

1 **THIRD SESSION – FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 27, 2025**
2

3 At 8:00 AM, delegates and guests reconvened in the gymnasium. President Miskus brought the Convention
4 to order.
5

6 Matins were led by Rev. Jonathan McCall. Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse, 2nd Vice-President, preached a
7 devotional homily based on Matthew 5:17–19.
8

9 At 8:30 AM, President Miskus called on Mrs. Sally Naglich, District Treasurer, to present her report. During
10 her report, Treasurer Naglich highlighted several items for delegates:

- 11 ▪ With the Canada Corporation being transferred to Lutheran Extension Fund, Canadian funds are
12 being reported in different ways than in previous triennia when the Canada Corporation was a
13 subagency of the District.
- 14 ▪ The financial statements for the fiscal years during this triennium were audited by LCMS Internal
15 Audit Department and found to be conducted according to accounting principles generally
16 accepted in the United States of America.
- 17 ▪ \$2.1 million were placed in the Endowment Fund over the past triennium.
- 18 ▪ Total liabilities of the District have declined over the past triennium.
- 19 ▪ Net assets of the District have increased over the past triennium.
- 20 ▪ Nearly 50% of total unrestricted revenue over the past triennium came from dissolved
21 congregations.
- 22 ▪ Congregational support of the District has trended downward, yet currently makes up 49% of
23 budgeted revenue.
- 24 ▪ About 42% of total expenses during the triennium consisted of subsidies and grants to
25 congregations and other entities.
- 26 ▪ The largest budgeted expenses are salary/benefits and subsidies.
27

28 At 8:45 AM, President Miskus called on Rev. Curt Dwyer, pastor of Martin Luther Chapel – East Lansing,
29 MI, to speak about the work of the District Campus Ministry Task Force. He was joined by other church
30 workers involved with campus ministries across the District. Rev. Dwyer presented about the role of the
31 task force to support and collaborate with congregations and church workers working within communities
32 with college students: some are full-time campus ministries, while others have this work as an aspect of
33 the congregation’s life. He noted that students who participate within LCMS campus ministries develop
34 into active parishioners in LCMS congregations; some become church workers. He encouraged
35 congregations to seek out resources provided by LCMSU.
36

37 At 8:55 AM, President Miskus invited Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger, President of Concordia Seminary – St. Louis,
38 to bring greetings from the Synod’s two seminaries in St. Louis, MO and Fort Wayne, IN. A video about
39 the work of the Synod’s seminaries to prepare church workers for the Synod was presented to the
40 delegates. He thanked the congregations for their continued financial and spiritual support and for the
41 church workers for their continued service to Christ in their places of ministry. He noted that the
42 seminaries are beginning to emphasize how students can be trained for conducting evangelism and
43 outreach in the current religious environment.
44

45 ***Report of the Synod Summary***

46 At 9:04 AM, President Miskus introduced Rev. Peter Lange, 1st Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—
47 Missouri Synod, who was attending the Convention to present the Report of the Synod.
48

49 Vice-President Lange brought greetings on behalf of Synod President Harrison. A video from Synod
50 President Harrison about “Book of Concord Lutherans” was presented to the delegates, which
51 highlighted various emphases in the Book of Concord:

- 52 ▪ the certainty of Christ’s saving work for people
- 53 ▪ the lacking of nothing necessary for the Church
- 54 ▪ the unity of essential matters among congregations
- 55 ▪ the tie of the Lutheran Church to the Church through the ages
- 56 ▪ the role of vocations and good works in the lives of all Christians
- 57 ▪ the centrality of delivering Christ’s gifts through preaching and the Sacraments
- 58 ▪ the timeless nature of the Christian confession of faith to be given before Christ at the end

59
60 Vice-President Lange provided an approximate statistical description of the Synod’s membership:

- 61 ▪ 5800 congregations
- 62 ▪ 1.675 million baptized members
- 63 ▪ 550,000 weekly attendance
- 64 ▪ 5,500 active pastors
- 65 ▪ 3,500 emeriti pastors
- 66 ▪ 1,776 schools (early childhood, elementary, and high schools), of which 674 are K–8.
- 67 ▪ 21,500 teachers, of which 53% are rostered church workers

68
69 Vice-President Lange shared the Synod President’s analysis that the Synod’s financial position is in
70 one of its best historical conditions. This is due to conservative budgeting and good investing of gifts
71 offered to the Synod. However, direct giving to the Synod has been static in recent years.

72
73 Vice-President Lange spoke about the work of the Office of National Mission. This work is conducted
74 in collaboration with the Synod’s districts in 18 different areas, including school ministries, disaster
75 relief, church planting, ethnic ministry within different communities of the United States, family
76 ministry, and discipleship.

77
78 Vice-President Lange commented about the work of the Office of International Mission. There are
79 currently 92 missionaries in 32 different countries. Of the 92 missionaries in the field, approximately
80 half are ordained ministers, one-fourth are commissioned ministers, and one-fourth are laity. The
81 three emphases of international missions are: (1) spread the gospel, (2) plant Lutheran congregations,
82 (3) show mercy. Within the Latin America/Caribbean Region, missionaries and their partners are
83 gathered into regional *Foros* to meet with the Office of International Mission and discuss the
84 strategies and logistics of mission work; this framework is being expanded into other Mission Regions.
85 Short-term mission trips by congregations and individuals can also be supported and guided by the
86 Office of International Mission.

87
88 Vice-President Lange briefly discussed the work of the five Synod colleges: Concordia University Irvine,
89 Concordia University St. Paul, Concordia University Nebraska, Concordia University Chicago, and
90 Concordia University Wisconsin/Ann Arbor. He stated that 802 church worker students were recently
91 enrolled at the Synod’s colleges; 383 of those were teacher education students.

92
93 Vice-President Lange spoke about the number of calling congregations and the challenge of providing
94 pastors to congregations. At the April 2025 LCMS Council of Presidents meeting, 470 congregations
95 were reported as calling a sole pastor/senior pastor. Challenges of financial support and housing face
96 congregations calling pastors; geographic location is also a different challenge, which can be
97 multifaceted.

98
99 Vice-President Lange commented about the work of the Synod’s seminaries and pastoral formation.
100 Enrollment in all pastoral formation tracks (Master of Divinity, Residential Alternate Route, Specific

101 Ministry Pastor, General Pastor Certificate, Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology, Center for Hispanic
102 Studies, and Cross-Cultural Ministry Center programs) numbered 566 in 2024. In 2025, 112 candidates
103 were placed from the seminaries; 170 congregations had requested candidate placement. The Synod
104 Pastoral Formation Committee is carrying out its four-part assignment concerning the Specific
105 Ministry Pastor program; its report should be published in the First Quarter of 2026.

106
107 Following the Report of the Synod, delegates were able to ask questions of Synod Vice-President Lange.
108 Only one topic of question was offered by the delegates:

109 ▪ ***Can an update be provided about the lawsuits involving the Synod concerning the colleges in***
110 ***Portland, OR and Austin, TX?***

111 Vice-President Lange gave a succinct summary of the status of both incidents, while noting that
112 both matters are ongoing and remain to be fully adjudicated.

113
114 A video concerning the upcoming 2026 Synod Convention was presented to the delegates. The convention
115 theme is “Christ Is Risen Indeed!” It will be held in Phoenix, AZ.

116
117 ***Keynote Speaker, Part 2 Summary***

118 At 10:45 AM, President Miskus invited the essayist to present the second part of his essay. Rev. Dr. Kendall
119 continued by speaking about the nature of protreptics within Christian teaching.

120
121 Protreptics involves a narrative structure that includes extradiegetic discourse and intradiegetic
122 discourse. This is not unique to its Christian use. Greek philosophers such as Aristotle used this
123 approach. Extradiegetic discourse uses narrative that includes the speaker, where the speaker shares
124 his thoughts or actions to convince or persuade the person being told the narrative. Intradiegetic
125 discourse uses narrative, where the thoughts or actions of the characters in the narrative attempt to
126 convince or persuade the person being told the narrative.

127
128 Examples of extradiegetic and intradiegetic discourse in the New Testament can be seen:

129 ***Extradiegetic discourse:***

- 130 ▪ The Synoptic Gospels’ reporting of Jesus’ baptism.
- 131 ▪ Account of Jesus’ instruction of the Church’s mission in Acts 1.
- 132 ▪ The narrative of Paul’s conversion in Acts 9.

133 ***Intradiegetic discourse:***

- 134 ▪ John the Baptist’s reporting of Jesus’ baptism in John’s Gospel.
- 135 ▪ Paul’s statement about his carrying out the Church’s mission in Acts 26.
- 136 ▪ Paul’s speaking about his conversion in Acts 22 & Acts 26.

137
138 Protreptics can frame the dialogue that Christians have with inquirers to the faith, so that these
139 interactions reflect the slowness of God. New rhythms of listening to bring hope are necessary. These
140 dialogues can come from a position of weakness on the part of the Christian instead of a position of
141 strength. Even in this inquiry stage, the Christian is bringing the inquirer into the start of spiritual care,
142 preparing the inquirer for catechesis.

143
144 President Miskus announced that the offerings collected for the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission at
145 the Opening Service was \$2,140.

146
147 President Miskus instructed individuals about the necessity to register for transport to the airport, if
148 necessary.

149

150 At 11:23 AM, Secretary Zimmerman provided a credentials report as of 10:45 AM on June 27, 2025, as
151 follows:

152	Voting Delegates – Ordained:	88
153	Voting Delegates – Lay:	84
154	Total Voting Delegates:	172
155		
156	<i>Total Advisory Delegates:</i>	<i>21</i>
157		
158	Youth Representatives:	8
159	Board Members:	5
160	District Staff:	6
161	Guests/Presenters:	36
162		
163	Total in Attendance:	248
164		

165 The credentials report was accepted without objection.

166
167 At 11:27 AM, President Miskus opened the floor to nominations for the District Endowment Fund Board
168 of Managers. No floor nominations were offered. After this, the slate of candidates for District
169 Endowment Fund Board of Managers was declared closed.

170
171 At 11:27 AM, President Miskus opened the floor to nominations for the District Committee on
172 Nominations. No floor nominations were offered. After this, the slate of candidates for District Committee
173 on Nominations was declared closed.

174
175 At 11:28 AM, President Miskus opened the floor to nominations for the 2026 Synod Committee on
176 Convention Nominations. No floor nominations were offered. After this, the slate of candidates for 2026
177 Synod Committee on Convention Nominations was declared closed.

178
179 At 11:28 AM, President Miskus recognized Rev. Todd Arnold to offer a special resolution “To Thank and
180 Recognize Mrs. Peggy Oke”:

181
182 WHEREAS, Mrs. Peggy Oke has rendered joyful personal and professional work for the English District; and

183 WHEREAS, Mrs. Peggy Oke is completing thirty-eight years of faithful District employment;

184 Therefore be it

185 *Resolved*, That the English District in Convention glorify God and honor Mrs. Peggy Oke for her years of
186 dedicated service; and be it further

187 *Resolved*, That we thank Mrs. Peggy Oke and pray the Lord’s continued blessings on her and her family.

188 Motion carried by voice vote.

189
190 At 11:30 AM, President Miskus summoned Floor Committee 3 (Structure & Administration) to the dais.
191 Prior to resolutions being offered for adoption, President Miskus asked Secretary Zimmerman to address
192 the delegates concerning proposed actions. Secretary Zimmerman noted that both alignment of Visitation
193 Circuits and amending of District Bylaws require District Convention actions. Additionally, the amending
194 of District Bylaws also involves approval by the Synod Commission on Constitutional Matters before
195 becoming effective; resolutions doing so have either been pre-cleared by that entity or will receive
196 approval in the months following the Convention.

197
198

199 Floor Committee 3 moved Resolution 3–01B “To Realign and Rename Visitation Circuits” (*June 27, 2025*
200 *Addendum, pp. 6–40 through 6–42*) for adoption. During discussion, a question was raised whether any
201 effect would be concerning electoral circuit formation; that is a matter for the Board of Directors to
202 address. Another member noted that a congregation listed in the resolution is closed; it was noted that
203 the congregation still exists on the roster at this date, but the closure will become finalized. Following
204 debate, the motion carried [*Y-153; N-7*].

205
206 Floor Committee 3 moved Resolution 3–02 “To Amend District Bylaw 9.1.2” (*Convention Workbook, p. 4–*
207 *36*) for adoption. After no delegate desired to speak to the question, the motion carried by voice vote.

208
209 Floor Committee 3 moved Resolution 3–03 “To Amend District Bylaw 5.1” (*Convention Workbook, p. 4–*
210 *37*) for adoption. After no delegate desired to speak to the question, the motion carried by voice vote.

211
212 Floor Committee 3 moved Resolution 3–04 “To Amend District Bylaw 6.2.5” (*Convention Workbook, p. 4–*
213 *38*) for adoption. During discussion, a delegate inquired whether the English District Endowment Fund
214 Governing Document could be provided to delegates for review prior to considering the resolution. The
215 Floor Committee agreed to delay action on the proposal until that could be done.

216
217 Floor Committee 3 moved Resolution 3–05A “To Amend District Bylaws 5.4 and 9.1.1” (*June 26, 2025*
218 *Addendum, pp. 6–13 through 6–14*) while incorporating a proposed amendment (*June 27, 2025*
219 *Addendum, p. 6–39*) for adoption. After no delegate desired to speak to the question, the motion carried
220 by voice vote.

221
222 Floor Committee 3 moved Resolution 3–06 “To Declare the Reverend Dr. Jamison Hardy ‘Bishop
223 Emeritus’” (*Convention Workbook, p. 4-41*) for adoption. After no delegate desired to speak to the
224 question, the motion carried by voice vote.

225
226 President Miskus thanked Floor Committee 3 for its work and indicated that it would be recalled later.

227
228 At 11:55 AM, President Miskus summoned the Elections Committee to the dais to conduct the election for
229 the 2026 Synod Committee on Convention Nominations.

230
231 Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the 2026 Synod Committee on Convention
232 Nominations:

233 Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy

234 Rev. Larry Loree

235
236 The ballot for the 2026 Synod Committee on Convention Nominations was conducted and the results
237 posted:

238 **Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy** **98** **(63.23 %)**

239 Rev. Larry Loree 57 (36.77 %)

240
241 Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy was elected to serve on the 2026 Synod Committee on Convention Nominations.

242
243 With no other candidates on the slate, Rev. Larry Loree was declared elected as alternate for the 2026
244 Synod Committee on Convention Nominations.

245

246 At 11:58 AM, President Miskus invited Mr. Jim Sanft from Concordia Plans Services to speak to the
247 delegates about the work of this Synod-wide Trust Entity. Mr. Sanft spoke about the current coverages
248 that Concordia Plans Services provides to individual church workers. He highlighted the recent
249 development of Concordia Plans Services to create a captive entity that could provide property insurance
250 coverage to congregations and ministries. Concordia Plans Services exists as a way for the Synod to fulfill
251 the objective listed in Article III.10 of the Synod’s Constitution: *“Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors,
252 teachers, and other church workers, and their families in the event of illness, disability, retirement, special
253 need, or death.”*
254

255 At 12:07 PM, President Miskus called Rev. Lackey to offer a meal blessing. President Miskus then declared
256 the convention to be in recess for lunch, with business sessions to resume at 1:30 pm.
257
258
259
260

261 **FOURTH SESSION – FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 27, 2025**

262

263 At 1:30 PM, delegates and guests reconvened in the gymnasium. President Miskus brought the Convention
264 to order.
265

266 Midday Prayers were conducted by Rev. Ryan Beffrey. Rev. Zachary Marklevitz, 3rd Vice-President,
267 preached a devotional homily based on Colossians 3:5–11.
268

269 At 1:46 PM, President Miskus invited the former Bishops of the English District present to address the
270 delegates. He first read a written salutation from Bishop Emeritus David Ritt. Bishop Emeritus David
271 Stechholz spoke statements of blessing based on Jude 2 to the delegates. He also congratulated President
272 Miskus on his election. He exhorted the District to become even more multi-ethnic in its current setting.
273 Bishop Emeritus Jamison Hardy spoke about leaving the role as Bishop to become President of the
274 Concordia University System (CUS). He thanked Mrs. Kathy Stanis for her work as administrative assistant.
275 He also thanked his wife and children for being with him both during his time as Bishop and now at CUS.
276 He closed by giving thanks for the honor that the District had given to him.
277

278 Following the greetings, President Miskus invited Bishop Emeritus Hardy to speak about the work of the
279 Concordia University System and for delegates to offer any questions they might have. Delegates asked
280 several questions:

- 281 ▪ ***What is to happen with the Ann Arbor campus of Concordia University Wisconsin Ann Arbor?***
282 Operations are moving to the north campus. The south campus will go unused for the 2025–2026
283 academic year. No agreements have been made to actively market the south campus for sale.
284 CUS does not want church work training to be ended at Ann Arbor.
- 285 ▪ ***What is the nature of the Hot Chalk lawsuit in Portland?***
286 CUS has been removed as a party from the lawsuit. Concordia University Saint Paul has settled its
287 role in the lawsuit. LCMS and LCEF are still parties in the lawsuit.
- 288 ▪ ***What is the status of the Concordia University Texas lawsuit?***
289 The matter is in litigation over the matter of venue of what court should adjudicate the case:
290 whether it should be a United States District court case or a Texas state court case.
- 291 ▪ ***Has the Synod Board of Directors considered acquiring the Ann Arbor south campus property?***
292 That idea could be submitted to the Synod for consideration. However, it is beyond the role of
293 CUS to address.

- 294 ▪ ***What does the future look like for the higher education system institutions of the Synod?***
 295 Ideas include:
- 296 • Beginning to subsidize church work students through donations that CUS has received; assets
 - 297 from the CUS endowment fund can be reallocated to accomplish this goal.
 - 298 • Establishing regional campuses, junior colleges, or technical education institutions.
 - 299 • Enrollment is currently increasing despite current demographics.
- 300 ▪ ***What relationship will CUS have with Luther Classical College?***
 301 Luther Classical College is taking steps that could lead to membership in CUS, though application
 302 for such membership has not been determined.

303
 304 At 2:15 PM, President Miskus summoned Floor Committee 1 (Theology & Church Relations) to the dais.

305
 306 Floor Committee 1 moved Resolution 1–01A “To Encourage the English District of The Lutheran Church—
 307 Missouri Synod to Affirm Unequivocally the Practice of First Communion Prior to Confirmation as a God-
 308 pleasing Practice so as to Encourage Member Congregations and Pastors of the English District to
 309 Recognize the Validity of the Aforementioned Practice and, On That Basis, Commune Visiting Children
 310 Who, Though Not Yet Confirmed, Are Nevertheless Communicant Members in Good Standing and Who,
 311 Therefore, Should Not Be Denied the Lord’s Body and Blood Because They Have Not Yet Been Confirmed.”
 312 *(June 26, 2025 Addendum, pp. 6–3 & 6–4)* for adoption. During discussion, several delegates both spoke
 313 for and against the resolution. A delegate proposed a multifaceted amendment of the resolution. After
 314 the amendment was proposed, the motion to table was offered. Motion carried.

315
 316 Floor Committee 1 moved Resolution 1–02A “To State Religious Objecton to Government Interference of
 317 Parents’ Duty” *(June 26, 2025 Addendum, pp. 6–5 & 6–6)* for adoption. During discussion, delegates spoke
 318 both for and against the resolution. A delegate proposed a series of amendments. Upon presentation of
 319 those amendments, the Floor Committee requested to be dismissed to consider the proposal.

320
 321 ***Keynote Speaker, Part 3 Summary***

322 At 2:40 PM, President Miskus invited Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall to present the third part of his essay.

323
 324 Dr. Kendall spoke about how he would use the narrative in Luke 8 of Jairus and the Woman with a
 325 Hemorrhage to open dialogue with inquirers. He pointed to the aspects of protreptics that can be
 326 identified in this narrative.

327
 328 Dr. Kendall described how he would move inquirers into understanding how they would be like Jairus
 329 and the Woman with a Hemorrhage in Luke 8 and what those figures would experience. The
 330 experiences that the inquirers thought would be faced by those figures could be tied by the inquirers
 331 to their experiences that need healing or redress by Christ. His discussion demonstrated how various
 332 aspects of the protreptic approach in such a way would present Christ’s Gospel throughout the
 333 ongoing dialogue, even before becoming formal catechesis. The inquirer is being prepared for that
 334 formal catechesis in this earlier phase. They become ready for fully knowing the Christ who is saving
 335 and healing them.

336
 337 Dr. Kendall pointed to the example of Philip and the Ethiopian in Acts 8 as an example of how the
 338 Scriptures themselves present the protreptic method of reading the Scriptures. This is a form of
 339 spiritual care that Philip brings to the Ethiopian as he ties himself to that inquirer. Philip is now
 340 alongside that Ethiopian as he guides the man into the truth that the Scriptures present about Christ.

341
 342 Dr. Kendall further commented on how Acts 13 can be seen as a Scriptural incident of protreptic
 343 conflict, where divine truth is seen in some place but is brought back to the source where it belongs.

344 The figure of Sergius Paulus is pulled between the claims of the false prophet Simon Bar-Jesus and
345 those of Barnabas and Paul. This figure is what the inquirer will be tied to when the narrative of this
346 is presented to them. As Sergius Paulus is led to belief in what Barnabas and Paul present, he is led
347 upwardly to the truth.
348

349 At 3:27 PM, President Miskus presented the minutes of the June 26, 2025 convention sessions for approval
350 by the delegates (*June 27, 2025 addendum, pp. 6–28 through 6–38*). The minutes were approved as
351 presented.
352

353 At 3:29 PM, the convention entered a recess with business to resume at 3:50 PM.
354

355 At 3:50 PM, President Miskus recalled Floor Committee 3 to present again Resolution 3–04. The Floor
356 Committee informed the delegates that the document referred to in the resolution was printed in the
357 Convention Workbook. Floor Committee 3 moved adoption of Resolution 3–04. With no delegates
358 desiring to speak to the question, the motion carried by voice vote.
359

360 At 3:53 PM, President Miskus summoned the Election Committee to conduct the elections of the Circuit
361 Visitors, the District Endowment Fund Board of Managers, and the District Nominating Committee. He
362 also called on Rev. Lackey to offer prayer for the delegates who were to elect these office holders.
363

364 Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the four at-large District Endowment Fund Board of
365 Managers positions:

- 366 Michael Coffey
- 367 Rev. Fred Gerlach
- 368 Mark Harris
- 369 Terry Leu
- 370 Rev. Larry Loree
- 371 Matthew Thompson
- 372 Ann Marie Weselan

373
374 The first ballot for the first position on the District Endowment Fund Board of managers was conducted
375 and the results posted:

376	Michael Coffey	10	(6.67 %)
377	Rev. Fred Gerlach	32	(21.33 %)
378	Mark Harris	21	(14.00 %)
379	Terry Leu	45	(30.00 %)
380	Rev. Larry Loree	21	(14.00 %)
381	Matthew Thompson	6	(4.00 %)
382	Ann Marie Weselan	15	(10.00 %)

383
384 With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of Michael Coffey, Mark Harris, Rev. Larry
385 Loree, Matthew Thompson, and Ann Marie Weselan were removed. A second ballot was conducted and
386 the results posted:

387	Rev. Fred Gerlach	54	(36.49 %)
388	Terry Leu	94	(63.51 %)

389
390 Terry Leu was elected to a first term on the Endowment Fund Board of Managers.
391

392 The first ballot for the second position on the District Endowment Fund Board of Managers was conducted
393 and the results posted:

394	Michael Coffey	8	(5.37 %)
395	Rev. Fred Gerlach	71	(47.65 %)
396	Mark Harris	17	(11.41 %)
397	Rev. Larry Loree	27	(18.12 %)
398	Matthew Thompson	8	(5.37 %)
399	Ann Marie Weselan	18	(12.08 %)

400

401 With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of Michael Coffey, Mark Harris, Matthew
402 Thompson, and Ann Marie Weselan were removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

403	Rev. Fred Gerlach	103	(68.67 %)
404	Rev. Larry Loree	47	(31.33 %)

405

406 Rev. Fred Gerlach was elected to a third term on the Endowment Fund Board of Managers.

407

408 The first ballot for the third position on the District Endowment Fund Board of Managers was conducted
409 and the results posted:

410	Michael Coffey	10	(6.90 %)
411	Mark Harris	23	(15.86 %)
412	Rev. Larry Loree	68	(46.90 %)
413	Matthew Thompson	13	(8.97 %)
414	Ann Marie Weselan	31	(21.38 %)

415

416 With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of Michael Coffey, Mark Harris, and
417 Matthew Thompson were removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

418	Rev. Larry Loree	100	(65.79 %)
419	Ann Marie Weselan	52	(34.21 %)

420

421 Rev. Larry Loree was elected to a first term on the Endowment Fund Board of Managers.

422

423 The first ballot for the fourth position on the District Endowment Fund Board of Managers was conducted
424 and the results posted:

425	Michael Coffey	17	(11.56 %)
426	Mark Harris	33	(22.49 %)
427	Matthew Thompson	17	(11.56 %)
428	Ann Marie Weselan	80	(54.42 %)

429

430 Ann Marie Weselan was elected to a first term on the Endowment Fund Board of Managers.

431

432 Rev. Alex Sabol presented the slate of candidates for the District Nominating Committee. He noted that
433 the positions for Ordained Minister (Eastern Region), Ordained Minister (Western Region), Commissioned
434 Minister/Lay (Eastern Region), and Commissioned Minister/Lay (Midwestern Region) each had only one
435 candidate.

436

437

438 Rev. Sabol asked the Secretary to cast one vote for the following individuals, electing them to those
439 positions:

440	Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	Ordained Minister (Eastern Region)
441	Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse	Ordained Minister (Western Region)
442	Connor Hagey	Commissioned Minister/Lay (Eastern Region)
443	Rod Lane	Commissioned Minister/Lay (Midwestern Region)

444
445 Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse, Connor Hagey, and Rod Lane were elected to the
446 District Nominating Committee.

447
448 Rev. Sabol presented the slate of candidates for District Nominating Committee, Ordained Minister (Lake
449 Erie Region):

450	Rev. Mark Braden
451	Rev. Larry Loree
452	Rev. Dr. David Petersen

453
454 The first ballot for District Nominating Committee, Ordained Minister (Lake Erie Region) was conducted
455 and the results posted:

456	Rev. Mark Braden	34	(22.82 %)
457	Rev. Larry Loree	23	(15.44 %)
458	Rev. Dr. David Petersen	92	(61.74 %)

459
460 Rev. Dr. David Petersen was elected to the District Nominating Committee.

461
462 Rev. Sabol presented the slate of candidates for District Nominating Committee, Commissioned
463 Minister/Lay (Lake Erie Region):

464	Jonathan Busarow
465	Mark Harris
466	Terry Leu

467
468 The ballot for District Nominating Committee, Commissioned Minister/Lay (Lake Erie Region) was
469 conducted and the results posted:

470	Jonathan Busarow	50	(33.78 %)
471	Mark Harris	49	(33.11 %)
472	Terry Leu	49	(33.11 %)

473
474 With no candidate receiving a majority of votes and a tie for last place, no names were removed. A second
475 ballot was conducted and the results posted:

476	Jonathan Busarow	60	(39.47 %)
477	Mark Harris	40	(26.32 %)
478	Terry Leu	52	(34.21 %)

479
480 With no candidate receiving a majority of votes, the name of Mark Harris was removed. A third ballot was
481 conducted and the results posted:

482	Jonathan Busarow	81	(53.29 %)
483	Terry Leu	71	(46.71 %)

484
485 Jonathan Busarow was elected to the District Nominating Committee.

486 Rev. Sabol presented the slate of candidates for District Nominating Committee, Ordained Minister
487 (Midwestern Region):

488 Rev. Daniel Greg
489 Rev. Thomas Engler

490
491 The ballot for District Nominating Committee, Ordained Minister (Midwestern Region) was conducted and
492 the results posted:

493	Rev. Daniel Greg	55	(39.57 %)
494	Rev. Thomas Engler	84	(60.43 %)

495
496 Rev. Thomas Engler was elected to the District Nominating Committee.

497
498 Rev. Sabol presented the slate of candidates for District Nominating Committee, Commissioned
499 Minister/Lay (Western Region):

500 Andrew Grant
501 Thomas Honebrink

502
503 The ballot for District Nominating Committee, Commissioned Minister/Lay (Western Region) was
504 conducted and the results posted:

505	Andrew Grant	40	(29.20 %)
506	Thomas Honebrink	97	(70.80 %)

507
508 Thomas Honebrink was elected to the District Nominating Committee.

509
510 Following these elections, President Miskus thanked the Elections Committee for its work during the
511 Convention. He also expressed thanks to all individuals who completed their terms of service to the
512 District in various offices.

513
514 At 4:10 PM, President Miskus invited Rev. James Huenink and Rev. Dr. Mark Menacher to the dais to assist
515 in the presentation of the Roger D. Pittelko Award to Rev. Steven J. Duescher. A brief summary of Rev.
516 Duescher's work as a pastor, primarily in Southern California, was given. Following this, Rev. Duescher
517 was presented the award. He was joined onstage by his wife, Connie. Rev. Duescher expressed his love
518 for the English District and the service to Christ that he was privileged to conduct within the English
519 District.

520
521 At 4:20 PM, President Miskus recalled Floor Committee 1.

522
523 Floor Committee 1 moved Resolution 1-03A "To Reject Kinism" (*June 26, 2025 Addendum, pp. 6-7 & 6-*
524 *8*) for adoption. During discussion, a delegate proposed a substitute motion: "To Request the Commission
525 on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) to Produce a New Document on Race."

526
527 WHEREAS, Holy Scripture declares that God created all humanity in His image (Genesis 1:27) and that all
528 believers are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28), condemning all forms of racial hatred as sinful (James 2:9);
529 and

530
531 WHEREAS, The 1994 CTCR document *Racism and the Church* was commended by the Synod (1995 Res.
532 2-05A), yet a minority opinion by Rev. Dr. James Voelz, Rev. Dr. Cameron MacKenzie, Rev. Dr. Ken
533 Schurb, and Rev. Dr. Norman Nagel raised concerns about the document's reliance on sociological
534 frameworks not grounded in Lutheran theology; and
535

536 WHEREAS, In recent years, new racial ideologies (e.g., Kinism, critical race theory) and secular distortions
537 (e.g., globalism, and the improper binding of consciences on matters such as immigration) have proliferated,
538 leading to widespread confusion; and

540 WHEREAS, On matters such as immigration policy, Scripture does not bind the Christian conscience to a
541 single political solution, and faithful Christians may, in good conscience, come to differing conclusions
542 (Romans 14:1–4); and

544 WHEREAS, It is contrary to Christian liberty to bind consciences where God has not spoken; and

545 WHEREAS, Pastors urgently need theologically sound resources to:

- 547 • Proclaim Law and Gospel to those afflicted with the sin of racial hatred.
- 548 • Address concerns about cultural and societal distortions.
- 549 • Provide faithful care for those harmed by racism.

550 therefore be it

551
552 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention direct the CTCR to produce a new document on race, revisiting the
553 1994 *Racism and the Church*, to address:

- 554 1. The theological concerns raised in the 1994 minority opinion, ensuring that definitions and frameworks
555 align with Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.
- 556 2. Modern racial ideologies (e.g., Kinism, critical race theory) and distortions (e.g., globalism,
557 immigration-related conscience binding), evaluating them through a biblical lens while affirming
558 Christian liberty in areas where Scripture is silent.
- 559 3. Pastoral strategies for:
 - 560 • Calling sinners to repentance with truth spoken in love (Ephesians 4:15).
 - 561 • Ministering to those harmed by racial hatred or confused by racial ideologies and contemporary
562 issues related to race.

563 and be it further

564
565 *Resolved*, That this document provide exegetical analysis of key biblical texts (e.g., Acts 17; Revelation 7;
566 Galatians 3), and clearly distinguish between God’s design for nations, man-made racial constructs, Law and
567 Gospel, and the two kinds of righteousness; and be it further

568
569 *Resolved*, That the CTCR complete this document in time for the 2029 LCMS Convention and distribute it
570 to all congregations; and be it finally

571
572 *Resolved*, That pastors and congregations make use of this resource to foster repentance, reconciliation, and
573 Christ-centered unity, proclaiming that for those who belong to Christ by faith: “There is neither Jew nor
574 Greek... for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).

575
576 The assembly voted to consider the substitute motion [Y-119; N-36]. During discussion of the substitute
577 motion, the motion to table was offered; the motion to table carried [Y-90; N-64].

578
579 Floor Committee 1 moved Resolution 1–04A “To Encourage Unity among Our Churches” (*June 26, 2025*
580 *Addendum, p. 6–9*) for adoption. During discussion, delegates spoke both for and against the resolution.
581 During discussion, a delegate offered an amendment: “*To strike from Line 26–27: ‘to repent of any sinful*
582 *or divisive behaviors, receive the forgiveness and comfort Christ alone can give’ and replace with: ‘to speak*
583 *well of each other...’*” The amendment was adopted [Y-131; N-20]. Following debate, the amended
584 resolution was adopted [Y-98; N-52].

585
586 At 4:53 PM, President Miskus summoned Floor Committee 4 (Congregational Services) to the dais.

587
588 Floor Committee 4 moved Resolution 4–01A “To Request a Comprehensive Review of the Theological
589 Concerns and Practical Procedures When a Call Is Terminated or Self-Terminated” (*June 26, 2025*
590 *Addendum, p. 6–15*) for adoption. With no delegate desiring to speak to the resolution, the motion carried
591 [Y-133; N-17].

592

593 Floor Committee 4 moved Resolution 4–02A “To Direct the Office of National Mission to Perform a
594 Systematic Review of All Registered Service Organizations (RSOs)” (*June 26, 2025 Addendum, p. 6–16 &*
595 *6–17*) for adoption. During discussion, a delegate offered an amendment: “*To strike in Line 54 ‘those who*
596 *abet lawbreakers’ and replace with ‘those who assist illegal activities but not to deny that we give comfort*
597 *and help to lawbreakers...’*” The amendment was adopted. Following debate, the motion failed [*Y-41; N-*
598 *110*].

600 Floor Committee 4 moved Resolution 4–03A “To Affirm the Board of Regents and Administration of
601 Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor in Their Efforts to Resolve Financial Deficits” (*June 26, 2025*
602 *Addendum, p. 6–18*) with a committee-initiated amendment in Lines 17–19 for adoption. During
603 discussion, a delegate offered an amendment: “*To strike in Lines 27 & 28: ‘recognizing that as sinful,*
604 *fallible mortals their communication efforts could have been handled better.’*” The motion to amend failed
605 [*Y-41; N-108*]. Following debate, the motion carried [*Y-125; N-28*].

607 President Miskus thanked Floor Committee 4 for its work and dismissed the committee.

609 At 5:28 PM, President Miskus invited Rev. Dr. Gerald Paul to the dais to greet the delegates. Rev. Dr. Paul
610 is an LCMS missionary in the Cayman Islands. He thanked the delegates for the generosity that has been
611 shown to support the work at Safe Harbour Lutheran Church in Grand Cayman. The congregation conducts
612 worship in English but is composed of individuals of multiple language groups.

614 At 5:40 PM, President Miskus called Rev. Lackey to the dais to offer the meal blessing. President Miskus
615 declared the Convention in recess, with business sessions to resume at 7:00 PM.

619 **FIFTH SESSION – FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 27, 2025**

620 At 7:00 PM, delegates and guests reconvened in the gymnasium. President Miskus brought the Convention
621 to order.

623 President Miskus called Rev. DiConti to the dais to offer prayer at the beginning of the session.

625 At 7:02 PM, President Miskus recalled Floor Committee 1 to the dais.

627 Floor Committee 1 moved that Resolution 1-01B “To Encourage the English District of The Lutheran
628 Church—Missouri Synod to Affirm Unequivocally the Practice of First Communion Prior to
629 Confirmation....” be taken from the table; motion carried. The committee moved Resolution 1-01B for
630 adoption. The committee highlighted the edits that it had made to the resolution. With no delegate
631 wishing to speak to the revised resolution, it carried [*Y-106; N-28*].

633 Floor Committee 1 moved Resolution 1-02B “To State Religious Objection to Government Interference of
634 Parents’ Duty” for adoption. The committee highlighted the edits that it had made to the resolution.
635 During discussion, an amendment was proposed: “*To strike ‘heretical’ in Line 64 and replace it with*
636 *‘false.’*” The amendment was adopted [*Y-104; N-29*]. With no delegate wishing to speak further to the
637 amended resolution, it carried [*Y-125; N-13*].

639 Floor Committee 1 moved Resolution 1–03A be taken from the table; motion carried. Debate resumed on
640 the substitute motion. With no delegate wishing to speak to the substitute motion, Resolution 1-03S: “To
641 Request the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) to Produce a New Document on Race,”
642 went before the assembly for adoption; motion carried [Y-67; N-63].
643

644 President Miskus thanked Floor Committee 1 for its work.
645

646 At 7:27 PM, President Miskus called on Rev. Justin Laughridge to speak about the work of the District
647 Mission Action Team. Gordon Marquette spoke about the 1-1-1 Mission Funding Initiative and the level
648 of participation by congregations in that initiative: only 6% of District congregations are currently actively
649 participating. To help revive this initiative, he spoke about the Scriptural statements about God granting
650 all good gifts, while establishing a goal for each congregation to have a member be an “owner” of the 1-
651 1-1 Mission Funding Initiative in their congregation. The Mission Action Team also interacts with campus
652 ministry, the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission, and church planting efforts within the District. Rev.
653 Laughridge announced to the delegates that his time as co-chair of the Mission Action Team will conclude
654 at the end of the triennium.
655

656 At 7:43 PM, President Miskus called on Mr. Albert Amling, District Education Executive, to address the
657 Convention. There are currently 30 church work students receiving grants from the District to help
658 subsidize their education. He challenged each pastor to recruit one church work student in the next
659 triennium. He also reminded the delegates about the recipients of the Professional Educator of the Year
660 for 2023, 2024, and 2025, respectively: Mrs. Bethany Dillon, Mrs. Sara Miller, and Mrs. Katie Brech. He
661 also announced that Mrs. Janet Stechholz has been granted the Lifetime Ministry Service Award.
662

663 At 7:48 PM, President Miskus called on Rev. Derek Mathers, Assistant to the Bishop, to address the
664 Convention. He highlighted the four areas of work that he conducts for the District: (a) advising the Bishop
665 on ecclesiastical matters, (b) promoting worker wellness, (c) advancing the 1-1-1 Mission Funding
666 Initiative, and (d) supporting mission efforts. During his presentation, he also spoke about the District’s
667 identity being defined by mission rather than geography, legacy congregations that contribute significant
668 gifts at their dissolution to continue mission work, congregational institutional vitality (human
669 stewardship), and mission planting by local congregations or groups of congregations.
670

671 At 8:09 PM, President Miskus invited the members of the District Office Staff to the dais to formally
672 introduce them to the Convention and to thank them for their dedicated service to the District. District
673 Office Staff honored were: Sally Naglich – District Business Manager; Kathy Stanis – Administrative
674 Assistant to the Bishop; Natalya Hrecznyj – Accounting Assistant; Linda Linthicum – Communications
675 Coordinator; and Peggy Oke – Administrative Assistant to the Business Manager. He also thanked Tim
676 Arnold who coordinated audio/visual presentations during the Convention and Kathy Arnold who was
677 taking publicity photographs. He also thanked Frank Naglich and Paul Stanis for their hours of volunteer
678 work for the Convention.
679

680 At 8:14 PM, President Miskus called Rev. DiConti to the dais to offer prayer for the conclusion of the day’s
681 session. President Miskus declared the Convention in recess, with business sessions to resume on June
682 28, 2025 at 8:00 AM.

2025 CIRCUIT VISITOR SELECTION RESULTS
(following Realignment and Renumbering)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12

- Election of Circuit Visitors involves a multi-step process, as outlined in Synod Bylaw 5.2.2:
- (1) Each Visitation Circuit holds a meeting of its Circuit Forum to select a Circuit Visitor.
 - (2) The slate of Circuit Visitors selected is then presented to the District Convention, which has the right to alter that slate by amendment.
 - (3) The District Convention shall then ratify the slate of Circuit Visitors, which will constitute election of the Circuit Visitors.

The following individuals have been selected to serve as Circuit Visitors for the 2025–2028 triennium:

Circuit 1 (New York)
Rev. Curtis Stephens

Circuit 12 (West Michigan)
Rev. Alexander Sabol

Circuit 2 (Philadelphia)
Rev. Christopher Seifferlein

Circuit 13 (Indiana)
Rev. Shawn Barnett

Circuit 3 (Florida)
Rev. Eric Linthicum

Circuit 14 (Chicago–South)
Rev. Douglas Hoag

Circuit 4 (Georgia)
Rev. Aaron Sterling

Circuit 15 (Chicago–North)
Rev. Daniel Greg

Circuit 5 (Buffalo)
Rev. David Walsh

Circuit 16 (Milwaukee)
Rev. Fred Reaman

Circuit 6 (Pittsburgh)
Rev. Justin Schmidt

Circuit 17 (Saint Louis)
Rev. Jon Gruen

Circuit 7 (Canada–East)
Rev. Gerald Luck

Circuit 18 (Texas)
Rev. Stanley Lacey

Circuit 8 (Canada–West)
Rev. James Leistico

Circuit 18 (Arizona–North)
Rev. Brian Crane

Circuit 9 (Cleveland)
Rev. Robert Weldon

Circuit 20 (Arizona–South)
Rev. Bruce von Hindenburg

Circuit 10 (Detroit–South)
Rev. Bradford Scott

Circuit 21 (San Diego)
Rev. James Huenink

Circuit 11 (Detroit–North)
Rev. Timothy Holzerland

Circuit 22 (Los Angeles)
Rev. Titus Utecht

Circuit 23 (Northwest)
Rev. Kevin Belter