations.

Convention Speaker Summary

At 10:45 AM, President Hardy called Rev. Christopher Thoma to the dais to introduce the Convention Speaker, Lieutenant General (ret.) William Boykin. General Boykin now serves as Family Research Council's Executive Vice President.

General Boykin spoke to the delegates about showing the love of God in a hostile world. His presentation indicated that the persecution foretold by Jesus in Luke 21 is present among us, not just something yet to happen. He stated that the Church needs to be prepared to stand against this persecution and the evil that has been brought into the country. His presentation shared details of controversy brought about by his comments in a 2003 speech concerning his 1993 interaction with Osman Atto in Somalia. Through the difficulties faced in this controversy, including investigation by the Department of Defense, he found his focus turned away from himself to ways he could demonstrate the Christian life. The controversy also showed how God was present with him and the support that can be given by fellow believers in the midst of persecution. He exhorted delegates to read the Holy Scriptures diligently, because that is the way that believers are prepared by God to stand firm within persecution and to bring support to their fellow believers.

Delegates had opportunity to offer questions of General Boykin, including about the challenges being faced by theologically conservative chaplains within the armed forces, the various threats that face the nation from outside and within, and the philosophy of the military.

At 11:45 AM, President Hardy had a video from the District Campus Ministry Task Force played. The video informed delegates about the college town congregations/campus ministries found within the District and a 2022 conference for campus ministries held by the District. Delegates were invited to consider contacting the task force for information about starting campus ministries at local colleges.

President Hardy then invited Jubilarians to be recognized for their years of service within the Synod. (*The listing of the Jubilarians can be found in the Convention Workbook, pp. 2-11 and 2-12.*) After recognition was offered, President Hardy declared the Convention in recess until 1:30 PM. Delegates were dismissed to the ministry tent and the cafeteria.

FOURTH SESSION – TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 21, 2022

At 1:30 PM, delegates and guests reconvened in the gymnasium. President Hardy brought the Convention to order.

Afternoon prayer was led by Rev. David Rutter, presenting Nehemiah 1:4-11 to the delegates.

At 1:35 PM, President Hardy then introduced members of the District Staff to the delegates, thanking them for their service to the District and the District congregations. Staff recognized were Albert Amling, Ron Grimm, Natalya Hrecznyj, Rev. Daniel Lepley, Rev. J. Derek Mathers, Jill McGarr, Sally Naglich, Peggy Oke, and Kathy Stanis.

District Staff members offered reports on the work within the District that they help to oversee or coordinate.

Mr. Albert Amling, School Ministry Executive, spoke about how congregations can support school ministry, even if they do not have schools themselves. COVID-19 took a major toll on school ministries and the teachers conducting them. A great need exists for new school ministry workers, whether finding individuals to enroll in teacher education courses at Synod colleges or going through the colloquy program. Congregations may also contribute to District scholarships that are given, perhaps even providing matching grants.

Mr. Ron Grimm, LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor, spoke about the gift planning that he helps to coordinate with members of District congregations. This gift planning focuses on wills and endowment funding. The work of the LCMS Foundation allows LCMS ministries to have access to a sophisticated, diversified investment model at a low cost. His work can assist congregations in creating ongoing sources of income.

Rev. Daniel Lepley, LCEF District Vice-President, spoke about the investment and loan opportunities that LCEF provides to District congregations and their members. He informed delegates that the Federal Reserve interest rates are not directly tied to the cost of funds for LCEF. He also mentioned the newly established saving accounts that were created for church workers on the LCMS roster.

Rev. Derek Mathers, Mission Executive and Assistant to the Bishop, spoke about the varied aspects of his work for the District. He mentioned some of the ongoing issues that some church workers are having with COVID-19; there is support for such individuals, including the Ministerial Health Commission. Another program under his oversight is Re:Vitality, a Synod initiative to strengthen and build up congregational ministries. He also discussed the work of the District Missions Council that focuses on ways to promote and connect new mission in the District; the District's 1-1-1 mission funding initiative is also under their auspices. Rev. Mathers encouraged congregations and circuits to become aware of the mission opportunities that are present in their settings; these missions would be outreach efforts to people outside the kingdom of God in their location. He also spoke of a new concept being developed of planting a new church that becomes a center in which church planting can be learned and further churches can be planted.

Mrs. Sally Naglich, District Treasurer and Business Manager, reported about the financial state of the District. She provided delegates with a Statement of Financial Position – Summary. Overall total assets have increased by \$1.9 million over the past four years from \$5.7 million to \$7. million; the increase in

assets includes investment gains of the Endowment Fund and receiving properties from disbanding congregations. She stressed that the District’s financial activities would not be possible without the ongoing support of the District by its congregations and their members. It would be greatly beneficial if all District congregations would support the District by direct contribution as they are able.

At 2:40 PM, President Hardy called upon Rev. Jeffrey Teeple, Convention Chaplain, to offer prayer for specific needs requested by delegates and for wisdom in voting decisions.

At 2:42 PM, Secretary Zimmerman provided the third credentials report of the Convention. The credentials report at the opening of the convention at 1:30 PM on June 21, 2022, was as follows:

Voting Delegates – Ordained:	87
Voting Delegates – Lay:	85
Total Voting Delegates:	172
<i>Total Advisory Delegates:</i>	<i>31</i>
Youth Representatives:	15
Board Members:	2
District Staff:	7
Guests/Presenters:	34
Total in Attendance	261

The credentials report was adopted.

Following the credentials report, President Hardy opened the floor for nominations for the District Endowment Fund Board of Managers and the Committee on Nominations. With no floor nominations offered, the slates of candidates were closed.

At 2:45 PM, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 1 (Church & Theology) to the dais. Rev. Mark Braden, Committee Chairman, introduced members of the committee.

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-03A: “To Decline Overture 1-03” (*June 20 Addendum, p. 6-1*). Rev. Braden explained why the Floor Committee drafted a resolution to decline Overture 1-03, which had been submitted by the Detroit Circuits. The declination was due to actions taken by the 2019 Synod Convention. Without discussion, the motion carried [*Y - 134; N - 13*].

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-08: “To Encourage Our Seminaries to Increase Educational Training as Part of Pastoral Formation” (*June 20 Addendum, p. 6-4*). Delegates inquired how encouragement would take place, whether educational requirements are mandated prior to enrollment at seminary, and how educational classes could be conducted. After discussion, the motion carried [*Y - 115; N - 40*].

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-09: “To Prevent Harmful Philosophies, Ideologies and Contemporary Movements Contrary to the Christian Faith from Damaging Our Congregations, Schools, Colleges and Seminaries” (*June 20 Addendum, p. 6-5 to 6-6*). Motion to amend: **“To strike references to BLM from the Resolveds within the resolution.”** Discussion of the motion to amend ensued; following extensive discussion about the motion to amend, it failed [*Y - 70; N - 90*]. Discussion returned to the main motion. Delegates asked whether other entities should be listed; other delegates questioned whether any

particular entity should be listed. Further comment about the merits of the resolution were offered. Seeing no further speakers, President Hardy put the question to the assembly; motion carried [Y - 117; N - 44].

At 3:25 PM, President Hardy informed the delegates that there would be a break in convention business until 3:50 PM.

At 3:50 PM, President Hardy invited Rev. Kevin Wilson, President of the Ohio District, to the dais. Ohio District President Wilson thanked the District for its cooperation with congregations in his district where help has been sought.

At 3:52 PM, President Hardy invited Mr. James Sanft of Concordia Plans to the dais. Mr. Sanft informed delegates about the role that Concordia Plans serves as a business entity within the Synod. The work of Concordia Plans is to carry out part of Objective 10 listed in Article III of the Synod Constitution. The entity manages the benefit plans of the Synod, as well as other ancillary programs. Concordia Plans offers multiple health and wellness programs to participants in order to improve overall health, instead of simply covering medical care and treatment. It also offers two different types of retirement plans for church workers. Retirement ready workers would participate in a combination of both retirement plans offered by Concordia Plans, as well as Social Security and individual saving/investments; this is part of the shared responsibility for retirement. Mr. Sanft stated that the retirement aspect of Concordia Plans is currently fully funded for its beneficiaries.

At 4:15 PM, President Hardy summoned Rev. Tauscher, Elections Committee Chairman, to the dais to conduct the elections for Circuit Visitors, Endowment Fund Board of Managers, and Committee on Nominations. He also asked Rev. Jeffrey Teeple, Convention Chaplain, to offer prayers for specific requests and prior to voting.

Rev. Tauscher then explained how the Circuit Visitor nominations were conducted prior to the Convention. Changes to the initial slate (*Convention Workbook, pp. 5-15 and 5-16*) due to pastors having been elected to other District offices were identified.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of Circuit Visitors for ratification by the Convention:

Circuit 1 - New York/New Jersey	Rev. Gordon Naumann
Circuit 2 - Philadelphia	Rev. Christopher Seifferlein
Circuit 3 - Florida	Rev. William Douthwaite, III
Circuit 4 - Georgia	Rev. David Miller
Circuit 5 - Buffalo	Rev. Dwayne Hendricks
Circuit 6 - Pittsburgh	Rev. Brian Westgate
Circuit 7 - Canada-East	Rev. Dr. Terry Hursh
Circuit 8 - Canada-West	Rev. James Leistico
Circuit 9 - Cleveland-Akron	Rev. Jonathan McCall
Circuit 10 - Cleveland	Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer
Circuit 11 - Detroit-South	Rev. Bradford Scott
Circuit 12 - Detroit-North	Rev. Timothy Holzerland
Circuit 13 - Western Michigan	Rev. Peter Burfeind
Circuit 14 - Indiana	Rev. Chad Trouten
Circuit 15 - Chicago-North	Rev. Anthony Oliphant
Circuit 16 - Chicago-South	Rev. Doug Hoag

Circuit 17 - Milwaukee	Rev. Fred Reaman
Circuit 18 - St. Louis	Rev. Jonathan Gruen
Circuit 19 - Arizona-North	Rev. Steven Resner
Circuit 20 - Arizona-South	Rev. Dr. John Stieve
Circuit 21 - Nevada/Utah	Rev. Arthur Drehman
Circuit 22 - San Diego	Rev. James Huenink
Circuit 23 - Los Angeles	Rev. Robert Dargatz
Circuit 24 - San Francisco	Rev. Curtis Binz

The convention proceeded with the vote to ratify the election of Circuit Visitors and the results were posted:

Yes	159
No	3

The slate of Circuit Visitors was ratified as presented.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the Endowment Fund Board of Managers (Eastern Region):

Michael Coffey

With no other candidates standing for election, the Elections Committee instructed the Secretary to cast one vote for Michael Coffey for the Endowment Fund Board of Managers (Eastern Region). The result of the election was 1-0. Michael Coffey was elected to a second term as District Endowment Fund Manager.

Rev. Tauscher reported that due to the result of prior elections at the Convention, no candidate would be presented for the Endowment Fund Board of Managers (Lake Erie Region). With no candidate presented, no ballot was conducted. The seat on the Endowment Fund Board of Managers will be filled by the process spelled out in District Bylaw 6.2.5(a).

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the Endowment Fund Board of Managers (Midwestern Region):

Matthew Thompson
Rex Toepke

The ballot was conducted and the results were posted:

Matthew Thompson	63	(49.61 %)
Rex Toepke	64	(50.39 %)

Mr. Rex Toepke was elected to a second term as District Endowment Fund Manager.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the Endowment Fund Board of Managers (Western Region):

Rev. Fred Gerlach
Paul Sticha

The ballot was conducted and the results were posted:

Rev. Fred Gerlach	95	(65.07 %)
Paul Sticha	51	(34.93 %)

Rev. Fred Gerlach was elected to a second term as District Endowment Fund Manager.

Prior to electing the members of the Committee on Nominations, Secretary Zimmerman reminded the delegates that the limitation of holding one elected office did not apply to the Committee on Nominations, as it is regarded as an *ad hoc* Convention Committee, in line with Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for Committee on Nominations (Ordained – Eastern Region):

- Rev. Robert Kieselowsky
- Rev. Brian Westgate

The ballot was conducted and the results were posted:

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	74	(46.25 %)
Rev. Brian Westgate	86	(53.75 %)

Rev. Brian Westgate was elected to the Committee on Nominations.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for Committee on Nominations (Commissioned/Lay – Eastern Region):

- Connor Hagey

With no other candidates standing for election, the Elections Committee instructed the Secretary to cast one vote for Connor Hagey for Committee on Nominations (Commissioned/Lay – Eastern Region). The result of the election was 1-0. Connor Hagey was elected to the Committee on Nominations.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for Committee on Nominations (Ordained – Lake Erie Region):

- Rev. Mark Braden
- Rev. Peter Burfeind

The ballot was conducted and the results were posted:

Rev. Mark Braden	104	(67.97 %)
Rev. Peter Burfeind	49	(32.03 %)

Rev. Mark Braden was elected to the Committee on Nominations.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for Committee on Nominations (Commissioned/Lay – Lake Erie Region):

- Terry Leu

With no other candidates standing for election, the Elections Committee instructed the Secretary to cast one vote for Terry Leu for Committee on Nominations (Commissioned/Lay – Lake Erie Region). The result of the election was 1-0. Terry Leu was elected to the Committee on Nominations.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for Committee on Nominations (Ordained – Midwestern Region):

Rev. Gregory Michel
Rev. David Petersen
Rev. C. J. Wright

The ballot was conducted and the results were posted:

Rev. Gregory Michel	42	(27.10 %)
Rev. David Petersen	74	(47.74 %)
Rev. C. J. Wright	39	(25.16 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Rev. C.J. Wright's name was removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results were posted:

Rev. Gregory Michel	57	(37.01 %)
Rev. David Petersen	97	(62.99 %)

Rev. David Petersen was elected to the Committee on Nominations.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for Committee on Nominations (Commissioned/Lay – Midwestern Region):

Rod Lane

With no other candidates standing for election, the Elections Committee instructed the Secretary to cast one vote for Rod Lane for Committee on Nominations (Commissioned/Lay – Midwestern Region). The result of the election was 1-0. Rod Lane was elected to the Committee on Nominations.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for Committee on Nominations (Ordained – Western Region)

Rev. Fred Gerlach
Rev. Michael Morehouse

The ballot was conducted and the results were posted:

Rev. Fred Gerlach	60	(38.22 %)
Rev. Michael Morehouse	97	(61.78 %)

Rev. Michael Morehouse was elected to the Committee on Nominations.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for Committee on Nominations (Commissioned/Lay – Western Region):

Roni Grad
Karina Lindsey von Hindenburg

The ballot was conducted and the results were posted:

Roni Grad	72	(49.32 %)
Karina Lindsey-von Hindenburg	74	(50.68 %)

Ms. Karina Lindsey-von Hindenburg was elected to the Committee on Nominations.

With all elections having been conducted, President Hardy thanked the Elections Committee for their work during the Convention.

At 4:30 PM, President Hardy invited Rev. Jonathan Naumann to the dais to speak briefly about his work in the Dominican Republic on behalf of the LCMS Board for International Missions. He invited delegates to converse with him during the rest of the Convention and to pray for the missionaries serving in the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

At 4:35 PM, President Hardy invited Rev. Jawed & Julie Dass to the dais to speak about their work within Pakistan. Rev. Dass announced that five Lutheran churches have been planted in Pakistan. He now oversees the Lutheran Confessional Church Pakistan as bishop. Julie Dass highlighted aspects of the mission that grew out of initial support from Faith – Naples, FL and has blossomed within Pakistan. Along with the English District, the Florida-Georgia District has also served as a partner with this mission. Seminarians have begun instruction that will lead to ordination.

At 4:45 PM, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 1 to return to the dais.

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-04: “To Establish a National Lutheran Teacher Student Debt Assistance Program for LCMS Commissioned Ministers—Teachers” (*Convention Workbook*, pp. 4-54 to 4-55). No delegate desired to speak to the motion, leading directly to a vote. Motion carried [Y - 143; N - 11].

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-02: “To Establish a Specific Ministry Pastor Program Oversight Board and to Revise the Bylaws Governing the SMP Program” (*Convention Workbook*, pp. 4-50 to 4-52) with the removal of Lines 80-84 on p. 4-51. Rev. Braden explained that the proposal would affect Synod Bylaws. The Floor Committee was informed that the content of Lines 80-84 would conflict with Synod Bylaws, necessitating removal of those lines from the proposed resolution. After brief discussion, the motion carried [Y - 133; N - 24].

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-05: “To Exhort All Parishes to Celebrate the Mass Every Sunday Even if Civil Government Interferes” (*Convention Workbook*, pp. 4-56 to 4-57). Rev. Braden noted that the authors of the resolution wanted delegates to note that the content of the resolution was not simply to address past incidents but also what may be faced in the future. After brief discussion, the motion carried [Y - 126; N - 34].

Floor Committee moved adoption of Resolution 1-06: “To Restore Both Biblical Languages to the Education of Future Pastors on All Pathways to the Office of the Holy Ministry” (*Convention Workbook*, pp. 4-58). Delegates inquired whether exceptions might be established, whether currently rostered ordained ministers could pass competency exams in the Biblical languages now, the maintenance of Biblical Hebrew competency in the field, and the example of Jesus’ knowledge of Greek and Hebrew. After discussion, motion carried [Y - 121; N - 39].

At 5:20 PM, President Hardy declared the Convention in recess until 7:30 PM. Delegates were informed that dinner would be provided in the cafeteria at 6:00 PM. Members of the Canadian Circuits were instructed that they would assemble to hold their required session of the Canada Corporation elections.

FIFTH SESSION – TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 21, 2022

At 7:30 PM, delegates and guests reconvened in the gymnasium. President Hardy brought the Convention to order.

President Hardy had a video summarizing the start of the mission congregation in Hayden, ID—Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church—shown to the delegates. This video had previously been presented during the virtual gala held on June 12, 2022. President Hardy commented upon the work done by Rev. John Bombaro in organizing the congregation.

President Hardy had a video presentation about the English District Endowment Fund shown to the delegates. The video identified how gifts and earnings are added to the Endowment Fund, as well as the different uses of monies gained from the interest raised from the corpus of the fund. The video highlighted how the English District Endowment Fund has become another income source for the District to support missions, human care/outreach efforts, and campus ministries.

At 7:50 PM, President Hardy reported to the Convention that he was in Pittsburgh earlier in 2022 to present Rev. Hans O. Andrae with the Roger D. Pittelko *Ille Dilexit Ecclesiam* award. A summary of Rev. Andrae's biography was read for the delegates. President Hardy then invited Rev. Charles D. Lentner to the dais to present him the Roger D. Pittelko *Ille Dilexit Ecclesiam* award. A summary of Rev. Lentner's biography was read for the delegates. Rev. Lentner thanked the convention for the honor.

At 8:00 PM, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 2 (Missions & Evangelization) to the dais. He also had Rev. Jeffrey Teeple, Convention Chaplain, to offer prayer for specific requests and for wisdom in voting.

Floor Committee 2 moved adoption of Resolution 2-02: "To Increase Continuing Education (CEU) Opportunities throughout Synod" (*Convention Workbook, p. 4-63*). With no delegate desiring to speak on the motion, the delegates moved directly to a vote. Motion carried [Y - 136; N - 9].

Floor Committee 2 moved adoption of Resolution 2-01: "To Affirm the Need for Open Churches During Times of Plague, Pestilence and Pandemic" (*Convention Workbook, pp. 4-61 to 4-62*). Delegates inquired how this resolution differed from Resolution 1-05; the committee noted that this resolution focused on congregational openings and functions beyond just the weekly Divine Service. Another delegate questioned the value of protective equipment mentioned in the resolution. Motion to amend: "**To strike the text of Lines 75 & 76 from the resolution.**" Discussion on the amendment ensued; following discussion, the motion to amend carried [Y - 123; N - 25]. Discussion then moved to the motion as amended. A second motion to amend: "**To replace the word 'opposes' in Line 71 with the word 'condemns.'**" The second motion to amend carried [Y - 127; N - 24]. The twice-amended resolution was put to the delegates for adoption; motion carried [Y - 137; N - 13].

Floor Committee 2 reported that their work had been completed. President Hardy dismissed Floor Committee 2 for the remainder of the Convention.

At 8:25 PM, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 4 to the dais.

Floor Committee 4 moved adoption of Resolution 4-01A: “To Memorialize the LCMS to Have the Next Available Convention of Synod in Detroit, Michigan” (*June 20 Addendum, p. 6-10*). With no delegate desiring to speak on the motion, the delegates moved directly to a vote. Motion carried [Y - 115; N - 34].

Floor Committee 4 moved adoption of Resolution 4-02A: “To Recognize and Thank the LCMS for the Strengthened and Expanded ‘Soldiers of the Cross’ COVID-19 Response Initiative” (*June 20 Addendum, p. 6-11*). Rev. Derek Mathers, District Mission Executive, was invited to speak about his role in administering the District’s part within this initiative. With no delegate desiring to speak on the motion, the delegates moved directly to a vote. Motion carried [Y - 147; N - 1].

Floor Committee 4 moved adoption of Resolution 4-03A: “To Direct LCMS Life Ministry to Support Congregations in Developing Mercy Ministries to Promote a Culture of Life.” Rev. Derek Mathers, District Mission Executive, was invited to speak about sources of funding currently available to Synod congregations involved in local life ministries. With no delegate desiring to speak on the motion, the delegates moved directly to a vote. Motion carried [Y - 145; N - 3].

Floor Committee 4 reported that their work had been completed. President Hardy dismissed Floor Committee 4 for the remainder of the Convention.

At 8:40 PM, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 3 to the dais.

Floor Committee 3 moved adoption of Resolution 3-04: “To Restrict Synod Conventions on Sundays” (*Convention Workbook, p. 4-78*). With no delegate desiring to speak on the motion, the delegates moved directly to a vote. Motion carried [Y - 126; N - 12].

Floor Committee moved adoption of Resolution 3-02: “To Amend English District Bylaw 5.1 to Remove Term Limits” (*Convention Workbook, p. 4-75*). Delegates discussed the merits of the resolution, several noting the potential stifling of leadership development and succession within the District, while others spoke about keeping good leaders in place. After multiple speakers, a motion to close debate was held and carried [Y - 106; N - 47]. The Convention proceeded to a vote on adoption. Motion failed [Y - 42; N - 111].

At 8:58 PM, President Hardy declared the Convention to be in recess until 8:00 AM on Wednesday, June 22, 2022. He informed delegates that the Ohio District Convention was slated to begin later on Wednesday, necessitating the vacating of the gymnasium by 10:00 AM, so that it could be prepared for that District’s use. Installation of District Officers would take place in the gymnasium. Delegates were dismissed for the evening.

SIXTH SESSION – WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 22, 2022

At 8:00 AM, delegates and guests reconvened in the gymnasium. President Hardy brought the Convention to order. He informed the delegates that business would conclude at 10:00 AM.

Morning prayers were conducted by Rev. Ryan Beffrey and the Youth Convention Representatives. Two youth representatives read devotions that they had written during their time at the Convention.

At 8:20 AM, President Hardy had a video about the District Missions Council presented for the delegates. The video explained the role that the council plays concerning missions being started and conducted within the District.

At 8:25 AM, Secretary Zimmerman provided the final credentials report of the Convention. The credentials report at the opening of the convention at 8:00 AM on June 22, 2022, was as follows:

Voting Delegates – Ordained:	70
Voting Delegates – Lay:	73
Total Voting Delegates:	143
<i>Total Advisory Delegates:</i>	29
Youth Representatives:	15
Board Members:	2
District Staff:	7
Guests/Presenters:	30
Total in Attendance	226

The credentials report was accepted.

President Hardy then called for approval of the minutes of the June 21 sessions of the Convention. Secretary Zimmerman directed the delegates' attention to the copies of the minutes from the June 21 sessions of the Convention (*June 22 Workbook Addendum, pp. 6-38 to 6-49*). Motion: ***"To approve the minutes as presented."*** Motion carried by voice vote.

At 8:30 AM, Synod President Matthew Harrison installed President Jamison Hardy into his third term as District President. President Hardy installed the newly elected Vice-Presidents.

District President's Address Summary

Following the installation of the District Praesidium, President Hardy addressed the Convention, first commenting about the challenges that the District had faced and met during the COVID-19 pandemic. He then spoke about the matter of engaging; his exhortation to the delegates is to engage the world according to the calling that they bear as Christians. President Hardy stated that pastors are not to run away from trouble, but toward it; bravery to do so comes because they are defending what God has entrusted to them, His people, His sheep. He echoed the message given earlier by General William Boykin, the Convention Speaker, that the fight is not coming, but is already here.

President Hardy's address highlighted the mission activity taking place within the District at four congregations: Blessed Sacrament – Hayden, ID; Holy Cross – Hazelwood, PA; St. John's – Clarksburg, WV; St. John the Divine – Chicago, IL.

President Hardy thanked the Vice-Presidents and Circuit Visitors for their assistance during the past triennium and declared his expectation that the newly-elected Vice-Presidents and Circuit Visitors would offer the same in the new triennium.

Convention Speaker Summary

At 8:45 AM, President Hardy invited Rev. Christopher Thoma to introduce Convention Speakers, Mr. Jack Phillips and Mr. Jake Warner. Mr. Warner, senior counsel for the Alliance Defending Freedom's Appellate Team, spoke about the Alliance Defending Freedom's legal activity to defend the religious freedom held by individuals and organizations within the United States. One of the organization's clients is Mr. Jack Phillips.

Mr. Phillips spoke to the delegates about his case in Lakewood, CO that centered on the refusal to design a custom wedding cake for a gay couple based on his religious beliefs. That refusal brought a charge against Mr. Phillips by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, leading to damage to Mr. Phillips' business. The legal matter between Mr. Phillips and his business, Masterpiece Cakeshop, and the Colorado Civil Rights Commission led to a case heard by the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Phillips prevailed, as the United States Supreme Court ruled that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission did not employ religious neutrality. Despite this legal victory, Mr. Phillips continues to face further litigation due to other individuals making requests for cakes to be made to commemorate or celebrate events that fall outside Biblical definitions for humanity, sexuality, and marriage. The Alliance Defending Freedom maintains their legal defense of Mr. Phillips, as well as other business owners in creative services facing similar legal challenges.

Following the speakers' presentation, a question-and-answer session was offered for the delegates.

At 9:40 AM, a video presentation from Lifeline was presented to delegates. The video introduced the life ministry resources that Lifeline helps to provide for District congregations.

At 9:45 AM, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 1 to the dais.

Floor Committee moved adoption of Resolution 1-07: "To Reconsider Allowing 'Brain Death' Criteria for Determination of Death at End of Life" (*Convention Workbook, pp. 4-59 to 4-60*). Rev. Braden informed delegates that the Floor Committee investigated claims made by the authors of the original overture (Overture 1-09) that led to this resolution; articles and citations from medical journals that reinforced those claims were supplied to the Floor Committee. After brief discussion, the motion carried [*Y - 126; N - 11*].

Floor Committee moved declination of Resolution 1-01: "To Revise Paragraph 3a) of the Operating Agreement Between the Lutheran Church—Canada (LC-C) and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod" (*Convention Workbook, pp. 4-43 to 4-49*). Prior to introducing the resolution for declination, Rev. Braden indicated that the resolution is procedurally incorrect, as it directs the Synod President to take an action that is properly assigned to the Synod Board of Directors. He also noted that a nearly identical resolution was adopted and is being implemented. The motion was put to the delegates for a vote: "*To decline Resolution 1-01.*" Motion carried [*Y - 98; N - 31*].

With the hour appointed for closure having arrived, President Hardy declared the business sessions of the Convention to be closed at 10:00 AM.

CONVENTION CLOSING SERVICE – WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 22, 2022

Delegates were directed to the Chapel of the Holy Trinity for Choral Matins with Commemoration of the Departed, which began at 10:30 AM. Rev. R. Wayne Morton preached; Rev. Douglas Spittel officiated; the Vice-Presidents of the District conducted the commemoration. During the service, President Hardy installed the newly-elected Circuit Visitors and members of the Board of Directors. At the end of the service, President Hardy conducted the Rite of Closing a Convention, bringing the 57th Regular Convention of the English District to its conclusion.

Submitted,

Rev. Luke T. Zimmerman
Secretary, English District – LCMS