

# WORKBOOK



## The Fifty-Sixth Convention

***“LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF”***

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

June 19-21, 2018  
Concordia University  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

The logo for the 56th Regular Convention of the English District Lutheran Church—  
Missouri Synod was designed by Rebecca Kaiser.

# Table of Contents

---

(To navigate to different sections, click on the “Bookmark” icon in Adobe Reader.)

Convention Schedule

Convention Hymns

## **Section 1 – General Information**

Convention Election Process .....	1
Basic Primer of Parliamentary Procedure .....	5
Glossary of Parliamentary Terms .....	7
Floor Committees .....	10

## **Section 2 – Rosters**

English District Personnel, Boards and Committees .....	1
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Officers/Board of Directors .....	3
Convention Delegates .....	4
Youth Representatives .....	9
Jubilarians .....	10
Official Acts .....	12
Congregations/Pastors .....	40

## **Section 3 – Reports**

President’s Report .....	1
Staff Reports .....	7
Eastern Region Circuit/Congregation Reports .....	33
Lake Erie Region Circuit/Congregation Reports .....	41
Midwestern Region Circuit/Congregation Reports .....	61
Western Region Circuit/Congregation Reports .....	69
Mission Grant Reports .....	84
Board and Committee Reports .....	97

## **Section 4 – Overtures & Resolutions**

Overtures .....	1
Resolutions .....	67

## **Section 5 – Candidates & Biographical Information**

President .....	1
Vice President .....	5
Slate of Circuit Visitors .....	14
Secretary .....	16
Board of Directors .....	20
Endowment Fund Board of Managers .....	38
Committee on Nominations .....	48
Synod Committee for Convention Nominations .....	54



## Convention Schedule

### ***Tuesday, June 19, 2018***

8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Vendor/Exhibitor/Ministry Tent setup	Ministry Tent/West Campus
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	Nest/Student Union
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Open Hearings of Convention Floor Committees	Krieger Hall
12:00 pm	Lunch	Ministry Tent
12:15 pm	Orientation for first-time delegates	Krieger Hall
1:00 – 5:00 pm	Gathering of Youth Delegates	Dorm
12:00 – 5:00 pm	Ministry Tent Open	West Campus Parking
2:00 pm	Opening of the 56th Convention of the English District-LCMS	Gymnasium
	Convention business and reports including:	
	Committee #6 Nominations – Bishop/President & Vice Presidents	
	Committee #5 Elections	
	Speaker – Rev. Dr. Larry Vogel	
5:30 pm	Dinner	Manor Tent
7:15 pm	Convention Group Picture	Central Campus
7:30 pm	Opening Service	Chapel of Holy Trinity

### ***Wednesday, June 20, 2018***

6:45 – 8:00 am	Breakfast	Cafeteria/Student Union
7:10 – 7:45 am	Lifeline sessions	Nest/Student Union
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Ministry Tent Open	West Campus Parking
8:00 am	Synod Report: The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President	Gymnasium
10:00 am	Break (coffee and snacks in ministry tent)	Ministry Tent
	Convention business and reports including:	
	Committee #6 Nominations – Secretary & Board of Directors	
	Committee #5 Elections	
12:00 pm	Lunch (E & MW Region dismissed to Café; LE & W dismissed to ministry tent)	Cafeteria/Student Union
1:30 pm	Recognition of new congregations	
1:40 pm	Convention business and reports including:	
	Bylaws/Policy Review	
	Speaker – Rev. Tom Engler	
3:00 pm	Break	Ministry Tent
3:20 pm	Convention business and reports including:	
	Floor Committees	
4:20 pm	Announcements/Closing Prayer	
4:30 pm	Circuit Caucuses/Canada Corporation	Various classrooms
5:30 pm	Dinner	Cafeteria/Student Union
7:30 pm	Convention business and reports including:	Gymnasium
	Floor Committees	
	Speaker – Rev. Dale Kaster	

## ***Thursday, June 21, 2018***

6:45 – 8:00 am	Breakfast (Board of Directors breakfast meeting)	Cafeteria/Student Union
7:10 – 7:45 am	Lifeline sessions	Nest/Student Union
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Ministry Tent Open	
8:00 am	Convention business and reports including: Speaker - Rev. David Petersen	
10:00 am	Break	Ministry Tent
10:20 am	Convention business and reports including: Committee #6 Nominations/Elections - Circuit Visitors, Comm. on Nom., Endowment Fund Managers, Synod Comm. on Nom. Bishop/President address Recognition of Jubilarians Floor Committees	
12:00 pm	Lunch (LE & W Reg. dismissed to Café; E & MW dismissed to ministry tent)	Cafeteria/Student Union
1:45 pm	Convention business and reports including: Floor Committees Unfinished Business	
3:30 pm	Convention Closing <b>Convention Memorial Vespers</b> Installation of officers	Chapel of Holy Trinity
5:00 pm	Dinner	Cafeteria/Student Union
6:00 pm	Bus departs for Airport	Campus Dorm Parking Lots

## ***Friday, June 22, 2018***

8:00 am	Bus departs for Airport	
---------	-------------------------	--

***Soli Deo Gloria***

# Christ on the Cross Brings to Us

Text: Timothy J. Dinkel, 1969-

Tune: P. Friedrich Silcher, 1789-1860

1. Christ on the cross brings to us the Fa - thers love,  
2. Now free are we in Christ to love eve - ry - one  
3. Com - mu - nion as one church we re - ceive God's gifts,

God's Lamb who is the door to the heav'ns a - bove,  
To raise and teach our child - ren of God's own Son,  
Praise, pra - yer, and our thanks in re - sponse we lift,

His blood cov - ers all sin and death, we now are free,  
To build up homes in Christ as the cor - ner - stone,  
Full ar - mor locked to - ge - ther, in faith we know,

To love as Je - sus loves us, one bo - dy are we.  
With Je - sus our foun - da - tion in faith a - lone.  
With Christ we stand u - nit - ed a - gainst the foe.

4. Salt to the earth is what those of God do give,  
And shining faith in Christ by the light we live,  
This hope we give our neighbors in word and deed,  
And so honor God in mercy for those in need.

△ 5. Our Father is the author and source of love,  
The Son His sole-begotten, Word from above,  
The Spirit interceding, and faith is giv'n,  
Our Triune God we praise thee in earth and heav'n!  
Amen!

# Love Your Neighbor As Yourself

Text by Robert Voelker, 2018

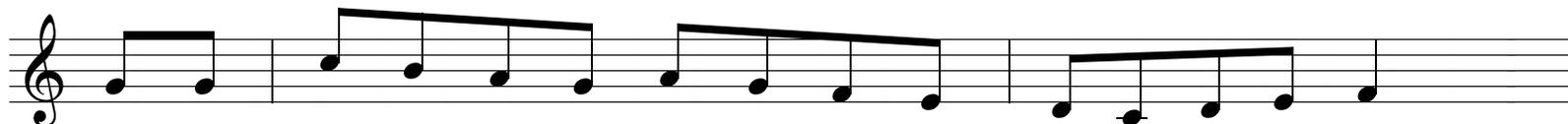
Tune by Carl Schalk



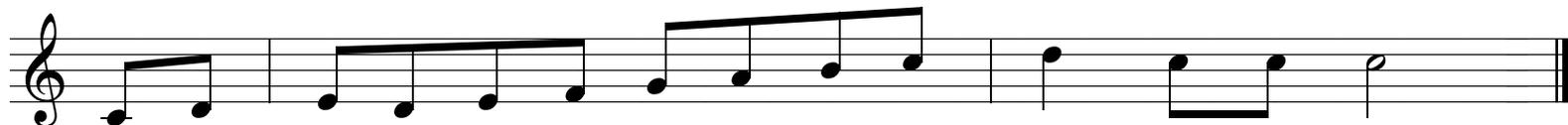
1 When they put Christ to the test, He said which com-mands were best:  
2 Which com - mand-ment do we heed Ver - sus hat - red, pride and greed?  
3 Learn-ing how to love is hard, But your tut- or is not far:  
4 Christ's dis- ci- ples show their hand In res - ponse to this com - mand;



"Love your neigh - bor as your - self," Take down jus - tice from the shelf;  
"Love your neigh - bor as your - self," Put re - venge up on the shelf;  
How you want them to treat you Is ex - act - ly what to do!  
He who loved them to the end, He who died to be their friend,



For the heart and soul and mind and strength you give to God a - bove,  
For our Sav - ior at His al - tar Will re - mem - ber you with grace,  
There is not a rule more gold - en, Not a gift you more can gild,  
Christ, whose love is our ex - am - ple, Christ, whose love has set us free,



When dir - ect - ed to your neigh - bor Brings an offr - ing of love.  
And your en - e - mies will fal - ter As they flee from His face.  
For the love you give your neigh - bor Is the whole Law ful - filled!  
Puts His love with - in His foll' - wers As Him - self He would be.

Mark 12:30-31; Leviticus 19:18; Galatians 5:14; John 13:1, 35; 15:14; 17:26  
7.7.7.7.8.7.8.6

## THE CONVENTION ELECTION PROCESS

Nomination and election procedures are prescribed in Synod's Handbook and our District Manual of Policies/Operations.

This Convention's **Committee on Nominations was elected at the 2015 District Convention**. In an email dated September 18, 2017, congregations were asked to submit names of eligible persons to be considered for the Committee on Nominations. The deadline for nominations was February 19, 2018.

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. 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.

## **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. State the results.  
The vote does not go into effect until the results are announced.

## **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.

## PROPOSED STANDING RULES

1. Delegates wishing to address the Convention, when recognized by the Chair, shall state their names and the name of their congregation or other entity of the district they represent.
2. 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.
3. Questions of privilege shall ordinarily be addressed in writing to the chair, or its appointee, instead of consuming Convention time.
4. 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.
5. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order.
6. When speaking to the question on the floor, a delegate shall attempt to speak directly for or against the question. 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.
7. The use of electronic devices (e.g. iPads, 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.

# 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?
<b>1. Adjourn</b>	I move we adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
<b>2. Recess</b>	I move we recess	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
<b>3. Raise a question of privilege</b>	Point of privilege, Rev. Chairman...	Yes	No	No	No	No vote required
<b>4. Lay on the Table</b>	I move to table this matter	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
<b>5. Previous question</b>	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3 Majority
<b>6. Postpone definitely or to a certain time</b>	I move we postpone this matter until...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
<b>7. Commit or refer</b>	I move we refer this matter to a committee	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
<b>8. Amend a motion</b>	I move this be amended to read...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
<b>9. Main motion</b>	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.

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

### IV. Substitute Motions

In the case of a substitute motion we may follow the so-called "Behnken Rule." That is, the convention may first decide by majority vote whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is adopted, the original motion falls. If the substitute motion does not receive favorable action, either to consider or adopt, the original motion is again before the house.

## 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**

**OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:** The Rev. Dr. Jamison J. Hardy  
107 Carol Drive, McMurray, PA 15317-3274

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:** The Rev. Ben C. Eder  
44 Chapel Road, Kenmore, NY 14217-2060

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:** The Rev. Todd W. Arnold  
555 S La Canada Drive, Green Valley, AZ 85614-2538

**THIRD VICE PRESIDENT:** The Rev. Robert A. Rogers  
300 S. Ardmore Avenue, Villa Park, IL 60181-2614

**FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT:** The Rev. Jeffrey G. Miskus  
130 Mineola Road East, Mississauga, ON L5G 2E5

**SECRETARY:** The Rev. Luke Zimmerman  
PO Box 374, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0374

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

**CIRCUIT VISITORS**

New York #1: The Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt  
Philadelphia #2: The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky  
Florida #3: The Rev. William Douthwaite III  
Georgia #4: The Rev. David Miller  
Buffalo #5: The Rev. Dwayne Hendricks  
Pittsburgh #6: The Rev. Brian Westgate  
Canada-East #7: The Rev. Stephen Alles  
Canada-West #8: The Rev. Robert Voelker  
Cleveland-Akron #9: The Rev. James Gau  
Cleveland-West #10: The Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer  
Detroit-South #11: The Rev. Bradford Scott  
Detroit-North #12: The Rev. Daniel Grams

Western Michigan #13: The Rev. Eric Forss  
Indiana #14: The Rev. Chad Trouten  
Chicago-North #15: The Rev. Anthony Oliphant  
Chicago-South #16: The Rev. James Huenink  
Milwaukee #17: The Rev. Frederic Reaman  
St. Louis #18: The Rev. Theodore Laesch, Jr.  
Arizona-North #19: The Rev. Nicholas Wirtz  
Arizona-South #20: The Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler  
Nevada/Utah #21: The Rev. Gary Oehlerts  
San Diego #22: The Rev. Steven Duescher  
Los Angeles #23: The Rev. Daniel Pezzica  
San Francisco #24: The Rev. Charles Fox

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

33100 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48336-4030  
Phone: (248)476-0039; FAX: (248)476-0188  
[www.englishdistrict.org](http://www.englishdistrict.org)

**EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Assistant to the President / Executive Assistant to the President <i>Missions</i>	The Rev. J. Derek Mathers
Executive Assistant to the President <i>School Ministry</i>	Mrs. Gail Holzer
Treasurer / Executive Assistant to the President <i>Business and Finance</i>	Mrs. Sally Naglich, CPA
LCEF Vice President	The Rev. David Thiele

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mr. Albert Amling  
The Rev. Todd Arnold  
Mr. Chris Cassel  
Mrs. Jane Duffy  
The Rev. Ben Eder  
The Rev. Dr. Robert Fitzpatrick

Ms. Carol George  
The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy  
Ms. Shirley Holle  
Mr. Stuart Kahle  
Mr. Terry Leu

Deaconess Jennifer Miller  
The Rev. Jeffrey Miskus  
The Rev. Dr. R. Wayne Morton  
Mrs. Sally Naglich  
The Rev. Robert Rogers  
The Rev. Luke Zimmerman

## **ELECTED COMMITTEES**

### **COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

<u>REGION</u>	<u>PASTORS</u>	<u>LAYPERSONS</u>
Eastern	The Rev. Brian Westgate	Ms. Carolyn Alessi
Lake Erie	The Rev. Eric Forss	Mr. Nathaniel Pulmann
Midwest	The Rev. Michael Brown	DCE Rodrick Lane
Western	The Rev. Dan Pezzica*	Mr. Tom Honebrink

### **ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS**

Eastern Region	The Rev. Fred Gerlach
Lake Erie Region	The Rev. Raymond Kirk
Midwest Region	Mr. Alan Zacharias
Western Region	Mr. Tom Schlitt
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

## **APPOINTED COMMITTEES**

### **CAMPUS MINISTRY TASK FORCE**

The Rev. Eric Andrae, Deaconess Sara Bielby, The Rev. Dr. David Dressel\*, The Rev. Curtis Dwyer, The Rev. Thomas Engler, The Rev. Martin Erhardt, The Rev. Fred Gerlach, The Rev. Gabe Kasper, The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, The Rev. Larry Loree, The Rev. J. Derek Mathers, Mrs. Augusta Mennell, The Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer, Deaconess Sharon Owens, The Rev. Joshua Palmer, Vicar Jesse Schlie, The Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel, The Rev. Bradley Urlaub

### **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. John Diener\*, Mr. Thomas Kuwazaki, The Rev. J. Derek Mathers, The Rev. Frederic Reaman, The Rev. Mark Wood, The Rev. Ronald York

### **LIFELINE**

The Rev. Michael Brown\*, The Rev. John Diener, Deaconess Jeri Morrison, The Rev. Robert Voelker

### **MINISTERIAL HEALTH**

The Rev. Jonathan Gruen, Ms. Marianne Jackson, Ms. Marlene Lindberg, The Rev. Capt. Gregory Lutz, The Rev. J. Derek Mathers\*, Ms. Sue Neff

### **MISSIONS COUNCIL**

The Rev. Dr. Roger Ellis, The Rev. Thomas Engler, The Rev. Dale Kaster, The Rev. Adam Koontz, The Rev. Justin Laughridge\*, The Rev. J. Derek Mathers, The Rev. Daniel Pezzica, The Rev. Ron York

### **RECONCILERS #**

The Rev. Dr. Richard Drews, Mr. David Kuhfal, Mr. Charles Porter, The Rev. Theodore Predoehl, The Rev. C. J. Wright

### **STEWARDSHIP**

Mr. Al Achepohl, The Rev. Mark Ebert, Ms. Carol George, The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, Mr. Troy Lindsey, The Rev. Ted Radke, The Rev. Michael Scheer\*, Mr. Gary Timm, Mr. Ralph Trendle

### **WORSHIP**

The Rev. Ryan Beffrey, The Rev. Jeffrey Miskus, The Rev. David Rutter, The Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel\*

\*Chair

# Requires Board ratification

## THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

### OFFICERS

President: The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison  
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122  
First Vice President: The Rev. Dr. Herbert Mueller, Jr.  
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122  
Second Vice President: The Rev. Dr. Scott Murray  
5800 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77057  
Third Vice President: The Rev. Nabil Nour  
46448 263<sup>rd</sup> St., Hartford, SD 57033  
Fourth Vice President: The Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe, Jr.  
3832 S. Lake Dr., Saint Francis, WI 53235  
Fifth Vice President: The Rev. Dr. Daniel Preus  
9228 Lavant Dr., St. Louis, MO 63126  
Sixth Vice President: The Rev. Christopher Esget  
1801 Russell Rd, Alexandria, VA 22301  
Secretary: The Rev. John Sias  
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122  
Chief Administrative Officer: Mr. Frank Simek  
Chief Financial Officer: Mr. Jerald Wulf  
Chief Mission Officer: The Rev. Kevin Robson

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers: *Chairman*: The Rev. Dr. Michael Kumm  
*Vice-Chairman*: Mr. Ed Everts  
*Secretary*: The Rev. John Sias  
  
*Ordained Members*: The Rev. Eric Ini-Obong Ekong, The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, The Rev. Dr. Michael Kumm, The Rev. John Sias  
  
*Commissioned Member*: Dr. Kurt Senske  
  
*Lay Members*: Mr. James Carter, Jr., Dr. Gloria Edwards, Mr. Ed Everts, Mr. Keith Frndak, Mr. Larry Harrington, Mr. Christian Preus, Ms. Kathy Schulz  
  
*Non-Voting Members*: The Rev. Herbert Mueller, Jr.  
  
*Advisory*: Mr. Frank Simek, Mr. Jerald Wulf  
  
*Legal Counsel*: Thompson Coburn LLP

## 2018 CONVENTION DELEGATES

### PASTOR

### LAYPERSON

#### **Circuit #1 - New York**

Ewing, NJ	Bethany		
Flushing, NY	Immanuel		
Palisades Park, NJ	Cho Won Korean		
Palisades Park, NJ	Grace		
Pennsauken, NJ	Martin Luther Chapel	Rev. Robert Bruggeman	Jane Duffy
Princeton, NJ	Messiah	Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt	Justin Hylden
Saint Albans, NY	Redeemer		
Scarsdale, NY	Trinity	Rev. Gordon Naumann	Michael Coffey
Valley Stream, NY	Our Saviour		

#### **Circuit #2 - Philadelphia**

Blue Bell, PA	Gloria Dei		
Chesapeake, VA	Faith	Rev. Christian Morales	Walter Dissen
Harrisburg, PA	Gloria Dei		
Lititz, PA	Mount Calvary	Rev. Adam Koontz	Duane Zentz
Mechanicsburg, PA	Calvary	Rev. Luke Zimmerman	James Blockus
Springfield, PA	Saint John	Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	Joseph Schlie
Warminster, PA	Grace		

#### **Circuit #3 - Florida**

Inverness, FL	Tree of Life		
Naples, FL	Faith		
Ocala, FL	Trinity		
Palm Coast, FL	Shepherd of the Coast	Rev. William Douthwaite	Stephanie Johnson
Saint John's, FL	Celebration	Rev. Steve De Santo	Kristina Rider

#### **Circuit #4 - Georgia**

Alpharetta, GA	Christ the Shepherd		Gary Church
Atlanta, GA	Ascension	Rev. David Miller	Brian Beckman

#### **Circuit #5 - Buffalo**

Amherst, NY	Calvary		
Buffalo, NY	Nazareth	Rev. Dwayne Hendricks	
Erie, PA	Trinity	Rev. Travis Schmidt	Carol George
Kenmore, NY	Pilgrim	Rev. Ben Eder	Carol Obot
North Tonawanda, NY	Redeemer	Rev. David Beutel	Kathleen Beutel
Syracuse, NY	Hope Community		

#### **Circuit #6 - Pittsburgh**

Butler, PA	Faith		
McMurray, PA	Peace	Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy	Richard Crain
Oakmont, PA	Redeemer	Rev. Brian Westgate	Jeffrey Meier
Pittsburgh, PA	First Trinity	Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel	Justin Spittel
Slippery Rock, PA	All Saints	Rev. Larry Loree	James Mennell

## 2018 CONVENTION DELEGATES

### PASTOR

### LAYPERSON

#### Circuit #7 - Canada East

Aurora, ON	Christ		Anne Goodwin
Golden Lake, ON	Saint John	Rev. Richard Klein	William Sterling
Mississauga, ON	Saint Mark	Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	Ken Freeman
North York, ON	Saint Luke	Rev. Junghun Park	Ian Farquharson
Pembroke, ON	Saint John	Rev. Stephen Alles	Don Davidson
Toronto, ON	Saint Matthew	Rev. Dereck Pillay	Derick Ackloo

#### Circuit #8 - Canada West

Chatham, ON	Our Saviour's	Rev. Daniel Murray	
Kitchener, ON	Hope	Rev. Raymond Kirk	Elke Kreitzer
Mitchell, ON	Grace	Rev. Gerald Luck	Lucille Radke
Sarnia, ON	Redeemer	Rev. Dr. Jason Kouri	Michel Poliquin
Windsor, ON	Gethsemane	Rev. Robert Voelker	Paul Tombura
Windsor, ON	Peace	Rev. James Leistico	James Olsen

#### Circuit #9 - Cleveland-Akron

Akron, OH	Concordia	Rev. Robert Tauscher	Mark Thomas
Akron, OH	Fairlawn	Rev. James Gau	Larry Pantages
Akron, OH	Good Shepherd		Michael Morgan
Akron, OH	Grace		
Cleveland Heights, OH	Mount Olive		Clarke Earley
Northfield, OH	Epiphany		
Streetsboro, OH	Saint Thomas	Rev. Christian Just	Gilbert Ayers

#### Circuit #10 - Cleveland-West

Cleveland, OH	Holy Cross	Rev. Michael Scheer	Daniel Kenney
Cleveland, OH	Iglesia		
Elyria, OH	Grace	Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr.	Alan Porter
Medina, OH	Prince of Peace	Rev. Daniel Haberkost	Terry Leu
North Olmsted, OH	Ascension		Shirley Scheuermann
Oberlin, OH	Grace	Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer	Barb Hadaway

#### Circuit #11 - Detroit-South

Allen Park, MI	Angelica	Rev. Jonathan Sachs	Ted Orosz
Allen Park, MI	Christ Our Redeemer		Paul Jentzen
Detroit, MI	Zion	Rev. Mark Braden	Michael Anderson
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI	Christ the King	Rev. Randy Boelter	Jessica Garrett
Plymouth, MI	Risen Christ		
Sylvania, OH	King of Glory		
Toledo, OH	Good Shepherd	Rev. Bradford Scott	Tina Jahn
Toledo, OH	Holy Cross		

## 2018 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<b><u>Circuit #12 - Detroit-North</u></b>			
Beverly Hills, MI	Ascension of Christ	Rev. Daniel Grams	David Lambert
Redford, MI	Grace	Rev. Zachary Marklevitz	Ralph Trendle
Saint Clair Shores, MI	Saint Paul	Rev. David Rutter	Paul Blackwell
Sandusky, MI	Holy Redeemer		
Shelby Township, MI	Epic		
West Bloomfield, MI	Shepherd King	Rev. Timothy Holzerland	Tony Pauza
West Branch, MI	New Beginnings		
<b><u>Circuit #13 - Western Michigan</u></b>			
Dorr, MI	Epiphany	Rev. Ryan Beffrey	Bray MacIntosh
East Lansing, MI	Martin Luther Chapel	Rev. Curt Dwyer	Andrew Barrus
Grand Rapids, MI	Hope	Rev. Daniel Gruenwald	Jason Harnish
Hartland, MI	Our Savior	Rev. Christopher Thoma	Alden Erdman
Howell, MI	Immanuel		
Lakeview, MI	Holy Trinity		
Wyoming, MI	Grace	Rev. John Diener	Jeff DeYoung
<b><u>Circuit #14 - Indiana</u></b>			
Florence, KY	Abiding Faith	Rev. Winston Grieser	Ed Lawrence
Fort Wayne, IN	Bethany	Rev. Chad Trouten	Dain Christensen
Fort Wayne, IN	Jacob's Well		
Fort Wayne, IN	Redeemer	Rev. David Petersen	Milo Osbun
Fort Wayne, IN	Saint Michael	Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing	
Fremont, IN	Peace	Rev. Jeffrey Teeple	Jim Miller
LaPorte, IN	Trinity		
Stroh, IN	Prince of Peace	Rev. James Elsner	Gary Lybarger
Zionsville, IN	Advent	Rev. James Grady	Ryan Cremeans
<b><u>Circuit #15 - Chicago-North</u></b>			
Arlington Heights, IL	Faith	Rev. Thomas Sanders	John Coates
Chicago, IL	Bethany		
Chicago, IL	Bethesda	Rev. Dr. Paul Bacon	Roop Charles
Chicago, IL	Christ English	Rev. C. J. Wright	Marva Newman
Chicago, IL	Grace English		Cliff Higley
Elk Grove Village, IL	Holy Spirit		
Elmhurst, IL	Redeemer	Rev. Anthony Oliphant	Jeffrey Williamson-Link
Villa Park, IL	Trinity	Rev. Robert Rogers	Scott Golz

## 2018 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<b><u>Circuit #16 - Chicago-South</u></b>			
Berwyn, IL	Concordia	Rev. James Huenink	Sarah Lofgren
Chicago, IL	Chatham Fields		David Young, Sr.
Chicago, IL	Ephphatha	Rev. Prentice Marsh	
Chicago, IL	Faith		
Chicago, IL	Good Shepherd		
Chicago, IL	New Hope		
Chicago, IL	Saint John the Divine		
Elmhurst, IL	Messiah	Rev. Brad Maxon	Daniel Maxon
Markham, IL	Markham	Rev. Dr. Larry Schneekloth	Jason Hill
New Lenox, IL	Trinity	Rev. Douglas Hoag	Rex Toepke
<b><u>Circuit #17 - Milwaukee</u></b>			
Forest Lake, MN	Messiah		
Hales Corners, WI	Hales Corners		
Hastings, MN	Hope		Greg Collins
Janesville, WI	Saint Mark	Rev. Bradley Urlaub	Shelley Bayer
Lake Mills, WI	Christ	Rev. Aaron Boerst	Charles Maenner
Menomonee Falls, WI	Prince of Peace	Rev. Thomas Engler	Norman Schwantes
Mount Pleasant, WI	Living Hope		
New Berlin, WI	Peace	Rev. Gregory Michel	Bill Vath
Shawano, WI	Resurrection		
Sheboygan, WI	Saint Mark	Rev. Brett Matz	Jim Leonhardt
Watertown, WI	Faith	Rev. Seth Hoepfner	
West Allis, WI	Greenfield Park	Rev. Fred Reaman	Charles Porter
<b><u>Circuit #18 - Saint Louis</u></b>			
Hannibal, MO	Saint John	Rev. Eric Carlson	Devron Sterneke
Lee's Summit, MO	Beautiful Savior	Rev. Jonathan Gruen	Chris Troester
Lincoln, NE	Redeemer	Rev. Mark Ebert	Philip Wohlgemuth
O'Fallon, MO	Peace	Rev. Ronald Millard	Rebecca Hoskins
Saint Louis, MO	Chapel of the Cross	Rev. Theodore Laesch	Ellory Glenn
Vine Grove, KY	Grace	Rev. Ryan Schneider	Steve White
<b><u>Circuit #19 - Arizona-North</u></b>			
Overgaard, AZ	Faith	Rev. Nick Wirtz	Brian Parker
Parker, AZ	Messiah		
Payson, AZ	Shepherd of the Pines	Rev. David Burge	Andy McKinney
Phoenix, AZ	Family of Christ	Rev. Fred Gerlach	Robert Earl
Pinetop, AZ	Shepherd of the Mountains	Rev. R. Wayne Morton	Beth Morton

## 2018 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<b><u>Circuit #20 - Arizona-South</u></b>			
Benson, AZ	Peace in the Valley	Rev. Ron York	Jack Martin
Green Valley, AZ	Risen Savior	Rev. Todd Arnold	Richard Loesch
Rio Rico, AZ	Christus Rex	Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler	Mike Duggan
Sahuarita, AZ	Crosspoint		Mark Constantine
Tucson, AZ	Ascension	Rev. Jim Thelen	Andy Wellik
Tucson, AZ	Catalina	Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse	Shirley Holle
Tucson, AZ	Faith	Rev. Kurt Cockran	Judith Hughes
Tucson, AZ	Holy Trinity		
Tucson, AZ	Messiah		
Tucson, AZ	Mount Olive	Rev. Dr. Frank Ciampa	Richard Greenfield
<b><u>Circuit #21 - Nevada/Utah</u></b>			
Las Vegas, NV	Trinity	Rev. Gary Oehlerts	Alfred Bentley
Mesquite, NV	Prince of Peace	Rev. Travis Lauterbach	Nichole Lauterbach
Saint George, UT	Our Savior's	Rev. Arthur Drehman	Bert Ward
<b><u>Circuit #22 - San Diego</u></b>			
Borrego Springs, CA	Borrego		
El Cajon, CA	First	Rev. Andrew Fedder	Susan Neff
Lakeside, CA	Morning Star	Rev. Justin Laughridge	Kara Birren
Mira Mesa, CA	Crossroads		
Pine Valley, CA	Inter-Mountain		
San Diego, CA	Living Water	Rev. Steven Duescher	
<b><u>Circuit #23 - Los Angeles</u></b>			
Long Beach, CA	Saint Paul's	Rev. Mark Pierson	Jeremy Johnson
Los Angeles, CA	Highland Park		
Mission Hills, CA	Chapel of the Cross	Rev. William Naumann	Rosa Wiebers
Palm Desert, CA	Peace		
Sherman Oaks, CA	Sherman Oaks	Rev. Daniel Pezzica	John Lippert
<b><u>Circuit #24 - San Francisco</u></b>			
Danville, CA	Messiah		Kevin McGladdery
Fremont, CA	Hope	Rev. John Berg	
Moses Lake, CA	Apostolic		
San Francisco, CA	New Life Chinese	Rev. Charles Fox	Andrew Yee
San Francisco, CA	West Portal	Rev. Curtis Binz	Edmund Proehl

## 2018 CIRCUIT YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

<b><u>CIRCUIT</u></b>	<b><u>REPRESENTATIVE</u></b>
<i>Philadelphia Circuit #2</i>	Miah Wilson
<i>Florida Circuit #3</i>	Jonathan Rider
<i>Pittsburgh Circuit #6</i>	Diana (Ana) Crain
<i>Pittsburgh Circuit #6</i>	Noah Hardy
<i>Canada-East Circuit #7</i>	Tyler Aylin
<i>Canada-East Circuit #7</i>	Andrew Trautrim
<i>Cleveland-West Circuit #10</i>	Nicholas Manley
<i>Cleveland-West Circuit #10</i>	Olivia Maschke
<i>Western Michigan Circuit #13</i>	Dillon Mrozek
<i>Saint Louis Circuit #18</i>	Nate Laesch
<i>Saint Louis Circuit #18</i>	Madisen Smith
<i>Los Angeles Circuit #23</i>	Jonah Gordon
<i>Los Angeles Circuit #23</i>	Kam Kotraba

**Jubilarians - Ordained**  
Ordination/Colloquy Anniversary

**25 years (1991, 1992, 1993)**

The Rev. David C. Adams  
The Rev. Henry V. Gerike  
The Rev. Douglas E. Hoag  
The Rev. Timothy A. Holzerland  
The Rev. Dr. Terry N. Hursh  
The Rev. Dr. James W. Jasper  
The Rev. Wallace J. Kimari  
The Rev. Gregory S. Musolf  
The Rev. David A. Rutter  
The Rev. Jeffrey N. Webb

**30 years (1986, 1987, 1988)**

The Rev. Stephen C. Alles  
The Rev. Wayne C. Berkesch  
The Rev. William Douthwaite, III  
The Rev. Daniel R. Haberkost  
The Rev. Dr. David R. Schmitt  
The Rev. David S. Tannahill  
The Rev. Donald E. Treglown

**35 years (1981, 1982, 1983)**

The Rev. Paul W. Anderson  
The Rev. Dr. Frederic W. Baue  
The Rev. Randy S. Boelter  
The Rev. Mark H. Ebert  
The Rev. Kevin P. Elseroad  
The Rev. Charles A. Fox  
The Rev. Daniel J. Gruenwald  
The Rev. Kenneth J. Kramer  
The Rev. Peter Ledic  
The Rev. Prentice D. Marsh  
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Naumann  
The Rev. Robert J. Nemoyer  
The Rev. Dr. Robert M. Roegner  
The Rev. George D. Schaetzle  
The Rev. Bradford E. Scott  
The Rev. David L. Thiele  
The Rev. Dr. Larry M. Vogel

**40 years (1976, 1977, 1978)**

The Rev. David M. Burge  
The Rev. John B. Erickson  
The Rev. Christian G. Morales  
The Rev. Thomas J. Sanders  
The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz

**45 years (1971, 1972, 1973)**

The Rev. Jeffrey O. Anderson  
The Rev. Charles R. Aufdenkampe  
The Rev. Clifford L. Bischoff  
The Rev. Robert A. Bruckner  
The Rev. Dr. Gary L. Danielsen  
The Rev. Dr. Roger C. Ellis  
The Rev. Dr. Michael S. Ernst  
The Rev. Luther P. Esala  
The Rev. Paul J. H. Habersock  
The Rev. Dr. Christian F. Just  
The Rev. Raymond V. Kirk  
The Rev. Paul R. Koester  
The Rev. Dr. Gilbert C. Meilaender  
The Rev. Neville Mirtschin  
The Rev. Dr. Frank J. Pies

**50 years (1966, 1967, 1968)**

The Rev. Dr. Paul E. Bacon  
The Rev. Dr. David A. Dressel  
The Rev. Michael P. Drews  
The Rev. Richard L. Ingmire  
The Rev. Dr. Keith L. Johnson  
The Rev. Paul W. Krause  
The Rev. Charles D. Lentner  
The Rev. Robert W. Maass  
The Rev. Myron K. Prok  
The Rev. Larry L. Leuthaeuser  
The Rev. Arthur W. Schiemann  
The Rev. Dr. Larry G. Schneekloth  
The Rev. Dr. Vernon L. Schindler  
The Rev. Charles A. Weinrich

**55 years (1961, 1962, 1963)**

The Rev. Dr. Richard D. Drews  
The Rev. Paul H. Eggold  
The Rev. Noble P. Lach  
The Rev. Ronald H. Laue  
The Rev. Willaim E. Meier  
The Rev. Joseph Molitoris  
The Rev. Dr. James E. Murray  
The Rev. Arthur C. Repp, Jr.  
The Rev. Dr. David T. Stein  
The Rev. Arthur R. Stennett  
The Rev. C. David Stuckmeyer  
The Rev. Dr. Dusan Toth  
The Rev. Guy A. Vogel

**60 years (1956, 1957, 1958)**

The Rev. William C. Beckmann  
The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth  
The Rev. David A. Kruse  
The Rev. Myron G. Mader  
The Rev. Dr. Roger D. Pittelko  
The Rev. Thomas G. Van der Bloemen  
The Rev. Raymond W. Wypich

**65 years (1951, 1952, 1953)**

The Rev. Ernest N. Hahn  
The Rev. Dr. Charles T. Knippel  
The Rev. Eugene W. Kreutz  
The Rev. Dr. Daniel Pourchot

**Jubilarians - Commissioned**  
Graduation Anniversary

**25 years (1991, 1992, 1993)**

Mr. Larry J. Arnold  
Mr. Thomas K. Guilford  
Mr. Hugh H. McMartin  
Mrs. Sandra J. Wehmeier

**30 years (1986, 1987, 1988)**

Mrs. Margaret A. Finley  
Mr. Jonathan P. Hilmer  
Ms. Laurie A. Horne  
Mr. Frederick R. Jacob  
Mrs. Carol E. Slettvedt  
Mrs. Sherri T. Steigerwalt  
Ms. Marilyn L. Stroik  
Mrs. Catherine A. Summerset  
Mrs. Charlene E. Bruggemann-Wong  
Deac. Catherine Ann Wurster

**35 years (1981, 1982, 1983)**

Mr. Albert J. Amling, III  
Mr. David M. Funke  
Mr. Craig Mellendorf  
Mrs. Victoria L. Mertz  
Mrs. Nadine L. Schilke  
Mrs. Betty J. Sodemann  
Ms. Suzanne E. Zobel

**40 years (1976, 1977, 1978)**

Mrs. Mary Ann Berkesch  
Mrs. Denise A. Dash  
Mr. Russell J. Granley  
Mrs. Vicki J. Helmling  
Ms. Ruth R. Hempel  
Ms. Diane L. Kosmala  
Mr. George T. Moore  
Mrs. Paula K. Mueller  
Mrs. Christine R. Seiler  
Mrs. Kathy E. Slupik

**45 years (1971, 1972, 1973)**

Mrs. Michele A. Boyer  
Mrs. Mary Jo Fischl  
Mrs. Andrea L. Johnson  
Mrs. Toni L. Krone  
Mr. James E. Rawlings  
Mrs. Cheryl E. Sanders  
Mr. Randy B. Schallhorn  
Mrs. Valjean A. Schallhorn  
Mrs. Joan K. Schlehlein  
Ms. Kathryn B. Trinklein

**50 years (1966, 1967, 1968)**

Mr. Theodore T. Braun  
Mr. Carl S. Eisman  
Mr. Waldemar C. Heuer  
Mrs. Marilyn R. McClure  
Miss Sharon K. Nobis  
Mrs. Ruth A. Paschal

**55 years (1961, 1962, 1963)**

Mrs. Annette L. Bacon  
Mrs. Marian F. Brockhoff  
Mrs. Sandra C. Fields  
Mrs. Belva J. Schindler  
Ms. Ruth E. Stresow

**60 years (1956, 1957, 1958)**

Mr. Ronald L. Kasten  
Mr. Russell C. Krecklow  
Mrs. Beverly M. Pittelko

**65 years (1951, 1952, 1953)**

Mr. Carl G. Gruendler

**OFFICIAL ACTS**  
as of March 31, 2018

**INSTALLATIONS - ORDAINED MINISTERS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>INSTALLED BY/LOCATION</u></b>
The Rev. Todd W. Arnold Sole Pastor	January 15, 2017	The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ
The Rev. Ryan D. Beffrey Sole Pastor	June 4, 2017	The Rev. Eric Forss Epiphany, Dorr, MI
The Rev. Curtis A. Binz Senior Pastor	October 8, 2017	The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy West Portal, San Francisco, CA
The Rev. Aaron B. Boerst Sole Pastor	January 10, 2016	The Rev. Frederic Reaman Christ, Lake Mills, WI
The Rev. Peter M. Burfeind Associate Pastor	January 14, 2018	The Rev. Chad Trouten Redeemer, Fort Wayne, IN
The Rev. David M. Burge Intentional Interim Minister	August 7, 2016	The Rev. Steven De Santo Family of Christ, Phoenix, AZ
The Rev. David M. Burge Intentional Interim Minister	February 24, 2018	The Rev. J. Derek Mathers Shepherd of the Pines, Payson, AZ
The Rev. Dr. Wade E. Butler Intentional Interim Minister	May 1, 2016	The Rev. J. Derek Mathers Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ
The Rev. Eric S. Carlson Associate Pastor	November 29, 2015	The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Peace, McMurray, PA
The Rev. Eric S. Carlson Sole Pastor	October 22, 2017	The Rev. Robert Rogers St. John's, Hannibal, MO
The Rev. Adam J. DeGroot Sole Pastor	September 11, 2016	The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, Philadelphia, PA
The Rev. Steve A. De Santo Intentional Interim Minister	July 30, 2017	The Rev. J. Derek Mathers Celebration, St. John's, FL
The Rev. Fred H. Gerlach Sole Pastor	February 25, 2018	The Rev. J. Derek Mathers Family of Christ, Phoenix, AZ
The Rev. Winston P. A. Grieser Sole Pastor	August 27, 2017	The Rev. Chad Trouten Abiding Faith, Florence, KY
The Rev. Dr. Jamison J. Hardy Bishop/President-elect	June 20, 2015	The Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe English District LCMS Convention, Ann Arbor, MI
The Rev. Dr. Jamison J. Hardy Bishop/President	September 6, 2015	The Rev. Dr. David Stechholz Peace, McMurray, PA
The Rev. Patrick D. Henry Vacancy Pastor	February 28, 2016	The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Ascension, North Olmsted, OH
The Rev. Bradford W. Hildebrandt SMP Assistant Pastor	October 29, 2017	The Rev. Donald Treglown Faith, Naples, FL
The Rev. Robert J. Kieselowsky Sole Pastor	September 11, 2016	The Rev. Adam DeGroot Logos, Philadelphia, PA
The Rev. Robert J. Kieselowsky Senior/Administrative Pastor	November 5, 2017	No Formal Installation Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, Philadelphia, PA

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>INSTALLED BY/LOCATION</u></b>
The Rev. Raymond V. Kirk Intentional Interim Minister	September 10, 2017	The Rev. J. Derek Mathers Hope, Kitchener, ON, Canada
The Rev. Richard E. Klein Sole Pastor	September 13, 2015	The Rev. Stephen Alles St. John's, Golden Lake, ON, Canada
The Rev. Eric E. Klemme Sole Pastor	March 12, 2017	The Rev. Robert Rogers Bethany, Chicago, IL
The Rev. Karl W. Koch Intentional Interim Minister	October 24, 2015	The Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler Faith, Tucson, AZ
The Rev. Adam C. Koontz Sole Pastor	March 11, 2017	The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Concordia Lutheran Mission, Myerstown, PA
The Rev. Dr. Jason J. Kouri Sole Pastor	April 10, 2016	The Rev. J. Derek Mathers Redeemer, Sarnia, ON, Canada
The Rev. Jeffrey R. Kunsman Senior Pastor	December 6, 2015	The Rev. Ben Eder St. Luke, North York, ON, Canada
The Rev. Justin D. Laughridge Sole Pastor (Dual congregations)	December 6, 2015	The Rev. Todd Arnold Morning Star, Lakeside, CA
The Rev. James A. Leistico Sole Pastor	August 13, 2017	The Rev. Jeffrey Miskus Peace, Windsor, ON, Canada
The Rev. Larry K. Loree, Jr. Sole Pastor	May 1, 2016	The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA
The Rev. Gregory R. Lutz Associate Pastor	December 11, 2016	The Rev. Craig Muehler St. Luke, North York, ON, Canada
The Rev. Timothy R. Manwell Assistant Pastor	September 16, 2017	The Rev. Robert Rogers Trinity, Villa Park, IL
The Rev. J. Derek Mathers Associate Pastor Mission Executive	December 6, 2015	The Rev. Ben Eder St. Luke, North York, ON, Canada English District LCMS
The Rev. Gregory S. Michel Sole Pastor	June 11, 2017	The Rev. J. Derek Mathers Peace, New Berlin, WI
The Rev. Dr. Edward A. Naumann Missionary	June 14, 2015	The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann LCMS Office of International Mission
The Rev. Gordon S. Naumann Sole Pastor	June 25, 2017	The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Trinity, Scarsdale, NY
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Naumann Missionary	March 13, 2016	The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy LCMS Office of International Mission
The Rev. Anthony J. Oliphant Sole Pastor	October 11, 2015	The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Redeemer, Elmhurst, IL
The Rev. Noel C. Olse Sole Pastor	March 12, 2017	The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Trinity, La Porte, IN
The Rev. Dr. Dean D. Pittelko Intentional Interim Minister	September 4, 2016	The Rev. J. Derek Mathers Marin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ
The Rev. Michael D. Scheer Intentional Interim Minister	August 13, 2017	The Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick Holy Cross, Cleveland, OH
The Rev. Travis J. Schmidt Sole Pastor	June 11, 2017	The Rev. Dwayne Hendricks Trinity, Erie, PA

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>INSTALLED BY/LOCATION</u></b>
The Rev. Todd A. Seaver Associate Pastor	July 31, 2016	The Rev. Brian Westgate All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA
The Rev. Jeffrey S. Teeple Associate Pastor	September 27, 2015	The Rev. James Elsner Peace, Fremont, IN
The Rev. Jeffrey S. Teeple Senior Administrative Pastor	December 4, 2016	The Rev. Donald Wunrow Peace, Fremont, IN
The Rev. Bradley P. Urlaub Sole Pastor	October 9, 2016	The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy St. Mark, Janesville, WI
The Rev. Brain P. Westgate Sole Pastor	July 31, 2016	The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Redeemer, Oakmont, PA

## ORDINATIONS/INITIAL MEMBERSHIPS - ORDAINED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>ORDAINED AND INSTALLED BY/LOCATION</u>
SMP Cand. Matthias W. N. Benfey Associate Pastor	September 24, 2017	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. Jeffrey Miskus St. Mark, Mississauga, ON, Canada
Candidate Robert Q. Bruggeman Sole Pastor	May 21, 2017	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. J. Derek Mathers Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ
Candidate Kurt R. Cockran Sole Pastor	July 17, 2017	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Faith, Tucson, AZ
Candidate Shawn P. Davis Associate Missional Pastor	June 17, 2017	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy St. Michael, Fort Wayne, IN
SMP Cand. Víctor M. De La Rosa Assistant Pastor	June 11, 2017	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. Daniel Pezzica Chapel of the Cross, Mission Hills, CA
Candidate Andrew M. J. Fedder Sole Pastor	June 26, 2016	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy First, El Cajon, CA
SMP Candidate Philip M. P. Gai Associate Pastor	August 20, 2017	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy St. Mark, Mississauga, ON, Canada
Candidate James M. Grady Assistant Pastor	August 26, 2017	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Advent, Zionsville, IN
Candidate Winston P. A. Grieser Sole Pastor	June 8, 2017 August 27, 2017	Ordained by The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Redeemer, Fort Wayne, IN Installed by The Rev. Chad Trouten Abiding Faith, Florence, KY
Candidate Steven B. Hicks Sole Pastor	June 12, 2015	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. Dr. David Stechholz Redeemer, St. Albans, NY
SMP Candidate Seth M. Hoepfner Sole Pastor	March 10, 2018	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. J. Derek Mathers Faith, Watertown, WI
SMP Candidate J. Wayne Kerr Associate Pastor	August 13, 2017	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. J. Derek Mathers West Portal, San Francisco, CA
SMP Cand. Chad A. Kogutkiewicz Associate Pastor	June 26, 2016	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. Keith Speaks Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
Candidate Zachary W. Marklevitz Assistant Pastor	June 22, 2016 June 26, 2016	Ordained by The Rev. Timothy Halboth Our Savior, Grand Rapids, MI Installed by The Rev. Timothy Halboth Grace, Redford, MI
Candidate Joshua Palmer Assistant Pastor	June 28, 2015	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse Catalina, Tucson, AZ
Candidate Jung Hun Park Associate Pastor	September 24, 2016	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy St. Luke, North York, ON, Canada

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>ORDAINED AND INSTALLED BY/LOCATION</u></b>
Candidate Alexander W. Sabol Sole Pastor	December 3, 2017	Ordained by The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Peace, McMurray, PA
	December 10, 2017	Installed by The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Holy Trinity, Lakeview, MI and Hope, Stanton, MI
Cand. Christopher W. Schneider Associate Pastor	June 28, 2015	Ordained by The Rev. Carl Schneider Installed by The Rev. Robert Rogers Beautiful Savior, Lee's Summit, MO
Candidate Ryan B. Schneider Sole Pastor	June 25, 2017	Ordained/Installed by The Rev. J. Derek Mathers Grace, Vine Grove, KY
Candidate Adam R. Thompson Associate Pastor	July 3, 2016	Ordained by The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Zion, Pevely, MO
	July 10, 2016	Installed by The Rev. J. Derek Mathers Fairlawn, Fairlawn, OH

## COMMISSIONINGS/INITIAL MEMBERSHIPS - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMISSIONED AND INSTALLED BY/LOCATION</u></b>
Andrew A. Cordy DCE	June 12, 2016	The Rev. Dr. Michael Ernst Peace, New Berlin, WI
Hillary R. Czernicki Teacher	August 22, 2015	The Rev. Keith Speaks Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
John D. Driscoll Teacher	December 27, 2015	The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann Redeemer, Verona, PA
Brittney N. Drury Teacher	August 14, 2016	The Rev. Brian Westgate Redeemer, Verona, PA
Madeline Garrity Teacher	August 20, 2017	The Rev. J. Wayne Kerr West Portal, San Francisco, CA
Kimberly A. Hornyak Lay Minister	August 28, 2016	The Rev. Ryan Beffrey Fairlawn, Fairlawn, OH
Kayla M. Konow Teacher	August 16, 2015	The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann Redeemer, Verona, PA
Emily M. Root Teacher	August 14, 2016	The Rev. Brian Westgate Redeemer, Verona, PA
Rachel A. Schaefer Teacher	August 14, 2016	The Rev. Brian Westgate Redeemer, Verona, PA
Rachel B. Stathakis Teacher	August 22, 2015	The Rev. Keith Speaks Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
Brooke A. Zarick Teacher	August 21, 2016	The Rev. Todd Arnold West Portal, San Francisco, CA

## INSTALLATIONS - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>INSTALLED BY/LOCATION</u>
Kristi K. Bauer DCE	August 21, 2016	The Rev. Joshua Bernau Hope, Hastings, MN
Sara M. Bielby Deaconess	May 7, 2017	The Rev. Christopher Thoma Our Savior, Hartland, MI
James A. Bretthauer II DCE	June 4, 2017	The Rev. J. Derek Mathers Prince of Peace, Medina, OH
Ann M. Greinke Teacher	August 20, 2017	The Rev. J. Wayne Kerr West Portal, San Francisco, CA
Darla J. Gremel Teacher	July 1, 2013	No Formal Installation Faith, Tucson, AZ
Ruth R. Hempel Teacher	September 11, 2016	The Rev. Christopher Thoma Our Savior, Hartland, MI
Anna Y. Hu Principal	August 9, 2015	The Rev. Todd Arnold West Portal, San Francisco, CA
James A. Hutson Director of Family Life	November 6, 2016	The Rev. Michael Taylor West Park, Cleveland, OH
Jennifer L. Loewe Teacher	August 20, 2017	The Rev. Brian Westgate Redeemer, Verona, PA
Thomas A. Moll DCE	June 20, 2015	The Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing St. Michael, Fort Wayne, IN
Cheryl D. Naumann Deaconess - Missionary	March 13, 2016	The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy LCMS Office of International Mission
Cheryl L. Poppe Teacher	August 21, 2016	The Rev. Michael Taylor West Park, Cleveland, OH
Kerrie R. Roesler Teacher	August 23, 2015	The Rev. Keith Speaks Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
Ehren W. Simmer Teacher	August 21, 2016	The Rev. Todd Arnold West Portal, San Francisco, CA
Janet L. Stechholz Teacher	April 18, 2016	No Formal Installation Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI
Catherine A. Summerset Teacher	July 1, 2013	No Formal Installation Faith, Tucson, AZ
Gina K. Teeple Deaconess	September 10, 2017	The Rev. Jeffrey Teeple Peace, Fremont, IN

**TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER DISTRICTS - ORDAINED MINISTERS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TRANSFERRED FROM/CALLED TO OR STATUS</u></b>
The Rev. Eric R. Andrae	October 11, 2016	From: Eastern District To: First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA
The Rev. Hans O. Andrae	October 11, 2016	From: Eastern District To: Emeritus
The Rev. Curtis A. Binz	September 20, 2017	From: California-Nevada-Hawaii District To: West Portal, San Francisco, CA
The Rev. David M. Burge	May 16, 2016	From: Missouri District To: Family of Christ, Phoenix, AZ
The Rev. Young Chol Choi	February 7, 2017	From: Texas District To: St. Mark, Mississauga, ON, Canada
The Rev. Adam J. DeGroot	August 9, 2016	From: Eastern District To: Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, Philadelphia, PA
The Rev. Charles D. Ferry	July 5, 2017	From: Missouri District To: LCMS Office of International Mission
The Rev. Patrick D. Henry	February 19, 2016	From: Central Illinois District To: Emeritus
The Rev. Bradford W. Hildebrandt	November 6, 2017	From: New Jersey District To: Faith, Naples, FL
The Rev. Brandon S. Jones	February 22, 2016	From: Pacific Southwest District To: St. Paul's, Long Beach, CA
The Rev. David W. Kaiser	June 5, 2017	From: Oklahoma District To: Emeritus
The Rev. Richard E. Klein	September 13, 2015	From: Alberta-British Columbia District (LCC) To: St. John's, Golden Lake, ON, Canada
The Rev. Eric E. Klemme	December 14, 2016	From: Minnesota North District To: Candidate Status
The Rev. Karl W. Koch	September 28, 2015	From: Ohio District To: Faith, Tucson, AZ
The Rev. Dr. Jason J. Kouri	January 4, 2016	From: East District (LCC) To: Redeemer, Sarnia, ON, Canada
The Rev. James A. Leistico	July 15, 2017	From: Southern Illinois District To: Peace, Windsor, ON, Canada
The Rev. Larry K. Loree, Jr.	May 1, 2016	From: Michigan District To: All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA
The Rev. Gregory R. Lutz	November 11, 2016	From: Missouri District To: St. Luke, North York, ON, Canada
The Rev. Gregory S. Michel	May 15, 2017	From: Central Illinois District To: Peace, New Berlin, WI
The Rev. Dr. Edward A. Naumann	October 20, 2015	From: Missouri District To: LCMS Office of International Mission

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TRANSFERRED FROM/CALLED TO OR STATUS</u></b>
The Rev. Gordon S. Naumann	May 22, 2017	From: Evangelical Lutheran Church of England To: Trinity, Scarsdale, NY
The Rev. Anthony J. Oliphant	October 1, 2015	From: Northern Illinois District To: Redeemer, Elmhurst, IL
The Rev. Mark A. Pierson	February 22, 2016	From: Pacific Southwest District To: St. Paul's, Long Beach, CA
The Rev. Patrick D. Runk	May 13, 2015	From: Eastern District To: Candidate
The Rev. Michael D. Scheer	July 21, 2017	From: Northwest District To: Holy Cross, Cleveland, OH
The Rev. Travis J. Schmidt	June 11, 2017	From: South Wisconsin District To: Trinity, Erie, PA
The Rev. Todd A. Seaver	July 31, 2016	From: Michigan District To: All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA
The Rev. Dr. Douglas H. Spittel	October 11, 2016	From: Eastern District To: First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA
The Rev. David J. Stevens	April 20, 2016	From: South Wisconsin District To: Bethesda, Watertown, WI
The Rev. Jeffrey S. Teeple	September 15, 2015	From: North Wisconsin District To: Peace, Fremont, IN
The Rev. Herman J. Williams	January 7, 2016	From: Northwest District To: Emeritus
The Rev. James E. Witt	August 15, 2015	From: Nebraska District To: Emeritus

## TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER DISTRICTS - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TRANSFERRED FROM/CALLED TO OR STATUS</u>
Kristi K. Bauer, DCE	August 15, 2016	From: Minnesota South District To: Hope, Hastings, MN
Sara M. Bielby, Deaconess	April 14, 2017	From: Michigan District To: Our Savior, Hartland, MI
Linda M. Bodling	March 12, 2018	From: Southeastern District To: Candidate
James A. Bretthauer II, DCE	March 2, 2017	From: Texas District To: Prince of Peace, Medina, OH
Marian F. Brockhoff	April 13, 2017	From: Ohio District To: Emeritus
Denise A. Dash	August 1, 2017	From: Texas District To: Emeritus
Melissa A. DeGroot, Deaconess	November 23, 2015	From: Indiana District To: Non-Candidate
Martin C. Duchow	July 10, 2017	From: South Wisconsin District To: Emeritus
Megan J. Fedder	July 1, 2016	From: Indiana District To: Candidate
John R. Fredel	January 10, 2016	From: South Wisconsin District To: Emeritus
Ann M. Greinke	July 1, 2017	From: Florida-Georgia District To: West Portal, San Francisco, CA
Darla J. Gremel	July 1, 2013	From: Pacific Southwest District To: Faith, Tucson, AZ
Ruth R. Hempel	August 25, 2016	From: Michigan District To: Candidate
Jennifer Holmes	January 25, 2017	From: South Wisconsin District To: Candidate
Anna Y. Hu	June 8, 2014	From: California-Nevada-Hawaii District To: West Portal, San Francisco, CA
James A. Hutson, Dir. of Family Life	October 5, 2016	From: Ohio District To: West Park, Cleveland, OH
Keri A. Johnson, DCE	April 29, 2015	From: Northern Illinois District To: Non-Candidate
Albert L. Kahlfeldt	July 28, 2015	From: Northern Illinois District To: Emeritus
Diane L. Kosmala	June 2, 2016	From: South Wisconsin District To: Emeritus

Jennifer L. Loewe	July 10, 2017	From: Texas District To: Redeemer, Oakmont, PA
Thomas A. Moll, DCE	June 15, 2015	From: Kansas District To: St. Michael, Fort Wayne, IN
George W. Nelson, DCE	June 30, 2015	From: Minnesota South District To: Chapel of the Cross, St. Peters, MO
Cheryl L. Poppe	July 1, 2016	From: Ohio District To: West Park, Cleveland, OH
Emily K. Rawlings	January 27, 2017	From: North Wisconsin District To: Emeritus
Kerrie R. Roesler	June 15, 2015	From: South Wisconsin District To: Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI
Ryan A. Schultz	February 20, 2015	From: California-Nevada-Hawaii District To: Candidate
Ehren W. Simmer	July 12, 2016	From: South Wisconsin District To: West Portal, San Francisco, CA
Catherine A. Summerset	July 1, 2013	From: Pacific Southwest District To: Faith, Tucson, AZ
Gina K. Teeple, Deaconess	August 31, 2017	From: Indiana District To: Peace, Fremont, IN

## **TRANSFERS OUT - ORDAINED MINISTERS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TRANSFERRED TO</u></b>
The Rev. Robert L. Alsleben	May 1, 2016	Minnesota South District Emeritus
The Rev. Anthony E. Appel	December 2, 2015	Northern Illinois District Immanuel, Des Plaines, IL
The Rev. Elamin Musa Baggor	November 1, 2016	Michigan District St. Luke, Haslett, MI
The Rev. Joshua P. Bernau	January 9, 2017	Minnesota South District St. John, Norwood Yng America, MN
The Rev. Dr. Gordon W. Bynum	August 24, 2016	Minnesota South District St. Timothy Society, St. Paul, MN
The Rev. Kerry D. Buttke	January 25, 2018	Rocky Mountain District Emeritus
The Rev. Keith P. Christiansen	January 11, 2016	Pacific Southwest District Hope, Bisbee, AZ
The Rev. Adam J. DeGroot	June 13, 2017	Rocky Mountain District St. Andrews, Albuquerque, NM
The Rev. Venice C. Douglas	September 30, 2015	Michigan District Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Ronald R. Farah	December 1, 2015	Michigan District Our Shepherd, Birmingham, MI
The Rev. Salvador Ferrero	November 14, 2015	Nebraska District Cristo Cordero de Dios, Grand Island, NE
The Rev. Charles D. Ferry	May 12, 2017	Missouri District LCMS Board for International Mission
The Rev. Marvin R. Hinkle	June 1, 2015	Indiana District Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Mark R. Hoehner	August 25, 2015	Missouri District Chapel of the Cross, St. Peter's, MO
The Rev. Dr. Robert P. Hoehner	August 25, 2015	Missouri District Chapel of the Cross, St. Peter's, MO
The Rev. Peter C. Hoffmann	February 1, 2017	Indiana District Emeritus
The Rev. Keith Kinslow	July 22, 2015	Northern Illinois District St. Paul, Dorchester, Chicago, IL
The Rev. Eric E. Klemme	July 24, 2017	Southern District Christ the King, Natchitoches, LA
The Rev. Karl W. Koch	January 19, 2018	Ohio District Candidate

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TRANSFERRED TO</u></b>
The Rev. Mark A. Koschmann	September 1, 2015	Minnesota South District Concordia University, St. Paul, MN
The Rev. Jonathon T. Krenz	August 22, 2016	Northwest District Messiah, Moscow, ID
The Rev. Dr. Joseph N. Loftis	January 10, 2017	Indiana District Emeritus
The Rev. Gregory R. Lutz	December 6, 2016	Missouri District LCMS Board for International Mission
The Rev. Dr. Edward A. Naumann	June 22, 2015	Missouri District LCMS Board for International Mission
The Rev. Steven B. Patton	March 16, 2017	Southeastern District Messiah, Charlotte, NC
The Rev. Dr. Dean D. Pittelko	May 24, 2017	Northern Illinois District Candidate
The Rev. James M. Prince	August 25, 2015	Missouri District Chapel of the Cross, St. Peter's, MO
The Rev. Ronald H. Raddatz	September 7, 2016	North Wisconsin District Emeritus
The Rev. Wayne R. Rasmussen	June 1, 2015	South Wisconsin District Our Redeemer, Wauwatosa, WI
The Rev. Ronald S. Rieger	April 3, 2017	Rocky Mountain District Messiah, Longmont, CO
The Rev. Joseph E. Robb	April 17, 2016	Texas District LINC, Houston, TX
The Rev. Patrick D. Runk	February 22, 2016	New England District Candidate
The Rev. Michael D. Scheer	August 1, 2016	Northwest District Concordia University, Portland, OR
The Rev. David L. Schinbeckler	April 4, 2016	Ohio District Redeemer, Austintown, OH
The Rev. Paul E. Speerbrecker	February 1, 2017	Indiana District Emeritus
The Rev. Scott E. Stiegemeyer	July 27, 2015	Pacific Southwest District Concordia University, Irvine, CA
The Rev. Michael W. Stoerger	March 13, 2017	Central Illinois District St. Paul's, Woodworth, IL
The Rev. James R. Uglum	August 25, 2015	Missouri District Chapel of the Cross, St. Peter's, MO
The Rev. Steven M. Voelker	February 3, 2017	Indiana District Trinity, Fort Wayne, IN

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TRANSFERRED TO</u>
The Rev. Randall P. Wurschmidt	July 1, 2015	Indiana District Bethlehem, Ossian, IN
The Rev. Zerehaimanot Z. Yohannes	November 1, 2016	Michigan District St. Luke, Haslett, MI
The Rev. Thomas A. Zucconi	May 14, 2015	Texas District Holy Cross, Dallas, TX
The Rev. Mark J. Zuehsow	March 6, 2017	SELC District Candidate
The Rev. Dr. Stanley J. Zyskowski, Jr.	February 9, 2016	Northern Illinois District Emeritus

## TRANSFERS OUT - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TRANSFERRED TO</u>
Steven D. Armbrust, DCE	January 11, 2017	Florida-Georgia District Emeritus
Harold L. Bacon	January 19, 2018	Indiana District Emeritus
Diana L. Bartholomew	June 30, 2017	Pacific Southwest District Faith Community, Las Vegas, NV
Janet L. Begley	August 1, 2017	Missouri District St. Paul, Farmington, MO
Anna C. Boriack	February 2, 2016	Nebraska District Concordia University, Seward, NE
Jane A. Boye	July 14, 2015	Pacific Southwest District Non-Candidate
Irene L. Brown	January 10, 2017	Missouri District Candidate
Elaine R. Bryant	July 15, 2016	Missouri District Emeritus
Susan N. Burke	January 27, 2017	Pacific Southwest District Candidate
Marlene M. Cleland	July 10, 2015	Northwest District Emeritus
Korey D. Danley, DCE	January 14, 2018	Kansas District Christ, Overland Park, KS
Melissa A. DeGroot, Deacones	July 20, 2017	Rocky Mountain District Candidate
Jessica E. Dixon	February 13, 2018	Missouri District Candidate
Jeraldine Dobbs	December 18, 2017	South Wisconsin District Emeritus
Brittney N. Erwin	July 5, 2017	Northern Illinois District Immanuel, Belvidere, IL
Judy E. Evangelista, DCE	January 30, 2017	Northern Illinois District Emeritus
Ethel M. Garrett	July 10, 2015	Northern Illinois District Emeritus
Theodore O. Geheb	October 15, 2015	Florida-Georgia District Emeritus
Joseph J. Gerth	June 30, 2017	Southern Illinois District St. Paul, Hamel, IL
Emily Goins	July 1, 2015	Pacific Southwest District St. John's, Orange, CA
Franklin L. Grepke, Lay Minister	August 20, 2015	Southern District Emeritus

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TRANSFERRED TO</u>
Joann E. Grepke, Deaconess	August 20, 2015	Southern District Emeritus
Kathleen S. Gridley	November 28, 2016	South Wisconsin District Candidate
Michael A. Guymon, Lay Minister	January 11, 2017	Central Illinois District Emeritus
Jennifer Holmes	October 27, 2017	Pacific Southwest District Candidate
Jennifer L. Hook	July 28, 2015	Pacific Southwest District Non-Candidate
Anna Y. Hu	August 17, 2017	Pacific Southwest District North Valley Christian Academy, Phoenix, AZ
Daniel R. Huth, DCE	December 1, 2015	Michigan District Trinity, Davison, MI
Amanda C. Iwabuchi	June 22, 2015	Texas District Redeemer, Austin, TX
Marlene M. Jensen	July 10, 2015	Northwest District Emeritus
Heidi E. Koehler, DCE	May 1, 2015	Missouri District St. Andrew, Cape Girardeau, MO
Timothy J. Koehler, DCE	July 1, 2015	Missouri District Candidate
Herman E. Koenig, Parish Assistant	December 9, 2015	Florida-Georgia District Emeritus
Charessa D. Koontz, DCE	May 31, 2015	Texas District Trinity, Amarillo, TX
Antonette M. Kulesza/Lamberty	August 1, 2015	Northern Illinois District Our Savior, Chicago, IL
Lois E. Lindeman	January 10, 2017	Florida-Georgia District Emeritus
Emily K. Marlar	July 22, 2015	Ohio District Lakewood, Lakewood, OH
Nancy L. Mason	April 9, 2016	South Wisconsin District Grace, Oak Creek, WI
Kay L. Matthews	January 10, 2017	Northern Illinois District Emeritus
Aaron J. Mau	June 1, 2012	Southeastern District Non-Candidate
Kayla M. McCaig	August 17, 2017	Indiana District Emmanuel-St. Michael, Fort Wayne, IN
Karla A. McDivitt	June 30, 2017	Pacific Southwest District Trinity, Casa Grande, AZ
Rahel Musa, Deaconess	November 1, 2016	Michigan District St. Luke, Haslett, MI

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TRANSFERRED TO</u>
Andrew J. Nelson, DCE	August 25, 2015	Missouri District Chapel of the Cross, St. Peter's, MO
George W. Nelson, DCE	August 25, 2015	Missouri District Chapel of the Cross, St. Peter's, MO
Doris J. Petersen	January 10, 2017	Indiana District Emeritus
Jennifer C. Peterson	January 10, 2017	Michigan District Candidate
Gary A. Plopper, Lay Minister	January 24, 2017	South Wisconsin District Emeritus
Kenneth P. Precht	February 16, 2017	Michigan District Emeritus
Kimberly S. Roeske	March 4, 2018	Northwest District Candidate
Rachel A. Schaefer	June 15, 2017	Northern Illinois District Concordia University, River Forest, IL
Amy J. Schultz, Director of Family Life	January 10, 2017	Michigan District Candidate
Ryan A. Schultz	August 1, 2015	Texas District St. Mark, Houston, TX
Lois R. Sikorski, DCE	July 12, 2017	Pacific Southwest District Emeritus
Kelly S. Sipan	January 13, 2017	Pacific Southwest District Candidate
Mark A. Steinbrenner, Lay Minister	May 2, 2017	Texas District LINC International, Milwaukee, WI
Ashlea J. Weston	August 15, 2015	Indiana District Bethlehem, Ossian, IN
Bethany H. Wood, DCE	January 10, 2017	Pacific Southwest District Candidate
Brooke A. Zarick	June 1, 2017	Texas District Lutheran Education Association, Houston, TX
Jennifer J. Zirbel	June 1, 2015	South Wisconsin District Grace, Menomonee Falls, WI

## **CHANGE OF STATUS - ORDAINED MINISTERS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS CHANGE</u></b>
The Rev. Wayne C. Berkesch	August 7, 2016	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Aaron B. Boerst	July 1, 2015	Active to Candidate
The Rev. Adam J. DeGroot	March 19, 2017	Active to Candidate
The Rev. Dr. Roger C. Ellis	October 31, 2015	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Charles J. Evanson	August 1, 2015	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Salvador Ferrero	February 1, 2015	Active to Candidate
The Rev. Kenety S. Gee	October 9, 2017	Active to Candidate
The Rev. Dr. Jamison J. Hardy	July 16, 2015	Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Terry N. Hursh	April 30, 2016	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. James W. Jasper	March 3, 2017	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Wallace J. Kimari	October 17, 2016	Active to Candidate
The Rev. Karl W. Koch	November 28, 2016	Emeritus to Candidate
The Rev. Jeffrey R. Kunsman	December 6, 2015	Associate to Senior Pastor
The Rev. Jeffrey R. Kunsman	January 1, 2018	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Orlen W. Lapp	September 13, 2015	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Joseph N. Loftis	March 31, 2016	Active to Non-Candidate
The Rev. Dr. Joseph N. Loftis	September 3, 2016	Non-Candidate to Emeritus
The Rev. Timothy R. Manwell	October 23, 2016	Active to Candidate
The Rev. J. Derek Mathers	December 6, 2015	Senior to Associate Pastor
The Rev. Cashius R. Myers	October 16, 2017	Active to Candidate
The Rev. Dr. Dean D. Pittelko	May 1, 2017	Active to Candidate
The Rev. Ronald H. Raddatz	May 27, 2016	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Kenneth C. Rankin III	April 1, 2016	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Wayne R. Rasmussen	June 1, 2015	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Arthur W. Schiemann	April 13, 2015	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Gary W. Schultz	June 1, 2015	Active to Non-Candidate
The Rev. Gary W. Schultz	July 14, 2016	Non-Candidate to Candidate
The Rev. Paul E. Speerbrecker	June 30, 2016	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. David J. Stevens	October 1, 2016	Active to Candidate

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS CHANGE</u></b>
The Rev. Dr. John W. Stieve	April 28, 2016	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. David S. Tannahill	June 26, 2017	Active to Candidate
The Rev. Michael S. Taylor	July 16, 2017	Active to Candidate
The Rev. Jeffrey N. Webb	April 3, 2017	Active to Candidate

## CHANGE OF STATUS - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STATUS CHANGE</u>
Steven D. Armbrust, DCE	September 1, 2016	Candidate to Emeritus
Linda L. Baase	June 1, 2012	Candidate to Non-Candidate
Linda L. Baase	July 14, 2016	Non-Candidate to Candidate
Mary Ann Berkesch	December 20, 2016	Candidate to Emeritus
Jane A. Boye	June 1, 2010	Candidate to Non-Candidate
Nathaniel C. Brewer, DCE	March 1, 2017	Active to Candidate
Jessica E. Dixon, DCE	November 6, 2015	Active to Non-Candidate
Jessica E. Dixon, DCE	July 14, 2016	Non-Candidate to Candidate
Michael A. Guymon, Lay Minister	February 1, 2013	Active to Emeritus
Margaret M. Hammer	June 16, 2017	Active to Emeritus
Karen L. Herz	June 30, 2015	Active to Emeritus
Jonathan P. Hilmer	October 17, 2005	Candidate to Non-Candidate
Jonathan P. Hilmer	October 17, 2013	Non-Candidate to Non-Candidate
Jonathan P. Hilmer	July 14, 2016	Non-Candidate to Candidate
Carl E. Hoppe	July 28, 2015	Non-Candidate to Emeritus
Laurie A. Horne	February 22, 2017	Active to Candidate
Sunny Kan, Deaconess	December 15, 2012	Non-Candidate to Non-Candidate
Sunny Kan, Deaconess	July 14, 2016	Non-Candidate to Candidate
Robert W. Kaun, Jr.	December 6, 2016	Candidate to Emeritus
Tim J. Koehler, DCE	June 1, 2015	Active to Candidate
Matthew L. Koenig, DCE	June 5, 2014	Active to Candidate
Gloria M. Lawrence	June 15, 2016	Active to Emeritus
Lois E. Lindeman	June 15, 2015	Active to Emeritus
Randal Masbruch, Lay Minister	March 16, 2017	Candidate to Emeritus
Susan M. Predoehl	April 17, 2017	Active to Candidate
Margaret Schacht	May 1, 2017	Active to Emeritus
Randy B. Schallhorn	July 21, 2017	Candidate to Emeritus
Valjean A. Schallhorn	June 15, 2013	Candidate to Emeritus
Heather D. Schneider	December 18, 2015	Active to Non-Candidate

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS CHANGE</u></b>
Heather D. Schneider	July 14, 2016	Non-Candidate to Candidate
Lois R. Sikorski, DCE	August 1, 2007	Active to Emeritus
Betty J. Sodemann	February 20, 2017	Candidate to Emeritus
Sherri T. Steigerwalt	February 12, 2016	Candidate to Non-Candidate
Sherri T. Steigerwalt	July 14, 2016	Non-Candidate to Candidate
Kathryn B. Trinklein	July 1, 2016	Active to Emeritus
Judith Zellmer	June 30, 2014	Active to Emeritus
Rolf M. Zersen	July 1, 2015	Candidate to Non-Candidate
Rolf M. Zersen	July 14, 2016	Non-Candidate to Candidate
Suzanne E. Zobel, DCE	June 1, 2014	Active to Candidate

## CALLED TO GLORY

### **ORDAINED**

The Rev. Nicholas Zipay, Jr.	October 27, 2015
The Rev. Daniel C. Brockopp	January 1, 2016
The Rev. Ronald F. Astalos	August 17, 2016
The Rev. Dr. Thomas D. Kraus	November 12, 2016
The Rev. Jonathan P. Stein	December 21, 2016
The Rev. William H. F. Lehmann, Jr.	February 7, 2017
The Rev. Roland E. Holder	May 4, 2017
The Rev. Allen A. Gartner	May 3, 2017
The Rev. Robert J. Weinhold	July 24, 2017
The Rev. Wayne E. Rutz	August 17, 2017

### **COMMISSIONED**

David W. Bickel	June 26, 2016
Paula E. von Kampen	September 20, 2016
Roland R. Sonstroem	June 6, 2017
Arthur E. Frese	December 7, 2017

## **APPOINTMENTS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>APPOINTMENT</u></b>
The Rev. William Douthwaite, III	May 22, 2017	Circuit Visitor, Florida Circuit #3
The Rev. Dr. Martin K. Erhardt	November 13, 2015	Circuit Visitor, New York Circuit #1
The Rev. James A. Gau	May 22, 2017	Circuit Visitor, Cleveland/Akron Circuit #9
The Rev. Theodore L. Laesch, Jr.	March 16, 2017	Circuit Visitor, St. Louis Circuit #18
The Rev. Jeffrey G. Miskus	October 11, 2016	4th Vice President
The Rev. Joshua P. Moldenhauer	November 30, 2016	Circuit Visitor, Cleveland-West Circuit #10
The Rev. Anthony J. Oliphant	October 11, 2016	Circuit Visitor, Chicago-North Circuit #15
The Rev. Brian P. Westgate	February 22, 2016	Circuit Visitor, Pittsburgh Circuit #6
The Rev. Nicholas D. Wirtz	May 22, 2017	Circuit Visitor, Arizona North Circuit #19

**REINSTATED - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS</u></b>
Leslie R. W. Morris	September 24, 2015	Candidate Status

**RESIGNED/REMOVED - ORDAINED MINISTERS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>RESIGNED/REMOVED</u></b>
The Rev. Dr. Wade E. Butler	August 31, 2016	Resigned
The Rev. Sang Taek Cho	August 1, 2017	Removed
The Rev. Jerome H. Groth	February 28, 2017	Resigned
The Rev. Henry O. Millhorn	November 13, 2017	Removed
The Rev. Robbie F. Taylor	February 28, 2017	Resigned
The Rev. Lumembo Tshiswaka	April 4, 2017	Resigned

## RESIGNED/REMOVED - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>RESIGNED/REMOVED</u>
Susan K. Arends	March 1, 2017	Removed
Linda L. Baase	February 27, 2017	Resigned
Jane E. Blaile	June 8, 2016	Removed
Thomas W. Brittain	March 10, 2017	Removed
Sara Dirks	July 10, 2015	Removed
Janice E. Drews, Deaconess	December 21, 2015	Resigned
Kristen E. Evenson	March 23, 2017	Removed
Cheryl A. Gruenwald	June 8, 2016	Resigned
Judith D. Hughes	March 29, 2018	Resigned
Martin K. Jungkuntz	February 11, 2016	Removed
Sandra K. Kocab	February 24, 2017	Resigned
Sarah A. Krieger	March 30, 2017	Removed
Hsiang-Yi Alice Kuo, DCE	March 1, 2017	Removed
Nancy L. Lovercheck	November 29, 2017	Removed
Evangeline Mathe	December 1, 2015	Resigned
Sarah Mensing	July 1, 2015	Resigned
Denise Meyer	April 7, 2017	Resigned
Laurie Nelson	March 17, 2017	Removed
Diane L. Ott-Hager, Lay Minister	July 10, 2015	Removed
Stacy M. Parker	March 3, 2016	Resigned
Julia Perry-Clark	March 1, 2017	Removed
Mary E. Podeszwa	October 10, 2016	Resigned
Jenny Szeto Rong	October 6, 2016	Resigned
Mark W. Sieger	March 1, 2017	Removed
Ehren W. Simmer	February 13, 2017	Removed
Patricia A. Sodemann	January 30, 2018	Resigned
Susan J. Taylor	August 4, 2015	Resigned
Grace Yuen	May 12, 2016	Removed

**CONGREGATIONS ACCEPTED INTO MEMBERSHIP OF LCMS**

Tree of Life, Inverness, FL January 31, 2016  
Apostolic, Moses Lake, WA March 6, 2016

**TRANSFERS IN - CONGREGATIONS**

First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA October 11, 2016  
Eastern District  
St. Paul's, Long Beach, CA February 22, 2016  
Pacific Southwest District

**MISSION STARTS FORMED**

Shepherd of the City, Philadelphia, PA May 5, 2013  
Logos Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, PA June 7, 2015  
Concordia Lutheran Mission, Myerstown, PA January 10, 2016

**NAME CHANGE**

Gracepoint Lutheran Church, Sahuarita, AZ September 27, 2016  
to Crosspoint Lutheran Church

**FORMATION OF MULTI-CONGREGATIONAL PARISH**

Our Savior, Chicago, IL November 29, 2015  
Merged with St. John, Niles, IL to form Ascension,  
Niles, IL Northern Illinois District

**CLOSINGS - CONGREGATIONS**

Philadelphia True Light, Blue Bell, PA September 6, 2015  
Christ the King, Santee, CA October 16, 2016  
Christ, Lansing, MI October 30, 2016

**CLOSINGS - MISSION STARTS**

Manantial de Vida de Eterna, El Cajon, CA February 1, 2015  
Shepherd of the City, Philadelphia, PA March 20, 2017

**TRANSFERS OUT - CONGREGATIONS**

Chapel of the Cross, St. Peter's, MO August 11, 2015  
Missouri District

**SCHOOLS ACCEPTED INTO MEMBERSHIP OF LCMS**

Ascension Early Child Care Center, Beverly Hills, MI  
Faith Preschool of the Church at Jacob's Well, Fort Wayne, IN

November 1, 2015  
September 15, 2015

**TRANSFERS IN - SCHOOLS**

St. Paul's Preschool, Long Beach, CA

February 22, 2016  
Pacific Southwest District

**CLOSINGS - SCHOOLS**

Chapel of the Cross Preschool, Mission Hills, CA  
Chapel of the Cross Early Learning Center, St. Louis, MO  
Open Arms Child Development Center, Palm Coast, FL

August 31, 2010  
May 24, 2016  
May 25, 2017

# ENGLISH DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTRIES

## by Region and Circuit

### **EASTERN REGION**

#### **New York Circuit #1**

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

#### **Philadelphia Circuit #2**

Blue Bell, PA: Gloria Dei - Young  
Chesapeake, VA: Faith - Morales  
Greater Harrisburg, PA: Gloria Dei Ev. - Nemoyer  
Lititz, PA: Mt. Calvary - Koontz  
Mechanicsburg, PA: Calvary - Zimmerman  
Myerstown, PA: Concordia (MS) - Koontz  
Philadelphia, PA - Logos (MS) - Kieselowsky  
Springfield, PA: St. John's - **Kieselowsky**  
Warminster, PA: Grace - Young

**\*NOTE: Circuits 1 & 2 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

#### **Florida Circuit #3**

Inverness, FL: Tree of Life - Vacant  
Jacksonville, FL: Celebration - De Santo IIM  
Naples, FL: Faith - Treglown / Maconachy / Hildebrandt  
Ocala, FL: Trinity - Mader  
Palm Coast, FL: Shepherd/Coast - **Douthwaite**

#### **Georgia Circuit #4**

Alpharetta, GA: Christ/Shepherd - Elseroad  
Atlanta, GA: Ascension - **Miller**  
**\*NOTE: Circuits 3 & 4 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

#### **Buffalo Circuit #5**

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

#### **Pittsburgh Circuit #6**

Butler, PA: Faith - Vacant  
McMurray, PA: Peace - Hardy  
Oakmont, PA: Redeemer - **Westgate**  
Pittsburgh, PA - First Trinity (CM) - Spittel / Andrae  
Slippery Rock, PA: All Saints (CM) - Loree Jr. / Seaver  
**\*NOTE: Circuits 5 & 6 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

### **LAKE ERIE REGION**

#### **Canada East Circuit #7**

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

### **LAKE ERIE REGION-cont.**

#### **Canada West Circuit #8**

Chatham, ON: Our Saviour - Murray  
Kitchener, ON: Hope - Kirk IIM  
Mitchell, ON: Grace - Luck  
Sarnia, ON: Redeemer - Kouri  
Windsor, ON: Gethsemane - **Voelker** / Simon  
Windsor, ON: Peace - Leistico  
**\*NOTE: Circuits 7 & 8 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

#### **Cleveland-Akron Circuit #9**

Akron, OH: Concordia - Tauscher  
Akron, OH: Fairlawn - **Gau** / Thompson  
Akron, OH: Good Shepherd - Tauscher  
Akron, OH: Grace - Mills  
Cleveland Heights, OH: Mt. Olive - Vacancy, Taylor  
Northfield, OH: Epiphany - Just  
Streetsboro, OH: St. Thomas - Just

#### **Cleveland-West Circuit #10**

Cleveland, OH: Holy Cross - Scheer IIM  
Cleveland, OH: Iglesia Cristiana Hispana (HC) - LLD Torres\*  
Elyria, OH: Grace - Weldon  
Medina, OH: Prince/Peace - Haberkost  
North Olmsted, OH: Ascension - Vacant  
Oberlin, OH: Grace (CM) - **Moldenhauer**  
**\*NOTE: Circuits 9 & 10 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

#### **Detroit-South Circuit #11**

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

#### **Detroit-North Circuit #12**

Beverly Hills, MI: Ascension/Christ - **Grams**  
Redford, MI: Grace - Halboth / Halboth / Marklevitz  
Saint Clair Shores, MI: St. Paul's - Rutter  
Sandusky, MI: Holy Redeemer - Vacant  
Shelby Township, MI: Epic - Kade  
West Bloomfield, MI: Shepherd King - Holzerland  
West Branch, New Beginnings - Vacant  
**\*NOTE: Circuits 11 & 12 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

#### **Western Michigan Circuit #13**

Dorr, MI: Epiphany - Beffrey  
East Lansing, MI: Martin Luther Chapel (CM) - Dwyer / Dressel  
Grand Rapids, MI: Hope - Gruenwald  
Hartland, MI: Our Savior - Thoma  
Howell, MI: Immanuel - **Forss**  
Lakeview, MI: Holy Trinity - Sabol  
Wyoming, MI: Grace - Diener

#### **Indiana Circuit #14**

Florence, KY: Abiding Faith - Grieser  
Fort Wayne, IN: Bethany - **Trouten** / Varsogea  
Fort Wayne, IN: Redeemer - Petersen / Frese / Burfeind  
Fort Wayne, IN: St. Michael - Lessing / Davis  
Fort Wayne, IN: Jacob's Well - Adams  
Fremont, IN: Peace - Teeple  
Hudson, IN: Prince/Peace - Elsner  
LaPorte, IN: Trinity - Olse  
Zionsville, IN: Advent - Fiene / Grady

## **MIDWEST REGION**

### **Chicago-North Circuit #15**

Arlington Heights, IL: Faith - Sanders  
Chicago, IL: Bethany - Vacant  
Chicago, IL: Bethesda - Bacon / Katari / Binge  
Chicago, IL: Christ English - Wright  
Chicago, IL: Grace English - Vacant  
Elk Grove Village, IL: Holy Spirit - Vacant  
Elmhurst, IL: Redeemer - **Oliphant**  
Villa Park, IL: Trinity - Rogers / Manwell  
Elmhurst, IL: (MAL) Racetrack Ministry - Krueckeberg

### **Chicago-South Circuit #16**

Berwyn, IL: Concordia - **Huenink**  
Chicago, IL: Chatham Fields - Vacant  
Chicago, IL: Ephphatha - Marsh  
Chicago, IL: Faith - Vacant  
Chicago, IL: Good Shepherd - LLD Howes\*  
Chicago, IL: New Hope - Anderson  
Chicago, IL: St. John/Divine - Vacancy, Brunner, EM\*  
Elmhurst, IL: Messiah - Maxon  
Markham, IL: Markham - Schneekloth  
New Lenox, IL: Trinity - Hoag  
**\*NOTE: Circuits 15 & 16 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

### **Milwaukee Circuit #17**

Forest Lake, MN: Messiah - Musolf  
Hales Corners, WI: Hales Corners - Speaks / Johnson / Wood / Kogutkiewicz / Jameson  
Hastings, MN: Hope - Vacant  
Janesville, WI: St. Mark - Urlaub  
Lake Mills, WI: Christ - Boerst  
Menomonee Falls, WI: Prince/Peace - Engler  
Mount Pleasant, WI: Living Hope - Served by Ernst / Robb  
New Berlin, WI: Peace - Michel

Shawano, WI: Resurrection - Vacant

Sheboygan, WI: St. Mark - Matz

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 / Schneider  
Lincoln, NE: Redeemer - Ebert / Brown  
O'Fallon, MO: Peace - Roegner  
St. Louis, MO: Chapel/Cross - **Laesch**  
Vine Grove, KY: Grace - Schneider

\*Indicates a pastor rostered in another district or LLD

## **WESTERN REGION**

### **Arizona-North Circuit #19**

Overgaard, AZ: Faith - **Wirtz**  
Parker, AZ: Messiah - LLD Yoder\*  
Payson, AZ: Shepherd/Pines - Burge IIM  
Phoenix, AZ: Family/Christ (CM) - Gerlach  
Pinetop, AZ: Shepherd/Mountains - Vacant

### **Arizona-South Circuit #20**

Benson, AZ: Peace/Valley - York  
Cortaro, AZ: Messiah - Esala  
Green Valley, AZ: Risen Savior - Arnold  
Rio Rico, AZ: Christus Rex - **Schindler**  
Sahuarita, AZ: Crosspoint - Vacant  
Tucson, AZ: Ascension - Thelen / York / Rendahl / LLD Duy\*  
Tucson, AZ: Catalina (CM) - Morehouse / Palmer  
Tucson, AZ: Faith - Cockran  
Tucson, AZ: Holy Trinity - LLD Upton\* / McClure  
Tucson, AZ: Mt. Olive - Ciampa

### **Nevada/Utah Circuit #21**

Mesquite, NV: Prince of Peace - Lauterbach  
North Las Vegas, NV: Trinity - **Oehlerts**  
St. George, UT: Our Savior's - Drehman  
**\*NOTE: Circuits 19, 20 & 21 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

### **San Diego Circuit #22**

Borrego Springs, CA: Borrego - LLD Matthews\*  
El Cajon, CA: First - Fedder  
Lakeside, CA: Morning Star - Laughridge / LLD Kuwazaki\*  
Mira Mesa, CA: Crossroads - Laughridge  
Guatay/Pine Valley, CA: Inter-Mountain - LLD Kulowitch\*  
San Diego, CA: Living Water - **Duescher**

### **Los Angeles Circuit #23**

Long Beach, CA: St. Paul's - Jones / Pierson  
Los Angeles, CA: Highland Park - Vacant  
Mission Hills, CA: Chapel/Cross - Naumann / de la Rosa  
Palm Desert, CA: Peace - Pratt  
Sherman Oaks, CA: Sherman Oaks - **Pezzica**

### **San Francisco Circuit #24**

Danville, CA: Messiah - Ledic  
Fremont, CA: Hope - Berg / Li  
Moses Lake, WA: Apostolic - Williams  
San Francisco, CA: New Life - **Fox**  
San Francisco, CA: West Portal - Binz / Kerr  
**\*NOTE: Circuits 22, 23 & 24 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

Campus Ministries (CM)

Human Care Ministries (HC)

Intentional Interim Minister (IIM)

Licensed Lay Deacon (LLD)

Mission Starts (MS)

# BISHOP/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

THE REV. DR. JAMISON J. HARDY

*"And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

Matthew 22:39

## **Introduction**

Greetings to you my brothers and sisters in the English District.

I want to first and foremost say THANK YOU to my family for all their support and patience throughout this journey. To my wife Wendy, who has been very supportive as I travel around the country to serve our district congregations and deal with all the district responsibilities and duties. To my children Noah, Nathaniel, and Naomi who have always been faithful in their love for the Lord and love of the Church. Being connected to my parish and staying in Pittsburgh allowed me to see my oldest son Noah grow into a fine young man and to graduate from Peters Township High School. He has attended Peters Township schools since kindergarten. It will also be a great honor to hand him his high school diploma as a member of the school board on the night of his graduation.

To the members of Peace Lutheran Church in McMurray PA, I have only known you, my people, as a parish pastor. I am so thankful for all the support and encouragement from many of you as I have moved into a new role of service to the Church. It has been a true honor and privilege to be your pastor and serve you these last 17 years.

I would also like to say a big sincere thanks to the entire district for the honor and privilege of being given the responsibility of Bishop and President of the English District. It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve you and work with you all for the sake of the Church and the Gospel. I am humbled every day when I wake up and think that God has asked me to serve in this capacity. It is only with the partnership of many people like you that the district is able to be fruitful and productive and remain relevant to contribute to the greater work of the Church.

One of the many great joys that I have had over these last three years is the chance to visit the congregations of the district and to meet the members of the congregations and the called workers who serve them. The church is made up of many great people who come together to serve the Lord and proclaim His mercy daily in their lives and vocations. We are so blessed with many great ministries where the gospel is preached and the sacraments are rightly administered to God's people.

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

- Firstly, I want to thank my administrative assistant Kathy Stanis who has been my ministry partner for more than a decade. 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 Derek Mathers who has come alongside of me and who serves as my assistant and mission executive. Derek and I have a great balance of skills and temperaments that allows us to see things clearly and openly. He has been a great addition to the staff and made my job much easier, knowing I can send him to represent me in many different circumstances.
- For Sally Naglich who holds the district 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.
- Thanks also go to Gail Holzer who gives the highest degree of knowledge and experience to those who have schools and education ministries. Gail has brought several years of experience to this position and seeks to provide guidance to ministries that seek to be the best in Christian education. I have had the pleasure of knowing Gail my whole professional life as a pastor and she has been a blessing and joy to work with.
- To David Thiele who has been a great addition to the English District staff as the LCEF Vice President. He also serves the SELC District and has been a great advocate for partnership and high level of stewardship. Dave has served in several different positions in the district for over 30 years. He brings a special set of skills that sees things from a missional aspect, and he helps continue to seek new ways to support and serve. Thanks for all you do for the sake of the Church and its mission.
- To Peggy Oke who has given more than 30 years to the district and who has dedicated herself to being an invaluable member of the staff doing basically everything in the district. She has great experience and knowledge that is invaluable to the work of the district and the church. Peggy has a wonderful personality that seeks to be helpful and generous in every situation. She loves her Lord and seeks to serve where she can for His sake.
- Thanks go to Evelyn Jentzen for over a decade of service to the district in many different capacities, serving the last three bishop/presidents. She has a depth of knowledge that is complete with forms, processes, procedures, and simply historical information about the district.
- To Lynne Cobb for her work on communications and social media along with various other capacities with the district. Lynne keeps us up to date on all matters of social media and activities around the district and synod.
- I am very grateful for the partnership with the Board of Directors of the English District. We are blessed to have a wonderful board of directors who cares deeply for the success and wellbeing 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 in joy.
- I would like to extend a special thanks to a friend and brother, Wayne Morton, the chair of the board of directors who has been a brother and a friend. Wayne has helped to make me a better pastor, leader, friend, and bishop/president. He is a churchman at

the highest level, and he has helped to make the district strong and relevant once again.

- Special thanks go out 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**

Our theme for the 56<sup>th</sup> regular convention of the English District, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is “Love your neighbor as yourself.” This theme has been the driving force behind the last three years of my tenure as Bishop/President. In the Matthew text preceding the theme verses, the Pharisees and Sadducees were questioning Jesus about many things. The chief of those was regarding the resurrection he had been proclaiming. The power of the risen savior and the forgiveness of sins were at the heart of their inquiry and how they attempted to trap him.

It stands to reason that the next major question they would ask him in an attempt to trap him is what is the greatest command that all should have to follow. By asking questions that entrap Jesus and attempt to twist His answers, the Pharisees and Sadducees made a living at trying to distort what Jesus was saying. The idea that loving God and loving the neighbor is paramount in the life of Jesus and the life of all Christians is a foreign concept to people. This idea flies in the face of current societal trends and those societal trends at the time of Jesus.

Loving one’s neighbor places a greater emphasis on others and less of an emphasis on ourselves. This is a biblical position that was set by Jesus himself in His march to Golgotha. In the face of great criticism and mockery, Jesus remained steady and focused on the mission at hand, namely, the salvation of the world. We in the church stand ready to care for and love our neighbors out of the love that was first shown us by Christ on the cross. Many congregations in our district have shown different ways in which they love their neighbors locally and abroad. Thanks to all who have taken up the call to love the neighbor.

### **Relevance in society and synod, Partnerships**

In my Bishop’s address at the last convention, I made it very clear that the English District needed to focus on being relevant in society and the synod. Over the last three years that has been a very significant focus for my staff and the district congregations as a whole. I am happy to report that the district has made significant progress on this topic. We as the district are focused on making an impact on people’s lives with the gospel message. By partnering with several local and international groups, we have broadened our network of support and ministry options.

During this past triennium the District Board of Directors, along with support from local congregations, has entered into work with the Lutheran Church in Hong Kong (LCHK). In

December of 2016, I was privileged to lead a team of five to make our inaugural visit to Hong Kong. During that first visit the plea was made for further partnerships and personnel. Hong Kong has a long-standing partnership with many parishes as they send teams of people who come for short-term mission trips, specifically sending church groups to lead VBS programs in Hong Kong churches and ministries.

In 2018, Pr. Tom Engler's congregation, Prince of Peace in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, sent a group of people to Hong Kong as our first mission VBS team to go since our inaugural trip. There have also been several requests for teachers to come to Hong Kong and teach in their Christian school owned and operated by the LCHK Synod. We have had some interest and many inquiries into spending some time in Hong Kong. We are continuing to look for those who are trained and have a desire to spend some time abroad in support of the synod's international mission focus of Christian education.

Another great story to tell is the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM). We have been a managing partner of the DRLM for many years and this has continued to grow in the last triennium. Several different members of the district have been involved in this mission partnership. A special thanks goes to chair of our mission council Rev. Justin Laughridge who has lead the teams for the last three years in my stead and represented the district fabulously. We are also thankful to the Rev. Jonathan and Cheryl Naumann who serve as career missionaries in the Dominican Republic (DR) where they serve as pastor to the mission workers and spiritual caregivers in the DR.

### **Endowment Fund**

Over the last three years, I have spent a great deal of time focusing on the Endowment fund and its performance on behalf of the district. Thanks go out to the members of the endowment board who volunteer their time to work to ensure a positive performance for the fund. It is my pleasure to inform you that we have had fantastic returns on our investments. In fact, we have had a 22% or \$322,000 increase in value over the last triennium. This is a great performance and a wonderful return on the district's investment. I am happy to say this is what was intended when this fund was set up. As we look to build resources for the future, we are constantly trying to be good stewards of the resources that we have been given by our Lord. As congregational offerings continue to decline, we are poised to meet those challenges with integrity and strength.

One of the highlights during the last triennium regarding how the district has used these proceeds was in partnering with the Synod to provide \$30,000 to help reduce church worker debt, giving out 10 grants. The intent is to provide grants for church worker debt reduction every year that we have a positive return on investments. Another sector from the endowment fund is new mission starts. We are pleased to announce a new mission plant in Pennsylvania. Together with other examples, we are able to increase our overall giving to missions and ministry with funds generated by the increase in value to the endowment monies.

As we continue to deal with funding issues in the Church, the district is committed to generating revenue outside of congregational giving that will assist in being able to provide services to our congregations. This will also ensure that we will be able to continue to support those missions that need cash infusion and those ministries that find themselves on hard times. By building a large endowment, the district seeks to prepare for lean years in the future and be wise stewards of the resources that God has provided today.

In order to continue to work on and grow the resources of the district and the endowment itself, the district Board of Directors has decided to partner with the LCMS Foundation and hire a gift planning counselor who will be dedicated to working with the English District. An offer was extended to Ron Grimm of Pittsburgh, PA, and he accepted that offer. His training began in March and will culminate just before the convention. Ron will begin locally preparing gift plans and then move out into other district congregations. Should you desire a visit to establish a gift plan, please reach out to Ron to schedule an appointment.

### **Deployed staff**

Before I was elected I made it clear that I would stay in Pittsburgh and in my parish as I serve as Bishop/President. While I believe that this was the right decision, all decisions come with a cost and a price. I will admit that it would be easier to be in Farmington; however, we have taken steps to make this arrangement work smoothly. Over half of our district staff is deployed. To that end, we have implemented technology to be able to make communication smooth and easy for all concerned. By having a phone system that allows for easy transfer from Farmington, Michigan to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Toronto, Ontario we have established a solid line of communication.

Additionally, at the beginning of my tenure, I established the weekly Servant to Servant (S2S) that goes out at noon on Fridays. With close to 1,000 contacts on this list, we are able to keep people up to date and informed as to what is happening in the district and its churches. I have received several compliments about the S2S and its high quality and depth of information. Please remember to send in your news and information that you wish to have placed in S2S. Also, if you are not already signed up to receive the Servant to Servant newsletter, you can sign up [here](#) or go to the district [website](#).

### **Visitation**

Visitation is at the hallmark of all pastoral care and ministry. By being in the lives of God's people the pastor is able to share their highs and lows. Taking the time to be in the presence of the church is essential for the bishop and president as well. Visitation has also been a very high priority for my staff and me over this last triennium. I, along with my staff, truly enjoy being in the ministries of the district and seeing what God is doing in the midst of His people. We are blessed with many wonderful ministries and people throughout the district who care for people and share the love of Christ.

I am thankful to my Vice Presidents, Circuit Visitors, and all those who visit and share the burdens of the brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the district. I have set the bar high for visitation and I am pleased to say that many have answered the call. We welcome requests for visitation and stand ready to come and share in the blessings of the Lord with you and all members of the district.

# MISSIONS REPORT

THE REV. DEREK MATHERS

Assistant to the President/Bishop and Mission Executive

The main focus of my service as English District Mission Executive has been our Synodical Office of National Mission's comprehensive Revitalization initiative.

In the language of 1 Cor. 3:5-9, revitalization is centered on planting and watering in anticipation of God providing the growth:

*"What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building." (1 Corinthians 3:5-9 ESV)*

## **"Re:Vitality"**

Currently, one of the ten planned modules has been completed, tested and is now in active use. The first one, entitled "Connect To Disciple" enables a congregation to better understand what outreach is and what it might look like within the current context of the specific individual congregation. For me this is a key component of Re:Vitality; it is a tool which assists a congregation to see their current context of ministry/mission and their geographic community.

Re:Vitality addresses the three fundamental premises of revitalization by providing congregations with resources to improve their abilities to:

***Invite***                      ***Welcome***                      ***Receive***

people from outside the congregation and more importantly, from outside the Kingdom of God.

"Vital" is the key component of "revitalization." Wherever the Word is proclaimed in its purity and God's Sacraments are rightly administered, there is spiritual vitality. But is spiritual vitality enough for a congregation to be vital? Congregational vitality must start with spiritual vitality for without spiritual vitality as a foundation there can be no congregational vitality. Congregational vitality includes factors that affect the congregation's ability to begin, increase or continue activities that convey the spiritual vitality of Word and Sacrament ministry to those outside the Kingdom of God.

By means of an online self-survey tool, congregational vitality is assessed. Since the needs and circumstances of congregations vary, Re:Vitality currently provides this self-assessment tool at no cost. The self-survey allows a congregation to objectively answer the question "Where are we, really?"

It is my hope that in the near future this self-assessment tool can be initiated by a congregation through the office of the District Mission Executive, with the results remaining

confidential to the congregation and the District Mission Executive or other trained individuals working with the congregation. The self-assessment provides an excellent baseline toward increasing the reach of Word and Sacrament through existing and new outreach.

Overall, Re:Vitality provides action-oriented training for the congregation. Each training module makes use of current training technology and adult learning methods in a five-part approach:

- MULTIMEDIA INSTRUCTION
- ADULT LEARNING ACTIVITIES
- EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
- PROMPTED JOURNALING
- STRATEGIC COACHING

Recognizing that the best training is of little value if it is cost-prohibitive, Re:Vitality training resources are provided at little cost to the congregation.

As of this writing three pastors of our district are certified Facilitators for the “Connect To Disciple” workshop with possibly three others in training. We have one individual trained as a Re:Vitality Coach, who is ready to walk with a congregation in the Re:Vitality program, assisting them with accountability to put what has been learned into practice and celebrating the wins of outreach when they occur.

To date, eight English District congregations have hosted a “Connect To Disciple” workshop out of 62 workshops that have taken place Synod wide. That is roughly 13% of all workshops.

The next two workshops of the ten are currently in beta testing. They are: “Shepherding the Strays” – focusing on members of the congregation who are inactive and “Joining in God’s Mission” – focusing on assisting congregational leadership in the development of a strategic plan for the congregation.

### **“Every One His Witness™” – Lutheran Evangelism Program**

The “Every One His Witness” Lutheran evangelism program puts sound doctrine into practical action for sharing the faith with people in our everyday lives. This has been another focus of my work as Mission Executive. Since the days of the “Evangelism Explosion” outreach program, our Synod really has not produced an evangelism teaching program as strong as this one. Working with our Evangelization Team the “Every One His Witness” program goes hand-in-hand with Re:Vitality Outreach. Outreach is the work we do as a collective effort through ministries, services, and events of our congregations by which we connect, build relationship and invite people into Word and Sacrament ministry.

Witness and Outreach are distinctly different and, at the same time, similar. The end goal of both is for individuals outside the Kingdom of God to become followers of Jesus and, through Word and Sacrament Ministry, live and grow as His follower. The distinctiveness between

them is that Witnessing is one person in friendship with one person and outreach is a corporate action of the congregation as a whole.

When Jesus told His disciples, "You will be my witnesses," (Acts 1:8) He was making a statement, not a request. He has called each and every believer to be a witness of Him and His love. This is not simply a part of who we are as God's people in the world. It is, in Martin Luther's words, "the only reason for which God leaves us in this world."

As we fulfill our purpose for being on earth, we strive not only to be His witnesses but to be faithful and effective witnesses for the sake of those who do not know the love of Jesus, especially for the people with whom the Lord has crafted relationships with us in our everyday lives.

Witnessing is our individual work of planting and watering with the joyful expectation that the Lord will, where and when it pleases Him, provide the growth. It is seeing the opportunities that God has already provided for us to share his love in relationships that we already have.

Outreach then relies on the collective efforts of the congregation's members and on the witness of individual believers. It is conducted through activities that connect the congregation with those outside of the church, that facilitate building relationships with them, and that lead to making disciples through Word and Sacrament.

For this reason our English District Board of Directors was pleased to set aside \$2000 during this past triennium to provide a \$40 rebate to every congregation that purchased the "Every One His Witness™ kit" available from CPH. The district had 21 congregations receive a rebate from this opportunity. It is sad that while we had funds for 50 of our congregations, that more of them didn't take advantage of the opportunity. Even though this rebate opportunity has passed, I continue to encourage the purchase of 'Every One His Witness Lutheran Evangelism Program Kit' as it provides everything groups need to implement this evangelism program at their church, school, or organization. It can be done as a one-day workshop or through 90-minute classes over a six-week period.

## **We plant and water, God causes the growth.**

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

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

With the help of the core group and other supporters, the Asian Indian Ministry (AIM) of Bethesda Lutheran Church, was able to help newcomers to the United States find food, temporary shelters, and jobs whether they were Christians or Hindus or Muslims. In building relationships with these individuals and families, they were invited to attend Sunday worship which is in their own language, Telugu.

Contacts were also created through the use of gospel tracts and New Testament Bibles. Relationships were built through gatherings in neighborhood homes. Many people attended these home gathering Bible studies and sharing took place as they spent time together. Occasionally, gatherings would happen in order to celebrate birthdays, holidays, or other community celebrations.

Leaders of AIM strongly emphasize personal witnessing/evangelism as an important aspect of the congregation's mission together. The focus of the mission is to reach those outside the Kingdom of God with the Word of God so that the Holy Spirit would reach into their hearts and bring them to faith.

Some in the congregation took this focus very seriously, going to local grocery stores and fast-food restaurants seeking to locate Indian workers and to give them their personal support and friendship, as well as the message of God's love in Jesus. Others gathered together for street witnessing, often facing opposition from Hindu fundamental and Muslim extremists groups.

As God's people they believe and hold fast to the Word of God. They do not pull back from this mission of witnessing of God's love for the world in Jesus.

### **Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ewing, New Jersey**

Serving the Liberian immigrant community in the Trenton area since 2001, Bethany Lutheran welcomes Liberian newcomers to the United States and assists them with their transition to their new home from refugee camps and other situations.

It is the desire of God's people in this congregation to be a place of worship and resource to the Liberian community as well as all people with need. God has worked through them in many ways to care for and love their neighbors.

Providing an after-school program is one way, and hosting a back to school night at which children receive school supplies required for their classes, is another. Over 100 children benefitted from this care mission.

God's people became active partners in the health of not only members of the congregation but also of the community. Many Liberian individuals suffer with diabetes and other health issues. Bethany's members joined a newly established faith-based organization called the Trenton Health Team. With their help and support a healthy eating and exercise program was organized for eight weeks in the summer of 2015. This program was a success on many levels as three out of the fifteen individuals who participated in the program developed closer relationships with members of the congregation. They have since become members of Bethany's congregation and are involved in Word and Sacrament ministry.

The people of Bethany care for the people of their Liberian community and others by providing over 100 meals during the holidays and throughout the year.

Five confirmed youth received assistance in completing their applications to college. They were also supported in the purchase of needed books and technology for attendance at these schools.

### **Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, Michigan**

Sophia first attended Martin Luther Chapel in the fall of 2016 as a freshman at Michigan State University (MSU). Here is her story in her own words:

"My parents did not believe in God, and they raised my siblings and I likewise. It wasn't until high school that a good friend introduced me to God. When I came to MSU in 2016 I found Martin Luther Chapel and discovered an environment with active faith and personable peers. I was able to receive new life through water and word in Holy Baptism. I'm a better person because of the love I have come to know that God is and has placed in my heart. The spiritual growth I have had would not have been possible without the opportunities and wonderful people at Martin Luther Chapel."

Sophia has become an active member of the community at Martin Luther Chapel, serving on one of their student leadership teams as a Peer Minister, and has helped with children's ministries and with their ESL classes. She is a blessing to their ministry, as she seeks to share the love of Christ with everyone around her!

### **An International Mission field in East Lansing**

Martin Luther Chapel is one of the founding congregations of the Friendship House, a ministry to international students and visiting scholars at MSU. During the spring semester of 2017, they were presented with an opportunity to sponsor a weekly gathering of (mostly) Chinese families, where the adults spent time learning about Christian worship and singing hymns while the children practiced their English through a Sunday-school type setting.

During the summer and fall semesters, many families continued to join God's people for Sunday morning worship, and the children were given the opportunity to learn Bible stories as they practiced their English skills. During the course of the year, at least 95 Chinese nationals joined in for the classes or worship.

After worship one Sunday morning, Elsa (her American name), the mother of two elementary aged children, approached Pastor Curt, indicating that her daughter wanted to talk with him. Pastor Curt and the family sat down in a quiet corner of the children's area, and the daughter, Katara, talked about how much she enjoyed learning about Jesus and how she wanted to be baptized. Her brother, Vincent, also said that he wanted to be baptized. A few weeks later, with much joy and excitement in what God had worked in these two children, both were brought into the family of Christ through Holy Baptism! Many of their Chinese friends were in worship

to witness the event. Though they will return to their home in China later in 2018, we are confident of the Spirit's continuing work in their lives!

### **LINC, Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

The leaders of LINC Milwaukee seek to provide local leaders the opportunity to turn their dreams and visions of ministry into reality.

Marty Calderon is one of those individuals. Marty began "God Touch Milwaukee" and with help received IRS status as a 501(c)(3). "God Touch Milwaukee" is a transitional living home, which helps men coming out of addiction and incarceration to live in a safe place. They are held accountable through a disciplining relationship, and are assisted in finding productive work.

Marty is receiving coaching, mentorship, board recruitment, financial assistance, an education in Theology, and also non-profit administration from the leaders of LINC Milwaukee. God is working through Marty and the vision God has given him to provide hope for young men. Marty provides them spiritual care and opportunities to straighten out their lives through Jesus Christ.

Marty is but one example of what God is working through the mission of LINC Milwaukee.

### **Lutheran Social Services Southwest**

Elena is 97 and now lives alone in the home where she and her husband raised their five sons and has been in this home for over 55 years. Her husband worked at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and Elena volunteered for the local Area Agency on Aging for over 25 years.

Elena began to worry about falling in the shower and over time stopped showering all together due to this fear. Elena was also struggling to get her grocery shopping done, as she does not drive and is easily fatigued. Lutheran Social Services – Southwest (LSS-SW) was able to assist her. Elena now has a caregiver who helps her take a shower three time per week. LSS-SW has also started providing Elena with grocery shopping assistance. Elena is grateful for the assistance and plans to continue living in her home as long as possible.

### **Crossroads Lutheran Church, San Diego, California**

Several years ago, one of the first adults Pastor Justin Laughridge baptized, who was 66 years old, began praying for his now adult children and elementary-age grandchildren. Soon after that, he began praying WITH his family, and discussing his Christian faith and why it was so important to him. He invited them to attend worship, and soon his adult daughter and son-in-law came to know the love of Jesus and have expressed their desire to be a part of God's family as well. These family members actively serve their neighbors in all sorts of different ways, and have experienced the every-day miracle of God's love, His mercy, and His grace. Praise the Lord!

### **Logos Lutheran, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

(A ministry of Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, Philadelphia, PA)

For weeks, when Pastor Rob Kieselowsky and Vicar Joseph Schlie would arrive at Logos Lutheran to open the doors for services, they would meet a man named Tim. It appeared that he was sleeping outside, perhaps on the church steps. Tim was pleasant and chatted with Pastor and Vicar as they prepared for service. Pastor would go back outside to see if Tim would like any of the food that we provide after each service.

After a number of conversations with Tim, they learned that he was going blind and would possibly need surgery. His one complaint was that he was not able to read his Bible very well anymore, so Pastor invited him in for service to hear the Bible read aloud for him.

Tim still sleeps outside, which he says he prefers, but comes faithfully to service and joins us for food and fellowship afterward. He meets with Vicar Schlie regularly to grab a hot cup of coffee, chat about the Small Catechism, and complete any paperwork he needs to finish. Tim genuinely seems to appreciate the personal care and that he is able to hear God's Word read to him.

This fall, God has brought more students to attend both Thursday evening Bible study and Sunday services. One doctoral student, with limited physical mobility, expressed his appreciation that the building for the services was readily accessible in the city. Getting out to congregations in the surrounding suburbs with the weekend transit schedules would be nearly impossible for him, but at Logos, he is able to regularly receive Christ's Word and Sacraments.

### **First Trinity Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

Sonal and Lou met at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Sonal, who was raised in a Hindu family, was baptized at First Trinity January 2015.

Sonal says, "The largest takeaway from my time as an undergraduate student was the experience of being a part of Lutheran Student Fellowship. A friend simply invited me to a free dinner, and in doing so provided me with an atmosphere that comfortably inspired my questions about religion, Christianity, and Lutheranism that I had not thought to ask before. I appreciate the time, effort, and care Pastor Andræ gave to our conversations and I am thankful for the relationships I still have with all the members."

### **Church of St. Luke – Lutheran, Toronto, Ontario**

At the entrance to The Church of St. Luke on a warm day, 23 flags flutter, and greetings in several languages fill the air. "Salam, ann-yeong-hase-yo, how are you, nihao, vitajte." The flags and the people entering represent Canada as well as the USA and multiple European, Asian

and African heritages. Diverse members of different backgrounds attend different language worship services.

While this congregation has several services in different languages, there is a uniqueness in the Farsi (Persian) Language Service. Most Persian members have never experienced Christian culture because they have grown up in an Islamic culture. However, they are very joyful, worshipping for more than two hours. They sing a hymn, followed with an individual praying eagerly. This is repeated several times in the service. The Word of God is shared in English by one of their pastors through an interpreter. Even though you may not understand the Farsi language, you know God is present. God's grace and love can be seen in the baptism of these people, which takes place three or more times a year. From July 2015 through May 2018, 127 adults and 26 children were baptized at St. Luke.

# **SCHOOL MINISTRY REPORT**

**GAIL J. HOLZER**

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 four years. 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 schools 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-two (42) EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES as of January 2018 – Our educational ministry consists of 19 free-standing PreKs, seven (7) free-standing PreKs with daycares, three (3) PreKs with Kindergartens and daycares, one (1) PreK with a Kindergarten, one (1) PreK – 6<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school, six (6) PreK – 8th grade elementary schools, three (3) K – 8th grade elementary schools, one (1) PreK – 12th grade school, and a new start classical elementary school. Four of our schools operate on more than one campus, and one is a partner school with another district. Several schools also offer before/after school care and summer programs. Two of our schools have had exemplary status from NLSA, and one is among the largest in the synod. Education remains one of our districts 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! Five of our schools are NLSA accredited, one is in the process, and three others are looking to start. Well over 70% of the children attending our English District schools are not Lutheran.

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. My goal is to visit each English District education ministry at least once during the calendar year. With only a few exceptions, I have been able to meet that goal.
3. SYNODICAL NEWS – Terry Schmidt has been faithfully serving as the Director of LCMS Schools since Bill Cochran retired. Terry is retiring in June of 2018, and a new director will be called. With 78% of our schools responding, the LCMS serves over 186,000 children and their families, in over 2,000 school settings and 2,486 children were baptized during the 2016/2017 school year.

The school ministry office rolled out a new website: [luthed.org](http://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. For the 2017-2018 school year, the district disbursed \$35,000, providing assistance to fifteen students enrolled in a church worker program at a Concordia University, and eight students enrolled in one of 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: Crissy Peterson, Commissioner, Christy Wood, Kathy Slupik, 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. Crissy Peterson, Assistant Principal at Hales Corners Lutheran School, 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 new Commissioned Minister Information Form (CMIF) and the new system for searching for workers has been a wonderful new addition to 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. The English District has funded a grant to Hales Corners Lutheran School to develop and implement a plan to encourage young people to consider church work. It is an intention that the plan be duplicated in our other schools, with a goal of increasing the number of students desiring a career in ministry.
9. NATIONAL NEWS – Illinois has been the newest state to adopt some type of funding for students attending private schools. We also have schools in Arizona, Ohio, Wisconsin and Indiana who have a voucher or tax-credit scholarship program to assist students who want a private (Christian) education. Florida, Georgia, and Pennsylvania have programs that assist preschool aged children to attend an ECE center of their choice. In some cases, there are requirements and regulations attached and programs must learn how to navigate the system and still hold true to their mission. In most cases, these programs offer the financial support our schools need to thrive and survive.
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.

Texas Hurricane Support: over \$1700 (English District provided matching funds)

LCMS Ministries Support: \$15,180

Other Missions: \$11,685

Missionary Support: Dominican Republic, India, Kenya, Tanzania Water Mission

Support of other organizations: Food banks, Operation Christmas Child, Shoes for Kenya, Local Non-Profits - gathering clothing, diapers, shoes, etc., Tanzania Water

Mission, Big City Mission, Leukemia Society, Red Cross Blood Bank, Personal Care homes.

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!

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Sally L. Naglich C.P.A.

Executive Assistant to the President: Business and Finance and Treasurer

English District - LCMS  
United States  
Statement of Financial Position  
January 31, 2016, 2017, 2018

	January 31, 2016	January 31, 2017	January 31, 2018
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash	\$ 827,711	\$ 655,060	\$ 646,443
Accounts, Contrib., and Int. Receivable	51,018	55,418	59,919
Prepaid Expenses	24,411	15,207	24,214
Short Term Investments	25,479	15,475	15,465
Property and Equipment - Net	335,529	1,416,597	306,887
Property Held for Sale	-	-	1,041,111
Loans Receivable	7,358	1,504	-
Long Term Investments	1,492,938	1,642,506	1,835,686
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,764,444</b>	<b>\$ 3,801,765</b>	<b>\$ 3,929,725</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Intercompany Due to Canada	\$ 210,364	\$ 145,924	\$ 81,346
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	63,679	75,267	80,682
Pledges Payable/Deposits	18,243	20,185	39,732
Deferred Revenue Convention Assessment	-	346	57,284
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 292,286</b>	<b>\$ 241,722</b>	<b>\$ 259,044</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>			
Undesignated	\$ 318,145	\$ 142,153	\$ 1,219,371
Investment in Property and Equipment	333,529	1,416,597	306,887
Board Designated	1,505,705	1,678,963	1,831,518
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>\$ 2,157,379</b>	<b>\$ 3,237,713</b>	<b>\$ 3,357,776</b>
Temporarily Restricted	96,087	101,117	76,490
Permanently Restricted	216,692	221,213	236,415
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,470,158</b>	<b>\$ 3,560,043</b>	<b>\$ 3,670,681</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,762,444</b>	<b>\$ 3,801,765</b>	<b>\$ 3,929,725</b>

**English District - LCMS**  
**United States**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**For the Twelve Months Ending January 31, 2016, 2017, 2018**

	Year Ended January 31, 2016	Year Ended January 31, 2017	Year Ended January 31, 2018
<b>Unrestricted</b>			
District Congregations	\$ 803,857	\$ 783,778	\$ 812,425
Other Gifts	13,570	54,657	23,513
Publications	24,531	14,217	15,153
Assessments and Fees	208,989	142,819	51,816
Income on Investments	(90,366)	148,869	219,860
Interest Income on Loans	704	204	106
Rental Income	-	3,645	114,561
Agreements with LCEF/CCEF	163,497	162,210	181,147
Intercompany - Canada	64,440	64,440	64,440
Donated Property	-	1,000,000	-
Other	1,344	1,090	53
Net Assets Released from Restriction	116,606	124,040	143,877
<b>Unrestricted Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,307,172</b>	<b>\$ 2,499,969</b>	<b>\$ 1,626,951</b>
<b>Expenses and Losses</b>			
Synod Pledge	\$ 180,500	\$ 180,500	\$ 180,500
Endowment Fund Grants	-	-	36,360
Missions	180,105	198,315	178,170
Human Care	4,100	5,500	5,500
Preparing Church Workers	29,063	32,820	34,100
Congregational Services	29,651	16,681	5,969
School Ministry	67,732	72,579	79,721
Stewardship	375	1,156	350
Conferences	5,363	64,082	43,915
Conventions	99,636	62,128	131
Communications	39,331	27,838	28,653
Treasurer's Manuals	244	206	227
President's Office/Ecclesial	309,081	277,944	265,741
General/Finance Office	240,739	230,241	237,427
Building/Maintenance	40,102	90,789	159,059
LCEF	156,051	158,856	174,509
Total Expenses	\$ 1,382,073	\$ 1,419,635	\$ 1,430,332
Impairment Loss			78,747
<b>Total Expenses and Losses</b>	<b>\$ 1,382,073</b>	<b>\$ 1,419,635</b>	<b>\$ 1,509,079</b>
<b>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ (74,901)</b>	<b>\$ 1,080,334</b>	<b>\$ 117,872</b>

**Statement of Activities – U.S. (cont.)**

	Year Ended January 31, 2016	Year Ended January 31, 2017	Year Ended January 31, 2018
<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>			
Congregations	\$ 39,143	\$ 47,298	\$ 35,944
LCEF Operating Results	46,449	51,523	52,612
Other	29,461	16,408	864
Income on Long-Term Investments	(1,448)	12,497	30,361
Change in Value of SIA	876	1,343	1,661
Net Assets Released from Restriction	(116,606)	(124,040)	(143,877)
<b>Change in Temp. Restr. Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ (2,125)</b>	<b>\$ 5,029</b>	<b>\$ (22,435)</b>
<b>Permanently Restricted</b>			
Gifts	\$ 8,390	\$ 4,521	\$ 15,202
<b>Change in Perm. Restr. Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 8,390</b>	<b>\$ 4,521</b>	<b>\$ 15,202</b>
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ (68,636)</b>	<b>\$ 1,089,884</b>	<b>\$ 110,639</b>

**English District - LCMS  
Canada  
Statement of Financial Position  
January 31, 2016, 2017, 2018**

	January 31, 2016	January 31, 2017	January 31, 2018
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash	\$ 164,852	\$ 160,248	\$ 139,171
Accounts Receivable	-	-	
Prepaid Expenses	-	-	2,673
Pledges Receivable	8,000	-	
Intercompany Due from U.S.	189,667	104,937	21,648
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 362,519</b>	<b>\$ 265,185</b>	<b>\$ 163,492</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	\$ 35	\$ -	\$ -
Agencies and Pledges Payable	2,782	1,797	1,762
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 2,817</b>	<b>\$ 1,797</b>	<b>\$ 1,762</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>			
Undesignated	\$ 355,737	\$ 259,781	\$ 161,332
Temporarily Restricted	3,965	3,607	398
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 359,702</b>	<b>\$ 263,388</b>	<b>\$ 161,730</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 362,519</b>	<b>\$ 265,185</b>	<b>\$ 163,492</b>

**English District - LCMS  
Canada  
Statement of Activities  
For the Twelve Months Ending January 31, 2016, 2017, 2018**

	Year Ended January 31, 2016	Year Ended January 31, 2017	Year Ended January 31, 2018
<b>Unrestricted</b>			
District Congregations	\$ 127,740	\$ 91,867	\$ 81,567
Other Gifts	1,629	315	204
Income on Investments	156	161	145
Intercompany - Agreements with CCEF	17,919	16,031	19,445
Net Assets Released from Restriction	1,963	3,775	3,417
<b>Unrestricted Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 149,407</b>	<b>\$ 112,149</b>	<b>\$ 104,778</b>
<b>Expenses and Losses</b>			
Synod Pledge	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Missions	\$ 16,094	\$ 94,161	\$ 97,045
President's Office/Ecclesial	729	4,015	1,240
General/Finance Office	84,128	85,000	83,375
Conferences	-	3,744	1,567
Conventions	3,011	1,186	-
<b>Total Expenses and Losses</b>	<b>\$ 123,962</b>	<b>\$ 208,106</b>	<b>\$ 203,227</b>
<b>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 25,445</b>	<b>\$ (95,957)</b>	<b>\$ (98,449)</b>
<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>			
Congregations	\$ 2,319	\$ 3,417	\$ 208
Other Gifts	101	-	-
Net Assets Released from Restriction	(1,963)	(3,775)	(3,417)
<b>Change in Temp. Restr. Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 457</b>	<b>\$ (358)</b>	<b>\$ (3,209)</b>
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 25,902</b>	<b>\$ (96,315)</b>	<b>\$ (101,658)</b>

**English District - LCMS  
Canada Corporation (CCEF)  
Statement of Financial Position  
January 31, 2016, 2017, 2018**

	January 31, 2016	January 31, 2017	January 31, 2018
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash	\$ 193,626	\$ 107,627	\$ 83,655
Investments	1,250,000	1,811,730	1,222,373
Accrued Interest Receivable	133	352	336
Loans and Mortgages Receivable	305,138	173,532	684,678
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,748,897</b>	<b>\$ 2,093,241</b>	<b>\$ 1,991,042</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accrued Interest Payable	\$ 1,174	\$ 1,956	\$ 1,765
Accounts Payable	51	-	-
Investment Obligations			
Certificate of Deposit	731,527	1,121,724	1,044,488
Congregation Certificates	26,634	793	801
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 759,386</b>	<b>\$ 1,124,473</b>	<b>\$ 1,047,054</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 989,511</b>	<b>\$ 968,768</b>	<b>\$ 943,988</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,748,897</b>	<b>\$ 2,093,241</b>	<b>\$ 1,991,042</b>

**English District - LCMS  
Canada Corporation (CCEF)  
Statement of Activities  
For the Twelve Months Ending January 31, 2016, 2017, 2018**

	Year Ended January 31, 2016	Year Ended January 31, 2017	Year Ended January 31, 2018
<b>Revenue</b>			
Interest Income			
Loans	\$ 14,179	\$ 9,601	\$ 13,271
Cash and Investments	15,907	17,078	12,822
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 30,086</b>	<b>\$ 26,679</b>	<b>\$ 26,093</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Interest	\$ 15,899	\$ 21,188	\$ 21,842
Circuit Gatherings/Meetings	994	2,006	1,145
Office	1,197	508	309
Insurance	1,458	1,487	1,579
Accounting Services (LCEF)	4,849	4,457	4,730
Administration (English District)	17,919	16,031	19,445
Legal	509	984	641
Mission Grant	-	761	1,182
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 42,825</b>	<b>\$ 47,422</b>	<b>\$ 50,873</b>
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ (12,739)</b>	<b>\$ (20,743)</b>	<b>\$ (24,780)</b>

# LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

THE REV. DAVID THIELE

District Vice President – English District

*The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to support the Church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner of the LCMS, ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future.*

## **Organization Overview**

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is an organization that empowers ministry. Incorporated in 1978, LCEF continues a long history of extension fund service to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and its individual and corporate members. Through the dollars invested by thousands of individuals, congregations, schools, organizations and businesses, LCEF assists ministries with custom loans and ministry support services. Together, these partnerships have grown total assets to \$1.8 billion.

There are many ways to become a part of the LCEF ministry, collectively doing the work God has planned for us. 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 help put ministry in motion. VisionPath, Capital Funding Services (CFS) and Laborers For Christ (LFC) are examples of services offered to enhance and support ministries.

Bart Day serves as president/CEO and reports to a 12-member Board of Directors. LCEF employs some 110 people located in St. Louis and more than 50 employees in 30 member districts throughout the United States. The organization also counts on the service of hundreds of volunteers, such as Laborers For Christ and LCEF Advocates, to fulfill its mission.

In the national office, the investment processing area cares for nearly 60,000 LCEF investors, including individuals, LCMS ministries and entities, Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs), businesses and partner churches. LCEF's loan department serves LCMS ministries and Rostered Church Workers (RCW), providing customized loans including mortgages, construction loans and lines of credit. LCMS ministries connect to LCEF through their District Vice President (DVP), who works through the district office—they are a part of the Lutheran communities in which they serve. District Vice Presidents are supported by their district support staff as well as the national office staff in St. Louis.

## **Economic Overview**

During fiscal 2017, the economy continued its moderate growth trend with unemployment improving throughout the year due to strong jobs reports. After the surprise presidential election of Donald Trump in November 2016, interest rates climbed quickly and equities reached new records in reaction to anticipated policy changes such as tax reform, stimulus

packages, decreased regulations and the repeal of Obamacare. As of the end of June, the S&P index has risen nearly 14% since the November election in spite of the fact that Congress has not acted on the Trump agenda. Expectations for continued earnings growth—buoyed by strong employment, growing consumer and business confidence, housing demand and broad-based global growth—support the current valuations and prospects for additional growth into late 2017.

Improving economics has moved the U.S. out of the era of Quantitative Easing (QE). Rates have been increasing. At its December 2015 meeting, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) increased short-term rates by .25%, the first change since December 2008. Since then, the Federal Reserve has voted to increase rates by an additional .25% during each of the December 2016, March 2017 and June 2017 meetings. The prospects for another .25% increase during the December or January FED meeting are 78%.

From a market perspective, the three-year treasury rate (which correlates with the average term of LCEF's intermediate fixed-income portfolio) rose dramatically during the fiscal year from the post Brexit vote low in July 2016 of .71% to a high of 1.69% closing at 1.6% at the end of the fiscal year in June, 2017. The Federal Reserve continues to assure the markets that the return to a more normalized rate environment will be data driven, and it is expected that, unless inflation begins to increase at a faster pace, these adjustments will be gradual.

LCEF's investment portfolio is heavily weighted to fixed-income investments, and the rising rate environment, while providing increased yields over time, resulted in unrealized losses in its intermediate bond portfolio. To hedge against these losses, LCEF maintained a short duration approximating two years, and a longer-term portfolio of other investments that historically over time have proven to be non-correlated to rising interest rates. The good news during fiscal year 2017 is that the long-term portfolio generated market gains of \$6.0 million which offset in part the market value losses of \$10.55 million on the fixed income portfolio.

### **LCEF's Performance – Fiscal 2017 Highlights**

Against the backdrop of the economic overview provided above, during fiscal year 2017 (FY17), LCEF was blessed to serve the ministries of the LCMS and achieved or exceeded many of the financial targets and goals outlined in the prior year Ministry and Business Plan. LCEF ended the year with total assets reaching \$1.8 billion and achieved net income of \$8.8 million. Once again, LCEF was able to distribute operating results to the LCEF Districts and to the Synod and also made an allocation approximating \$1.2 million to the Kaleidoscope Fund – a granting initiative sponsored by LCEF.

Details of the financial performance for FY 2017 are listed below:

- The Ohio District CEF consolidated its operations with LCEF effective April 1, 2017.
- The South Dakota CEF decided to consolidate its operations with LCEF effective October 15, 2017, the third CEF district entry in the past two years.

- Total Assets increased \$31.1 million or 1.7% to \$1.839 billion since June 30, 2016, due to the entry of the Ohio District CEF.
- Management continued to maintain high levels of liquidity with cash and investments totaling \$317.2 million or 19.6% of notes and support dollars payables at June 30, 2017.
- Maintained a strong capital ratio of 11.7%, an increase of .4% when compared to the prior year.
- Cost of Funds (COF - the base from which loan rates are set) remained stable at 1.875% during the year, translating to very low-cost loans to organizations and Rostered Church Workers in FY 17.
- LCEF continued the multi-year increase in investors, achieving a net increase of 1,264 new investor relationships. This increase resulted from the entry of the Ohio CEF transferring 765 investors, the continued success of ConnectPlus and PartnerPlus term notes and the Young Investors (Y.I.) offering during the year.
- Loans receivable increased by \$70 million to a balance of \$1.5 billion.
- LCEF's loan disbursements were \$95.7 million higher than the prior year, totaling \$270.1 million which exceeded loan principal repayments by \$50 million, resulting in a reduction in short-term investments.
- During FY 2017, the delinquency rate increased to .7% from .4% the prior year, still a historically low level of delinquencies.
- Impaired loans decreased from \$129.8 million at June 30, 2016, to \$104.8 million at the end of FY 2017. Impaired loans include nonaccrual loans and loans for which LCEF has modified repayment terms from the terms included in the original loans agreements.
- Nonaccrual loans decreased to \$72.1 million compared with \$87.3 million at June 30, 2017. Associated interest reserves totaled \$900 thousand.
- The total allowance, as of June 30, 2017, totaled \$29.4 million or 1.96% of the loan portfolio, compared to \$37.3 million or 2.6% at June 30, 2016. The decrease in reserves represent write-offs associated with the resolution of certain specific impaired loans.

LCEF continues to be blessed by the strong support of its investors and the dedicated commitment of its borrowers. Because of this partnership, LCEF is well positioned to serve the ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod today and in the future.

### **Core Initiatives for Fiscal Year 2018**

As outlined in LCEF's Ministry and Business Plan for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018 – 2020, LCEF is focused on the following core initiatives:

- Prepare for and adapt to internal and external change as we embrace the evolving needs of our customers and adjust to new leadership within the organization.
- Develop a greater partnership with LCMS entities and Synod, Inc., building upon synergies and strengths of the organizations in support of ministries we commonly serve.

- Ensure continued financial and operational health of the enterprise, having resources available in support of ministries and partner churches of the LCMS today and in the future.

Based on its financial forecast for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, and in line with the core initiatives outlined above, LCEF expects:

- Total assets to decrease \$14.1 million, or .01% to \$1.825 billion.
- Liquidity to remain strong, maintaining a ratio approximating 19% of notes & support dollars payables.
- Net assets to increase to \$223.1 million representing a capital-to-asset ratio of 12.2%.
- Loans receivable to increase to \$1.522 billion.
- Notes and support dollars payables to decrease to \$1.593 billion.
- Net income to total \$8.9 million.
- Loan delinquencies to remain at a level below 1.75% and non-income producing assets, non-accrual loans and real estate to decrease by \$12.1 million.

Other objectives include:

- Following three years of planning and preparation, two of three regional operations centers have opened their doors in Minneapolis/St. Paul, which is serving as the operational hub for Central Region and Mission Viejo, California, which is now serving as the operational hub for the West Region.
- One additional regional center is scheduled to open during the coming fiscal year. The East Region office will complete the first major phase of the larger de-centralization efforts designed to increase and improve LCEF's ability to first discern and then respond to the continually evolving needs of our customers across the country.
- National loan staff will actively engage and interact with district and regional support networks. They will seek increased opportunities with the non-congregational borrowing base, and in conjunction with the Lutheran Federal Credit Union, will expand the Rostered Church Worker (RCW) Loan Program to states beyond the current 16 where LCEF is licensed.
- Marketing will engage with and support the regional and district offices to better understand their unique needs so it can properly support their ministry efforts.
- Marketing will update the website to reflect a blog-centric content strategy. Marketing will implement a strategy to retire and/or redefine the investor products ensuring LCEF's product line remains strong and relevant offering investors a complementary mix of demand and term products.
- Laborers For Christ (LFC) will complete a comprehensive study and re-design of its business model to reflect current sociological and economic realities with a focus on long-term sustainability.
- Capital Funding Services will develop a capital campaign strategy utilizing a team approach of individual 'experts' within various components of a campaign for conducting campaigns in larger churches.

- District and National Operations (DNO) will continue dialogue with other synodical agencies to develop operational models for the future that seek to leverage the LCEF regional structure.
- Loans will seek opportunities to network with other synodical agencies in conjunction with product development, customer support and loan promotion efforts, and will actively participate in district and nationally hosted events, taking advantage of opportunities for key sponsorships.
- Loans will explore strategic partnerships with LCMS entities and partner churches and expand relationships with Recognized Service Organizations and associations of LCMS elementary and high schools.
- Information Technology will connect where appropriate with LCMS entities to increase communications in the areas of cybersecurity, customer relationship management and vendor management.
- Facilities Management will leverage existing relationships with partners such as Foundry Commercial, LCEF's real estate partner, to assist entities and customers with maintenance and management of physical infrastructure, analyzing building operations and suggesting improvements and opportunities for savings.
- Benefiting from networking opportunities with the Concordia University System through the National Student Marketing Competition, Marketing will host a high school entrepreneur competition in the St. Louis area with a desire to have a nationwide program in the future. They will also organize networking events and mutual learning sessions with various LCMS entities.
- Ministry Support will consider partnering with the Office of National Mission (ONM) to develop a ministry geared to older LCMS members. In concert with the synodical stewardship group, Ministry Support will determine new stewardship opportunities for LCMS congregations.
- DNO will continue to place a strong emphasis on growing the roles of investing partners with the LCEF. Cultivation, development and ongoing maintenance of these investor relationships will drive lending activities for the foreseeable future.
- Loans will continue to work with impaired borrowers to return a significant portion of these loans to the active loan portfolio.
- Finance projects LCEF will achieve sufficient net income that will provide for distribution of operating results and contributions to the Kaleidoscope Fund. Finance will also expand awareness and focus of LCEF's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) process, ensuring accountability and engagement throughout the organization.

LCEF has truly been blessed with positive financial results, loyal support from its investors and faithful commitment from its borrowers. Through this support, LCEF has been able to meet the loan needs of ministries within the LCMS and maintain its strong financial position. LCEF once again distributed portions of its operating results to participating districts and the Synod along with ministry grants through the Kaleidoscope Fund. Management remains committed to supporting those ministries struggling financially, in a firm yet encouraging way, confident that God will provide a path for faithful ministries to continue to fulfill the mission of sharing the Gospel.

## **Investments**

Your investments make a difference!

- First and foremost, they help congregations and ministries across the LCMS to expand and grow in the sharing of the Gospel.
- Second, as the percentage of English District investors grow the potential for the amount the district receives from LCEF as an earnings distribution check increases. Over the last triennium the district received \$150,584. As of December 31, 2017, 1988 English District members have investments with LCEF. This is 6% of the communicant membership of the district. If the district can add 1,179 investors over the next triennium, the English District would have the highest percentage of investors of all the districts of synod. If every U.S. congregation added 10 new investors we could reach that goal.
- Finally, your investment with LCEF gives you a great return on your investment. Wise stewards always look for ways to put the resources the Lord has given them to work for God's purposes.

**English District Loan Committee Approved Loans**

The English District loan committee members are Ms. Sally Naglich, English District Treasurer; The Rev. Wayne Morton, Chair, English District Board of Directors; Mr. Paul Stanis, Peace, McMurray, PA; and The Rev. David Thiele, LCEF Vice President.

Holy Cross, Cleveland, OH – refinance existing loan plus new money for facility updates: \$204,040

Beautiful Savior, Lee’s Summit, MO – Pay off local bank loan: \$1,399,173

Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, MI – Refinance plus new money for repairs: \$376,141

Gloria Dei, Blue Bell, PA – Renovation/replace roof on chapel: \$55,000

Epic, Shelby Township, MI – Purchase existing church: \$373,000

Faith, Tucson, AZ – Refinance plus new money: \$43,976

Ascension, Tucson, AZ – Renovations: \$65,662

Ascension, Atlanta, GA – Renovations, refinance, repairs and updates: \$487,888

Trinity, Ocala, FL – Line of Credit: \$29,100

West Park Lutheran School, Cleveland, OH – Line of Credit: \$73,100

Shepherd of the Mountains, Pinetop, AZ – Addition to facilities: \$60,000

Prince of Peace, Mesquite, NV – Pay off commercial lender: \$197,835

Peace, O’Fallon, MO – refinance into 2 separate loans: \$598,593

Peace, O’Fallon, MO – refinance into 2 separate loans: \$152,515

Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI – Addition to current campus: \$6,822,257

Bethesda, Chicago, IL – Line of Credit: \$15,000

Good Shepherd, Toledo, OH – Refinance plus new money for roof repairs: \$105,027

**English District Program**

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
	Year End	Year End	Year End	Year-to-Date
	6/30/2015	6/30/2016	6/30/2017	2/28/2018
Notes & Support \$ Payable	33,535,807	35,002,130	37,961,668	35,302,414
Loans & Mortgages Receivable	30,304,620	23,637,740	26,065,001	27,816,226
Income-Producing Assets	35,548,410	35,775,829	38,831,125	36,239,841
Funds Available	7,455,171	7,889,562	9,046,866	5,635,953
Operating Income	177,350	73,626	167,295	127,529

From June, 2015 to February, 2018, Income-Producing Assets have increased by a net 2% and total Loans and Mortgages Receivable decreased by more than 8%. Operating Income decreased by a net 28% over that same period.

**Please visit the LCEF table in the Ministry Tent.**

## **EASTERN REGION**

### **THE REV. BEN C. EDER, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

At the last English District Convention in 2015, I was elected as the Vice President of the Eastern Region. In a subsequent vote at that same convention, I was elected as First Vice President of the district.

What does a vice president of the English District do? For that answer, I turned to the bylaws of our district: "The Vice-Presidents shall advise the President, serve as his representatives, and assist him in bringing to the Board of Directors any needed recommendations." - Article III C, "Officers"

Both formally and informally, I advise the District President: this is accomplished through phone calls, text messages, and meetings during Board of Directors sessions and other settings (often with other officers of the Presidium).

In my capacity as vice president, I have represented the District President in visiting congregations, circuits, and other gatherings of the Eastern Region and the English District in general. On one occasion, I represented the District President on behalf of the Synod. In addition, I have presided or participated in a few installations of pastors as well.

One of my primary responsibilities as VP is the planning and implementation of the annual Fall Regional Pastor's Conference. Traditionally, the conference is held in Ocean City, New Jersey, but on occasion will also meet at other locations. The conference is a time of theological reflection, fellowship, and recreation (enjoying the amenities of the beach & locality).

A few months after my election in 2015, my wife Linda was discovered to have cancer. The next nine months included surgery and treatments. I am pleased and gratified to say that, by the grace of God in Christ, she has been cancer-free since her surgery (December, 2015). Please join me in prayer for her continued health and well-being.

Early in my term, I also paid a few visits to Hope Community Lutheran Church in Syracuse, New York, a Liberian congregation. During that time I preached at the congregation and visited the wife of Pastor Emmanuel Nyema, Helen Nyema, who was seriously ill in the hospital. Her subsequent funeral was a time of sorrow but also hope in the Resurrection. The ministry at Hope is now ably carried out by Circuit Visitor Dwayne Hendricks (Nazareth Lutheran Church, Buffalo) along with strong lay leadership there.

It was also my pleasure to preside at the installation of Derek Mathers as Assistant to the President/Mission Executive of the English District. Derek has proven to be a compassionate pastor, innovative thinker, and able administrator in support of the district's ministries and endeavors.

Finally, I would like to thank District President and Bishop Jamison Hardy for his friendship and support; the other vice presidents of the district for the same (Rob Rogers, Jeffrey Miskus, and Todd Arnold); and all of the pastors, circuit visitors, and dedicated lay people of the Eastern Region and English District who continue to support me with their assistance and prayers.

### **NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY CIRCUIT #1**

*The Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt, Circuit Visitor*

There's never a dull moment in the New York circuit. Since 2015, we've had several pastors enter and leave the circuit. God has blessed Martin Luther Chapel in Pennsauken, NJ, which had been without a regularly called pastor since the departure of Pastor Larry Vogel in 2008, with Pastor Robert Bruggeman. Following the departure of Pastor Ron Rieger in 2017, God blessed Trinity in Scarsdale, NY, with Pastor Gordon Naumann. In January 2018, we bid farewell to Pastor Fred Gerlach after more than 12 years of faithful service at Bethany, in Ewing, NJ. We wish Pastor Gerlach well in his new congregation, Family of Christ in Phoenix, AZ.

About half the congregations in the New York circuit are served by part-time pastors. The mobility and relatively high turnover rate of parishioners, augmented by migration from our region to regions with lower costs of living, make this a challenging environment for pastoral ministry and congregational life. We are nevertheless encouraged by the good gifts God lavishes on us daily. Amid the anxiety and competition endemic in many of our communities, our congregations model life without fear, knowing that we are the Lord's and that nothing can separate us from His love. We walk in faith, nourished by Word and Sacrament, and look forward to what God has in store for us in the years to come.

**Bethany, Ewing, NJ –**

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

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

**Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ –** The Rev. Robert Bruggeman

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

**New Jersey Cho Won Korean, Palisades Park, NJ –** The Rev. Philip Sangcho Rey

**Our Saviour, Valley Stream, NY –**

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

**Trinity, Scarsdale, NY –** The Rev. Gordon Naumann

## **PHILADELPHIA CIRCUIT #2**

*The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, Circuit Visitor*

Circuit #2 (Philadelphia) has seven congregations: three in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, three in South Central Pennsylvania, 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**

Calvary is where Christ's teachings and gifts are found in Pennsylvania's Capital Region. Proximity to state and federal governmental institutions brings individuals into its fellowship, even if only for a short time. This brings some challenges, but the congregation can provide stability and familiarity for these individuals who gather with fellow LCMS Lutherans.

Human care efforts continue to be an important aspect of the congregation's ministry. 2017 marked the seventh year of free clothing distributions being held three times annually. The Operation Barnabas Committee collects items for the Lebanon VA Medical Center, provides health and school kits for area homeless female veterans and children, and facilitates a monthly MilitaryShare food distribution. Calvary also supports local mission endeavors, sponsoring Concordia Lutheran Mission in Myerstown and Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries.

Former pastor, Rev. Thomas Kraus, died in November 2016. A vacancy in the church musician position currently exists; members have used their talents to help during the interim. A parishioner, Brett Witmer, is currently enrolled in his second year of seminary. A building enhancement and renovation project is in the initial planning stage.

Calvary looks forward to the opportunities that the next triennium will bring.

### **Faith, Chesapeake, VA – The Rev. Christian Morales**

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

**Gloria Dei, East Berlin, PA – The Rev. Robert Nemoyer, Vacancy Pastor**

**Grace, Warminster, PA – The Rev. David Young**

**Mt. Calvary, Lititz, PA – The Rev. Adam Koontz**

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

St. John has been blessed by the Lord with steady growth in membership and attendance. 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 began weekly Divine Services in January of 2017.

### **FLORIDA CIRCUIT #3**

*The Rev. William Douthwaite, III, Circuit Visitor*

**Celebration, Saint John's, FL** – The Rev. Steven De Santo, Intentional Interim Celebration spent the last half of 2017 taking a hard look at where we are and where we need to be as God's Church in this place. We have centralized our focus on evangelism, turning from an inward mentality to one that seeks the needs of the community in both temporal and eternal ways. In order to assist us in accomplishing this objective, we had Rev. Dave Thiele, English District LCEF Vice President, spend some time with us in December to review the results of the MissionInsite demographic study for our area. His presentation provided us with valuable demographic data and practical suggestions for reaching our community. We were also blessed to be able to move from there to the re:Vitaliy workshop *Connect to Disciple* with Rev. Derek Mathers as our facilitator. We are working together to put these practices into action as we go through the season of Lent. Once we have identified the outreach projects that we want to start with, we will be going through the Every One His Witness program with the congregation so that we can be prepared to share the Gospel with those who attend our outreach events and with those we encounter as we go about our daily walk. We have a motto now that is commonly used in conversation, "It's all about discipleship." All in all, these are exciting times here at Celebration.

**Faith, Naples, FL** – The Rev. Donald E. Treglown, The Rev. Samuel Maconachy and The Rev. Bradford W. Hildebrandt

Faith Lutheran Church in Naples, FL has come a long way since October 6, 1985. Since our 30th anniversary celebration in 2015, a lot has happened. We had the funeral service for a true servant of the Lord – Rev. Martin Lundi on July 16, 2016. Shortly after, we called Rev. Samuel Maconachy from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to serve as associate pastor and then Rev. Brad Hildebrandt to serve as assistant pastor. Faith has been a thriving congregation and has grown from the original group of 51 to a current membership of 700. We saw the real purpose of Faith in action during Hurricane Irma. The next day after we got hit hard, September 11, 2017, saw us open our church doors ready to handle many victims of the hurricane. For two weeks, we served thousands in the community with Christ's Love.

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

After twenty-three years of ministry, we closed our Open Arms Preschool, which opened the door for new mission opportunities. We have revived our youth ministry, activated a chapter of Operation Barnabas, and have welcomed boy scouts and girl scouts onto our campus. A Russian/Ukrainian church and a Hispanic church share our campus for worship on Sunday afternoons. We have resumed support for the Good News Club at a local elementary school, provide basic car maintenance for single women and moms three times a year, and have established a Lutheran Emergency Response Team for our part of Florida. A number of clergy have discovered and retired to this quiet corner of the state and provide valuable support for worship, Bible classes and music.

**Tree of Life, Inverness, FL –**

Intentional interim Pastor Karl Koch has finished his six-month assignment helping this small congregation establish itself in the community. They partnered with volunteer dentists and hygienists to provide dental care for the homeless and veterans in their area. Working with other organizations, they are able to feed several hundred in the community each Thanksgiving.

**Trinity, Ocala, FL – The Rev. Myron Mader**

In the past triennium, in spite of Trinity Lutheran Church transferring a large amount of their members from the church militant into the church triumphant, we have managed to gain more members. Not only has this enriched our resources for the church but has also enabled us to have special offerings for missions and Lutheran World Relief and Human Care.

**GEORGIA CIRCUIT #4**

*The Rev. David Miller, Circuit Visitor*

**Ascension, Atlanta, GA – The Rev. David Miller**

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

**BUFFALO CIRCUIT #5**

*The Rev. Dwayne Hendricks, Circuit Visitor*

Circuit #5 meets monthly for one hour at one of our congregations. During that hour we study God's word and relate that to our ministries, and we share our joys and frustrations. It is a fruitful hour and beneficial for me especially as one just beginning down the road of ministry, to rely on the wisdom of those who have fought the battles and beaten through the bushes.

Overall, I would report that our circuit is a positive one, one in which we build ourselves up and encourage one another. There are no quarrels or divisions among us so deep that one cannot overcome through simple dialogue.

**Calvary, Amherst, NY – The Rev. Karl Schmidt**

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

Hope Community Lutheran Church in Syracuse, NY currently receives the Holy sacrament and divine worship from a visiting pastor, Rev. Dwayne Hendricks, on every first Sunday of the month.

After the death of Deacon Emmanuel Nyema's wife, he relocated to Rhode Island with his family which caused a dramatic decline in the congregation's membership.

Hope Community, being the only LCMS congregation in Syracuse, NY, strives to keep the spirit of LCMS alive in this area. The congregation is blessed by Missio Church, a non-denominational congregation that offers its building to Hope for services and meetings free of charge.

It is by the grace of God and the kind hearts of Missio Church members that Hope still exists as a Lutheran congregation in Syracuse.

The members of Hope are new immigrants from Liberia who find interest in the LCMS teaching and worship and chose to become a member of English District - LCMS.

The future plan of Hope is:

- To grow its membership through evangelism
- To restart the feeding project of the homeless shelter
- To increase the outreach effort by engaging the community

Hope Community Lutheran Church wants to thank God, Pastor Dwayne Hendricks and every one of you for your support.

**Nazareth, Buffalo, NY** – The Rev. Dwayne Hendricks

Rev. Dwayne Hendricks has been serving Nazareth since July of 2013. Since then this congregation has seen an influx of new members and the dawn of new programs and activities.

**Pilgrim, Kenmore, NY** – The Rev. Ben Eder

Pilgrim Lutheran Church is located in Kenmore, a first-ring suburb of Buffalo, NY. The congregation was founded in 1922 and observed her 95th anniversary in 2017. Pilgrim has been marked by long pastorates – only six pastors have served in that time. The current pastor, Rev. Ben Eder, will celebrate his 25th anniversary as pastor of Pilgrim in June, 2018. The make-up of Pilgrim has changed considerably over the years: we are trending younger, have several small children, and are about 10% African American (one member is originally from South Sudan). We also host a monthly community dinner which is well attended by people in the neighborhood. By God's grace, Pilgrim continues to flourish where God has planted us.

**Redeemer, North Tonawanda, NY** – The Rev. David Beutel

**Trinity, Erie, PA** – The Rev. Travis Schmidt

In June of 2017 Rev. Travis Schmidt was installed at Trinity Lutheran Church. This new pastor was a blessing to the people of Trinity ending an extended vacancy.

## **PITTSBURGH CIRCUIT #6**

*The Rev. Brian Westgate, Circuit Visitor*

Greetings from Pittsburgh! Much has changed yet much has stayed the same in Pittsburgh during the last triennium. We continue to faithfully preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments, but many of the faces have changed. A few of these changes were put in motion at the 2015 District Convention when Pastor Hardy was elected president/bishop. Dr. Jonathan Naumann was elected Circuit Visitor at that same convention, but when he accepted a missionary call in 2016, Bishop Hardy appointed Pastor Brian Westgate to be circuit visitor for the remainder of the term. We are most happy to host two of our district's campus ministries!

Here are the reports of the congregations, including one of our district's newest congregations!

### **All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA** – The Rev. Larry Loree, Jr. and The Rev. Todd Seaver

After many years of faithful service, Pastor Mike Scheer accepted a call to Concordia University in Portland. We give God thanks for his service. He was succeeded in office by Pastor Larry Loree, Jr. in May 2016, who is assisted by Pastor Todd Seaver (installed in July 2016). The congregation celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October 2017, and has formed a Long Range Planning Committee to consider entering a building project to expand their church and student center, which neighbors Slippery Rock University, in order to expand and improve their ministry to the students, which include many international students and students from nearby Grove City College. We give God much thanks for the many faithful years of continued service by Mrs. Augusta Mennell in campus ministry.

### **Faith, Butler, PA** – Served by The Rev. Barry Keurulainen

Early in the triennium, the saints at Faith rejoiced when they were able to pay off the mortgage from the new roof. After five years of faithful service, Pastor Westgate accepted the call to Redeemer, Oakmont in July 2016. Faith is now served out of St. Luke, Cabot, PA by her senior pastor, Pastor Barry Keurulainen. He was assisted from December 2016 to November 2017 by Vicar Dagan Siepert from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.

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

First Trinity (founded as the First German Evangelical-Lutheran Congregation of Pittsburgh) is one of the newest congregations in our district, having transferred in from the Eastern District during 2016. She is located in Pittsburgh's Shadyside neighborhood, next door to the Oakland neighborhood, and very near many of Pittsburgh's universities. The parish pastor is Pastor Douglas Spittel, and the campus pastor is Pastor Eric Andrae. Both have served this parish faithfully for many years. First Trinity hosts many missions and ministries. Besides campus ministry, there is blind ministry, homeless ministry, deaf ministry (just started!), English as a Second Language, and flute lessons. The parish hosts meetings of the Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference and Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries, and also frequently hosts the Pittsburgh-area annual Reformation Festival Service. Pastor Spittel also serves on the Board of Directors of Concordia Lutheran Ministries and as the Urban Ministries Director and Treasurer of

Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries. He is also Treasurer of the Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference. Pastor Andræ is involved in studies of both the German Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Swedish Bishop Bo Giertz, and he is also heavily involved in campus life

**Peace, McMurray, PA** – The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy

Peace Lutheran Church gives God thanks for the continued faithful service of her (senior) pastor, Bishop Hardy. She also gives thanks for the service of Pastor Eric Carlson, who came at the beginning of Advent 2015 and in fall of 2017 accepted the divine call to St. John's, Hannibal, MO. Pastor Spittel is assisting Pastor Hardy as Vacancy Pastor. The congregation's ladies are active in the district's local LWML zone, including Mrs. Jan Simmons, who is English District LWML president. The congregation is also proudly involved with the district, as she hosts the Bishop's home office as well as the office of his administrative assistant, and long-time faithful secretary, Mrs. Kathy Stanis. The parish is also involved with Visual Faith Ministry, and another member, Mr. Paul Stanis, has been providing financial services to congregations.

**Redeemer, Oakmont, PA** – The Rev. Brian Westgate

Redeemer continues her missional focus through the support of Redeemer Lutheran School. Preschool classes are held at the church site, and classes from preschool through grade 12 take place at the Penn Hills campus. We give thanks for the service of our administrator, Mrs. Gail Holzer, and the faculty. In 2015, Assistant Pastor Edward Naumann received his doctorate and accepted a call to serve as a missionary to Sri Lanka and India. The following year his parents, Pastor Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann received calls to serve as missionaries in Latin America. After a short vacancy, during which they were served by Pastor Douglas Spittel from First Trinity Church in Pittsburgh, Pastor Brian Westgate accepted the call to serve as pastor of the English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer of Oakmont and Verona. The parish also hosted the Pittsburgh-area Reformation service in 2016. The organ console was renovated in 2017. Many of the women are active in the LWML; Pastor Westgate is zone counselor. Many parishioners have also been involved with Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries, of which Pastor Westgate is president and English District representative. He is also secretary of the Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference.

## LAKE ERIE REGION

### THE REV. JEFFREY MISKUS, FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT

#### ***Jonah 4:7b "...God appointed a worm..." ESV***

It has been a great honour to serve our beloved English District as 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President. Unlike the other VPs, I was appointed to the position when it became vacant early in the triennium – hence the verse from Jonah became my own. I thank our President Bishop Jamison Hardy for appointing me to this position and for the opportunity he gave me to serve you all.

The Lake Erie Region has a total of 56 congregations scattered throughout Ontario (Canada), Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and one congregation in Kentucky.

During this last triennium I have attended our quarterly Board of Directors meetings and have had the privilege of leading the devotions at one of those meetings. It has been a great blessing to visit the many English District congregations where we held our board meetings.

Being a Vice President also gave me the opportunity to sit on the presidium and advise the President Bishop on some of his more challenging tasks. I was truly thankful for the grace and wisdom of the men you elected as Vice Presidents to serve the District and the President. These men care deeply about God's Church and the pastors that shepherd her. They give very generously of their time and talent to the District and are devoted to their congregations as well.

As VP I have also been blessed to lead the team that organizes and runs the Lake Erie Pastor's Conference (LEPC) in Port Clinton, Ohio every October. I praise the LORD for everyone on that committee that gives of their valuable time and effort to put together a great event full of fellowship and education. I'm thinking of Rev's Roger Ellis, Pete Mealwitz, Chris Just, Chris Toma, David Rutter, and Jim Elsner. Both Jim and Chris (Just) are moving on to other areas of service next year. I would like to thank them for their selfless service to the LEPC in organizing the annual conference gatherings. If you have ever done such a task you know what a difficult and thankless task it can be.

I also sit as secretary of the Canada Corporation - Canadian Church Extension Fund of our English District. I have been a part of this board for the past 10 years. We are thankful to God for the leadership of Stu Kahle, our chair for the past nine years. Stu has been a great servant to the board and the District, and we will miss his leadership and devotion.

I continue to serve along-side our Circuit Visitor Rev. Stephen Alles – helping with the vacant congregations in the Toronto area especially in the call process. Stephen has been a faithful and devoted Circuit Visitor for the past nine years. We thank him for his many hours of travel from the Ottawa area down to the other areas of our large circuit to care for brothers and congregations in need.

Finally it was a great honour to install Rev. James Leistico at Peace, Windsor, my home congregation (where I grew up) and then to ordain Rev. Dr. Matthias Benfey at my own congregation St. Mark, Mississauga. These were unexpected joys in my ministry!

### **CANADA EAST CIRCUIT #7**

*The Rev. Stephen Alles, Circuit Visitor*

I have been a pastor in the English District for 15 years now and nine of those years have been spent serving as the circuit visitor/counsellor for the Canada East circuit. It has been a privilege to serve in this capacity for these years. I feel now it is time to step aside and focus on the parish. I'm thankful that Rev. Dr. Dusan Toth, after being unanimously voted to succeed me as circuit visitor, has agreed to serve upon ratification at the convention. With his wealth of pastoral experience and energetic personality he is going to do a great job. I feel that his location in the Toronto area will also be beneficial for our circuit. The one frustration I had in my role as circuit visitor was the inability to do more because of the distance between the congregations in the Toronto area and the upper Ottawa Valley.

As I leave the work of the circuit visitor there are a couple of things I would like to say about my time spent in this capacity. I believe that we have a great district and Synod with strong leadership on all levels. We have dedicated bishops and presidents and vice presidents that are well grounded in the word of God and the confessions of the church. Over the years, I witnessed dedicated servants working on various committees and boards. After spending the first half of my ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, it is refreshing to be connected to a church body that stands firm on the truths of God's word. I would also like to say how good it is to be in such a diverse circuit. We have pastors from all parts of the world: Korea, Sudan, Slovakia, China, the United States and even a few Canadians. Despite the diverse backgrounds we really do function as brothers in the faith.

Since the last district convention our circuit has welcomed Pastors Philip Gai and Matthias Benfey at St. Mark, Mississauga and Pastor Richard Klein at St. John, Germanicus. Pastor Jeff Kunsman has moved from lead pastor at St. Luke, Toronto to pastor emeritus on January 1, 2018. We have said farewell to Pastor Kevin Klein who accepted a special call from the English District as Special Assistant to the President for Church Relations in Washington D.C.

May God continue to bless our district as we move forward in faith and may we continue to see God's gracious hand at work.

**Christ, Aurora, ON** – Served by The Rev. J. Derek Mathers, The Rev. Jung Hun Park and The Rev. Gregory Lutz

**St. John's, Golden Lake, ON** – The Rev. Richard Klein

**St. John's, Pembroke, ON** – The Rev. Stephen Alles

**St. Luke, North York, ON** – The Rev. J. Derek Mathers, The Rev. Jung Hun Park & The Rev. Gregory Lutz

**Unity Within Diversity** - At the entrance to The Church of St. Luke on a warm day, 23 flags flutter and greetings in several languages fill the air. “Salam, ann-yeong-hase-yo, how are you, nihao, vitajte.” The flags and the people entering represent Canada as well as the USA and multiple European, Asian and African heritages. Diverse members of different backgrounds attend different language worship services.

**The English Language Service** is conducted in traditional worship, highlighting Word and Sacrament.

There is a uniqueness in the **Farsi (Persian) Language Service**. Most Persian members have never experienced Christian culture because they have grown up in an Islamic culture. However, they are very joyful, worshipping for more than two hours. They sing a hymn, followed by an individual praying eagerly. This is repeated several times in the service. The Word of God is shared in English by one of our pastors through an interpreter. Even though I do not understand the Farsi language, I know God is present. I can see God’s work and grace in the baptism of these people, which takes place three or more times a year. From July 2015 through May 2018, 127 adults and 26 children were baptized at St. Luke.

People attending the **Korean Language Service** are mostly young students. After the worship service, we enjoy a Korean-style dinner together, share our lives in depth, and take a moment to pray for each other. By doing so, we can feel a deep sense of closeness to one another.

Anyone attending the **Slovak Language Service** hears our Slovakian Pastor Toth chanting with his beautiful voice. Again, I do not understand the Slovak language, but I can still participate in the worship, singing along with him by humming and responding with “Amen”.

**Unity** - St. Luke is a diverse church with various groups, different ages, and different languages functioning together in one community.

How can we say that it is one community? Because we share one common confession. The community confesses that only by God’s grace and faith through Jesus Christ, we may be saved. The community confesses that we become God’s children in baptism and experience God’s grace through the sacrament. Because of this confession, we are one in Jesus. It is all His work in us!

St. Luke’s vision statement says, “Jesus is the centre of life for everyone in our community.” Because of Jesus, we are His people with unity within diversity.

**St. Mark, Mississauga, ON** – The Rev. Jeffrey Miskus, The Rev. Philip Gai, The Rev. Young Chol (Isaac) Choi & The Rev. Dr. Matthias Benfey

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

## **CANADA WEST CIRCUIT #8**

*The Rev. Robert Voelker, Circuit Visitor*

Our circuit's six churches enjoy a vibrant camaraderie, with a regular schedule of pastor's winks. Change in leadership has been rare in the circuit, but in the last triennium most of the churches had a change in leadership and several new pastors and their families are being welcomed. We make an effort to work side-by-side with the congregations of the Lutheran Church – Canada in our area. All the churches individually enjoyed unique, healthy, and meaningful celebrations of the Reformation's 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017.

The circuit pastors' wives all serve with vitality, a right hand to their husbands, and an example and friend to the congregations: Sandra Voelker, Nyawech Makuach, Laura Leistico, Nancy Kirk, Julie Kouri, Julia Murray, Ruth Luck, and Teresa Lutz. Our pastors emeriti and their wives lend their share of wisdom, participation, and prayer to our circuit's vitality: Rev. Ted and Lucy Radke, Rev. Roger & Lynda Ellis, Rev. Ray & Nancy Kirk, Rev. Lou & Hattie Scholl, and Rev. Art & Carol Schiemann.

### **Gethsemane, Windsor, ON – The Rev. Robert Voelker & The Rev. Jordan Simon**

Under the leadership of Pastor Voelker and Pastor Simon, Gethsemane Lutheran celebrated 10 years of Sudanese ministry in 2017. The church brought the Lifetree Café discussion program to Windsor, which resulted in much dialog between local parishes. The Sunday school program grew, with several alumni of the Sunday school returning from long absences to enroll their children. The triennium also saw frank discussion of issues smoldering within and work toward resolving them. Gethsemane, with Canadian Lutheran World Relief, is the sponsor of a number of refugee families. In this triennium the church retired its mortgage and became debt-free for the first time since its inception.

### **Grace, Mitchell, ON – The Rev. Gerald Luck**

Grace continues to reach out to the people of northern Canada by sending a mission team to Weagamow Lake through the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots. Our monthly "Guys Community Breakfast" continues to draw men of all ages to a winning mix of bacon and the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our LWML ladies have just celebrated their 63rd year of servanthood with many of the founding members of the group still going strong.

This year we will be making upgrades to our heating system, improving accessibility to our worship space, and restrooms, improving our library and improving our worship space with some major audio-visual upgrades.

### **Hope, Kitchener, ON – The Rev. Raymond Kirk, Intentional Interim**

Hope Lutheran Church saw the retirement of Pastor Terry Hursh in this past triennium. During the senior pastor vacancy, they were served by Assistant Pastor William Chuol and Pastor Emeritus William Gillissee. Rev. Ray Kirk is currently serving as the interim pastor. The church has seen many examples of God's grace, especially in the struggle to manage the costs of an ambitious building expansion.

**Our Saviour's, Chatham, ON** – The Rev. Daniel Murray

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church enjoyed the entire triennium with a full-time pastor, Daniel Murray, a Michigan native, including the accompanying frustrations of settling his family in this country. The congregation's talented people connect with their small city in numerous effective ways, with Sunday school, preschool, drama, music, and service programs.

**Peace, Windsor, ON** – The Rev. James Leistico

Peace Lutheran Church faced a few changes over the past three years as they said goodbye to Rev. Greg Lutz, who accepted a call to serve as chaplain to the Canadian military, and then welcomed Rev. James Leistico from Illinois as their next pastor. In December 2017, the church family celebrated 75 years of God's unchanging grace. They continue to reach out to the community with a food bank and by offering their facilities to Alcoholics Anonymous and other community service groups.

**Redeemer, Sarnia, ON** – The Rev. Dr. Jason Kouri

Redeemer, Sarnia, saw the retirement of Pastor Roger Ellis after more than 35 years, and the installation of Pastor Jason Kouri, who left his full-time position as an army unit chaplain for the Royal Canadian Chaplain Service after having served for 11 years. He now serves as a part-time reserve chaplain and is adapting well to life as a parish pastor. Under new leadership, the congregation has re-examined priorities. It has created a worship committee to advise its board on needed changes and adaptations. The board and the congregation also adopted local guidelines for weddings, funerals, and baptisms that were drawn up by an *ad hoc* committee. The congregation is active in giving to missions, usually following the recommendations of a donation committee. By God's grace, the congregation paid off its mortgage. The congregation continues its ongoing effort to bring the Gospel to the community through various outreach activities. It held a mission festival, a showing of the New Luther movie at the local cinema, as well as other events and activities underlining the Reformation.

**CLEVELAND-AKRON CIRCUIT #9**

*The Rev. James Gau, Circuit Visitor*

**Concordia, Akron, OH** – The Rev. Robert Tauscher

**Epiphany, Northfield, OH** – The Rev. Dr. Christian Just

**Fairlawn, Fairlawn, OH** – The Rev. James Gau & The Rev. Adam Thompson

**Good Shepherd, Akron, OH** – Vacant

**Grace, Fairlawn, OH** – The Rev. Peter Mills

**Mt. Olive, Cleveland Heights, OH** – Served by The Rev. Michael Taylor

**St. Thomas, Streetsboro, OH** – The Rev. Dr. Christian Just

## **CLEVELAND-WEST CIRCUIT #10**

*The Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer, Circuit Visitor*

We had a farewell dinner for Pastor Tony Appel in November of 2015 before he followed God's calling to a congregation in the Chicagoland area. The Rev. Patrick Henry has done a delightful job as the interim pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church in North Olmsted, Ohio since 2016.

We had a farewell dinner for Pastor Ryan Beffrey in May of 2017 before he followed God's calling to a congregation in western Michigan.

In November of 2016 Rev. Josh Moldenhauer was appointed to be the new circuit visitor, replacing Rev. Michael Taylor. In August of 2017 Rev. Michael Scheer was installed as the new interim pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Cleveland, Ohio by Rev. Bob Fitzpatrick – who had been his pastor growing up.

In August of 2017 the Cleveland East and West circuits held a combined meeting with Bishop Hardy to begin discussing the decline of area congregations and ideas for improvement. That led to a combined circuit forum in October of 2017 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Cleveland. The speaker was Pastor Jeff Stephens who spoke about revitalizing our congregations.

**Ascension, North Olmsted, OH –**

**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. In the 2015-2018 triennium the church has seen a slight decline in membership and average Sunday worship attendance. We have been working on becoming a healthier congregation.

The vision for our church has been "Growing in God's Word we are becoming Christ's family who truly cares about one another and our community." In the church narthex we have a mural of a tree with this vision statement above it. The leaves on the tree have pictures or paragraphs describing examples of when God has recently been accomplishing that vision through us. It includes things like hosting and supporting foreign missionaries, serving at the local food bank (community center), hosting lunch at the local Senior Enrichment Services center, passing out free snacks (with our church info) during the summer Concerts in the Park, Oberlin Family Fun Fest, and trick-or-treating. We've set up and advertised an email address ([gracepraysforyou@gmail.com](mailto:gracepraysforyou@gmail.com)) for people in our community to send their prayer requests to, which are then passed along to our Prayer Chain. Our annual Live Nativity presentation moved to a new location (St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Vermilion) where it is thriving. We are working to restart a campus ministry at Oberlin College by sending out care packages at the beginning of each semester and hosting a lunch during Fall and Spring Breaks. Attendance at Pastor's Sunday morning adult Bible class has doubled.

These are just some of the ways we've been growing in God's Word and through which Christ is transforming us into His caring family.

**Holy Cross, Cleveland, OH** – The Rev. Michael Scheer, Intentional Interim

Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School is an older congregation located in the West Park area of Cleveland. The school runs from pre-school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and currently totals about 70 students. The school is the primary ministry of the congregation, along with a food bank which provides food and other items to approximately 30 to 40 families on the first Saturday of every month. This is a time of transition for the congregation and the people are excited about the direction that God is leading us to reach into the community through the school by providing a quality education and other services that will support the students and their families, all for the sake of the Gospel. For as Christ Himself declares, "When you have done it to one of the least of these, you have done it to me." *Soli Deo Gloria*

**Iglesia, Cleveland, OH** – Served by Deacon Adam Torres

**Prince of Peace, Medina, OH** – The Rev. Daniel Haberkost

Our congregation continues to support mission work both at home and abroad. We were able to raise funds to provide a vehicle for Rev. Alex Gordon of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. Rev. Gordon serves three or four churches as well as two orphanages. Our youth will be going to McDowell County, West Virginia to serve the Appalachian population in the Name of Christ. We supported both a college missionary to Podgorica, Montenegro as well as two of our members who went to Kisumu, Kenya for an eyeglass mission. Our Thrivent Builds team served in St. Tammany, Alabama this last fall. We were blessed to host the Board of Directors meeting of our English District in November 2017.

**DETROIT-SOUTH CIRCUIT #11**

*The Rev. Bradford Scott, Circuit Visitor*

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

During the past triennium, Angelica has, with God's help, begun to confront and resolve some challenges which could have threatened our future, both spiritually and legally. The elders have begun a study of the book "Built on the Rock" by Ted Kober. The church is also gradually working on updating its Constitution and Bylaws. Other highlights include hosting the Detroit Circuits' Reformation 499 Festival Service in November 2016 and hosting Re:Vitality and Every One His Witness workshops in early 2017.

**Christ Our Redeemer, Allen Park, MI** – Served by The Rev. Mark Raitz

Christ Our Redeemer is a small English District congregation that was chartered on June 23, 2013 in Rockwood, Michigan. It is served by the Rev. Mark Raitz since January 20, 2006. On February 15, 2016 we celebrated our 10 year anniversary. A significant change happened

November 1, 2015 when we were able to purchase and move into a church building in Allen Park, Michigan.

Christ Our Redeemer's mission is to "Preach, Teach, and Live the Wisdom of the Cross and Glory of Christ." John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18.

The congregation held its first Vacation Bible School in 2017. We were blessed to have several neighborhood children attend as well as the grandchildren of several members. We have held several rummage sales at the church, bringing in some of our neighbors. We have also hosted "Trunk or Treat" events the past few years, providing hot dogs and hot chocolate to the children and parents in the neighborhood. It was a great success and a wonderful time to witness to the parents.

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

Christ the King Church and Preschool continues to give God thanks and praise for the opportunities He provides to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the Grosse Pointe community. The congregation celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2017 with three Festival Services, the largest which was held in July and hosted a celebratory picnic on the church grounds. Our preschool has a present enrollment of approximately 43 students. A study is underway for the provision of an outdoor play area, which will hopefully permit the preschool to open a full-day class experience for our children. We are presently limited to half-day programs. Mrs. Sharon Ziegler is our preschool director-teacher, and she is assisted by Mrs. Jackie Cecchini. During the past three years, Christ the King has celebrated 15 baptisms, 8 marriages, and 6 youth confirmations. Twenty-two faithful departed were commended to our Living Lord in Christian burial.

Changing demographics, economic challenges and a continued migration of members to Macomb County have continued to impact our ministry. Our present worship attendance is approximately 100-130 worshipers each week, with two Divine Services held Sunday and one service on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Mr. Bruce Sininger is our organist/choir director, and has served us now for 25 years. For over 13 years our church has participated in providing bi-weekly chapel services for the residents of Sunrise Assisted Living in Grosse Pointe Woods. A highlight each December is Christ the King's Living Nativity, a celebration of our Lord's birth which is always greatly anticipated by our neighbors and members of our community.

Our congregation continues to labor under a heavy mortgage which was incurred when the congregation experienced an embezzlement some years ago. We bless God that this mortgage has been reduced by His provision and the hard work of our people from approximately 2.3 million dollars to our present balance of just over \$800,000. A small but diligent group of volunteers from our congregation have continued to labor for over 13 consecutive years...far, far above and beyond their normal duties through participation in a non-profit fundraising program at Little Caesar's Arena. Through this program, extra funds are earned yearly to assist with the repair and upkeep of our beautiful but aging facility. Pastor

Randy Boelter has served the congregation since 1985, and was called as senior pastor in 1994. We continue to look to our God and Savior for all that we need spiritually and materially to accomplish the work which He has entrusted to us. With the Holy Writer, we continue to look heavenward in these changing times as we labor for Jesus, and with faith declare: "Our Help is in the Name of the LORD."

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church continues her ministry under the gracious hand of our loving Triune God, who has continued to bless our life together around His proclaimed Word and the distribution of His Holy Sacraments. After several years of having to recruit substitute organists from outside the congregation on a week-to-week basis, our worship has been blessed with the addition of a regular organist, Karen Meyer, who transferred into the congregation in a recent move. The congregation enjoyed a count-down to the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Reformation, following the Divine Service with a special dinner. Several members and non-members take advantage of the opportunity to dig more deeply into the Word at Bible studies offered on Sunday and Wednesday mornings. Junior Catechism and Sunday school classes continue, with adult catechesis being offered as requested.

In the area of outreach, Good Shepherd continues to offer Vacation Bible School (free of charge) to the families of our community, but we are evaluating how we might be more effective in this effort. Several members are faithfully active in the Ohio District LWML, taking part in retreats, rallies, and their efforts to support the mission of the Church at large. The congregation offers its facilities to an AA group for their weekday meetings and has enjoyed the opportunity to cultivate those relationships. Finally, Good Shepherd is working to maintain and stabilize a Lutheran outreach to students at the University of Toledo, following the departure of Pr. Peter Burfeind (Holy Cross Lutheran) to serve Agnus Dei Lutheran in Marshall, Michigan. At this point, a Monday evening Bible study group has been formed, and we hope that plans for the future will take shape in the coming months.

Good Shepherd is grateful for help received in 2017 from LCEF, through which we obtained a low-cost building inspection. The inspection revealed that the facilities were, for the most part, in good condition, the big exception being an aging roof which (to no one's surprise) was badly in need of replacement. With the help of an LCEF loan, that has been accomplished.

For all these blessings and opportunities, and with prayers for His blessing and guidance in the years to come, Soli Deo Gloria!

**Holy Cross, Toledo, OH** –

Under the leadership of Rev. Peter Burfeind (and in partnership with the Synod's Domestic Missions outreach), Holy Cross Lutheran Church has labored over the past several years to convert to a campus ministry at the University of Toledo, with an emphasis on urban outreach to Toledo's Junction Avenue community, a work that has shown promise amidst many challenges. However, with Pastor Burfeind's departure to serve Agnus Dei Lutheran, Marshall, MI, and Our Savior Lutheran, Union City, MI, Holy Cross found it necessary to close. A closing

service was held on February 11, 2018, giving thanks and praise to God for His blessing to and through the ministry of Holy Cross over the past 88 years.

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

King of Glory Lutheran Church is a small congregation in Sylvania, Ohio, a suburb of Toledo. The congregation continues a ministry of Word and Sacrament founded in 1963. In 2013 we engaged in a year-long celebration of 50 years of ministry to our area. In 2016 we thanked Paul Schmidlin, M.Div. for his service to the church for 30 years, and in 2017 we burned our Lutheran Church Extension Fund mortgage. Our joy is in knowing that the burning of the mortgage frees funds for other English District purposes. King of Glory makes its facilities available to AA, TOPS, and Connecting Hands Adult Day Care. These last three years, we have been assisting our seminarian Adam Debner, continued helping several families through a community food pantry and our own emergency shelves, participated in community Thanksgiving and Christmas ministries, and assisted members with special needs. Soli Deo Gloria!

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

**Zion, Detroit, MI** – The Rev. Mark Braden

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit describes herself as a "fragile but lively inner-city congregation." Thanks be to the Lord of the Church and His sustaining hand, this continues to be true. Zion has continued over the last triennium to bring Christ and Him crucified and risen to the greater metro-Detroit region. We do so by maintaining a full liturgical calendar offering Sunday and mid-week Mass every week. During several seasons a year we celebrate Mass daily, and we enjoy the Divine Office of Matins five days a week and Vespers twice a week. The Zion men's and women's groups, several Bible classes each week, and regular opportunities for worship, catechesis and fellowship bring the saving Gospel and the Lord's Gifts to members and visitors alike. Zion is thankful that it has pleased the Lord to continue to bring new families into our midst. The congregation's multi-year initiative to tear down the urban blight around the church has borne fruit. The campus is now attractive, well-lit, and safe. Our annual St. Michael Liturgical Conference, which brings pastors from many other states and Canada to study the Lutheran theology and the Divine Liturgy, is in its 21st year. Zion has continued to support the work of missionaries by sending her pastor to Colombia, Bolivia, Argentina, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Spain to teach courses in Lutheran theology to pastors in the mission field. It is with great sadness that we see many Detroit area congregations around us closing, but 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 we give all glory, honor, thanks and praise.

## **DETROIT-NORTH CIRCUIT #12**

*The Rev. Daniel Grams, Circuit Visitor*

The pastors of the Detroit North Circuit meet jointly for winkels with the pastors of the Detroit South Circuit. In addition to regular winkels, over the last triennium the congregations of Detroit North & South have held joint Reformation services. The pastors, wives, and families have met for an annual Epiphany gathering and a picnic in the summer. God continues to bless the ministries of the congregations of Circuit #12. *Rev. Daniel Grams, Circuit Visitor*

### **Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI – The Rev. Daniel Grams**

Rev. Daniel Grams has served as Ascension's pastor since 2013.

The most significant ministry development for Ascension this triennium has been the establishment of Ascension Early Child Care Center. Under the leadership of Katrina Stewart, Program Director, Ascension's child care was officially licensed by the State of Michigan in November 2015. Since opening with just a handful of children, the center has grown to include up to 48 children ages 6 weeks to 6 years old, served by 23 full- and part-time staff. The child care center has allowed the pastor and members of Ascension to form relationships with families in the community, many of whom are not connected to Christian congregations. Three children have been baptized and several families are interested in becoming part of the body of Christ at Ascension. To God be the glory!

Additional highlights include:

- Retirement of the mortgage from the 1996 expansion, with thanks to the English District and LCEF for assistance during some very difficult years.
- *Together in Mission* partnership with Rev. Ted Krey and family in the Dominican Republic.
- Formation of relationship between Ascension Early Child Care Center and the Lutheran Preschool in Licey, Dominican Republic.

Ascension's challenges in the coming triennium are similar to those facing many other congregations including declining membership and an aging population. Nevertheless, the Lord's work continues through the preaching of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments.

### **Epic, Shelby Township, MI – The Rev. Timothy Kade**

Epic's ministry continues under the pastoral care of Rev. Timothy Kade. During the last triennium, Epic purchased and dedicated their own church building in Shelby Township. The congregation continues to be very active in their community.

**Grace, Redford, MI** – The Rev. Timothy Halboth, The Rev. Zachary Marklevitz & The Rev. Dr. Victor Halboth

The last three years at Grace Lutheran Church in Redford Twp., MI have been busy with many blessings! In 2016 the congregation welcomed a new assistant pastor, and they also celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of the congregation with a special service conducted by the pastoral staff with Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer of Concordia Seminary preaching. A catered luncheon in the fellowship hall followed the services.

We had the honor of hosting the Professional Church Workers Conference of the English District in 2017 and began a two-year project of parking lot repairs and completed a much needed new roof this past fall.

2018 started on a positive note as the Sacrament of Holy Baptism was bestowed upon four children in five weeks. A new member class is being formed in the spring with two families of the newly baptized joining. A new member welcome is organized for the spring once new member classes have been completed and letters of transfer have been received.

May the Lord of the Church continue to bless all congregations of our English District!

**Holy Redeemer, Sandusky, MI** –

Holy Redeemer continues a ministry of Word and Sacrament in rural Sandusky in the thumb region of Michigan. They are served by guest pastors.

**New Beginnings, West Branch, MI** –

New Beginnings continues a ministry of Word and Sacrament to the West Branch area of the northeast portion of the lower peninsula of Michigan. Their pastor, Noel Olse, accepted a call to LaPorte, Indiana. They are served by guest pastors.

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

Rev. David Rutter has served as pastor at St. Paul's since 1997.

Formed in 1925 by the Reverend A. H. Loeber of Messiah Lutheran Church, Detroit, St. Paul's continues with her seventh pastor currently serving in his twenty-first year reaching out to the community with the precious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The congregation supports two Sunday liturgical services, midweek Advent and Lenten Services, Thanksgiving Day, New Year's Day and Ascension Day Services, a Sunday Bible school program, and three weekly adult Bible classes. In addition, St. Paul's provides a small children's choir, a special needs program for adults, a midweek prayer service, a small lending library, a Thursday community food pantry, a monthly men's breakfast and Bible study, a monthly Women's Guild (LWML), a vibrant weekday preschool program, and operates a youth group jointly with a neighboring sister congregation, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Grosse Pointe Woods.

The congregation also supports POBLO as well as a child from Ethiopia, through Compassion International, and enjoys a good reputation in the community with its outreach programs — Pumpkin Party, Advent Tea, Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible School, and Preschool, which in 2017, led to twenty-one baptisms — eleven of whom were baptized in one service.

The pastor keeps busy with his family and serves as the congregation's organist, via the 2002 HP Palm Pilot.

Future plans include restoring the puppet evangelism program, as well as implementing in early 2018 the congregation's Board of Stewardship emphasis, "A Culture of Love and Caring." While there are plenty of challenges within and without the congregation's ministry, the Lord Jesus continues to provide and direct His people at St. Paul's, for which we are grateful and thankful.

**Shepherd King, West Bloomfield, MI** – The Rev. Timothy Holzerland  
Shepherd King has been served by Rev. Timothy Holzerland since 2007.

Shepherd King Preschool saw significant growth in the past three years. It has increased enrollment from 11 in 2015 to current enrollment of 31 students. All thanks go to our Lord Jesus Christ! The preschool has a new director, Pam Hughes, as well as one new teacher and two new aids for the growing program.

Shepherd King plans to implement, "Everyone His Witness" program in 2018. The congregation will also gather to explore future plans in the midst of a post-Christian society.

The demographics of the greater West Bloomfield area have two large populations. The first one is the 55-80 year olds and the second is 25-35 year old families with very young children. The lowest demographic is families with high school students.

The challenge for the congregation will be developing and training younger members to take on leadership positions in the congregation.

## **WESTERN MICHIGAN CIRCUIT #13**

*The Rev. Eric Forss, Circuit Visitor*

The Western Michigan Circuit is widely diverse. We serve a mix of urban, rural, and small town congregations. We have both large and small congregations. Some have Christian day schools and preschools; others focus on parish ministry. Some serve agricultural areas, others serve a largely commuter population, and still others serve both international and domestic university students in campus ministry.

During the last triennium, one of our congregations, Christ Lutheran Church, Lansing MI, reorganized itself to continue its service to Lansing's near-East side, becoming a satellite site of St. Luke Lutheran Church, Haslett, MI (Michigan District). Although it no longer operates as an independent congregation, Rev. Zerit Yohannes (formerly of the English District) continues to serve the people whom the Lord has gathered there. In many and various ways, our congregations strive to serve the many and varied people under our care with the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May God grant us continuing service in His name during the upcoming triennium.

### **Epiphany, Dorr, MI – The Rev. Ryan Beffrey**

Epiphany has seen tremendous change and growth in this past triennium. In 2016, Epiphany's pastor, the Rev. Jonathon Krenz, accepted a Call to plant a Lutheran congregation in Moscow, Idaho. In 2017, Epiphany extended a Call to the Rev. Ryan Beffrey, who accepted it and was installed on Pentecost.

As a congregation, Epiphany has identified several mission goals, and one of them was increasing work with the seminaries. In 2016 Epiphany began working with Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS), Fort Wayne in their summer vicarage program. Though she did not receive a summer vicar in 2017, she will receive one this summer. In addition to that, Epiphany currently has two members in the Deaconess program at CTS and provides a scholarship for a third student.

Another goal of the congregation was making Christian education much more focused, especially for the young people of the congregation. One result from that goal was beginning the practice of admitting young people to the Lord's Supper prior to Confirmation. In December 2017, seven young people began formal instruction in the faith, were examined, and were welcomed to the Supper. There are several more young people and their parents who have expressed interest and will begin the process in the next school year.

In 2019 Epiphany will celebrate the 25th anniversary of her founding, and the 20th anniversary of the dedication of her building. The year will be celebrated with various events.

**Grace, Wyoming, MI – The Rev. John Diener**

Grace, organized in 1949, mirrors the English District as a mission-minded congregation with the mission statement to “care, share and witness” in the name of Jesus Christ. The mission focus of God’s people at Grace these past three years has been shaped by our pastor who was trained as a facilitator for Re:Vitality. The congregation hosted a “Connect to Disciple” workshop and served as a pilot congregation for “Every One His Witness.” These two instruments have been integrated into the structure of the leadership of the congregation so that all that we corporately do as a church family is to move from making connections to building relationships to ultimately making disciples.

Grace is an active congregation engaged in both nurturing and outreach activities. The church family is nurtured through a sanctuary choir and handbell ensemble ministry; West Michigan Chorale; pastor and deaconess visitation; 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; Sunday school; children’s messages; blessing of the backpacks; Veterans, Volunteers, Mother’s, Father’s and Grandparents’ Day Appreciation; and teacher, Sunday school student and graduation recognition.

Grace members enjoy fellowship with one another engaging in movie fellowships, an annual chili cook-off, baked potato bar and the church picnic. Grace has reached out to the community with the Grace Beginnings Preschool ministry for the last 22 years. This fall they began their seventh year of providing free community meals every Thursday evening from September to May. The congregation’s outreach 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), support of the Synod Mahlburg Missionary family in Sri Lanka and to Haiti in support of missionaries, the Caribbean Children’s Foundation and 10 orphans. The church family sent a mission team to Haiti in 2013, 2015, 2017 and is now making plans for a team in January of 2019.

The last triennium saw the blessings of being served by our church organist, Robert Weaver, for 50 years. The youth attended the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2016 and are making plans to attend the 2019 National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. Our church secretary, Christine Finholm, retired after serving our congregation for 18 years and our preschool director and teacher, Cheryl Doss, retired after 21 years of faithful service.

Grace installed handicap entrance doors by the church office and into our fellowship hall and provided wheelchair accessibility for wheelchairs in several locations in our sanctuary. Grace began a new ministry, “The Yarn Benders,” to make prayer shawls, baby hats and cancer hats, and lap robes. This has meshed our members together with prayer and loving support and sent out warmth, prayer and care to countless others in the community and world. Grace hired a new preschool director and administrative secretary in 2017, Maria Bertrand. Her innovations and skills are already blessing our preschool and church family.

Grace celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation with a year full of special services, a unique Reformation Walk through Luther history for Rally Sunday, hosting “Katie Luther” on LWML Sunday and taking a bus trip to the Breslin Center for the Michigan District’s celebration on October 15, 2017. We concluded the special Reformation celebration with a “Consecrated Stewards” celebration rejoicing in all God’s blessings. The Grace church family knows that God first loved us so that we can love one another and love the world He loves.

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

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church serves as part of a dual-parish with the Michigan District congregation Hope Lutheran Church in Stanton, MI. Holy Trinity and Hope enjoy their partnership and celebrate it by having joint services throughout the course of the year. Holy Trinity and Hope have been under the care of the Rev. Alexander Sabol since he was installed as their new pastor on December 10, 2017. Their previous pastor, Rev. Steve Voelker, received and took a call to serve in Fort Wayne in February of 2017.

Holy Trinity is situated in a small town in central Michigan with a congregation that is committed to being involved in the community and providing Christian instruction to both children and adults. Regular worship services, Sunday school, confirmation instruction, and adult Bible classes continued throughout the pastoral vacancy, led by vacancy pastors and capable lay leadership. The pastor attends the meetings of the local ministerial association that organizes events for the needy throughout the year, and the congregation is active in the area food bank in town. In the fall of 2016, the church began a nonprofit transportation service called Liberty Line, which receives contributions and volunteers from both Holy Trinity and Hope congregations. Serving an area without alternatives, Liberty Line provides essential local transportation and a word of Christian encouragement and hope to people who need rides to doctors, churches, and other necessary appointments. Liberty Line has been well-received in the community and ridership continues to grow.

**Hope, Grand Rapids, MI** – The Rev. Daniel Gruenwald

Hope Lutheran Church is 104 years old by the grace of God and has been served by only five pastors. Their lay people were shared to help found other congregations in the community and many moved away and support churches elsewhere. Hope has a typical schedule of Word and Sacrament ministry and are generous in the support of missions and charitable organizations. They helped start Camp Concordia, Gowen, Michigan in 1957 and continue to support it to the present day. In the 1980’s Hope partnered with area Lutherans and the English District to start and run Amazing Grace (GRALIM), an outreach to African Americans which was active for a number of years. In 2000 they improved accessibility with an elevator, new restroom and carport.

**Immanuel, Howell, MI** – The Rev. Eric Forss

Immanuel Evangelical-Lutheran Church is a small, small-town congregation that draws members and worshipers from a large geographic area. Although it chiefly serves the heart of Livingston County, Michigan, it also draws from portions of Oakland County to the East and Ingham County to the West. Immanuel is part of Southeast Michigan, a region heavily

influenced by the fortunes of the auto industry. The community also is in transition from rural to exurban, with many of the residents and congregants commuting to other communities to work. Consequently, many of Immanuel's members have significant outside commitments that affect their commitments to the congregation. Immanuel congregation strives to remain faithful to our Lord and the confessional, liturgical treasures that He has bequeathed to the Evangelical-Lutheran Church. The focus on the Gospel these provide draws and retains the members and guests who worship there.

The community has begun to recover from the recession that began in earnest in 2008. The population has begun to grow again after several years of decline. Consequently, the church has begun to see an increase in the number of guests and visitors, some of whom have become regular worshipers. They follow up visits from guests with letters, phone calls, or personal visits as much as possible based on the contact information given.

For many years, Immanuel has made an effort to reactivate inactive members. Sadly, these efforts have met with limited success. Evangelism and outreach also have been part of Immanuel's life. A number of the members have profitably attended *Every One His Witness* workshops offered by Synod. They are encouraged by this well-done resource and believe it will prove to be a valuable tool to assist them in their efforts to reach their community with the Gospel of Jesus.

In the triennium just concluded, Immanuel expanded their music ministry by establishing a small, but energetic handbell choir ably directed by DCE Suzanne Zobel; unfortunately, they were unable to sustain it. On the other hand, the Sunday and weekday adult Bible classes are attended by a growing number of committed participants who readily engage with the texts they study. Their questions and comments indicate growth in faith and increasing maturity in Christ Jesus. Moreover, the Word of God continues to be preached and taught faithfully and the Sacraments of Christ continue to be offered in accordance with the Gospel. These are offered to God's people every Lord's Day and Holy Day throughout the Church Year. Evening Prayer and preaching of the Word are offered on Wednesday evenings throughout Advent and Lent. In addition, the special services of the *Triduum Sacra* are offered annually during Holy Week.

Immanuel gives thanks to God that He has so graciously provided for them throughout the last triennium. The church is now observing 35 years of God's grace among them at Immanuel. His blessings to the church have been as countless as the sand.

Their prayer is that His boundless mercy would continue to uphold, strengthen, and preserve us all in the next triennium and unto all eternity. *Soli Deo Gratia!*

**Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, MI** – The Rev. Curtis Dwyer & The Rev. Dr. David Dressel Martin Luther Chapel (MLC) 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, MLC offers 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, Lead Pastor; Rev. David Dressel, Associate Pastor; and Dian Silvey, Ministry Assistant. At the end of May 2018, Pastor Dave moves to part-time staff, and the congregation has begun looking for a new full-time associate pastor.

In addition to their work on campus (*see report under Section 3 - Mission Grant Ministries in Workbook*), Martin Luther Chapel has an active resident member ministry. Over the past triennium they have increased their visibility in the local community through involvement with various community events and festivals. Their Stephen Ministry program has trained and commissioned two groups of new Stephen Ministers. They also have undertaken several significant repair and maintenance projects on their building.

Martin Luther Chapel continually strives to welcome and support the faith life of people of all ages, and they rejoice at the number of baptisms and new members they have been honored to welcome into their church family in recent years.

#### **Our Savior, Hartland, MI – The Rev. Christopher Thoma**

A confessional congregation that happily 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 when it comes to issues of Church and State. One of the many ways this is accomplished is through their annual conference entitled, “The Body of Christ and the Public Square”, which is an event that sees Lutheran theologians, public servants, and top-tier political personalities offering keynote addresses that not only serve to help pastors, lay leaders, and Christians in the pews understand a Christian’s vocation as it meets the political realm, but also to realize and navigate the cultural landscape that is often a driving force behind the politics of today. Through this effort, Our Savior has been privileged to form long-term partnerships with people of influence such as Dinesh D’Souza, Dennis Prager, and a great many others. In October of 2018, Ben Shapiro will be the keynote presenter for the conference.

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 where they live and have their being. Kantor Jonathan Swett directs our excellent music ministry among children and adults. In 2017, Andrea Johnson stepped down from several years of dedicated service as our school principal to assume regular teaching duties. Deaconess Sara Bielby was called to serve as our school’s new principal and is completing her first year of faithful service with us.

We also laid to rest our pastoral assistant of many years, Rev. Dr. Jakob Heckert, as he was called home to be with the Lord on January 16, 2018. Now, while his flesh eagerly awaits the Day of Resurrection, we give thanks to God for Pastor Heckert’s friendship and his kind, humble, and Gospel-centered service in our midst.

Lastly, Our Savior is gladdened to be one of the only Christian preschool 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.

#### **INDIANA CIRCUIT #14**

*The Rev. Chad Trouten, Circuit Visitor*

#### **Abiding Faith, Florence, KY – The Rev. Winston Grieser**

Abiding Faith called Rev. Winston Grieser from Concordia Theological Seminary, her first pastor, who was installed in August 2017.

#### **Advent, Zionsville, IN – The Rev. Dr. John Fiene & The Rev. James Grady**

Rev. Grady was called and installed as Advent's assistant pastor in August 2017. Rev. Fiene announced his plan to retire late spring of 2018, so Advent has begun the process of calling a senior pastor.

#### **Bethany, Fort Wayne, IN – The Rev. Chad Trouten & The Rev. Charles Varsogea**

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

#### **Peace, Fremont, IN – The Rev. Jeffrey Teeple**

Pastor Teeple, who had been installed as associate pastor in the summer of 2015, was called as sole pastor in late 2016, the Rev. Wayne Berkesch having retired earlier that year.

#### **Prince of Peace, Hudson (Stroh), IN – The Rev. James Elsner**

By God's grace in Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace was able to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017! The anniversary was celebrated on August 13 at a special worship service with Bishop Jamison Hardy as the guest preacher and at a banquet for members and friends. The Gospel message of Jesus Christ continues to be proclaimed faithfully by our congregation to the children and families of the community through our *KIDZ KLUB* outreach, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year. Over 90% of the students are unchurched. And, through our contacts with Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN, Prince of Peace supports the proclamation of the Gospel on a world-wide basis. Pastors studying for advanced degrees from Ghana, South Africa, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Brazil, India, and Japan have found a "church home" at Prince of Peace while in the States. We give thanks and praise to God for the Gospel's effective work through our congregation in changing hearts and lives for Christ – and for life in His Church!

#### **Redeemer, Fort Wayne, IN – The Rev. David Petersen, The Rev. Michael Frese & The Rev. Peter Burfeind**

Since the last convention, Redeemer obtained a grant from the Lutheran Foundation to do a major renovation and expansion of her parking facilities. In January 2017, Redeemer's

daughter congregation in Homer, MI, (also named Redeemer) had her first official Divine Service. In November 2017, Rev. Peter Burfeind accepted God's call through Redeemer to serve this mission congregation, which has purchased a church building in Marshall, MI, and is now named Agnus Dei. They are currently in the process of applying for LCMS membership as an official congregation of the English District.

**St. Michael, Fort Wayne, IN** – The Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing & The Rev. Shawn Davis  
In the summer of 2016, St. Michael called and installed Rev. Davis as associate pastor.

**Trinity, LaPorte, IN** – The Rev. Noel Olse  
After Rev. Joseph Loftis retired in March 2016, Trinity called and installed Rev. Noel Olse as her pastor late that year.

## MIDWESTERN REGION

### THE REV. ROBERT A. ROGERS, THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Having completed my first full term as the Midwestern Region Vice President (I was appointed in 2014 to complete the term for Rev. Nate Schwartz when he took a call, and then I was re-elected in 2015), I am happy to say that the Midwestern Region of the English District is still preaching the Word and administering the Sacraments. That is what we are called to do and having visited a great many of my churches and listened to a few sermons via the internet, I am confident that our people of the Midwestern Region are hearing God's Word of love and forgiveness. The Midwestern Region includes Nebraska, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Kentucky. In this triennium, we have seen continued strength from our new congregations and we are continuing to try to help our older congregations thrive in new ways. Highlights from the congregations are as follows:

#### **CHICAGO-NORTH CIRCUIT #15**

*The Rev. Anthony Oliphant, Circuit Visitor*

The Chicago-North Circuit has continued its efforts in outreach to several groups living in the greater Chicago area. We are pursuing ways to strengthen Tamil-speaking congregations and also looking to reinvigorate the Chicago Mission Council as a collaborative effort between circuits 15 and 16. The Asian-Indian congregation at Bethesda is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Redeemer, Elmhurst has joined in Grace Café, a cooperative group of local congregations that provides bimonthly meals for any who may find themselves in need of food or fellowship. Outreach to the developmentally disabled, particularly children, has also been increased through various programs.

#### **Bethany, Chicago, IL – Vacant**

The District has sold Bethany's property but negotiated the sale so that the congregation will have the ability to continue to worship in the building in the foreseeable future.

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

Bethesda is continuing to see growth and vibrancy in her Asian Indian congregation and her school is running with the highest enrollment in several years.

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

Christ English, our oldest congregation in Chicago, hopes to open a preschool and kindergarten in the fall.

#### **Faith, Arlington Heights, IL – The Rev. Thomas Sanders**

**Grace English, Chicago, IL –**

Grace English has a school that is continuing to do an outstanding job of serving the neighborhood families.

**Holy Spirit, Elk Grove Village, IL –**

**Redeemer, Elmhurst, IL –** The Rev. Anthony Oliphant

Redeemer has hosted multiple Grace Café events in the last three years and continues its outreach to the children of the community through its infant and toddler music program.

**Trinity, Villa Park, IL –** The Rev. Robert Rogers & The Rev. Timothy Manwell

Trinity has a coffee shop that is open to the community Monday-Friday. It hosts knitters, people with special needs who come in to do adult coloring and a group of grandpa's who read to the preschool kids.

**CHICAGO-SOUTH CIRCUIT #16**

*The Rev. James Huenink, Circuit Visitor*

Circuit #16, the English District churches on the South Side of Chicago, continues to serve our Savior through his word and sacraments. We are excited to proclaim the salvation of our God to the people in our region.

**Chatham Fields, Chicago, IL -**

**Concordia, Berwyn, IL –** The Rev. James Huenink

Concordia Lutheran Church and Little Lambs Preschool is excited by the continued growth they see in the preschool. Each year, classes fill earlier and earlier, and the preschool is looking to expand the program. Concordia has also established a separate not-for-profit corporation called With One Heart to distribute baby supplies to the community.

**Ephphatha, Chicago, IL –** The Rev. Prentice Marsh

**Faith, Chicago, IL –**

**Good Shepherd, Chicago, IL –** Served by The Rev. Kenneth Howes

Sadly, Good Shepherd will be closing her doors in June with a closing service on June 24th. However, she is working with Rev. David Thiele, LCEF Vice President, to ensure that her legacy goes on to serve other ministries in the Chicago area.

**Markham, Markham, IL –** The Rev. Dr. Larry Schneekloth

In the past triennium, Markham Lutheran Church remembered some joyful milestones. The congregation celebrated their 75th anniversary, giving thanks for the work that God has done

among them. They also celebrated a significant anniversary for their pastor, Larry Schneekloth, with 45 years at Markham and 50 years since his graduation from seminary.

**Messiah, Elmhurst, IL** – The Rev. Bradford Maxon

**New Hope, Chicago, IL** – The Rev. Paul Anderson

**St. John the Divine, Chicago, IL** – Served by The Rev. Paul Brunner

**Trinity, New Lenox, IL** – The Rev. Douglas Hoag

Trinity Lutheran Church has made some capital improvements over the last couple of years: installation of a wheelchair-accessible lift, new front steps with iron railings, and new outdoor lighting. We also launched a catechumenate process, called Living Lutheran. It's been somewhat successful, but it needs some tweaking. This year our stained-glass windows will be undergoing some much-needed repairs. The preschool, under the direction of Jeanine Welsh, continues to offer quality Christian education to our community's little ones. The preschool continues a path of steady growth. Overall, Trinity is dedicated to spreading the Gospel by any means possible.

#### **MILWAUKEE CIRCUIT #17**

*The Rev. Frederic Reaman, Circuit Visitor*

The Milwaukee circuit continues to be a very active mission-focused group of congregations in Southeast Wisconsin and two congregations in the Minneapolis area. Over the past triennium, several pastors have retired and the Lord has provided these respective churches with mission-minded pastors. Considerable outreach is occurring in many ways, shapes and forms, locally, cross-culturally and internationally and continues to be blessed with growth by the Lord who is changing hearts and lives as the Milwaukee circuit is loving its neighbors.

**Christ, Lake Mills, WI** – The Rev. Aaron Boerst

**Faith, Watertown, WI** – The Rev. Seth Hoepfner

Zechariah 8:23, *"Take hold of the robe and let us come with you. We have heard that God is with you."* This prophecy from Zechariah reminds us of Pentecost. The Apostles shared the Good News of Jesus and it eventually spread to the nations that many took hold of their robes and heard that God was with them. My prayer for myself and each member here at Faith Lutheran may boldly confess the Gospel that many people will want to take hold of our robes and come with us to hear the life-giving message.

I am about to finish my second year in the SMP program, and I am very blessed to be learning the roles and responsibilities of a pastor. It is something I take very seriously, and I am eager to learn. I thank the congregation for their support, encouragement and patience. I take what I learn each week and apply it to many aspects of ministry.

I look forward to learning how to teach Confirmation class many different ways. There are many types of learners and different styles of teaching. I enjoy being creative in class, and I look for many ways to encourage the four confirmands we had in April.

I continue to spend time leading Bible studies at two of the Bethesda Lutheran Homes group homes. I am learning how to teach those who are nonverbal. In February, our church, along with Good Shepherd, Saint Peter's and Bethesda, hosted a Tim Tebow Foundation dance called Night to Shine. There were over 150 guests and over 500 volunteers.

Faith has had over 100 different services over the past year. These services included Sunday morning, chapel, Lent, Advent, and our Summer Wednesday night outdoor services. A special thank you to Rev. Emeritus Neil Rand, Pastor David Stevens, Harry Kopplin, and Richard Lowe for filling in.

Shannon Hoepfner is the leader for VBS. We had around 45 children who attended this summer. This year our theme is about Paul in Rome.

Our school provides an opportunity for the church to share the Gospel and be connected to the Word of God. It takes a lot of time and effort to have a day school. We are blessed to have a school with classes for preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The teachers of the school do an amazing job, and I appreciate all of their work cultivating the field and casting the seed of the Gospel.

In Bible class, we are going through Lutheran Hour Ministries "Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School." In children's Sunday school, we added a class and separated the older students and the younger students. We also added three new volunteer Sunday school teachers. During the summer, we are having an all-age Bible class.

During Lent, Faith Lutheran partook in a Lenten pulpit exchange with Good Shepherd-Watertown, Zion-Clyman, Peace-Beaver Dam and Saint Peter's- Lebanon.

During the year, we had three main mission projects. I called it "Our attitude of Latitude to our neighbor." We think of our vertical relationship with God which overflows to our horizontal relationship with our neighbor. We support Jamielynn Tinkey, a missionary to the Dominican Republic. We also support Lutheran Braille Workers and Watertown Family Aid.

Four main goals that I will be working with the congregation for the next year focus on presence. 1. Focus more on the Lord's Supper and His real presence. 2. Have a presence in the community. Do people know who we are and where we are? 3. Keep up the presence of the building and land. There is always maintenance to be done. 4. More presence between family members. Encourage more family devotions and praying together.

My prayer for our congregation is that we grow each day in the teaching of God's Word, fellowship, worship and evangelism.

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

**Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI** – The Rev. Keith Speaks, The Rev. Dr. Keith Johnson, The Rev. Christian Wood, The Rev. Leon Jameson & The Rev. Chad Kogutkiewicz

**Hope, Hastings, MN** – served by The Rev. Donald Schmiede

Hope continues to be a growing congregation, both in numbers and in faith. Hope finished its three-year capital campaign in December of 2017. As a result they paid \$76,000 in debt reduction and called their first full-time Director of Christian Education Kristi Bauer in 2016. In a commitment to provide relevant missional opportunities, Hope continues to send a group of four lay leaders to the Best Practices conference in Phoenix, Arizona each year. As a result they have implemented several new outreach programs including Life Groups, annual movie night, summer family play dates, and “Welcome to Hastings” bags. The preschool continues to grow in staff and enrollment. They welcomed new preschool director Stephanie Girgen and had 43 students enrolled during the 2017-2018 school year.

**Living Hope, Racine, WI** – Served by The Rev. Michael Ernst & The Rev. Joe Robb

**Messiah, Forest Lake, MN** – The Rev. Gregory Musolf

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

The last triennium has been one of transition and new opportunities for Peace Lutheran Church. In 2016, Andrew Cordy was installed as Director of Christian Education to work with youth and children’s ministries. In June 2017, the Rev. Gregory S. Michel was installed as pastor. Also in 2017, Peace completed its “Paving the Way” campaign—a three-year generosity emphasis to update and improve the campus, expand evangelism efforts, and pay down debt. Local mission efforts were highlighted by service at a community meal site as well as an inner-city health clinic in Milwaukee. Global mission efforts were highlighted by mission trips to Guatemala and the Mexican border as well as a yearly “food pack” for hungry children in Liberia and Haiti. The congregation’s Little Lamb Academy continues to provide excellence in Christ-centered early childhood education.

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

The Lutheran Church of the Prince of Peace continues to grow in its ministry under the service of Rev. Tom Engler, who is entering his 4<sup>th</sup> year. The community still has a need for ministry to youth, but the church also continues to serve elder adults through its “Helping Hands” program which offers assistance with small household repairs. Their caregiving AMOS (A Ministry of Serving) program assists with meals, transportation and shopping. The youth group is active in conducting projects such as “Soles for Jesus”, collecting over 200 pairs of shoes, as well as a winter clothing drive. The church also has an unaffiliated Scout troop that uses the facilities, performs service projects and completed five on-site Eagle Scout projects. Many members participate in a rotating social group, which has provided welcomed activities for the last several years.

In July, 2016, Prince of Peace began a Comfort Dog ministry with seven members trained as handlers for Rhoda. Daily visits include community hospitals in Menomonee Falls and West Bend, area nursing homes, assisted living and memory care facilities and group homes, as well as schools and community events.

They continue to support Missionary David Baker in Mongolia and also sent a mission team to Hong Kong in March 2018, utilizing funds from \$1.00/member/week program, a model for District missions. Through Missions and Outreach they have opened their doors to a Chinese Christian Fellowship to use their facilities and continue strategic planning in outreach as there is a new housing development in the area.

### **Resurrection, Shawano, WI -**

**St. Mark, Janesville, WI** – The Rev. Bradley Urlaub

**St. Mark, Sheboygan, WI** – The Rev. Brett Matz

Since 1909, God has blessed St. Mark with faithful men and women dedicated to *Sharing the Love of Jesus* with those in the Sheboygan area and over this the last triennium that faithfulness has continued through its many ministries. The food pantry continues to be a source of hope for those throughout the area who need some assistance as they look to become self-supporting. Our GriefShare program, now in its third year, has helped many in our community cope with the death of a loved one. And our Stephen Ministers continue to be a source of support for those who are dealing with the trials and tribulations of everyday life.

### **ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT #18**

*The Rev. Theodore Laesch, Jr., Circuit Visitor*

God is good! His Word continues to be proclaimed and His Sacraments continue to be administered in St. Louis Circuit #18. He continues to bless as pastors, professional church workers, and lay people alike receive His gifts with joy and in turn, share them with church, family, and community. We are blessed to be a blessing! The St. Louis Circuit currently has six congregations. During the last triennium, one congregation (Chapel of the Cross, St. Peters, MO) transferred to the Missouri District. Three circuit congregations welcomed new pastors and other staff members and as of this writing, one other congregation is in the Call process.

**Beautiful Savior, Lee's Summit, MO** – The Rev. Jonathan Gruen & The Rev. Christopher Schneider

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church is in the middle of a three-year project called "Growing up in Every Way," which is taken from Ephesians 4:15-16, where the Church is encouraged to remain strong in God's truth and to be bound together in His love and grow in that love as Christ intends His Body to do. They have been busy encouraging one another to be in the Divine Service and

Bible study, and to love and serve their neighbors. They have been working hard to make early principal payments, improve the campus, and invest in future ministry, hopefully in the form of additions to their ministry team. God has given them plenty to do!

The preschool has grown with 101 spots filled (with room for about 30 more currently). They have renovated a few rooms to accommodate this growth and have changed the preschool director's role so she is no longer teaching a class and is able to devote more time to managing the school. The Upward Basketball outreach ministry had record registrations the last two seasons at 404 kids and 430 kids, respectively. These kids and their families hear the Word of God proclaimed every week in practice and in games.

The church continues to have very active ministries to children, youth, and families. Their small group ministry is growing, and they strive to care for the sick, elderly, and all those in need. Beautiful Savior is also currently on the wait list to receive an LCC Comfort Dog, which they believe will strengthen their presence in the community.

These are the positive things, but they also have many challenges, stresses, and burdens among their members, in their community, and beyond. It proves especially difficult to keep connections and relationships among members strong, since families are pulled in many directions. Therefore, prayers are always appreciated! And they are praying for you as you serve God and His people. To God be the glory!

**Chapel of the Cross, Saint Louis, MO** – The Rev. Theodore Laesch, Jr.

In 2015, Chapel of the Cross celebrated 50 years of ministry in North St. Louis County. As part of the celebration, as a gift to the Church at large, a hymn (Starke/Schalk) and two choral selections (David Cherwien, David von Kampen) were commissioned and a special mission offering was received in thanksgiving to God for 50 years of blessings.

In these past three years, Chapel of the Cross, St. Louis, MO has been an active participant and founding member of the Lutheran Hope Center of Ferguson, a joint ministry with four other Lutheran congregations and the Missouri District of the LCMS. A new Life Team was created in 2016 and has been active in living and sharing their mission "to equip our church to celebrate, defend, and care for life at all stages." Also in 2016, through a grant from the LWML and the English District, Chapel received a disaster trailer and the necessary equipment to serve and help our neighbors as they face a disaster. A LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) team has been trained and stands ready to serve when called upon.

The members of Chapel of the Cross continue to serve the community and reach out to neighbors with the love of Jesus Christ in many and various ways, including Friend of Moms (a volunteer-run boutique filled with children's clothes for families in need), Helping Hands Food Pantry (feeding 50-60 families weekly), Sidewalk Sunday School (a joint ministry with Grace Lutheran Chapel where Sunday school is taken to children in their communities), and a 10-week-long Summer Camp for children in kindergarten through 8th grade (entering their 11th year of camp ministry).

Chapel also continues to partner with local Lutheran elementary schools and Lutheran High School North in sharing the importance of quality, Lutheran education for its families and the families in the community.

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

Grace Lutheran Church is a rather young congregation that opened its doors in 2010. Seven years ago their services took place in a century-old store front on the city's main street. Self-supporting from day one, the congregation had learned the value of sacrifice and an appreciation of the name it chose as its witness to the community. By God's grace, with the blessing of brothers and sisters in Christ of the English District, and with a loan from LCEF, they were pleased to purchase a new building that once belonged to their former landlords. Grace moved into its new home, which overlooks the city's park, and dedicated it on September 7, 2014.

In the past three years, the congregation has extended its care to the surrounding community. It is close to Fort Knox military base and there is a direct route from the base to the church. 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 homeless shelter. They also support projects such as the Military BibleStick program, an outreach of Faith Comes By Hearing.

In May of 2017, the congregation extended a called to its first full-time pastor. Being fresh out of Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne, Rev. Ryan Schneider was ordained and installed at Grace on June 25, 2017.

**Peace, O'Fallon, MO –**

**Redeemer, Lincoln, NE – The Rev. Mark Ebert**

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

## WESTERN REGION

### THE REV. TODD ARNOLD, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Exciting ministry continues in the six circuits of the Western Region of our English District. Word and Sacrament ministry remains constant as well as service to God's people in our respective communities where God has placed us. But change abounds in every corner of the region.

In the **Arizona-North** circuit, Family of Christ (Phoenix) installed Rev. Fred Gerlach as their pastor while Shepherd of the Pines (Payson) is being served by an Intentional Interim after Rev. Steve De Santo's departure to serve in the Eastern Region. Exciting work is happening in Campus Ministry at the Lutheran Ministry at Arizona State University (LMASU) as noted below.

The **Arizona-South** circuit saw the departure of Rev. Steve Patton from Crosspoint (Sahuarita) – now being served by an Intentional Interim – and the retirement of Rev. John Stieve, but celebrated the installation of new pastors at Risen Savior (Green Valley) and Faith (Tucson) – Rev. Todd Arnold and Rev. Kurt Cockran, respectively. Rev. Ron York is now serving Peace in the Valley (Benson). The circuit also celebrated a new vicar at Catalina (Tucson) who assists with a very active and vibrant campus ministry, LCMSU Hold Fast Fellowship, at the University of Arizona.

Our newest circuit, the **Nevada/Utah** circuit (NU circuit 😊) continues to serve the communities of St. George, Utah and Mesquite, and Las Vegas, Nevada.

In the **San Diego** circuit, First (El Cajon) is now being served by Rev. Andrew Fedder and Morning Star (Lakeside) celebrated the installation of Rev. Justin Laughridge as their permanent pastor. He had served as their vacancy pastor and also serves Crossroads (Mira Mesa).

The **Los Angeles** circuit celebrated the addition of a new congregation by receiving St. Paul (Long Beach) served by Rev. Brandon Jones and Rev. Mark Pierson. Welcome to the circuit, St. Paul, and your first English District convention!

And the **San Francisco** circuit, where Rev. Chip Fox now serves as Circuit Visitor, also celebrates a new congregation with the addition of Apostolic (Moses Lake, WA), served by Rev. Herman Williams, stretching the boundary of the circuit way up the Pacific coast. West Portal (San Francisco) celebrated the ordination and installation of Rev. J. Wayne Kerr as Associate Pastor followed by the installation of Rev. Curtis

Binz as Senior Pastor. Pastor Binz had been serving as a vacancy pastor at West Portal.

God has been very good to the Western Region of our English District and continues to bless us in many and various ways.

### **ARIZONA-NORTH CIRCUIT #19**

*The Rev. Nicholas Wirtz, Circuit Visitor*

#### **Faith, Overgaard, AZ – The Rev. Nicholas Wirtz**

Over the last three years Faith Lutheran Church has continued to serve the Overgaard community with Christ-centered Word and Sacrament ministry on Sunday mornings. Bible studies on Sundays and Thursdays have reviewed the Pentateuch and Psalms, as well as topical studies on Bible archeology and historicity, the Creeds and heresies, and “Lutheranism 101”. Adult and youth confirmation has brought in new members, and several children have been baptized. 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. One of the ways the congregation supports shut-ins, (besides visitation) is through online recordings of Bible studies and worship services. A choir was started two years ago and is growing in size and talent. Phase One of a new building project is soon to be realized with a kitchen remodel and expansion with a long-range goal of building a new sanctuary.

#### **Family of Christ Church and Learning Center, Phoenix, AZ – The Rev. Fred Gerlach**

Having been blessed by the loving and joyous ministry of Interim Pastor David Lindemann and giving thanks for the continuing strengths of its Early Education Center under the leadership of Director Suzanne Nelson, Family of Christ began the last three years looking forward to having a long and fruitful ministry with its new pastor, the Rev. Dr. Wade Butler. After a little more than a year he left us to serve as Intentional Interim Pastor at our sister congregation in Pennsauken, New Jersey. While he was our pastor, God blessed us through Pastor Butler’s dynamic preaching and his teaching skills in Bible class. Pastor Butler also showed us God’s comfort as we dealt with the tragic deaths of beloved members. Along with Director Nelson and our Center’s staff, he helped us deal successfully with a norovirus outbreak at our Center.

On Trinity Sunday 2016, the Rev. David Burge began to serve as our Intentional Interim Pastor. During his time with us, God has used him to help strengthen the ties between the congregation and our Center, which provides a Christ-centered education to 140 children from 2-years-old through Kindergarten. God has also used him to help us both maintain the liturgical worship which Pastor Butler helped us to appreciate while also helping us to use again the contemporary praise hymnody we appreciated under Pastor Lindemann. He, along with Elders/Deacons Donald Eiding and Samson Kool, helped us to continue our worship services at La Estancia Nursing Home. Through his leadership, God has led us to reach out to our

community through supporting the campus ministry at Arizona State University and through sponsoring a showing of “Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World” at a local theater. Above all, God used Pastor Burge to help us to reflect on the needs of our congregation, our Early Education Center, and our community, the Ahwatukee area of Phoenix, and what meeting those needs, by God’s grace, would mean for the skills our next pastor should have. Through God’s blessing of a dedicated and hard-working Call Committee, the actual Call process took less than a year before God blessed us with the Rev. Fred Gerlach accepting the Call to be our next pastor. With him starting his ministry among us on Ash Wednesday 2018, we look forward to all the blessings that God will bestow on us as he leads us in sharing Christ in our congregation, in our Early Education Center, and in our community.

**Messiah, Parker, AZ** – Served by Deacon Roger Yoder

**Shepherd of the Mountains, Pinetop, AZ** – The Rev. R. Wayne Morton

This past triennium was marked by enthusiastic weekly LifeLight and Sunday morning Bible classes, three “What It Means to be a Lutheran Christian” adult confirmation groups, and two youth confirmation classes. Over the past three years we cultivated an ongoing stewardship that allowed us to support - in addition to District and Synod - both of our seminaries and the DRLM. Our Sunday school and Bible class offerings continue to be sent monthly to different mission projects within our community and around the world - from the nearby Living Hope Women’s Center, Gideons’ camp, and Meals on Wheels to distant Heifer International, Ministry to the Armed Forces and Faith Comes by Hearing (Bible Sticks). We rejoiced at the opportunity to see our first-ever deaconess commissioned. And after seventeen years of saving, we finally were able to break ground on a building addition that blesses us with a narthex we never really had, ADA restrooms, two dedicated education rooms, offices for both the church and the pastor, and a large gathering room especially for our women’s (Dorcas Society and LWML) Bible study.

**Shepherd of the Pines, Payson, AZ** – The Rev. David Burge, Intentional Interim

Shepherd of the Pines, begun under the leadership of Pastor Steve De Santo, has been working through the topic of Christian discipleship. Bible studies on Sundays have typically been topical, relating the Christian walk to the contemporary world. Thursday Bible studies have been through various books of the Bible. The congregation supports an Ethiopian mission, while members in the congregation also help support seminary students. The congregation is also a strong contributor to the local food bank. At the end of May, 2017, Pastor De Santo took a Call to serve a congregation in Florida. Pastor David Burge will serve Shepherd of the Pines as Intentional Interim Pastor and prepare them to extend a Call to a new pastor in 2019.

**Lutheran Ministry at Arizona State University (LMASU)** - DCE Sharon Owens

International Student Ministry at International Friendship House is a ministry area of LMASU. The Board for LMASU wants to thank the English District for the \$2,000 Endowment Grant received in May 2017. The funds were used to build friendships with international students through weekly outreach events, monthly social activities, and partner with local church opportunities. The weekly outreach events consists of an American home cooked meal and English conversation about current events and biblical learning. At these events students

received various Christian materials such as Bibles, devotional books, CD's, etc. The monthly social activities included things like Diamondback spring training baseball game, hiking and game night. These activities provide a relaxed and fun environment for friendships to deepen. Finally, the students enjoy visiting local congregations where they learn more about the churches and Christianity. They enjoy unique opportunities such as a fish fry, Christmas Cantata, OktoberFest and Thanksgiving dinner. Building relationships with international students opens the door to share our Christian faith with students from different cultural and spiritual backgrounds. Many international students come from countries that are Hindu, Buddhist, and Communist. They often believe in animism, 100's of false gods, reincarnation, and ancestor worship. Our ministry introduces these students to Jesus. We teach them about the Loving, Living, Triune God who loves all people and all cultures. Please pray with us for the international students at ASU that they would come to faith, the living waters of Baptism, grow in their faith and take the Gospel back to their native countries.

### **ARIZONA-SOUTH CIRCUIT #20**

*The Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler, Circuit Visitor*

During the last three years, we have seen God's many continued rich blessings as we work together.

The circuit, together with congregations of the Pacific Southwest District, commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation through a series of education, servant, worship and fellowship events. September 2017 started off the many activities with the first of three showings of the movie, "Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World." The three showings, attended by over 230 people, were held at Ascension Lutheran, the Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior, and Fountain of Life Lutheran.

Two colloquies highlighted the impact of the Lutheran Reformation in the daily life and in worship. Dr. Joel Biermann, from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, opened up the first weekend dealing with the topic of Christian character and Luther's understanding that good works grow out of the righteousness of faith as the fruit of our regenerate life. In November, Dr. Paul Grime, from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, followed with his presentation on the impact of the Reformation on the liturgy and hymnody. He also held a workshop for church musicians, choir directors and students and led a Lutheran hymn sing on Sunday afternoon.

Almost 300 members from the circuit congregations attended the Reformation Vespers held at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 29, 2017. The offering received that day went to Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) to support the work of Michael Ermland and for Bible translation among the Komba people of Ghana, West Africa. Reformation stations recreating the life and times of Martin Luther, presented by members of the Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior, proved of interest to children and adults. Wanting to include our youngest members, children from our congregations were invited to participate in an art contest and exhibit to depict "What the Reformation Means to Me." All entries were on display the day of the Reformation Vespers, while the winning entries were depicted on the worship service bulletin.

In true Lutheran fashion, a potluck meal with brats provided by the Faith Lutheran LWML rounded out the day's festivities.

On January 13, 2018, the Circuit hosted the "Free to Serve" symposium. The event was held at the Campus Christian Center at the University of Arizona and began with Matins led by Rev. Joshua Palmer. Dr. Roni Grad then opened the presentation by reviewing Dr. Martin Luther's teachings in which he reintegrated the work of the laity in the life of the church, culminating with his 1520 treatise on Christian Freedom. Three more presentations were made. Rev. Dr. Frank Ciampa spoke on freedom to serve in the home. Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse followed with freedom to serve in the church; and Rev. Ron York concluded with freedom to serve in the community. After these presentations, the attendees viewed the film "The First Rosa," which then concluded with a discussion of the film led by Mrs. Shirley Holle and Dr. Diana Honebrink. The day provided the framework of why we encouraged people to participate in a number of circuit sponsored servant events, such as participation in the Tucson March for Life.

A Circuit Reformation Planning Committee directed and coordinated all these activities; but these events were truly a collaborative effort of many people involving all our congregations of southern Arizona. The funding to cover all the expenses came from the circuit congregations and Thrivent Financial.

A vital ministry on the campus of the University of Arizona in Tucson receives its financial support from the Arizona-South circuit congregations, congregations of the Pacific Southwest District, the English District and the Arizona Campus Mission Society (ALCMS). Rev. Joshua Palmer was called by Catalina Lutheran as an assistant pastor and provides the pastoral leadership for the campus ministry. With the addition of a vicar, a pastoral presence is at the Campus Christian Center every day of the week. Their Friday Night Evening Prayer Service and Bible study regularly averages 30-35 people each week. The students also participate in various servant events.

SAFE-Lutheran, the circuit foundation created to raise funds for school students at Faith Lutheran and Ascension Lutheran schools, merged with Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization (ACSTO) to help these Lutheran schools accomplish their mission.

The Lutheran Servanthood School, the circuit's education institution to train lay people for the lay diaconate, continues to train men and women for service.

The called workers in the circuit meet seven times a year for worship, study, and the sharing of their ministries. Circuit Forums are held two times each year.

As you read the highlights from each of the congregations in the Circuit, we invite you to join us in thanking God for His blessings to each.

**Ascension, Tucson, AZ** – The Rev. James Thelen

The congregation and Pastor Thelen are mentoring an SMP student, Justin Wixon. The congregation continues reaching out to residents at various care facilities in the Tucson area.

They also have made reaching non-churched individuals a priority.

**Catalina, Tucson, AZ** – The Rev. Michael Morehouse & The Rev. Joshua Palmer

Catalina Lutheran continues her local outreach to the community through her LWML, Operation Barnabas (OB) Chapter (which mothered two other standing OB chapters and works with an additional two congregations to provide outreach to Arizona area military-connected people) and hosting local community events such as an annual Reformation Festival, vacation Bible schools and neighborhood Christmas caroling with prayer visitation. In the past two years, the congregation's lay deacons, under the direct supervision of the pastors, have continued weekly Bible study series at a local nursing home. The congregation began a long-term site assessment and building plan, "Growing a Legacy in Christ Crucified." The architectural drawings have been produced, and the plans are progressing in a congregation that God has allowed to become debt free in the past two years.

The congregation received Rev. Joshua Palmer as Assistant Pastor from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis as the last English District convention was concluding. Through him, God has continued to expand the LCMSU ministry, "Hold Fast Fellowship," at the University of Arizona. This past year, the congregation welcomed her second full-time vicar, Jesse Schlie from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. He splits his time between the congregation and the Hold Fast Fellowship ministry. Pastor Michael Morehouse was supported by the congregation in his preparation, defense, and reception of the Doctor of Ministry degree. His research report is expanding our local understanding of the extant Lutheran lay diaconate in circuit congregations. A member of the congregation, Brittini Brown, is half way through her deaconess internship through Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

Members of the congregation serve as board members and representatives in local circuit, English District, and Synod activities and organizations. Church musicians from the congregation have participated in the LCMS music education provided at Concordia University, Chicago, which has enriched congregational worship.

**Christus Rex, Rio Rico, AZ** – The Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler

After some slight growth during the past years, Christus Rex now again has experienced a shrinking membership due to the death of members and other members moving out of the area. Yet almost every member is in church every Sunday, and their membership is truly multi-ethnic with Anglos, Hispanics, and a Lutheran family from a sister church in South India. While a small congregation, 15% of the Sunday offerings are dedicated to support the English District, various RSO's of the LCMS and other ministries.

**Crosspoint, Sahuarita, AZ** – Served by The Rev. Roger Stuenkel

During the past triennium, the congregation changed its name from Gracepoint to Crosspoint, so that visitors looking for the congregation would not be confused with an evangelical church next door with the name Grace Church. In March 2017, the congregation bid farewell to Pastor Steve Patton, the mission developer who began the work in Sahuarita. With Pastor Patton accepting the call to another congregation, the congregation is now in the calling process. They pray that the Lord will bring a new pastor soon to help them continue growing in their

community.

**Faith, Tucson, AZ** – The Rev. Kurt Cockran

Faith Lutheran welcomed their new pastor this past year, with his ordination and installation in July. Prior to Pastor Cockran's arrival, the congregation had been served at different times by Pastor John Stieve, Pastor Karl Koch, and Pastor Ted Predoehl. The congregation was privileged to host the circuit-wide Reformation 500 Vesper Service in October, 2017. Under the Lord's blessing the school has seen a yearly increase of enrollment, which has been aided by the additional grade levels. The enrollment now stands at 68 students in grades K-8 with many more in a toddler program.

**Holy Trinity and Santa Trinidad, Tucson, AZ** – Served by The Rev. Dr. Garry McClure & The Rev. John Upton

During the past three years, Holy Trinity has been able to direct more and more funds toward ministries of various types. They support Michael Ritzman and his family in Papua, New Guinea, Pastor and Deaconess Naumann in the Dominican Republic, and Michael Erslund with the Lutheran Bible Translators in Ghana, West Africa. Additionally, the congregation doubled their giving to the District. They also support anyone from a circuit congregation who is attending either the Fort Wayne or St. Louis seminary, preparing to be a pastor or deaconess. They also subsidize the University of Arizona campus ministry. In 2017, a collection was taken for the Houston LCMS churches affected by the hurricane and the church added \$1000 from general funds. The goal has been to provide at least \$8,000 - \$10,000 for various mission endeavors.

Bible class continues to be well attended. Studying the book of Hebrews has given opportunity to learn more about the Old Testament sacrificial system and its comparison to the once-for-all-time sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. An active choir provides special music for worship services, especially for the festivals of the church. A full set of new vestments and paraments has recently been dedicated.

Outreach into the Hispanic community continues to grow. Sunday attendance averages 33 with 20 for mid-week services. During the past year, Pastor McClure has performed the following pastoral acts – 27 baptisms, 2 weddings, 2 funerals, 6 Quinceaneras, and 2 house blessings. Two young people have been confirmed (with another 5 enrolled) while 7 other young people have been prepared for first communion (and 8 more enrolled). The Sunday school numbers 20 and is taught by Marilyn McClure.

**Messiah, Tucson, AZ** – The Rev. Luther Esala

Messiah continues to use the former sanctuary of Ascension Lutheran Church for their worship services. For the use of the Rittman Outreach Center, Pastor Esala teaches a Bible study for Ascension and Messiah members on Sunday mornings.

**Mt. Olive, Tucson, AZ** – The Rev. Dr. Frank Ciampa

While they are a small congregation, Mt. Olive has grown slightly in membership. They have baptized three adults and several children. Finances have improved slightly so that they can

continue their commitments to the District, the University of Arizona ministry, and a number of local ministries. The number of Bible study opportunities has increased, and once again they hold a yearly VBS. In addition they support Operation Barnabas and a LCMS missionary family working in Kenya. The congregation has opened the use of its facilities to community groups.

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

Since being assigned to Peace In the Valley, 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. The congregation conducted a Family Fun Festival for the J-6 Ranch/Mescal community in 2016. To touch the town of Benson, which is eight miles away, the congregation has entered Benson parades and passed 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.

**Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ – The Rev. Todd Arnold**

Several significant changes have happened at Risen Savior over the past triennium, the most significant being the retirement of long-time Pastor John Stieve in May 2016 after 19 years at the church. During the vacancy, the congregation was served primarily by Rev. Roger Stuenkel. In the Fall of 2016, the congregation issued a call to Rev. Todd Arnold of West Portal Lutheran Church, San Francisco. He accepted the call and was installed on January 15, 2017 by Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, Bishop/President of the English District.

Another important move made by the congregation during the triennium was the purchase and installation of a Holtkamp Opus 212 pipe organ. The organ was dedicated in a special service on January 10, 2016. An important ministry, a concert series, has continued to serve the community.

Three significant anniversaries were celebrated during the triennium:

- The 5th Anniversary of S.O.U.L. Lunch (Showing Our Unconditional Love), a bi-monthly luncheon open to the community and attended by up to 200 people.
- The 10th anniversary of Deaconess Jeri Morrison's service to the congregation.
- And of course, the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation celebrated locally with a Reformation Walk by members of the church and at the circuit-wide Reformation service at Faith, Tucson.

## **NEVADA/UTAH CIRCUIT #21**

*The Rev. Gary Oehlerts, Circuit Visitor*

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

**Prince of Peace, Mesquite, NV** – The Rev. Travis Lauterbach

**Trinity, Las Vegas, NV** – The Rev. Gary Oehlerts

Trinity was established as a mission church on September 4, 2011 and approved for membership into the English District on January 18, 2013. Their chartering service was held on March 17, 2013. Trinity holds their services at Aliante Community Center and has grown steadily in membership and attendance.

Our primary area of outreach lies within a 55 years of age and over community. Currently, there is new house construction on both sides of where we serve, which should provide opportunity for growth.

While we have a beautiful place to worship, we have no permanent building. We rent space on Sunday morning from 8:00 a.m. to noon. We set up and tear down our worship area after each service. The rest of our ministries are carried out in the homes of members. Tremendous opportunity exists to expand in this high growth area, but opportunity for growth within our church is very limited due to the lack of a permanent structure.

## **SAN DIEGO CIRCUIT #22**

*The Rev. Steven Duescher, Circuit Visitor*

**Borrego, Borrego Springs, CA** – Served by Deacon Michael Matthews

Borrego Lutheran Church continues to meet every Sunday morning with worship service at 10:00 am and Bible study at 9:00 am. 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 at staying in contact with them and 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.

**Christ the King, Santee, CA** - Closed

Christ the King closed in 2016. Its final service was held, October 16, 2016 with representation from the District, Rev. Derek Mathers, Assistant to the President/Mission Executive. Also attending were Rev. Steven Duescher, Circuit Visitor and former pastor Rev. John Sorensen. The service was uplifting with memories of God's work through Christ the King Lutheran. A dinner and reception followed the special late afternoon worship service. Christ the King

Lutheran also blessed a number of ministries, including circuit congregations with Lutheran Service Books, banners, etc. in addition to financial gifts.

**Crossroads, Mira Mesa, CA** – The Rev. Justin Laughridge

The four home groups that have formed in the community continue to drive the ministry of the church. Each one is encouraged to focus on outreach to the community, worship and Bible study, and fellowship time with one another. In a multi-ethnic community, ministry challenges abound, but the joy of serving God's people is great. We have been especially thankful for the baptism and confirmation of several new adult members, as well as a family that came to the waters of baptism through the witness of a single member of their family. A true miracle to give thanks for! Pastor Laughridge serves both Crossroads and Morning Star Lutheran Churches in San Diego, and continues to be blessed by them both.

**First, El Cajon, CA** – The Rev. Andrew Fedder

Rev. Fedder was installed and ordained in June of 2016. We continue to have our two Sunday morning services, and started a Saturday evening service in February of 2017. In the last year we have had a number of deaths and families move away, but even with that membership is up year to year. We had four children become members through baptism, one adult baptism and a number of transfers and returning members. We have also been financially operating in the black two years in a row.

We continue our work with the Arabic refugee community through People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO). Currently most of our work is in the homes of refugees we have established relationships with, but we hope to start citizenship classes this year on our campus. To go forward with this plan, we have received a DCE intern from Concordia-Texas who will be dedicated to organizing and driving forward our efforts on this front.

We would also like to thank our God and Father for the members and monies we received from Christ the King after they closed. We had two major campus repairs come up this year. We had to redo our air conditioning vents in our foundation due to moisture seeping up, and our office badly needed a new roof. As a church we prayed that the Lord would provide for these large expenses and he did. Both times we received unrelated monies from Christ the King which just happened to perfectly cover the cost.

**Inter-Mountain, Guatay, CA** – Served by Deacon Robert Kulowitch

Inter-Mountain Lutheran Church continues to meet every Sunday for worship services at 10:00 am and for Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. The congregation has not grown significantly but the core group has been faithful and dedicated, diminished only by physical limitations and passing on to glory.

With the implementation of the new guidelines regarding the licensing of deacons issued by the LCMS, I have decided to retire from my service to Inter-Mountain Lutheran Church effective June 30, 2018. Subsequently, the congregation met and decided to discontinue church operations also effective June 30, 2018. The congregation will make available furnishings, etc., to any church that needs them.

**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 is making arrangements to sell the property it has purchased to secure rental space for better worship facilities and congregational use. Because we are small, any encouragement is big. Recently a Lutheran student from UCSD and a young Persian man from Iran (technically Muslim) have joined our worshipping community. The latter is taking adult instruction.

Our desire is to be the people of God in the community and bring others into His fold. Living Water continues to share the services of their pastor with Bethany Lutheran Church in Ocean Beach, a Pacific Southwest District congregation.

**Morning Star, Lakeside, CA** –The Rev. Justin Laughridge

Since Pastor Laughridge accepted the call to serve the congregation in late 2015, we have been joyfully continuing to minister in and reach out to the city of Lakeside and her surrounding area.

Baptisms, confirmations, and celebrations of new membership have been happening regularly, including several new families that have come through the “off-campus reach” of Bible study/home groups.

Continuing to develop Christian leaders remains a heavy focus of the congregation, and as a result more folks are being equipped to serve in the various roles of service throughout the church.

There has been a strong emphasis on witness and personal evangelism in ministry the past couple of years.

In terms of on-site changes, the church sanctuary has been remodeled and equipped with a wide range of musical and visual additions to serve the congregation’s worship of our Lord.

Morning Star has been very active in community outreach through involvement with the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, the Spirit of Christmas and the Lakeside Annual Parade, and Lakeside Christian Help Center.

**LOS ANGELES CIRCUIT #23**

*The Rev. Daniel Pezzica, Circuit Visitor*

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

**Highland Park, Los Angeles, CA** –

**Peace, Palm Desert, CA** – The Rev. Brian Pratt

**Saint Paul’s, Los Angeles, CA** – The Rev. Brandon Jones & The Rev. Mark Pierson

**Sherman Oaks, Sherman Oaks, CA** – The Rev. Daniel Pezzica

## **SAN FRANCISCO CIRCUIT #24**

*The Rev. Charles Fox, Circuit Visitor*

**Apostolic, Moses Lake, WA** – The Rev. Herman Williams

**Hope, Fremont, CA** – The Rev. John Berg & The Rev. Freeman Li

**Messiah, Danville, CA** – The Rev. Peter Ledic

The congregation of Messiah Lutheran Church has been created by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the waters of Holy Baptism, and gathered by the Holy Spirit around the glorious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ where we are fed and nourished at His table as we participate in the Body and Blood of our Lord every Sunday and hear through the office of the Holy Ministry the joyous word of forgiveness in Holy Absolution. We are grateful for these gifts of our Savior! Messiah therefore continues to serve the greater East Bay as a confessional, liturgical Lutheran congregation.

St. John the Apostle wrote to our day no less than his own: *“But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”* 1 John 3:17-18 Locally, we continue to support our community's Valley Pregnancy Center, Good Shepherd Homes and the Food Bank of Contra Costa County. Globally, we have partnered with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya for two very important care projects: Messiah's Sunday school (and various individual members) supports AIDS Orphans in Kenya through the work of Rev. Dennis Meeker (<https://4kenyaskids.org>), and Messiah also continues to support the work of Deaconess Pam Boehle Silva, a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Rocklin, CA who provides support and training especially to the deaconesses in Kenya. Furthermore, we have now begun to support the missionary work of the Rev. Dr. Arthur Just in both Spain and the Dominican Republic. We also have continued to support the work of Rev. Roy Coats (a son of our congregation) who works in inner city Baltimore as pastor of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, particularly among Liberian immigrants.

During this past triennium we have entered into the vicarage program of the LCMS. Stefan Gramenz and now Andrew Mundingner have spent their year of vicarage with us. We also have undertaken a number of projects in our congregation: extending and enhancing the pulpit, installing new HVAC and repaving the parking lot. To God alone be the glory!

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

God continues His work in our *“multi-congregation parish”* of New Life (English District) and Shepherd of the Hills (CNH District), and may be summarized by using the New Life Mission Statement acrostic: ENERGEIA (ἐνέργεια, **“the powerful working of God,”** cf. Colossians 2:12 *ESV*): **“The MISSION of New Life Chinese Lutheran Church is to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).** Our primary mission is to:

1) **Evangelize: Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the unchurched community!**

To enable us to have a bridge to welcome “not-yet-Christian” community friends, New Life (NL) and Shepherd of the Hills (SOTH) provide a weekly food pantry to all our neighbors in need. On the average we help 80+ families, most of whom are Chinese. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, prior to the food pantry, we have a “Food Pantry Sing Along,” with songs, a message, and a PowerPoint. On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, as well as twice every week, we have Praisercise (aerobic exercise routines done in rhythm to Mandarin Christian songs). On the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday we have a Gospel Bridge Outreach. Further, from a grant given by the LCMS Office of National Mission in 2017, we were also able to share the Gospel with our truly international food pantry clients by gifts of Lutheran Heritage Foundation’s CPH book, “A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories,” translated into simplified and traditional Chinese, Russian, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese.

Throughout 2015-2017 we had special “bridge events” meant to welcome visitors for a chance to hear the Gospel and enjoy related events, including Chinese New Year Sunday, Easter Sunday, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, New Beginnings Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday, Christmas Program, Christmas, New Year’s Eve. These events were a blessing to the new friends and “pre-Christian” relatives we invited, as well as to our brothers and sisters who already walk with Jesus.

On Friday evenings during the school year, we began Young Musicians, a program to teach guitar and piano to elementary through middle school children. During the summer this program becomes a youth basketball program.

Chinese/English Christian calendars were designed to introduce people to all of NL and SOTH’s activities. New Lifers will, by God’s grace, continue these outreach events in 2018.

2) **Nurture: Through Christ-centered worship!**

In 2017 New Life’s 9 am Cantonese/Mandarin worship and 11:45 am English worship together were attended by an average of 67 people. Shepherd of the Hills had an average attendance of about 13 people. Twice a month Pastoral Deacon Otis Byrd leads SOTH’s worship and preaches, allowing Pastor Chip to teach Bible study/catechism for New Life two or three times a month. To maximize the Christ-centered worship by helping listeners more clearly receive, understand, and meaningfully engage in God’s Word, New Life uses PowerPoint for bilingual songs/hymns and both NL and SOTH use it for Sunday sermons.

In 2018, our prayer to God for worship is that He’ll increase averages for New Life’s Cantonese worship to 55, New Life’s English worship to 20; and Shepherd of the Hills worship to 18!

3) **Engage: Through Bible study groups!**

Thank God, New Life’s Sunday Education Hour attendance in the Bible studies, fellowships, and Sunday schools continues to be over 50% of the Sunday worship attendance. Deacon Otis hopes to once again begin SOTH’s Bible study at 9 am, preceding Sunday worship. The English Adult, young adult, junior high and senior high all use Bible studies especially prepared to help participants by the Holy Spirit’s ministry go deeper into the Word of God and find personal applications. Wednesday’s Prayer and Outreach group meets to study scripture/pray for New Life/SOTH, and goes out to make hospital/evangelism visits. The youth and young adult

fellowship ministers especially to the young through God's Word and great Christian music. For both congregations, many different "daily Bible reading plans" were prepared so we all can become "people of the Book."

Our "*Young Professionals*" continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus. This group meets the needs of our young adults and "*pre-Christian*" friends who've now graduated and/or have begun working careers.

For our younger children, we began a Lutheran Youth Fellowship on Friday nights, geared to grow our young children in God's Word. This group has now turned into our youth confirmation with five students.

4) **Revolutionize: Disciple and nurture them in the body of Christ!**

The English confirmation classes and the Chinese discovery class have continued to bring the Word of God deeper into people's lives. In 2017 we were blessed to have one child baptism, six adult baptisms, and four confirmations.

The youth and young adults held several annual winter retreats where materials were provided, and the young adult leaders taught the lessons.

During our New Life Summer Retreat we all went in-depth to discover God's vision for our life as a church by discovering God's call to prayer, as well as how to share Christ in a Chinese context!

5) **Grow & Explode Into Action: And equip them for Christian service and spiritual leadership!**

Opportunities for Christ-centered service and leadership come through opportunities to serve as Sunday worship liturgist, Cantonese interpreter, Mandarin interpreter, organist/pianist, praise band, lectors, Hosanna Fellowship Choir, Chinese praise group, men's choir, children's message presenter, Sunday child care, greeters, ushers, acolytes, communion assistants, altar guild, flowers arranger, refreshments preparers and cleaner-uppers, worship PowerPoint preparer, photographer, worship PowerPoint advancer, church cleaners (who deserve special thanks, weekly keeping God's house clean and beautiful), property, and walkers in the annual West Coast Walk for Life. Christian service and spiritual leadership are further fostered, as members served on the NL Mission and Ministry Council and on the SOTH Council, as team leaders or helpers at the weekly food pantry and food pantry sing along, in bringing and leading in worship the patients of Laguna Honda Hospital (a large chronic care facility for the city's destitute and ill) and Rehabilitation Center, and in the young musician class (equipping our high school age New Lifers to lead all God's people in worship).

In order to better equip each member to naturally invite people to our bridge events (i.e. Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Program, Christmas), beautiful invitation cards were designed and produced for distribution.

In 2017 we provided prayers and encouragement to Michael Yee (A student at Concordia, Irvine, preparing to be a director of Christian education). We helped to coordinate the LCMS

participation in the Walk for Life-West Coast in 2017, and in 2018 we additionally hosted a pre-Walk for Life worship service with Holy Communion.

Beyond the doors of Shepherd of the Hills and New Life, God enabled us to beautifully “**explode into action**” for missions, as by His grace we provided donations to disaster relief, to both the English and CNH Districts of the LCMS, Lutheran Social Services, the LCMS Seminary Fund, and more.

In 2018 we will seek to continue most of the above. We’ll also facilitate training to support our Gospel workers in their specific church groups, so that we can even more effectively serve God and share Christ. We’ll continue encouraging people to prayerfully consider full time Gospel work for the Lord Jesus. *S.D.G.*

**West Portal, San Francisco, CA** – The Rev. Curtis Binz & The Rev. J. Wayne Kerr

## **MISSION GRANT MINISTRIES**

### **2015-2018**

#### **ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER, SLIPPERY ROCK, PA**

The Rev. Larry Loree, Jr., The Rev. Todd Seaver & Mrs. Augusta Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

God sends college students to All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center from across the world. The students speak English, are curious, and are often open to friendship. Some students are familiar with the Gospel, but most are not. Many have gone to Christian schools back home. All Saints believes we have a golden opportunity to share the Gospel with the students. This is what we have done as a town-gown ministry thanks to the help of the English District.

All Saints goes all out to give friendship to American and international students who attend Slippery Rock University and Grove City College. We do this through monthly home-cooked meals which have become nicknamed the "Korean meal", because the Christian lady who prepares the meals is Korean and cooks Korean. We demonstrate friendship by helping them learn to drive, by transporting students to the stores, by being available to talk anytime the students want to visit. Our staff is always available for students; this is important because spiritual questions are often spontaneous. Students can always schedule a Bible class or call to ask for help. Campus ministry at All Saints is well known for the friendship shown. Trips to see the Amish community and outings for ice cream cones are favorites. Rev. Loree even ordered an Orthodox Bible to help an Ethiopian student feel comfortable in a Lutheran Church.

All Saints celebrated her 40th anniversary in 2017. Students joined the celebration. Joy filled everyone's hearts because we have had faithful pastors and laymen who have worked hard to reach out with the Gospel to the town and gown. The anniversary was not only a chance to look back in thanks, but also to look forward with plans to carry on the work for at least another forty years. The congregation is planning much needed improvements to the student center in the undercroft, with hopes that a cozier and warmer ambience will become a place for students to congregate when off campus.

Rev. Loree invites speakers who will help us reach out to college students. He purposely invited a Muslim convert, who is now an LCMS pastor in Chicago, to speak to students. Rev. Shehab drew not only college students but also members of the congregation and interested Christians from the area. A Muslim student from Pakistan, who has since returned home, came to hear the conversion story. So did students from Sri Lanka and the USA. Rev. Shehab spoke with great sensitivity to Muslim listeners whom he knew were in the audience. Rev. Loree is already planning to invite a Voice of the Martyrs speaker to tell about the active and vigorous persecution of Christians around the world.

All Saints is aware of the need in the community for spiritual help. We support community groups like Alpha and Omega (pro-life) and Narcotics Anonymous. We also have an active program to visit shut-ins in nursery homes.

All Saints is on the mission field because the English District has helped us to be here. We would not be in existence if not for the prayers, encouragement, and financial support of the English District. To God be the glory!

### **BETHANY, EWING, NJ**

The Rev. Fred Gerlach

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ewing, New Jersey, has partnered with the English District to serve the Liberian immigrant community in the Trenton area since 2001. Bethany welcomed these immigrants and assisted them with their transition into the United States from refugee camps and other situations. This outreach has been very successful in introducing Liberians to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Bethany continues to be a place of worship and resource to the Liberian community and others who are in need and desire to be nourished by the Word of God. Over the last three years we continued our afterschool program and back to school night to help economically challenged children to receive school supplies their classes required. This program has been very successful with over 100 children benefitting from these events.

Three years ago, we became an active partner in the health of our members and community. Many of our Liberians suffered with diabetes and other health issues. We joined a newly established faith-based organization called the Trenton Health Team. With their help and support we organized a healthy eating and exercise program that ran eight weeks in the summer of 2015. This program was a success on many levels. Out of 15 visitors to the event, three became members of our congregation. We had one African America teen reduce her weight by 80 pounds and went on to college to study nutrition. This partnership fostered events such as blood pressure screening, blood sugar screening and mammogram screening and also allowed for distribution of other health related information.

Over this same period of time we helped members of the Liberian community and others in need with over 100 meals during the holidays and throughout the year. We also established a yoga class for children and adults which is held every other Saturday at the church.

We supported five Liberian teens, who attended Bethany Lutheran and were confirmed in the faith, to complete their applications to college and provided financial assistance to purchase books and two computers. For others we held a computer class on how to use the internet and other programs that was attended by twelve adults and six teens.

The mission grants from the English District allowed us to provide assistance for utility bills, car repairs, medical expenses and job training and application expenses. These programs established Bethany as a good neighbor who worked with people to make Ewing and Trenton a better place for the all the residents and a place where the Word of God was active.

### **BETHESDA ASIAN INDIAN MINISTRY, CHICAGO, IL**

The Rev. Shadrach Katari

Proclaiming and teaching the Gospel is not easy among Asian Indians in the Chicago area because of their strong beliefs in their religion. They believe that all gods are equal, and they can worship any god or goddess to show their faith and respect and do not want to become target of any god or goddess.

As a missionary for many years, I also observed that many Hindus believe that Jesus is one god among the many gods of the world. They have a hard time accepting that Jesus is the only true God of the world. Without the help of the Holy Spirit, a Hindu cannot accept Jesus as his/her personal savior and receive the sacrament of baptism.

This ministry works among Asian Indians in the Chicago area, and we praise God that we are improving our evangelism in reaching many non-Christians and Christians by using new methods. Many have benefited physically and spiritually by this ministry through Sunday worship, Bible study, special gospel meetings, evangelical concerts, etc. In the past three years we have seen God's grace in the midst of many financial and local problems of the ministry. We have regular church attendees every Sunday worship. Two families are new believers of Christ, traveling from 50 miles to our Bethesda. Other families live less than 10 miles away. They are the ones who are benefitting directly from our ministry services. One family received immigration through our hard work, and two other families received H1 worker visas by our moral support.

Our Telugu community in recent years is growing very rapidly in all Chicago suburban areas. We are able to reach many of them by phone and social media. Some people who came from India looked for the Telugu church, and they called me for a ride to attend the worship services. For some of them we provide accommodations and clothing as needed.

In the past three years, we had three infant Baptisms, three adult Baptisms and three youth confirmations. Four more children are taking confirmation class and will be confirmed this year. We thank God for all his blessings on this ministry, and we also thankful to the English District for all their prayer and financial support.

## **FAITH, NAPLES, FL (VOICE OF FAITH MUSLIM MINISTRY)**

Mrs. Julie Dass

Voice of Faith began the mission project in Southwest Florida three years ago. God has blessed us with many opportunities to share the Gospel with the Hindu, Muslim and Sikh communities.

We have a Sewing Circle group that meets every two weeks in a rented facility. Women of all faiths in the area are invited to attend. We began with three women and now we now have twenty-eight women, four of whom attend our Bible study meetings held in the same location. We are reaching nonbelievers in the area.

Three years ago, we shared the story of an Iranian women, Maria, who joined us for Sewing Circle. Now she is seeking Christ and attends our Bible study. Another family also became Bible study members from the Sewing Circle.

Julie holds Skype Bible studies every Thursday and this study is gaining popularity worldwide. The first class held had five members. Thanks be to God, seventeen people are now in attendance from India, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

We plan to start an online church in the near future. Jay Dass is presently enrolled in Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO to become a pastor. People in many parts of the world are seeking Christ but are subjected to religious persecution. We look ahead to provide them a private and secure place to receive Biblical education.

Please keep Voice of Faith and its missionaries in your prayers. Thank you.

## **FIRST, EL CAJON, CA (CROSSROADS LUTHERAN CHURCH, MIRA MESA, CA)**

The Rev. Justin Laughridge

Many thanks to our English District and its continued support of mission plants and campus ministries across North America and around the world. In this past triennium, we were so excited to welcome new families and children into the Lord's family -- we saw baptisms, confirmations, family members bringing other family members to know their Savior Jesus Christ, and so much more!

One such "family" story meant so much to me personally as a pastor. One of the first adults I baptized was 66 years old at the time of his baptism, which was several years ago. But more recently, he began praying for his now adult children and elementary-age grandchildren. Soon after that, he began praying WITH his family and discussing his Christian faith and why it was so important to him. He asked them to attend worship, and his adult daughter and son-in-law stated their own desire to be a part of God's family as well. They have served their neighbors in all sorts of different ways and have experienced the everyday miracle of God's love, His mercy,

and His grace. Praise the Lord! We join with all the missions and ministries of the English District in thanking her and thanking the Lord for the continued privilege of serving in His Kingdom. God's blessings as you serve Him with joy!

### **FIRST TRINITY, PITTSBURGH, PA – CAMPUS MINISTRY**

The Rev. Eric Andrae

For three consecutive academic years, Pastor Eric R. Andrae has been serving as the chaplain for a unique and new national program engaging students through the Pre-Med Hospice Volunteer Program. Sixty University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) pre-med students have served as hospice volunteers at West Penn Hospital. At First Trinity Church, we host training events, facilitate reflection meetings from a specifically Lutheran perspective, and connect the students to our caring, Christian community as they process the spiritual dimensions of what they experience.

On April 8, 2016 Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF) hosted Prof. Scott Stiegemeyer (Concordia University - Irvine) to speak on the Pitt campus regarding transgender issues. Here is the *Pitt News* summary: <http://pittnews.com/article/106872/news/pastor-speaks-about-gender-students-protest/>. Prof. Stiegemeyer spoke to a very diverse audience of approximately 110-150 people. Beforehand, representatives from LSF initiated and had four distinct meetings with university staff (Coordinators for LGBT Resources and Gender Resources [Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)], Facilities [Pitt]), other chaplains (Unitarian, Campbellite), and students & community members who identify as transgender and/or homosexual.

LSF-International Student Ministry (ISM) "Tabled" at Pitt on Ash Wednesday in 2016, in 2017, and, also at CMU, in 2018. In 2016 and 2017 we had approximately 80 students combined receiving ashes, with another dozen or so stopping for conversation and material only. This year alone we had 87 receive ashes at Pitt, and another 13 at CMU for a total of 100; with another dozen visiting for prayer and information only. In addition, Pastor Andrae "Tabled" many times on campus with "Free Prayer" sign and/or with student leaders.

Through "Mental Health First Aid," Pastor Andrae was trained in 2016 to provide initial help to people experiencing mental health problems.

Through PittServes and with "Stop Hunger Now," students helped assemble 10,000 meals for 60,000 people in Haiti and Africa.

In November 2016 LSF-ISM hosted synodical photographer Erik Lunsford for a story on Pittsburgh campus ministry which appeared in the January issue of *Lutherans Engage the World*, online and in print. See <http://engage.lcms.org/grant-for-campus-ministry-winter-2017> for the article and a video interview.

Pastor Andr  served as chaplain, sectional presenter, and panelist at the LCMSU national campus ministry conference, January 3-6, 2017 in Washington, D.C. Eight attended from our Pittsburgh chapter, despite classes being in session at Pitt.

LSF organized and co-sponsored nationally renowned speaker and writer Wesley Hill's presentation at Pitt on homosexuality and faith in February, 2017; 50+ attended. LSF hosted the Humanist League (agnostics, atheists) of CMU on March 29, 2017 and February 28, 2018 for what has become an annual dinner and discussion.

Paul [U.S.] and Jin [China], both CMU graduate students, were confirmed and confirmed/baptized, respectively, at the Easter Vigil on April 15, 2017.

In October 2017, some six members of Westboro Baptist Church came to campus at both CMU and Pitt, protesting against homosexuals and others in a manner that is extremely confrontational, while offering very little if any hope or talk of forgiveness, redemption, and new life; on the other side (literally and figuratively), a large crowd of students and staff responded with a virtual LGBT "Pride" festival. Somewhere in the middle (literally and figuratively), Pastor Eric Andr  was offering "Free Prayer" and biblical guidance.

Pastor Andr  was one of three members of a panel discussing "The Faith and the Activism of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," sponsored by the Chatham University Office of Student Affairs, held January 9, 2018 on campus.

First Trinity Homeless Ministry (FTHM), a daughter mission of the campus ministry, provides weekly lunch rounds (students from LSF, as well as nonchurched 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) provides clothes, toiletries, and other necessities at the church, as well as prayer and invitation to church.

Pastor Andr  continues to serve on the Advisory Board for the PGH Christian Studies Program (<http://www.pghchristianstudies.org/>), as well as appearing monthly on the drive-time show on local Christian radio station WORD-FM ([www.WORDFM.org](http://www.WORDFM.org)).

## **HOLY CROSS, TOLEDO, OH – CAMPUS MINISTRY**

The Rev. Peter Burfeind

## **HOPE COMMUNITY, SYRACUSE, NY**

Deacon Abednego Johnson

Hope Community Lutheran Church in Syracuse, NY currently receives the Holy sacrament and divine worship from a visiting pastor, Rev. Dwayne Hendricks, on every first Sunday of the month.

After the death of Deacon Emmanuel Nyema's wife, he relocated to Rhode Island with his family which caused a dramatic decline in the congregation's membership.

Hope Community, being the only LCMS congregation in Syracuse, NY, strives to keep the spirit of LCMS alive in this area. The congregation is blessed by Missio Church, a non-denominational congregation that offers its building to Hope for services and meetings free of charge.

It is by the grace of God and the kind hearts of Missio Church members that Hope still exists as a Lutheran congregation in Syracuse.

The members of Hope are new immigrants from Liberia who find interest in the LCMS teaching and worship and chose to become a member of English District - LCMS.

The future plan of Hope is:

- To grow its membership through evangelism
- To restart the feeding project of the homeless shelter
- To increase the outreach effort by engaging the community

Hope Community Lutheran Church wants to thank God, Pastor Dwayne Hendricks and every one of you for your support.

## **LCMS-U AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA**

Vicar Jesse Schlie/Supervised by The Rev. Joshua Palmer

Holdfast Fellowship, the LCMSU chapter at the University of Arizona, is thriving after a few years of transition. Chaplain Pacey, the founder of the ministry, left for a call to Texas in 2013. For a while local pastors and a vicar led the students. In 2015 Rev. Joshua Palmer received a call to lead the ministry half-time while also being assistant pastor at Catalina Lutheran Church. In 2017 a half-time vicar was added.

Throughout all those changes, God has been faithful. Holdfast Fellowship is growing, with a flourishing ministry to college students, young people from the local military base, and twenty-somethings who are starting careers and families. Attendance at our main Bible study and worship service has roughly tripled. This year, with the help of a vicar, we've been able to offer a weekly freshman prayer breakfast and a porn-addiction recovery Bible study for young men.

We were also able to join with the other campus pastors to host the Veritas forum in January, which was a public debate about the historicity of Jesus' resurrection. Holdfast Fellowship also hosted Ashes on the Mall for Ash Wednesday, when Vicar Schlie and Pastor Palmer were able to speak a short liturgy of repentance and a gospel message individually to over 250 people.

As we look to the future, we are excited for the continuing opportunities God is giving us to evangelize on campus and to lead students and young people to deepen their faith through intensive study of God's word, community, and prayer. All of us at Holdfast Fellowship are grateful for the amazing support of the English District. None of the things we do would be possible without your gifts and your prayers

### **LINC MILWAUKEE**

The Rev. Joseph Robb

The English District's support of our work in local leadership development, may be seen in the life and ministry of Marty Calderon. In the last year, we have been able to provide Marty and other local leaders the opportunity to turn their dreams and visions of ministry into reality. Thanks to the support of the English District, Marty has begun "God Touch Milwaukee" and with our help is able to receive IRS status as a 501(c)(3). God Touch Milwaukee is a transitional living home, which helps men coming out of addiction and incarceration to live in a safe place, be held accountable through a discipling relationship, and find productive work. As a leader, Marty is receiving from LINC coaching, mentorship, board recruitment, financial assistance, and education in Theology and Non-Profit administration. Marty in turn is providing hope for young men by providing them spiritual care and opportunities to straighten out their lives through Christ. Without the support of partners like the English District, Marty and other leaders in Milwaukee would not have the opportunity to begin ministries, which create real life transformation; and for that we are extremely thankful!

### **LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE SOUTHWEST**

Elena is 97. She lives alone in the home where she and her husband raised their five sons and has been in this home for over 55 years. Her husband worked at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and Elena volunteered for the local Area Agency on Aging for over 25 years. Elena began to worry about falling in the shower and over time stopped showering altogether due to fear. Elena was also struggling to get her grocery shopping done, as she does not drive and is easily fatigued. With the help of LSS-SW, Elena now has a caregiver who helps her take a shower three times per week. LSS-SW has also started providing Elena with grocery shopping assistance. Elena is grateful for the assistance and plans to continue living in her home as long as possible. She is grateful to everyone who has made this possible.

## **LWML – ENGLISH DISTRICT**

Jan Simmons, President  
(See report on page 3-109)

### **MARTIN LUTHER CHAPEL AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST LANSING, MI**

The Rev. Curtis Dwyer/The Rev. David Dressel

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.

Pastor Dave Dressel continues to supervise and support the work among university students, with the help of Pastor Curt Dwyer. Every year three student leadership teams of five students each facilitate the ministry on campus, including the Wednesday student-led contemporary worship service and Bible study, four student retreats every year, the Spring Break Servant Event trips and other fellowship and outreach events. Each summer we help coordinate the work of the MSU Religious Advisors Association during student orientation, so that we are able to identify the religious affiliation of nearly all the incoming students each year. Every week brings new student visitors to Martin Luther Chapel; we strive to be their church-away-from-home during their time at the university.

We strive to include students in every aspect of congregational life, equipping them to be life-long servant leaders in other congregations across the country and around the world. Students regularly serve in the offices of Vice President and Secretary of the Church Council, as members of the Spiritual Care and Growth team, as worship assistants, in the choir, and on other congregational boards and committees. Students and resident members study Scripture side-by-side and live out their faith together at service projects.

We continue to work closely with the Friendship House (International Student Ministry, Lansing Area). Many members of Martin Luther Chapel serve as volunteer teachers or conversation partners with the international students and their families. We have also begun a special emphasis on ESL work revolving around Sunday morning worship, which has resulted in several baptisms.

English District grant funds help ensure that we are able to reach out to students and incorporate them into the life of the congregation while they study at Michigan State and Lansing Community College.

## **PEACE, O'FALLON, MO**

The Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner

Peace Lutheran Church in O'Fallon, Missouri has been the recipient of grants from the English District which has enabled our congregation to become a major part of the O'Fallon community.

Peace participates as a sponsor of the Winghaven Events which include a summer concert series. This allows members to meet directly with members of the community and share the good news with them. During these events, we have sponsored games for children, several 5K runs, a very popular Child ID program along with distributing popcorn and cold water on hot summer evenings during the concerts.

Some of our members are no longer able to drive and to address that, a Homebound Ministry was created. Each week, Pastor's sermons are recorded and sent to those homebound members along with the bulletin. Six to eight members, along with those who may be hospitalized, receive the mailings weekly.

Ministering to youth is an important part of Peace Ministry. Our Vacation Bible School is held in the evenings and attended by fifty to seventy children with a significant majority of them non-members and who do not list a church home. The Breakfast with Santa held in December invites children into our church to get a free picture with Santa, have some breakfast with him and hear the true meaning of Christmas.

Honoring those who serve us during the holidays has become a major focus for our Ministries. For the past four years, Peace members (young and old) have enjoyed delivering turkey and dressing meals on Thanksgiving Day. Included are fresh baked pies and fixings, which are delivered to our Fire, Ambulance, and Police first responders in O'Fallon, Lake St. Louis, Wentzville, New Melle and St. Charles County.

We are eternally grateful to the English District churches, Board and Bishop for their support that has enabled our congregation to grow and prosper in the O'Fallon, Missouri community.

## **PHILADELPHIA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES – LOGOS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

The current project of Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries (PLM) is to establish Logos Lutheran congregation in Center City Philadelphia. With a rented space on Broad Street, which is centrally located just blocks from City Hall, PLM has established a presence in the heart of the city over the past year.

Logos Lutheran began having weekly Divine Service in 2017 with a core group of university students and young professionals. Pastor Rob Kieselowsky serves as pastor, 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 given tremendous encouragement and support as we strive to do the Lord's work in the city.

**REDEEMER CRISIS CENTER AND IGLESIA CRISTIANA HISPANA, CLEVELAND, OH**

Mrs. Diane Zellmer, Director/Mr. Adam Torres, Deacon

*"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

**When I was hungry...can you help?**

The center continues to give a modest three-day supply of groceries on a monthly basis to those in need. In a year's time approximately 17,583 children, adults and seniors received 210,996 meals weighing more than 138 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.

Our monthly community meal is served on the second Sunday of the month and serves 80 to more than 120 guests. Area congregations sponsor and host these meals while building new relationships and sharing Jesus. The pantry is also open on these Sundays for those that work and need weekend hours!

**When I was lonely...can you help?**

The Center continues to be a place of forgiveness, strength and healing. The broken families, mentally ill, lonely and drug addicted are encouraged to join us for morning devotions three days a week. Prayer concerns brought to the group include relationships, the neighborhood, the Center's ministry, new babies and pregnancies, vocational focus, health, strength, thankfulness, healing and forgiveness.

Our Senior Teas continue to connect neighbors to one another while providing an opportunity for us to share again God's love for all and study His Word. These "events" are eagerly awaited.

The Summer Youth & Lunch Program, available to children through the age of 18, continues to be a valuable program for our community. More than 80 children take advantage of this program. We reach out with the Good News through a six-week Vacation Bible School where scripture, song and crafts are taught. Teens use 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 19-24, people received an explanation of God's mercy and forgiveness provided us. Gifts, diapers and formula were provided by area congregations and through a grant from Concordia Ministries.

The donations received from churches and individuals continue to be given free of charge to the neighborhood. 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.

The number of volunteers willing to share of their time and talents in the Center continues to brighten our day and reminds us of our purpose to share the love of God with our neighbors. The blessing of dedicated workers, who daily, weekly, or at a single call come to the Center's rescue, continues to lift our hearts and lightens the task of reaching all of God's creation!

The Center continues to receive support from the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland, English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Concordia Lutheran Ministries, Lutheran Urban Community Ministry, Thrivent, area churches, organizations, businesses and many individuals. This support comes in many forms – cash, food, clothing, labor, furniture, toys and household items.

*"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 & Mr. John Driscoll, Dean of Students

Over the past seven years, Redeemer Lutheran School has been blessed to be able to continue to grow and mature as the only LCMS PreK-High School in Pennsylvania. Redeemer is planted in the heart of a school district that is 60% economically challenged and 67% minority. Redeemer has become a school of choice for parents wanting a safe environment for their children. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been given the opportunity to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ on a daily basis with 282 students. With the acquisition of our 11-acre

facility, Redeemer has had the opportunity to promote public outreach with the community through a variety of events, as well as school family events.

Our students have as many opportunities for success as the public school system. We have graduated three senior classes—four the first year, six the second and nine the third. We are on track to graduate twelve students in the 2017-2018 school year. Our graduates have had the opportunity to obtain college credit while attending Redeemer Lutheran High School by means of our partnership with Concordia University-Mequon and the seven Advanced Placement courses we offer in house. Our graduates have been accepted to multiple universities including: University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Concordia University-Mequon, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Grove City College and other local state universities.

English District grants have provided our school with equipment for our high school Robotics program, lockers for students, and Christian textbooks and curriculum. Our partnership with the English District is of great value to Redeemer, and we appreciate the continued support for Christian education and the opportunity it brings to grow the Kingdom of Christ.

#### **WEST PORTAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MINISTRY**

The Rev. Todd Arnold

From 2009 to end of the 2015-2016 academic year, a Bible study (led by our Vicars/DCE) was held on the campus of San Francisco State University during the lunch hour. Funds were used to supply pizza and soda for the participants as well as study materials. After the bulk of the participants graduated and when the DCE left West Portal, the ministry ceased.

## ENGLISH DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Rev. R. Wayne Morton, D.D., Chair

Board and Staff Personnel. Bylaws. Board of Directors Policies. Corporate Operations Manual. Flow Chart of Board of Directors Actions. Core Values. End Statements.

And that's just the first *four* tabs in the *fourteen*-tab Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod English District Board of Directors Manual! (And notice that that list didn't even include any mention of a constitution! That's because the District *has* no constitution - of its *own*, that is. "The Constitution of the Synod as given in the *Handbook* is also the Constitution of the District." For that matter, "the Bylaws of the Synod are primarily the Bylaws of the District." (Those are both in the Preamble to our Bylaws. Lines 16-18.) And while we're on the subject, "The District's objectives are as noted in the Synod's Constitution (see 2010 *Handbook*), Article III Objectives." (Ibid, lines 18-19.))

So, does that mean the English District is just like any other District? Read on. Read on in those same Bylaws. Read on about what makes us unique. Read statements like these, among others:

"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; . . .
- D. Assist ministries in communities that are changing;
- E. Focus on special, ethnic, urban and campus ministries. . . ."

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.

From the Core Values of the English District, the Board of Directors adopted the following five Ends. We dovetailed them with the President-Bishop's theme for the 2015-2018 triennium, the command of our Lord from St. Matthew's gospel, "*Love your neighbor as yourself*" (Mt. 22:39).

English District End Statements 2015-2018  
Heeding our Lord's command to "*Love Your Neighbor as Yourself*"  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit:

#### In our Congregations

Each congregation will be aware of District activities and available resources [Eph. 4:12, 1 Cor. 14:40; Heb. 13:21].

#### In our Schools

Each school and educational ministry will explore and embrace ways the Lutheran tradition can enrich instruction, practice, and policy [Prov. 22:6, Deut. 6:5-7, Phil 3:20].

#### For our Church Workers

Each church worker will enjoy emotional and spiritual wellness [Gal. 6:2, 1 Cor. 12:26, 1 Thess. 5:11].

#### In the Stewardship of God's Many Blessings

Each congregation will prayerfully and financially support the District [Rom. 12:4-5, 1 Cor. 12:12-14, 1 Tim. 2:1].

#### In Seeking to Save the Lost

Each circuit will implement a new mission or ministry [Mt. 28:18-20, Rom. 10:13-15, Acts 13:47].

At the outset, the 2015-2018 Board of Directors made the decision that, in order to be as effective and responsive as we could be, we would invest in meeting at congregations across the District rather than at the same Detroit airport hotel. Allen Park, MI; Philadelphia, PA; San Diego, CA; Hales Corners, WI; Hartland, MI; Chicago, IL; Fremont, IN; Beverly Hills and Redford, MI; St. Louis, MO; Medina, OH; Palm Coast, FL - all were gracious enough to host a meeting of the District Board. Philadelphia, New York, Cleveland-West, Western Michigan, San Diego, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Florida - all were circuits where lay and/or clergy/commissioned workers took time away from their ministries to meet with the Board.

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 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 Christopher Cassel, Jane Duffy, Carol George, Shirley Holle, Paul Lagemann, and Terry Leu. 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. Robert Fitzpatrick, Rev. Wayne Morton, Commissioned Minister Albert Amling, and Deaconess Jennifer Miller.

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. Zerit Yohannes/Rev. Jeffrey Miskus, Midwest - Rev. Robert 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) (Stuart Kahle).

Highlights of the Board's work on the District's behalf this triennium include:

- Shifting Board documents and meeting preparation and communication from paper to online (via an electronic portal (mycommittee.com))
- Meeting with Synod President Harrison and members of his staff during the Synod visitation
- Revising the policies that govern the Board's operation
- Approving the District Convention location and funding (congregational assessment)
- Submitting electoral circuits for the 2019 Synod Convention
- Meeting with the English District Endowment Fund Board of Managers
- Endorsing Endowment Fund Board of Managers grants (e. g. Church worker debt reduction, campus ministry, student scholarships, community outreach, new mission start)
- Establishing a Congregational Care Task Force to assist in tackling the many issues involved when churches officially request either to enter or leave the District
- Establishing a Board Orientation Task Force to assist in addressing the issue of Board succession
- Accepting new and revised constitutions from District congregations
- Approving appointments (e. g. Circuit Visitors, Reconcilers, Vice-President)
- Assisting District congregations in re-deploying assets, in leaving a legacy
- Approving the annual Ministry Plan (budget)
- Annually establishing the President's salary (President's Salary Review Task Force)
- Annually reviewing the President's performance
- Completing annual reviews of the Board of Directors (Board Review Task Force)
- Modeling Christian stewardship in individually responding to the annual English District Endowment Fund appeal letter
- Improving communication with the District through Board Bulletins (in an edition of the Friday *Servant to Servant* following each Board meeting)
- Making the financial commitment to partner with the LCMS Foundation on a District Planned Giving Counselor

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

*"For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you..."* Deuteronomy 4:32, ESV

Each district of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is expected to have an archivist. He is then linked to Concordia Historical Institute, the archival agency for matters relating to the history of our Synod, districts, congregations and schools, and other synodical agencies. When I retired as English District-LCMS Bishop/President, our new Bishop, the Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, appointed me to this post. It is an honor to serve in this capacity.

We have a small museum at the English District office. Many of the items on display were used during the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year celebrations of our District (2011-2012). Currently, I am researching the history of the English District and its antecedents, the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri and Other States (1888-1911) and the latter's earlier history (1872-1888), and its roots coming out of the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod (1820-1920). The Tennessee Synod had a unique DNA that combined confessional subscription, navigation from German to the English language, and steadfastness in doctrines of church and ministry, and in particular in the doctrine of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and infant baptism. The Tennessee Synod was orthodox in its Lutheranism, as opposed to the Lutheran synods of the East and the Baptist and Methodist landscape of the South. In other words, the Tennessee Synod was plowing good ground decades before the LCMS (the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States) formed in April, 1847, in Chicago, or the Evangelical Lutheran Conference (Synod) of Missouri and Other States formed in 1888 in St. Louis.

For the purpose of this report, though, I would urge all our parish pastors to ensure that the congregations they serve are **keeping historical data**, not just accurate records of official acts. In the back of most church's red parish register books are pages for historical information. Some churches post some of their history on a tab on their websites. Pastors are usually the best equipped to write some brief, accurate, history for the congregation (and school), hopefully without bias, which in decades to come becomes a source of great value and information. However, a layman who has ability to capture the sweep of a congregation's general history can serve ably in that role as well. It is also recommended that congregations mark milestones (25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, Centennial, 150<sup>th</sup>, etc.) with special observances and Divine Services, often with a guest speaker. Such observances can be posted in *The Lutheran Witness* in the back section of Official Notices. I recommend the forming of an anniversary committee in the congregation at least one year prior to the anniversary year, and having several displays and celebrations.

One further note: Concordia Historical Institute publishes a *Quarterly* (CHI), to which a few of us in the English District subscribe. Its former inside cover page had this Scripture passage: *I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that Thou hast done.* Psalm 143:5. Consider becoming a member of CHI. Whenever your church or school has a major milestone

anniversary, send a booklet and service folder commemorating that anniversary to CHI for your church's historical file. ***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 web conference 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 and find encouragement from this support and spirit!

The English District Campus Ministry Task Force generally meets once in Fall semester and once in Spring semester each year in a web conference format. Over the past couple of years we 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 of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, Slippery Rock, Oberlin College, University of Toledo, Michigan State University, University of Arizona, Arizona State University, San Francisco universities, Pastor Brad Urlaub – representing Lutheran Campus Mission Association (LCMA) and Pastor Derek Mathers.

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.

On January 30-31, 2017, The English District sponsored a Campus Ministry Summit at Martin Luther Chapel at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. 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 and afternoon were packed with a variety of presenters and topics, including presenters from the university, servant event trips, student leadership teams, fundraising, alumni relations, international student outreach, and more. Tuesday evening was set aside to give each participant an opportunity to share their best practice with the group or to receive helpful feedback on dealing with a pressing concern. The Summit ended Tuesday night with 15 campus ministry

people from our District and a couple from the Michigan District involved. 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**

Stuart Kahle, President

Canada Corporation was established in 1958 and is the Canadian Church Extension Fund for the English District congregations in Ontario Canada. All assets of the Corporation are held in Canadian banks.

In 2007, the bylaws of the Corporation were restructured and for the past 10 years, procedures used by the Corporation Board of Directors and English District office staff have been documented.

In 2012, a new process for the election of the Corporation's Board of Directors was trialed. The process was modified and used in 2015 during the English District convention. This process will be used again at the 2018 District convention.

Activities of Canada Corporation:

- Manage loans to currently 5 congregations
- Manage investments
- Set interest rates quarterly
- Manage investors, including unclaimed/stale accounts or missing investors
- Assist congregations with their mission objectives
- Provide assistance for pastors to participate in conferences
- Provide workshops to encourage congregations with their mission outreach

The Board of Directors meet at least twice yearly, a fall face to face board/members meeting and a spring teleconference board meeting.

May 2014, we hosted a Convocation of our 2 Canadian circuits and produced demographic studies for each congregation and gave them the tools to use this information.

May 2017, we hosted a workshop to introduce "Every One His Witness" to our congregations.

## **COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP**

The Rev. Daniel Grams, Chair

### NEW CONGREGATION CONSTITUTIONS APPROVED

Apostolic – Moses Lake, WA

Tree of Life – Inverness, FL

Calvary Korean – Hatfield, PA

### NEW CONGREGATION CONSTITUTION REVIEWED

St. Luke – La Mesa, CA

### REVISED CONSTITUTIONS REVIEWED AND APPROVED

Ascension – Tucson, AZ

Ascension – North Olmsted, OH

Ascension of Christ – Beverly Hills, MI

Beautiful Savior – Lee's Summit, MO

Catalina – Tucson, AZ

Faith – Tucson, AZ

Family of Christ – Phoenix, AZ

Grace – Oberlin, OH

Hope – Hastings, MN

Messiah – Danville, CA

Risen Christ – Plymouth, MI

St. John – Hannibal, MO

### RECEIVED, REVIEWED, AWAITING REVISIONS

Faith – Naples, FL

Peace – Fremont, IN

St. Mark – Janesville, WI

## **DISASTER RELIEF/HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE**

The Rev. Brian Westgate, Chair

“Love thy neighbor as thyself.” Our Lord’s words are not just a guiding light for our English District. It’s why our beloved district’s Disaster Relief & Human Care Committee exists. We give God high and hearty thanks for the support of His faithful people during this past triennium.

Our chief task these past three years was the acquisition of a district-owned Disaster Relief Trailer. This was a project heavily supported by LCMS Disaster Response and the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League. The trailer was acquired and is centrally located at Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church in St. Louis. The faithful there have had Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training and are looking forward to using this great gift. Some of their people helped pack trucks at the International Center to send supplies to Texas after Hurricane Harvey.

Thank you to committee member Pastor Ted Laesch and his flock at Chapel of the Cross for all their work.

We encourage your church to get LERT training, especially if you're in an area that often sees hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, or any natural disaster. Also, it would be wonderful if every region of our district would have a disaster relief trailer. Please prayerfully consider this wonderful way to "love thy neighbor."

## **ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS**

The Rev. Raymond Kirk, Chair

During the past triennium the English District Endowment Fund Board of Managers increased its effectiveness in growing the fund, and further refined the grant application process in order to make recommendations to the District Board of Directors.

Two significant developments have contributed to the Endowment Fund's growth: first, the refinement of a diverse, moderately conservative investment strategy which seeks to maximize growth while protecting the Fund's capital. The Fund's capital is invested (almost equally) with two investment firms and the remainder amount in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. District staff principals monitor the fund closely which is further reviewed when the Managers meet. Subsequently, the Board of Directors, upholding its fiduciary responsibilities, also monitors the Fund's progress and outcomes. This three-part monitoring process assures the District's congregations and people that every care is taken with the Endowment Fund which is a significant funding resource for varied mission and ministry throughout the district. While established in 2006, this triennium has seen the refinement of policies and investment strategy. The second development is the attempt to grow the Fund bigger and faster. Initiated by the District President, recommended by the Managers and endorsed by the District Board of Directors, the Endowment Fund in 2018 will be benefited by a full-time gift planning worker who will begin his service near convention time. The Gift Planning Counselor, will be underwritten by both the District and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, and will work in conjunction with the District office to serve those in the District.

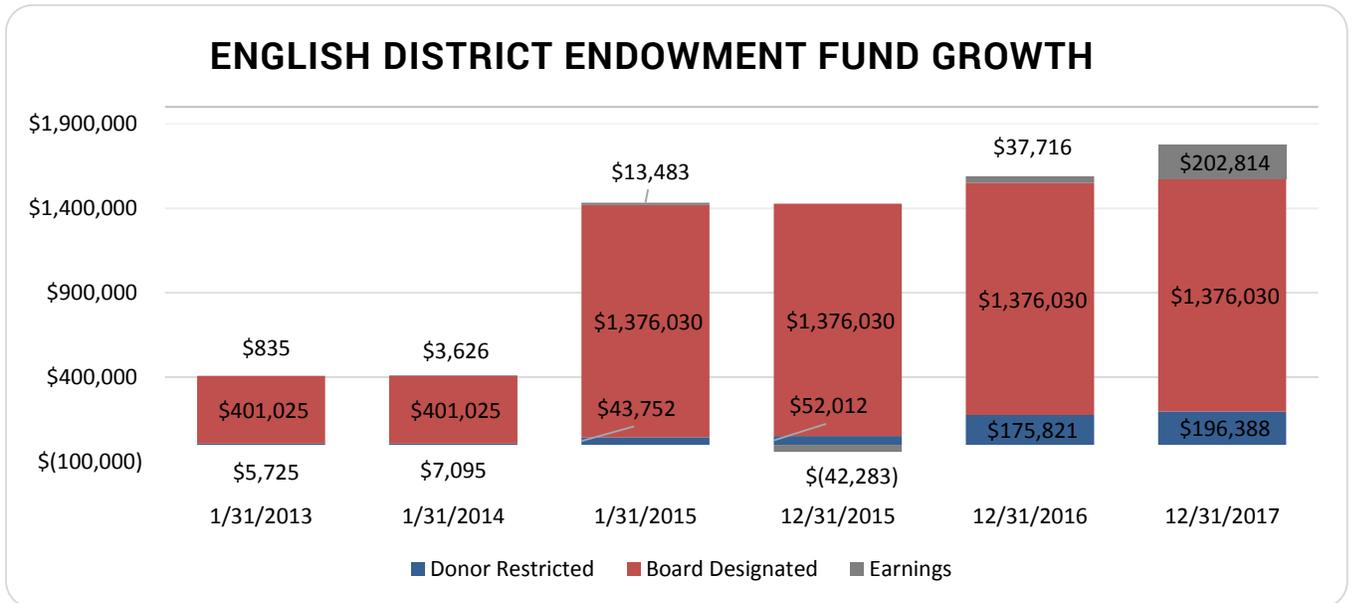
The Board of Managers meets quarterly, usually by teleconference, before the Board of Directors in order that timely recommendations can be made. A diverse group made up of laity and pastors, each board member has both individual interest and expertise in certain aspects of the Endowment Fund's responsibility. In a cooperative spirit each manager has contributed to the decisions made, and I thank them on behalf of us all for their time and skill. A significant aspect of most meetings is to discuss and evaluate the grant applications congregations make. Listed are the projects and the approved grant amounts made as of January 31, 2018.

Grantee	Date	Purpose	Amount
Family of Christ, Phoenix, AZ	6/1/17	Campus Ministry	\$2,000
Pittsburgh Area Luth. Ministries, Pittsburgh, PA	6/22/17	Human Care	900
Beautiful Savior - Preschool, Lee's Summit, MO	6/22/17	Other	2,500
First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA	8/17/17	Campus Ministry	2,000
Markham, Markham, IL	8/17/17	Other	1,500
Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, MI	11/7/17	Campus Ministry	6,000
Church Worker debt	various	Ch. Wk. Debt	20,000
Every One His Witness	various	Other	720
Scholarships	various	Scholarships	28,164
New Missions - budgeted	1/31/18	New Missions	30,000
Campus Ministry - budgeted	1/31/18	Campus Ministry	4,082
Human Care - budgeted	1/31/18	Human Care	<u>3,794</u>
			<u>\$101,660</u>

The District collectively supported these unique projects that forwarded our Lord's mission and ministry which in most cases otherwise could not be easily undertaken. The Endowment Fund helped, local people did the work. I commend for your reading the Fund's financial report and conclude with an encouragement. Each Endowment Fund gift goes exclusively to the body of the Fund which is never spent but only invested which means the interest from the gift continually makes funds available to support mission and ministry not even imagined yet. There are many people asking each of us, as God's stewards, to give and they deserve our support. However, the Endowment Fund produces dollars over and over again. This fund supports a future vision for creative and risk taking mission and ministry deserving of our increased generous contributions.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	12/31/2015	12/31/2016	12/31/2017
Board Designated	\$ 1,376,029.61	\$ 1,376,029.61	\$ 1,376,029.61
Earnings - Board Designated	\$ (40,866.15)	\$ 31,982.15	\$ 190,088.25
Permanently Restricted - Gifts to Fund	\$ 17,011.83	\$ 20,466.83	\$ 32,733.99
Earnings - Temporarily Restricted on Gifts	\$ (291.04)	\$ 896.61	\$ 3,258.34
Permanently Restricted - Gifts for Scholarships	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 155,354.41	\$ 163,654.41
Earnings - Temporarily Restricted for Scholarships	\$ (1,126.16)	\$ 4,836.99	\$ 9,467.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,385,758.09</b>	<b>\$ 1,589,566.60</b>	<b>\$ 1,775,232.43</b>
<b>Accounts</b>			
LCEF/Comerica	\$ 8,360.06	\$ 3,020.00	\$ 10,757.16
LCEF StewardAccount	\$ 251,237.01	\$ 232,017.41	\$ 193,602.47
Vanguard	\$ 640,146.38	\$ 682,039.91	\$ 782,587.78
Stifel Nicolaus	\$ 486,014.64	\$ 672,489.28	\$ 788,285.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,385,758.09</b>	<b>\$ 1,589,566.60</b>	<b>\$ 1,775,232.43</b>



## EVANGELIZATION TEAM

The Rev. John Diener, 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 and world.

The Evangelization Team meets via “Go-To-Meeting” nine to ten times a year and is chaired by Rev. John Diener from Grace, Wyoming, Michigan. Also serving on the Team is Rev. Fred Reaman, Greenfield Park, West Allis, Wisconsin and Tom Kuwazaki from California. Rev. Eric Carlson, Hannibal, Missouri served on the Team until this past October. 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 followed the leadership this last triennium of its new District President and the theme of “Love Your Neighbor” with the underlying truth of sharing God’s Word: The Gospel is relational. The Team was challenged by the question, “If people don’t like their neighbor, how can they actually *love their neighbor* and share the Gospel with them?” The answer came with having the corrective lens of Christ and seeing the world through His eyes and with His love. “We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

At the Fall regional pastors conferences and the Spring church worker conferences, the Evangelization Team further promoted the goal of equipping and empowering individual evangelism with the use of L.A.S.S.I.E. (Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite, Encourage) which was implemented fully in the “Every One His Witness” tool which was made available from Concordia Publishing House in September of 2017. The English District gave a rebate incentive to congregations to purchase this tool and teach it to their members. The Team also encouraged congregations to empower outreach with the hosting of the Re:Vitality Workshop - “Connect to Disciple.” This workshop teaches congregations to create connections, build relationships and make disciples using many of the activities they are already doing and enhancing others. The English District has trained facilitators ready to bring this workshop to your congregation. Additional workshops such as “Joining God’s Mission” and “Shepherding the Strays” are on the horizon for congregations to implement to enhance their ministry.

The Evangelization Team has worked with these goals for the past year:

- 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 10:00 a.m. each day as a time for prayer for Evangelism, Outreach and Mission concerns.

We know that where we are intentional in prayer, we are intentional in doing His will and work. We set the lofty goal of Re:Vitality workshops in every English District congregation in this triennium. We also set the goal of training six new facilitators. The goal is for every English District congregation to purchase and implement “Every One His Witness” in its first year. Our goal is that every English District member will know the LASSIE approach to witnessing.

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**

The Rev. Michael Brown, Chair

Lifeline promotes the sanctity of human life within the English District. Most LCMS District Presidents have appointed a District Life Coordinator (DLC), yet how each DLC carries out their duties varies widely from district to district. Given the English District’s non-geographical nature, a task force helps Lifeline accomplish its objectives each year.

In the previous triennium, Lifeline began by launching its website in 2013 ([www.englishdistrictlifeline.org](http://www.englishdistrictlifeline.org)), forming a task force with representatives from all four English District regions with an additional member from Canada, and inviting abortion survivor, Gianna Jessen, to address a spring Professional Church Worker Conference.

This past triennium work has continued as different life topics were explored. In **2015**, Lifeline conducted a district-wide survey to discover which life topics congregations and church workers were currently involved in, which life issues they felt ill-equipped for, and to gauge how best we could be of assistance to the English District. From that survey, we decided what our next life themes were in the coming years. During the English District Convention that year, Lifeline offered two presentations for church workers and laity: *Care at the End of Life* and *How to Start a Life Team*.

In **2016**, Lifeline chose to focus on **Suicide**. Both *suicide* and *euthanasia* were addressed at spring and fall regional conferences, respectively. It was this year that we began encouraging English District schools to receive free model fetal kits through Owens Mission. These “babies” are models that students can hold demonstrating the growth in the womb from a few weeks to many months. In 2016, Lifeline also began a campaign to identify and encourage Life Ambassadors in each of the English District’s

circuits. These ambassadors are used to channel information back and forth from a district to the local level.

In **2017**, Lifeline's theme was ***Alternatives to Abortion***. At the spring Professional Church Worker Conference a presentation was made on the ability to reverse RU-486 or medical abortion. Kits can be ordered by congregations and given to local pregnancy centers to help reverse an abortion if only one of the two RU-486 pills has been taken. In the fall, packets were handed out to each church worker/congregation that contained information on the *Abortion Pill Reversal, Adoption & Foster Care* by state/region, and also on *Intentionally Caring for Single Mothers*. Each packet included information, resources, practical ideas for implementation at a congregation, and reusable church newsletter articles highlighting these issues.

Lifeline looks forward to continuing its service in the English District in the next triennium, highlighting important life issues facing congregations and equipping congregations and church workers with faithful resources to understand and work through tough issues. Lifeline's theme for 2018 is ***Being Voices For Life: Bioethics***. Lifeline hopes to highlight issues such as *Stem Cell Usage, Organ Donation & Transplants*, along with other related issues. Please stop by one of the breakfast sessions we are sponsoring on Wednesday and Thursday morning in the Campus Student Union Nest.

## **LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE – ENGLISH DISTRICT**

Jan Simmons, President

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League English District meets in convention every even numbered year. Our district is non-geographical and our women come from across the country. This makes us unique in the LWML as we must travel many miles, from coast to coast, to attend our district conventions. But it also gives us the opportunity to meet our sisters in Christ from almost every state in the United States.

It is our practice at the conventions to have a festival worship service at a local church in the zone where the convention is being held. This allows the women and their families to participate in the service and see firsthand how the LWML glorifies God through his word and sacraments. However, at our past two conventions, we were unable to continue this practice due to the expense of transportation. This Biennium, with the help of a grant from the English District, we will once again be able to worship at an LCMS congregation; Epiphany Lutheran Church, Dorr, Michigan.

At the convention, there are several service projects on-site and in the local community that the women can participate in. We include 90 minutes of Bible study, three mission speakers,

the election of officers, and voting on proposed grant recipients. Also, the women have the opportunity to hear and study God's word, provide service for his people, hear about mission grant recipients, and vote on future recipients, all while enjoying the Christian fellowship of other women from across this country in the English District LCMS. At our convention in April of 2016, a mite goal of \$16,000 was voted on to support the LWML English District Mission Grants for our 2016-2018 Biennium.

LWML English District Mission Grants selected for the 2016-2018 Biennium:

1. Gospel Hands VBS – Lutheran School for the Deaf, Mill Neck, New York;
2. Catechisms for Sudan & Sudanese Immigrants - LHF, Macomb, Michigan;
3. Operation Barnabas Committee, Calvary Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, PA;
4. It's All About the Kids – Lutheran Special Education Ministries, Farmington Hills, MI;
5. Missionary Work of Deaconess Rachel Powell, Dominican Republic; and
6. Grace Community Meals – Grace Lutheran Church, Wyoming, MI.

At this time all the LWML English District Mission Grants have been paid. Our next convention for the LWML English District will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 27-29, 2018, where we will vote on new LWML Mission Grants for the 2018-2020 Biennium.

The women in the LWML English District do service projects for their communities by supporting missions such as local food banks, after-school programs, and sending quilts and funds when requested by the LCMS for natural disasters. Many of the zones and societies in our district also support seminary students and the seminary food banks.

Our district is always looking for missions to support with our mite offerings. If you have an LCMS mission in your area that you would like our district's help to support, please contact our Vice President of Gospel Outreach. Her information is on our website listed below.

The LWML English District website is [englishdistrictlwml.weebly.com](http://englishdistrictlwml.weebly.com). Information on what is happening across our district and our missions grant recipients are located here. There is also a link to the LWML national organization.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League English District is "Lutheran Women in Mission." Our mission is to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We strive to carry out our convention goal: *"With Jesus in control, we will reach out to others as Lutheran Women in Mission."*

## **MINISTERIAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

The Rev. J. Derek Mathers, Chair

The English District Ministerial Health Commission (MHC) is a group of men and women appointed by the District President to provide care for and support of our pastors and professional church workers and their families.

Pastors and other professional church workers are not without personal weaknesses, deficiencies, addictions, and behavior that is not “above reproach.” With a mandate to assist the President/Bishop of our English District when requested and to promote practical hands-on resources directly to District church workers and their families, we have been blessed with high quality individuals who volunteered to serve as members of our Ministerial Health Commission (MHC) in this past triennium.

Rev. Dr. Ronald Farah (past Chair), Mrs. Talitha Farah, Dr. Jennifer Gramzow, Rev. Paul R. Koester, and Rev. Dr. Dean Pittelko have each served our District extremely well, establishing the pattern for high quality care and support. For everything there is a season and these gifted individuals have stepped down from the MHC. We are very thankful for their seasons of service and are very grateful and appreciative of all their hard work.

Currently, our MHC membership consists of Rev. Jon Gruen, Rev. Capt. Greg Lutz, Parish Nurse Sue Neff, Marlene Lindburg, Marianne Jackson, and Rev. Derek Mathers (Chair). The desired goal is to have about ten individuals from across our District serving on the MHC. We are looking for individuals with a passion for Church work and church worker family wellness.

This is a big change for the role of the MHC. In previous years, the MHC had a greater focus on advising the President/Bishop of our District with various situations that Church workers and congregations faced. Bishop Hardy has gone in a new direction and encouraged the MHC to focus our time and energies on church worker and church worker family wellness.

Church worker and family wellness will be the focus of our energies during the next triennium. We will make use of the many professional, synodical and other agency resources available to both support and enhance church worker and church worker family wellness. All contacts with our MHC are confidential (not even the District President is informed). We are available to consult with congregations, church workers, and church worker families. We invite you to contact us at any time: <http://www.englishdistrict.org/ministries/ministerial-health>.

On the synodical level, our MHC participates in the yearly meeting of the Ministerial Care Coalition, where we have an opportunity to learn and network with ministerial health advocates from other districts.

## **MISSIONS COUNCIL**

The Rev. Justin Laughridge, Chair

We continue to praise the Lord for the work that He is doing in and through His Church around the world. In this past triennium, the English District's Missions Council has served at the request of President Hardy and Rev. Mathers to support, encourage, and equip the many and various ministries of the District.

The tasks of this Council have ranged from input and discussion on mission grants, to visitation for mission congregations/campus ministries, to partner support with international missions in the Dominican Republic and Hong Kong, and more. We want to thank the congregations that have supported our work, including those involved in the starting of new missions. Praise the Lord for your faithfulness and boldness! We also wish to thank the pastors and leaders that have given of their time to sit on this Council, AND those pastors who have lent their time and expertise to extend the work of missions and outreach in our District, including Circuit Visitors and others.

God's peace and continued blessings to your ministries over the months and years to come!

## **NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL ACCREDITATION (NLSA)**

Christina Peterson, Accreditation Commissioner

### **Introduction**

In 2014 I began serving as the Accreditation Commissioner for the English District. Mrs. Eva Fronk had previously served in this role for many years and built a strong tradition of excellence in Lutheran education as documented and strategically improved through the accreditation process. What a powerful opportunity to share the saving message of God's love through our Savior, Jesus Christ! I am thankful to continue serving our schools and early childhood centers along with our accreditation commission members Albert Amling, Gail Holzer, Kathy Slupik, and Christy Wood.

### **Summary of Ministry**

Each July I attend the National Accreditation Commission in St. Louis to represent the English District and gather updates to pass along to our school ministry leaders. In addition to email updates and phone calls, school leaders gather at the Administrator's Conference to talk about the accreditation process and how to best help each school. The NLSA process is an important tool for school improvement - we want more students in our schools so that more people can learn about Christ's love for us on the cross.

The Accreditation Commission meets each year in May to evaluate the annual report for each school that has earned accreditation, documenting progress for team recommendations and school improvement plans. We then submit our district report to the school ministry leaders in the Synod office. We continue to advocate for our smaller schools and look for resources to

assist schools wanting to be accredited. Our 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. We assign team captains and recommend visiting teams for schools who have submitted an application to be accredited through NLSA.

### **NLSA Highlights for 2015-2018**

- Schools recommended for accreditation in 2015:
  - Fairlawn Lutheran Preschool                      Akron, OH
  - Redeemer Lutheran School                      Verona, PA
  - St. John's Lutheran School                      Hannibal, MO
  
- Redeemer Lutheran - Verona, PA celebrated its first high school graduating class with continued growth and was recommended for Powerful Practices in 2015: Inspiring Growth with Excellence
  - A small school that thinks and acts like a large school
  - Curriculum mapping program utilizing Google Docs including state standards (powerful practice for smaller schools without purchasing software)
  - R<sup>3</sup> Robotics Team and program
  - Online courses offered by Orange Lutheran High School and Concordia University
  
- NLSA has introduced and implemented a revised accreditation process, Evidence Based Accreditation, which clearly defines and documents how each school meets standards for excellence.
  
- Schools recommended for accreditation in 2016:
  - Hales Corners Lutheran School                      Hales Corners, WI
  - West Portal Lutheran School                      San Francisco, CA
  
- Hales Corners Lutheran School (HCLS) was recommended for Powerful Practices in 2016: *HCLS recently filled a pastoral vacancy, replacing a long serving, highly effective senior pastor. The new senior pastor's successful journey as the incoming senior pastor of a congregation with a large Lutheran school would be beneficial to any congregation with a school that is seeking to fill a pastoral vacancy. This includes the development and implementation of a new purpose/mission statement and the engagement of school workers with that mission.*
  
- Schools that applied for accreditation in 2017:
  - Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center - Alpharetta, GA applied in 2017 with a site visit in April 2018
  - Martin Luther Christian School - Pennsauken, NJ applied in 2017 and will be ready for a visit spring 2019

- Faith Lutheran School - Watertown, WI is investigating the accreditation process and invited me to present to their board in November 2017. We look forward to partnering with this growing ministry to support their accreditation process.

## ENGLISH DISTRICT REFORMATION 500 COMMITTEE

Dr. Roni Grad, Chair

The English District Reformation 500 Committee was first convened in 2015 by Bishop-Emeritus Stechholz to help spearhead the efforts in our District to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. From the start, it was apparent that our effort would be web-based, as our geographic spread made a large District-wide gathering impossible. The committee consisted of Pastors Mark Ebert, Ben Eder, Tom Engler, Nick Wirtz, and Jonathan Sachs, and lay members Gayle Godek and Roni Grad. I (Roni Grad) served as chair, and my pastors, Rev. Michael Morehouse and Rev. Joshua Palmer, assisted in an advisory capacity. Additionally, Bishop Hardy and Pastor Derek Mathers participated in several of the discussions.

The committee met through several conference calls and adopted the theme, "Freed in Christ to serve in our homes, our church and our communities," based on Galatians 5:13-14 and complementing Bishop Hardy's triennium emphasis on loving our neighbor. As it was apparent that Synod was developing a very comprehensive Reformation 500 web-based resource, we elected to narrow the focus of our Reformation webpage to avoid duplication of effort. In keeping with our theme, our major focus became the profiling of Reformation-era laity who served in their homes, churches and communities in Christian freedom, matching them with contemporary laypeople who are doing the same. Renowned historian Dr. Amy Burnett, a member at Redeemer, Lincoln NE (where Pastor Ebert serves as Administrative Pastor), was very helpful in identifying Reformation-era laity, and to date two profiles have been posted with a third in the final stages of preparation.

Additionally, Pastors Brian Westgate and Robert Voelker prepared beautiful devotions for posting on the webpage. Finally, the webpage served as a resource for listings of various Reformation-related events, travel opportunities and suggested readings, and a short item on the posting of the 95 Theses.

I would like to thank each and every person who served on the committee, without whom this project would not have been possible! Thanks go to Bishop Emeritus Stechholz for his vision in establishing the committee, Pastor Ebert who identified and worked with Dr. Burnett, Pr. Sachs for working so closely with me on the profiles, Pastors Westgate and Voelker for their work on the devotions, and Pastors Morehouse and Palmer as well as Bishop Hardy for their wonderful support! Special thanks to Nancy Schultz, Catalina Lutheran Church, for crafting our beautiful English District reformation 500 banner! Thanks also to Sally Naglich for setting up the conference calls and Peggy Oke for posting the material on the webpage. For the rest of our lives we will be remembering 500th anniversaries of seminal Reformation events and I look forward to the years ahead together! ***Soli Deo Gloria!***

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Rev. Eric Carlson, Chair

As a member of the Stewardship Committee I represented the English District at the National Stewardship Conference and brought back resources to encourage and enable faithful stewardship in the district. I attended the 2017 Stewardship Executives Conference in February 2017 in Tempe, Arizona. The main presenter was Charles "Chick" Lane who presented ways to improve stewardship in the congregation and gave practical helps to put stewardship at the heart of the congregation's life. His books, *Embracing Stewardship* and *Ask, Thank, Tell*, are helpful resources for pastors who want ideas on how to promote faithful stewardship in the church they serve. Upon my return, I wrote an article for the Servant to Servant newsletter giving a summary of what was taught at the conference.

## **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 2016, the committee has served the English District in several ways including organizing and assisting with the devotions and Divine Service at the May 2017 Professional Church Workers Conference in Detroit; teaching a brief workshop on praying Compline at the October 2017 Eastern Regional Pastoral Conference in Ocean City; and organizing and assisting with the devotions, Divine Service, and Vespers at the June 2018 District Convention in Ann Arbor. The committee is grateful for the opportunity to serve the Church.

1 **COMMITTEE ON CHURCH & THEOLOGY**

2

3 **OVERTURE 1-01**

4

5 **To Restore Both Biblical Languages to the Education of Future Pastors**

6

7 WHEREAS, one of the major qualifications for a man aspiring to the Office of the Holy/Public  
8 Ministry is his ability to teach (1 Timothy 3:2); and

9

10 WHEREAS, “We believe, teach and confess that the only rule and norm according to which all  
11 teachings, together with <all> teachers, should be evaluated and judged [2 Timothy 3:15-17]  
12 are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testament alone” (Fc Ep  
13 Summary 1); and

14

15 WHEREAS, to teach, a man in the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry should be able to  
16 understand the Scripture as God breathed it out [2 Timothy 3:16]; and

17

18 WHEREAS, the Old Testament was initially “breathed out” in Biblical Hebrew (1), and the New  
19 Testament in Koine Greek; and

20

21 WHEREAS, there is much pointing to Christ and him-crucified that is embedded in the nuances  
22 of both Biblical languages and lost in translation; and

23

24 WHEREAS, of the means through which men are prepared for the Office of the Holy/Public  
25 Ministry, only the residential MDiv route requires training in both Hebrew and Greek, the  
26 remainder of the routes to “general Pastor” require either Greek only or neither Biblical  
27 language, and the Specific Ministry Pastor program likewise does not require either Biblical  
28 language (2); therefore be it

29

30 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention call upon the Lutheran Church–Missouri  
31 Synod to require instruction in both Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek as prerequisites for  
32 admission to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry; and be it further

33

34 *Resolved*, that the English District in Convention call on our seminaries, with synod funding, to  
35 include Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek in the curricula for all of the pathways to the Office of  
36 the Holy/Public Ministry; and be it finally

37

38 *Resolved*, that the English District in Convention urge our seminaries to develop continuing  
39 education opportunities for all Pastors to obtain such training.

40

1 Notes

- 2 1. Small portions of the Old Testament, most notably of Daniel, are written in Aramaic.  
3 2. "Report of the Res. 5-14A Task Force." In *2016 Convention Workbook* (St. Louis: LCMS,  
4 2016), 270-76. Of note, the Center for Hispanic Studies, the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of  
5 Theology, and the Deaf Institute of Theology, all of which lead to "General Pastor" roster  
6 status, do not require either Biblical language.  
7

8 Submitted by  
9 Arizona South Circuit #20  
10

11 **OVERTURE 1-02**

12  
13 **To Improve the Specific Ministry Pastor Program**  
14

15 WHEREAS, the 2007 LCMS Convention established the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP)  
16 program to help congregations unable to afford a pastor; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, the SMP program was intended to further meet the needs of the church for pastors  
19 to serve in specific ministry contexts as determined by congregations and districts; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, the SMP program was established to ensure commitment to the biblical and  
22 confessional understanding of The Office of the Holy Ministry, and, specifically, Article XIV of  
23 the Augsburg Confession; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, both LCMS seminaries operate SMP programs which provide for academic training  
26 while serving concurrently in a specific ministry setting; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, the graduates of the SMP program have been a blessing to the Synod and its  
29 congregations, including congregations of the English District; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, 2016 LCMS Convention Resolution 13-02A encourages Licensed Lay Deacons  
32 engaged in Word and Sacrament ministry to either colloquize as an SMP or enter the SMP  
33 program, thus affirming that the SMP program will continue to be a distinct recognized route  
34 to the ministry in the LCMS; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, men admitted to the SMP become ordained before completing their academic  
37 program, with some administering the Word and the sacraments prior to ordination; and  
38

39 WHEREAS, SMP's are not required to learn a biblical language; and  
40

41 WHEREAS, there are men serving as SMP's in settings which could reasonably support a  
42 general pastor or minister of religion commissioned, in direct conflict with the stated purpose  
43 of the SMP program and in contradiction to 2013 LCMS Convention Resolution 5-04B; and  
44

1 WHEREAS, the constitution and bylaws of the LCMS are not clear as to what might constitute  
2 or limit specific ministry contexts; therefore be it

3

4 *Resolved*, that the English District give thanks to God for the faithful service of SMP's within  
5 congregations of the District; and be it further

6

7 *Resolved*, the English District recommends that the SMP program be improved in the following  
8 ways:

9

- 10 1. That ordination be deferred until all SMP coursework has been completed, in faithfulness  
11 to Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession;
- 12
- 13 2. That all SMP's be required to complete a prescribed continuing education program which  
14 includes the study of a biblical language;
- 15
- 16 3. That District Presidents do not authorize SMP's to serve in settings which could  
17 reasonably support a general pastor or minister of religion – commissioned;
- 18
- 19 4. That the Synod in convention establish parameters for specific ministry contexts; and be it  
20 further

21

22 *Resolved*, that these recommendations be forwarded to the 2019 LCMS Convention; and be it  
23 finally

24

25 *Resolved*, that the President of the English District be encouraged to implement these  
26 improvements where appropriate already at the District level.

27

28

29

Submitted by  
Detroit North & South Circuits #11&12

1 **OVERTURE 1-03**

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43

**To Improve the Specific Ministry Pastor Program**

WHEREAS, the 2007 LCMS Convention established the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program to help congregations unable to afford a pastor; and

WHEREAS, the SMP program was intended to further meet the needs of the church for pastors to serve in specific ministry contexts as determined by congregations and districts; and

WHEREAS, the SMP program was established to ensure commitment to the biblical and confessional understanding of The Office of the Holy Ministry, and specifically, Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession; and

WHEREAS, both LCMS seminaries operate SMP programs which provide for academic training while serving concurrently in a specific ministry setting; and

WHEREAS, the graduates of the SMP program have been a blessing to the Synod and its congregations, including congregations of the English District; and

WHEREAS, 2016 LCMS Convention Resolution 13-02A encourages Licensed Lay Deacons engaged in Word and Sacrament ministry to either colloquize as an SMP or enter the SMP program, thus affirming that the SMP program will continue to be a distinct recognized route to the ministry in the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, men admitted to the SMP become ordained before completing their academic program, with some administering the Word and the sacraments prior to ordination; and

WHEREAS, SMP's are not required to learn a biblical language; and

WHEREAS, there are men serving as SMP's in settings which could reasonably support a general pastor or minister of religion commissioned, in direct conflict with the stated purpose of the SMP program and in contradiction to 2013 LCMS Convention Resolution 5-04B; and

WHEREAS, the constitution and bylaws of the LCMS are not clear as to what might constitute or limit specific ministry contexts; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the English District encourage the continuance of the SMP program, giving thanks to God for the faithful service of SMP's within congregations of the District; and be it further

*Resolved*, the English District recommends that the SMP program be improved in the following ways:

- 1 1. That ordination be deferred until all SMP coursework has been completed, in faithfulness  
2 to Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession.
- 3 2. That all SMP's be required to complete a prescribed continuing education program which  
4 includes the study of a biblical language.
- 5 3. That SMP's not be authorized by the District President to serve in settings which could  
6 reasonably support a general pastor or minister of religion – commissioned.
- 7 4. That the Synod in convention establish parameters for specific ministry contexts.;  
8 and be it further

9  
10 *Resolved*, that these recommendations be forwarded to the 2019 LCMS Convention; and be it  
11 finally

12  
13 *Resolved*, that the President of The English District be encouraged to implement these  
14 improvements where appropriate already at the District level.

15  
16 Submitted by  
17 Western Michigan Circuit #13  
18  
19

1 **OVERTURE 1-04**

2  
3 **To Encourage Every Sunday Communion**

4  
5 WHEREAS, the Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated every Lord's day during the first  
6 centuries of Christendom; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day was a reality  
9 cherished by Dr. Martin Luther and set forth clearly with high esteem in the Confessional  
10 writings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Article XXIV of the Augsburg Confession and  
11 Article XXIV 1 of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession); and

12  
13 WHEREAS, our Synod's 1983 CTCR document on the Lord's Supper (p. 28) and our Synod's  
14 1986 [1991] translation of Luther's *Small Catechism* both remind us that the Scriptures place  
15 the Lord's Supper at the center of worship (*Acts 2:42 - And they devoted themselves to the*  
16 *apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers; Acts 20:7 - On the*  
17 *first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them,*  
18 *intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight; I Corinthians 11 :20*  
19 *- When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper that you eat; I Corinthians 11:23 - For I*  
20 *received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was*  
21 *betrayed took bread*), and not as an appendage or an occasional extra, and that the new 2017  
22 edition of Luther's *Small Catechism and Explanation* also notes the importance of receiving the  
23 Sacrament and its centrality in worship (pp. 329 [358], 344-345 (374, E); and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the English District-LCMS passed a resolution in Convention in the early 1990s,  
26 which then went as an overture to the 1995 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
27 Synod and was adopted (Resolution 2-08A), encouraging an every Sunday celebration of the  
28 Holy Supper of our Lord's true Body and Blood; therefore be it

29  
30 *Resolved*, that the English District-LCMS again re-affirm, through this resolution, that our  
31 congregations and pastors be encouraged to offer the Holy Supper each Lord's Day; and be it  
32 finally

33  
34 *Resolved*, that this resolution be sent to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's 2019  
35 Convention, again encouraging its pastors and congregations to study the scriptural,  
36 confessional, and historical witness to every Sunday Communion with a view toward  
37 recovering the opportunity for receiving the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day.

38  
39  
40 Submitted by  
41 Detroit North & South Circuits #11 & 12  
42

1 **OVERTURE 1-05**

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43

**To Encourage Pastors and Laity to Discuss Religion and Politics**

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture, the Church Fathers, and the writings of Dr. Martin Luther affirm that Christians, as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, are citizens of two Kingdoms — the Kingdom of the Right, Christ's Kingdom of grace, His Church on earth, and the Kingdom of the Left, earthly governments; and

WHEREAS, St. Augustine, in *City of God* (Book XIX, 21) states, "a republic cannot be administered without justice. Where, therefore, there is no true justice there can be no right. For that which is done by right is justly done, and what is unjustly done cannot be done by right. For the unjust inventions of men are neither to be considered nor spoken of as rights. Thus, where there is not true justice there can be no assemblage of men associated by a common acknowledgment of right, and therefore there can be no people; and if there is no right where there is no justice, then most certainly it follows that there is no republic where there is no justice."; and

WHEREAS, the Church is encouraged to engage in the public square, that is, to actively intercede for the Kingdom of the Left (1 Timothy 2:1-4), being mindful of her work toward promoting governance that is in conformity with the will of God as revealed in His Scriptures, including justice, and that in the present government of the United States such promotion takes the form of elections, lobbying, and the like; and that Christians are free to work within the present government of the United States to establish and maintain a public context that provides for the Church to exist peacefully so that the field remains favorable for the Gospel to be given freely; and

WHEREAS, Christianity in America and its accompanying morality has been declining in recent generations; and

WHEREAS, many Christians are reluctant to discuss religion and politics, two realms which undergird the vitality and sustainability of The United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Alexis de Tocqueville, in *Democracy in America*, a series in three volumes, 1835 – 1840, dispels the claim that Politics and Religion don't mix, "The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and Liberty so intimately in their minds that it is impossible to make them conceive one without the other. The religious atmosphere of the country was the first thing that struck me upon my arrival in the U.S. In France, I had seen the spirits of religion and freedom almost always marching in opposite directions, in America, I found them intimately linked together and joined and reigned over the same land. Religion should therefore be considered as the first of their political institutions. From the start, politics and religion have agreed and have not since ceased to do so"; and

1 WHEREAS, Daniel Webster in an oration given in Hanover, NH on July 4, 1800, stated, "To  
2 preserve the government we must also preserve morals. Morality rests on religion; if you  
3 destroy the foundation, the superstructure must fall. When the public mind becomes vitiated  
4 and corrupt, laws are a nullity and constitutions are waste paper"; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, John Adams in a speech to the Massachusetts militia in 1798 claimed, "We have  
7 no government armed in power capable of contending in human passions unbridled by  
8 morality and religion ... Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is  
9 wholly inadequate to the government of any other"; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, Patrick Henry in 1799, speaking to our nation's ability to be invincible, said, "The  
12 great pillars of all government and of social life are virtue, morality, and religion. This is the  
13 armor ... and this alone, that renders us invincible"; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, Noah Webster on October 25, 1836, stated, "In my view, the Christian Religion is the  
16 most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government, ought  
17 to be instructed ... no truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian Religion must be  
18 the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people"; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, George Washington said in his Farewell Address, September 17, 1796, "Of all the  
21 dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are  
22 indispensable supports ... In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should  
23 labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness the firmest props of the duties of men  
24 and citizens ... ." "And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be  
25 maintained without religion ... reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national  
26 morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle"; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, John Adams, on June 21, 1776 wrote, "Statesmen, my dear sirs, may plan and  
29 speculate for liberty, but it is religion and morality alone, which can establish the principles  
30 upon which freedom can securely stand"; therefore be it  
31

32 *Resolved*, that the Pastors and Laity of the English District freely and openly discuss and teach  
33 at all times possible within their vocations, the necessity of maintaining the Christian religion  
34 and its accompanying morality within the United States, such that liberty and justice may  
35 continue for the sake of all citizens of the United States, and ultimately, for the sake of all  
36 people.  
37

38 Submitted by  
39 Detroit North & South Circuits #11 & 12  
40  
41

1 **OVERTURE 1-06**

2  
3 **To Adopt the Conclusions of the LCC's CTCR Document, CREMATION AND THE CHRISTIAN**

4  
5 WHEREAS, many pastors of the LCMS seek guidance with respect to Cremation for purposes  
6 of counsel among their congregation members; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the LCMS Conventions of 2016 and 2013 were presented with an Overture  
9 requesting the study of Cremation with the hope of providing a statement of belief and  
10 recommendations for practice; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, the LCMS Conventions of 2016 and 2013 did not bring such an Overture to the  
13 Convention floor, but provided a recommendation following the 2016 Convention that LCMS  
14 pastors use, as a guide, the Lutheran Church of Canada's CTCR study on Cremation; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, the LCC CTCR document offers the following conclusions:

- 17 1. While not the case in Canada, there are places in the world where, because of the scarcity  
18 of land, it has become virtually impossible to purchase land for cemeteries and for burial  
19 plots. If cremation has become the only option in certain lands, Christians need to find  
20 ways to make clear witness for our faith in the resurrection of the body.
- 21 2. The pastor should not offend the consciences of those who have chosen cremation. In  
22 the case of one who is dying and who has made up one's mind on the subject, using the  
23 law to convince them to do otherwise could create spiritual doubt regarding their  
24 relationship to God.
- 25 3. The pastor should discourage thoughts of having the ashes of the departed scattered, for  
26 this practice indeed arises from a pagan denial of the importance of the body, and creates  
27 the impression that the spirit's survival is all that matters.
- 28 4. Families of Christians who have been cremated should be encouraged to have the  
29 remains of their loved ones placed in a columbarium, or kept together in some other way.  
30 The name of the deceased should be noted on the urn and/or on the niche in memory of  
31 the one who has died and who awaits the resurrection.
- 32 5. Though ashes cannot be committed to the earth in the same way that a body may be  
33 committed, a clear message of hope in the resurrection of the body needs take place even  
34 as the ashes are commended into the hands of God in the hope of the resurrection.
- 35 6. As is always the case, the clear message given at the funeral/memorial of all Christians is  
36 the hope of the resurrection of the dead, not merely the survival of the individual in  
37 heaven. Our creeds confess the resurrection of the body (indeed, of the flesh!), not merely  
38 the survival of the soul
- 39 7. In sermons and Bible studies throughout the church year, especially when dealing with  
40 lessons that cover the subject, the Christian teaching on the resurrection of the dead  
41 must be stressed, and the blessings confessed by the traditional practice of burial over  
42 against cremation must be noted. Burial should be encouraged over against cremation as  
43 the means by which the church best confesses before the world the return of Christ and  
44 the resurrection of the body; and

1  
2 WHEREAS, these conclusions are feasible for presentation at a Synod Convention; therefore  
3 be it

4  
5 *Resolved*, that the 2019 LCMS Convention adopt the LCC CTCR study's conclusions.  
6

7  
8 Submitted by  
9 Detroit North & South Circuits #11 & 12

10 **OVERTURE 1-07**

11  
12 **To Affirm a Six Day Creation and "Young Earth"**

13  
14 WHEREAS, since the publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species* in 1859, the teaching of a 6-day  
15 creation and "young earth" has been challenged; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the 1932 LCMS Brief Statement states, "We teach that God has created heaven and  
18 earth and that in the manner and in the space of time recorded in the Holy Scriptures,  
19 especially Genesis 1 and 2, namely, by His almighty creative Word, and in six days. We reject  
20 every doctrine which denies or limits the work of creation as taught in Scripture. In our days it  
21 is denied or limited by those who assert, ostensibly in deference to science, that the world  
22 came into existence through a process of evolution; that is, that it has in immense periods of  
23 time, developed more of less of itself"; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the phrase "We reject ... immense periods of time" from the LCMS 1932 Brief  
26 Statement implies not an "old earth" but a "young earth"; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, many organizations exist today, such as Answers in Genesis, the Creation  
29 Research Society, et al, which promote a six-day creation and "young-earth", with each day  
30 representing a 24-hour period of time; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, the LCMS in Convention has for numerous recent Conventions affirmed the  
33 teaching of Genesis, that of a 6, 24-hour day, "young-earth" creation; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, such affirmations are challenged daily in the institutions of our nation, and in some  
36 LCMS universities; therefore be it

37  
38 *Resolved*, that the English District continue to affirm the historic and present teaching of the  
39 LCMS, that of a 6, 24-hour day, "young-earth" creation.  
40

41  
42 Submitted by  
43 Detroit North & South Circuits #11 & 12

1 **OVERTURE 1-08**

2  
3 **To Oppose Binding Christian Consciences to Political Partisanship**

4  
5 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is currently involved in the Lutheran  
6 Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) through denominational support of LIRS and the  
7 presence of LCMS members on its Board of Directors<sup>1</sup>; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, the LIRS advocates political positions on questions subject to debate, not  
10 determined by the Holy Scriptures, on which Christians may disagree, such as

- 11 1. Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA)<sup>2</sup> and  
12 2. The number of refugees entering the United States of America<sup>3</sup>

13 thereby binding the conscience of LCMS Christians who disagree with LIRS' positions and are  
14 not necessarily "heartsick"<sup>4</sup> at every political change; therefore, be it

15  
16 *Resolved*, that the English District of the LCMS censure LIRS for binding Christian consciences  
17 to political opinions not found in Scripture; and be it further

18  
19 *Resolved*, that the English District encourage its members to withdraw any support from the  
20 LIRS until such time as its political partisanship comes to an end; and be it finally

21  
22 *Resolved*, that the English District encourage the LCMS, in convention, to do the same.  
23

24 Submitted by  
25 Philadelphia Circuit #2  
26  
27

---

<sup>1</sup> [lirs.org/our-work/church-partners/](http://lirs.org/our-work/church-partners/), where it says, "Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services celebrates strong collaborative relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod LC-MS, and the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LELCA)...Each [denomination] contributes financially to the mission and is represented on our board of directors."

<sup>2</sup> "STATEMENT – LIRS Denounces Trump Administration's Decision to End DACA Program," (9/5/2017), [lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/statement-lirs-denounces-trump-administration-decision-to-end-daca/](http://lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/statement-lirs-denounces-trump-administration-decision-to-end-daca/) and [lirs.org/our-work/people-we-serve/children/advocating-for-children/](http://lirs.org/our-work/people-we-serve/children/advocating-for-children/)

<sup>3</sup> [lirs.org/refugee-resettlement](http://lirs.org/refugee-resettlement), where many particular positions on legislation and political issues are listed at length.

<sup>4</sup> "Churches and communities, employers and mayors, are heartsick at the Administration's callous and tragic decision to deny welcome to refugees most in need," said Linda Hartke, LIRS President and CEO, "STATEMENT-LIRS Responds to Historic Low Refugee Admissions Ceiling," (9/27/2017), [lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/statement-lirs-responds-to-historic-low-refugee-admissions-ceiling/](http://lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/statement-lirs-responds-to-historic-low-refugee-admissions-ceiling/)

1 **OVERTURE 1-09**

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42

**To Add the Requirement for the Seminaries to Include Courses on Teaching**

Introduction

The purpose of this resolution is to add the requirement for the seminaries to include courses on teaching (in the education world, these are called methods courses) to provide pastoral candidates with tools to help them be more effective teachers. It would be understood that if the candidate, prior to entering the seminary, has already taken equivalent courses these courses could be substituted. It is also good, right and proper for congregations and Synod to encourage and support those pastors already out of seminary to supplement their teaching skills.

WHEREAS, pastoral candidates are not required to complete courses on teaching that would provide them with tools to help them be more effective teachers; and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures tell us that one of the requirements of an overseer is to be “able to teach” (I Tim. 2:3); and

WHEREAS, it is expected of our pastors to be the primary teachers of the young and adult catechism classes and of additional Bible study classes; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that pastors have sufficient knowledge to be qualified as teachers, they generally lack the tools needed to be effective in their teaching and efficient in their preparation; and

WHEREAS, “*Doctor Luther said: ... schoolteachers are used to speaking in school and somewhat more daring [than pastors]. They also teach in their school language how one must treat and interpret the language of the Holy Scriptures. I wish that no one would be chosen as a preacher unless he had first taught school*” (Lewis W. Spitz in Bulletin 2, March 1943, Lutheran Education Association); therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the seminaries offer at least two teacher training classes as required courses for graduation; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the substance of these courses include skills in class management, tools for lesson preparation, and an introduction to the philosophy of education; and be it further

*Resolved*, that these courses be taught by qualified teaching (education) professionals, the details of which are to be coordinated with our Synodical seminaries and colleges; and be it finally

1 *Resolved*, that the Seminaries report the progress made to implement these classes at the  
2 2022 Synodical Convention.

3  
4  
5

Submitted by  
Pittsburgh Circuit #6

1 **COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS & EVANGELIZATION**

2  
3 **OVERTURE 2-01**

4  
5 **To Support International Missionaries Who Are Members of the English District**

6  
7 WHEREAS, the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20 has been and will until the Last Day  
8 remain the heart of the Church’s mission, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations;  
9 and

10  
11 WHEREAS, one of the reasons congregations banded together to form a synodical union is for  
12 the sending of missionaries; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, the number of missionaries in the LCMS has increased in recent years; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, the LCMS employs the Network Supported Model for the funding of missionaries,  
17 which requires LCMS missionaries to essentially raise their own salary and funding by visiting  
18 congregations and asking for money in order to enter and remain on the mission field; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the English District is blessed to count several career missionaries among its  
21 individual members [including Rev. Ted Krey, Rev. Dale Kaster, Rev. Charles Ferry and others];  
22 and

23  
24 WHEREAS, many congregations of the English District are providing support for international  
25 missionaries; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, at present the English District does not provide direct support for any international  
28 missionaries who are members of the English District; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, the English District budget includes a line item for Missions; therefore be it

31  
32 *Resolved*, that the English District give thanks to God for the increase of international  
33 missionaries; and be it further

34  
35 *Resolved*, that the English District celebrate the faithful service of missionaries who are  
36 members of the English District by encouraging congregations to support them financially;  
37 and be it further

38  
39 *Resolved*, that the English District mission budget include funding for international  
40 missionaries who are members of the English District; and be it finally

1 *Resolved*, that the English District memorialize the 2019 LCMS Convention to making the  
2 funding of international missionaries a key priority for the next triennium.

3

4

5

6

Submitted by  
Detroit North & South Circuits #11& 12

1 **OVERTURE 2-02**

2  
3 **To Invite and Encourage Congregations of Our English District to Begin and Join**  
4 **in 1.1.1 Mission Funding Through Our District**  
5

6 WHEREAS, at our 2012 English District Convention the Rev. Dr. William Schumacher stated  
7 that What we are about as congregations of the English District is "Sharing the good news of  
8 God's Kingdom across every boundary and barrier of human existence," and  
9

10 WHEREAS, Our English District Missions Council has stated that 'our English District can be a  
11 model of mission for the whole Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod,' and  
12

13 WHEREAS, Our English District Evangelization Team has stated that 'every member of our  
14 English District is called to "Witness Jesus in his or her life,"' and  
15

16 WHEREAS, the congregation of The Lutheran Church of the Prince of Peace, Menomonee Falls,  
17 Wisconsin has provided a clear, doable and successful method of collecting 'significant' gifts  
18 (Namely the \$1 per Member per Week initiative, hereafter "1.1.1"), above and beyond regular  
19 offerings, specifically to be used for mission to the world; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, the beautiful Body of Christ desires that more and more people become disciples,  
22 by being baptized and taught of Jesus, and thus connected to Jesus, have Eternal Life; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, The English District fervently desire more missions to be started, more  
25 missionaries to be sent, more pastors and teachers to be trained, more people to be baptized,  
26 to hear of Jesus and be saved; therefore be it  
27

28 *Resolved*, that our English District in convention affirms our Missions council's intention for our  
29 English District to be a model of mission funding for the LCMS; and be it further  
30

31 *Resolved*, that our English District be a 'model' for our LCMS in recognizing that Jesus Christ  
32 gives us the power and strength to fund the missions and missionaries by many giving a little  
33 extra; and be it further  
34

35 *Resolved*, that we place before the congregations of our District the opportunity to participate  
36 in 1.1.1 which demonstrates the power of the beautiful Body of Christ working together,  
37 prompted by faith; and be it finally  
38

39 *Resolved*, that during the next triennium these funds raised be counted above and beyond our  
40 District budget, being used fully to support directly new mission starts and workers starting  
41 those missions through our District.  
42

43 Submitted by  
44 Missions Council and Evangelization Team  
of the English District-LCMS

1 **COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION & STRUCTURE**

2  
3 **OVERTURE 3-01**

4  
5 **To Move Our Concordia Universities and Seminaries to Independence**  
6 **from Government Funding**

7  
8 WHEREAS, “the common goal (of our Concordia Universities and Seminaries) is to develop  
9 Christian leaders for the church, community and world” (1); and

10  
11 WHEREAS, “The Concordia University System is one of the most powerful and far-reaching  
12 tools the Lord of the Church has given The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to take the  
13 Good News of life in Jesus Christ to a world desperately in need of hearing and believing in  
14 Him, through professional church workers and those trained for other service in our  
15 communities” (2); and

16  
17 WHEREAS, in pursuit of its common goal, our Concordia University System adopted ten  
18 Lutheran Identity Standards, which were approved by Synod at its 2016 Convention. The first  
19 paragraph of the preamble reads, “As educational institutions of The Lutheran Church –  
20 Missouri Synod, the colleges and universities of the Concordia University System confess the  
21 faith of the Church. The Concordias uphold the teachings of sacred Scripture and its  
22 articulation in the Lutheran Confessions. This includes the biblical teaching that Jesus Christ  
23 – true God and true man – is the sole way to God’s mercy and grace; that at the beginning of  
24 time the Triune God created all things; that life is sacred from conception to natural death; and  
25 that marriage between a man and a woman is a sacred gift of God’s creative hand – over  
26 against the reductionistic assumptions of many in our culture who view men and women as  
27 only transitory and material beings” (3); and

28  
29 WHEREAS, faculty and students in our Concordia Universities and Seminaries receive  
30 government grants and loans for research and tuition support (4); and

31  
32 WHEREAS, the acceptance of government monies is increasingly coming with requirements,  
33 which attempt to pressure our institutions of higher learning to compromise their Christian  
34 witness; therefore be it

35  
36 *Resolved*, that the English District in Convention call upon The Lutheran Church–Missouri  
37 Synod to urge our institutions of higher learning to issue a financial progress report in 2022,  
38 detailing how they are advancing toward independence from government funding; and be it  
39 finally

40  
41 *Resolved*, that the English District in Convention call upon The Lutheran Church–Missouri  
42 Synod to begin a fund-raising campaign with the goal of supporting our institutions of higher  
43 learning to allow them to become financially independent of government funding.

- 1 Notes:  
2 1. Quoted on September 8, 2017 from [www.lcms.org/cus](http://www.lcms.org/cus)  
3 2. Ibid.  
4 3. Accessed on September 8, 2017 from [www.cus.edu](http://www.cus.edu)  
5 4. For an example of the receipt of federal funds for research support, see the listing of Prof  
6 Matt Wise at [www.cu-portland.edu/academics/college-arts-sciences/faculty-research](http://www.cu-portland.edu/academics/college-arts-sciences/faculty-research)  
7 (accessed September 8, 2017)

8  
9  
10 Submitted by  
11 Arizona South Circuit #20  
12

13 **OVERTURE 3-02**

14  
15 **To Replace the Term “President” with “Bishop” in Our 35 LCMS Districts**

16  
17 WHEREAS, the biblical term of an overseer (episcopus; Greek: ἐπίσκοπής) is usually translated  
18 as “bishop” (I Timothy 3:1; Acts 20:28); and

19  
20 WHEREAS, this biblical word is used in the New Testament to describe the pastoral office (I  
21 Peter 5:2-4) but has been used in Church history since the early days of the Church Fathers to  
22 recognize one set in rightful authority of oversight of congregations and pastors; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, the term “bishop” is used by most Evangelical Lutheran church bodies, including  
25 those in partnership with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the International  
26 Lutheran Council (ILC), world-wide; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, even in American secular society the term “bishop” is understood to imply a  
29 position of responsibility of oversight, even while the office is to be exercised with humility,  
30 Lutheran confessional loyalty, and great care; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, the term “president” in our LCMS is often confused with simple administrative  
33 authority positions in government, business, and service organizations (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.)  
34 instead of its use among us as an office of ecclesiastical responsibility and oversight for the  
35 good of Christ’s Church on earth; and

36  
37 WHEREAS, the history of the LCMS was effected from 1847 when the term “president” was  
38 selected in reaction to the term “bishop” as the latter had been misused in the 1839 Saxon  
39 immigration under Martin Stephan and the prior formation of what became the German  
40 Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States in 1847 (later, LCMS), but now  
41 that history is far in the past; and

1 WHEREAS, the term “bishop” is practically used by many of our congregations and pastors  
2 across the LCMS in deferring to those serving as district presidents and indeed has had long  
3 usage in several synodical districts, some for decades (English, Atlantic, New Jersey, etc.); and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the term “president” is rightly used in LCMS auxiliaries such as the LWML, but  
6 often this presents terminology problems at LWML Conventions when talking about district  
7 presidents who are bishops in distinction from women district presidents who are LWML  
8 district presidents; and,  
9

10 WHEREAS, the term “bishop” is more reflective of the responsibilities and respect for the office  
11 held by a pastor elected to such a position in his synodical district and could be beneficial in  
12 the Synod’s public witness for Christ in North America, including through the new LCRL Office  
13 (Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty); therefore be it  
14

15 *Resolved*, that the English District memorialize Synod to make this nomenclature change at the  
16 2019 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to use the term “bishop” henceforth  
17 in place of “president;” and be it finally  
18

19 *Resolved*, that the LCMS *Handbook* (Constitution and Bylaw) changes reflect this change in  
20 terminology.  
21

22 Submitted by  
23 Detroit North & South Circuits #11 & 12  
24  
25  
26

1 **OVERTURE 3-03**

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27

**To Replace the Term Synod “President” with “Head Bishop”**

WHEREAS, the President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod holds office at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis, MO (Kirkwood, suburban St. Louis) and could rightly be called “Archbishop” since St. Louis has an arch; and, all humor aside; and

WHEREAS, the head administrative and ecclesiastical officer of our Church body is first and foremost a pastor charged with ecclesiastical oversight over the whole LCMS according to the Constitution and Bylaws of the LCMS and thus is the “Head Bishop” under Christ, serving the congregations and pastors of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, the change in nomenclature to the biblical term “Bishop” will replace that of “President” for the chief ecclesiastical leaders of each District of Synod; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the title of “Head Bishop” be used in place of “President” of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it finally

*Resolved*, that the LCMS *Handbook* (Constitution and Bylaw) changes reflect this change in terminology.

Submitted by  
Detroit North & South Circuits #11 & 12

1 **OVERTURE 3-04**

2  
3 **To Revise the Bylaws of the English District**

4  
5 WHEREAS, the English District Board of Directors has conducted a thorough review of the  
6 Bylaws of the District during this past triennium, identifying where revisions would be helpful  
7 for the administration of the District; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, the LCMS Committee on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has identified required  
10 revisions to be made to the Bylaws of the District so that they are in compliance with the  
11 Synod Handbook; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the LCMS CCM has suggested revisions to the Bylaws of the District; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the English District Board of Directors has drafted proposed revisions to the  
16 Bylaws of the District and submitted them for review by the LCMS CCM; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, the LCMS CCM has approved these changes (cf. CCM Opinion 17-2833); therefore  
19 be it

20  
21 *Resolved*, that the District in Convention revise the Bylaws of the District as follows:

22  
23 **PREAMBLE**

24  
25 In 1872 an initial conference of English-speaking Lutherans was held in Gravelton, Missouri. In 1888 the English  
26 Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri was organized and in 1911 was invited to join the German Evangelical  
27 Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States as the English Mission District. An agreement dated May 15, 1911,  
28 in Saint Louis, Missouri (*Delegatensynod von Missouri, Ohio u.a. St.*, 1911, pp. pages 31-35) made the English District  
29 official. Because of this origin the English District is unique among the districts of the Synod (Denver Convention  
30 *Proceedings*, 1969, Resolution 5-15).

31  
32 Since the English District is a district of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, the Constitution of the Synod ~~as given~~  
33 ~~in the Handbook~~ is also the Constitution of the District. Also, the Bylaws of the Synod are primarily the Bylaws of  
34 the District. The District’s objectives are as stated ~~noted~~ in Article III of the Synod’s Constitution; ~~(see 2010~~  
35 ~~Handbook), Article III Objectives:~~

36  
37 The Synod, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, shall—

- 38  
39 1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3–6; 1 Cor. 1:10), work through its official structure  
40 toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a united defense against schism,  
41 sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;
- 42 2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work  
43 of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;
- 44 3. Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their  
45 continuing growth;
- 46 4. Provide opportunities through which its members may express their Christian concern, love, and compassion  
47 in meeting human needs;
- 48 5. Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish agencies  
49 of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools and to support synodical colleges,  
universities, and seminaries;

6. Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;
7. Encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith;
8. Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties;
9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights;
10. Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their families in the event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death.

Thus in the light of the Synod’s objectives, the mission of the English District is to seize every opportunity to serve the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, the whole Church in the whole world, and the whole person in the whole society, and in fulfillment of this mission, it shall seek to utilize its unique character to:

1. Assist congregations of the District in their ministries to their own communities with their own characteristics and needs;
2. 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;
3. Begin new churches and support new ministries with particular emphasis on openness to new challenges;
4. Assist in the revitalization of existing congregations and ministries;
5. Assist ministries in communities that are changing;
6. Focus on special, ethnic, urban and campus ministries;
7. Support mission initiatives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
8. Support life-long educational ministries within the District; and
9. Provide opportunities and avenues for congregations and their members to live out their love for God through the Christian stewardship of their time, talents and treasures.

## ARTICLE I CONGREGATIONS OF THE DISTRICT

- A. The congregations of the District shall exercise their authority through delegate convention, which shall consist of all duly certified delegates from member congregations.
- B. The District shall exercise its authority in harmony with the goals and directives of the Synod and under the guidance of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.
- C. The District shall delegate its authority as hereinafter prescribed. The exercise of such delegated authority shall always be subject to review by the District.

## ARTICLE II ADMINISTRATION

- A. The District shall establish an organizational structure for the effective operation of its programs and conduct of its affairs which shall include the District Convention (*referenced throughout as “Convention”*), the officers of the District, the Board of Directors, and such other staff and personnel as that Board may deem necessary and appropriate.

- 1 B. The administration of the affairs shall be conducted on three levels:  
2 1. The Convention, which shall consist of the District at large through its delegates in convention  
3 assembled, and shall be the governing body of the District subject to the Constitution, Bylaws, and  
4 Resolutions of Synod, and to these Bylaws;  
5 2. The ~~elected~~ officers of the District, who shall have primary responsibility for the implementation of  
6 decisions of the Convention and the Board of Directors;  
7 3. The Board of Directors elected by the Convention, which serves as the legal representative of the District  
8 and the custodian of all property of the District. Between conventions the Board shall provide for  
9 implementation within the District of the decisions of the Synod and District conventions, establish and  
10 review policy, determine general priorities, approve program budgets, allocate necessary funds for the  
11 support of the Synod and District budgets, review program performance, make provisions for necessary  
12 staff, and review the performance of the District President. It shall report its activities to the Convention.  
13  
14 C. For purposes of conferences and elections requiring regional representation, the District shall be divided into  
15 four regions: Eastern, Lake Erie, Midwestern, and Western.  
16 1. The President and Vice-Presidents of the District and the Board of Directors acting jointly shall  
17 determine the membership of the four regions 24 months prior to Conventions of the District.  
18 2. For purposes of regional elections, individuals will be considered a part of the geographical region in  
19 which they reside.  
20  
21 ~~D.C.~~ Dispute Reconcilers shall be chosen in such manner and exercise such jurisdiction as provided by Synod  
22 Bylaw 1.10ff. the Bylaws of the Synod (see 2010 Handbook bylaw 1.10.10ff).  
23  
24 ~~E.D.~~A Committee on Nominations shall be elected at each Convention to prepare the ballot for the next  
25 Convention. One minister of religion—ordained pastor and one minister of religion—commissioned or  
26 layperson or commissioned minister by name from each of the four regions of the District conference region  
27 shall will be elected. The Committee shall will organize itself as outlined in nine months prior to the  
28 convention in accordance with the District's Corporate Operations Manual.  
29  
30 ~~F.E.~~A Committee for Stewardship shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to comply with the stewardship  
31 programs and goals of the Synod, as required by Synod Bylaw 4.6.1. (see 2010 Handbook Bylaw 4.6).  
32  
33

### ARTICLE III OFFICERS & STAFF

- 34  
35  
36  
37 A. The officers of the District are:  
38 1. A President  
39 2. One Vice-President from each of the four regions of the District, in line of succession, as prescribed by  
40 these Bylaws.  
41 3. A Secretary  
42 4. A Treasurer, a layperson appointed by the Board of Directors  
43 5. A Circuit Visitor for each Circuit established by the District.  
44 ~~There shall be a President (Bishop), four Vice Presidents, a Secretary, an appointed Treasurer, and Circuit~~  
45 ~~Counselors.~~  
46  
47 B. The duties of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Circuit Visitors Counselors are described in  
48 the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and these Bylaws. Bylaw 5.2 (see 2010 Handbook) and in the  
49 resolutions of the conventions.  
50  
51 C. The Vice-Presidents shall advise the President, serve as his representatives, and assist him in bringing to the  
52 Board of Directors any needed recommendations.

1  
2 D. All Staff shall be directly accountable to the President.  
3

4 **ARTICLE IV**  
5 **ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES**  
6

7 A. Terms of Office and Tenure Elections

8 ~~1. All elections shall take place at the regular Convention.~~

9 ~~2. The President and all other elected officers, board and committee members shall be~~  
10 ~~electd by a majority of votes cast.~~

11 ~~3. One Vice President from each of the four regions shall be elected by the delegates. The~~  
12 ~~convention shall determine their rank.~~

13 ~~4.~~

14 1. Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for Stewardship, and  
15 Circuit Visitors Counselors shall serve for a term of three years.

16 2. A person's tenure in the same office or function shall be limited to four (4) consecutive full three-year terms.  
17 These persons may be elected to their previous office or function after an interval of no less than three (3)  
18 years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an interval of no less than two (2) years.

19  
20 B. Nomination and Election of District President

21 1. Each member congregation of the District shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod  
22 two (2) ordained ministers as candidates for District President.

23 2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to the  
24 member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.

25 3. Nominations for District President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months prior to the  
26 opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook* the names and tallies  
27 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 and consent  
29 to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.

30 5. The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience and  
31 qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be published and distributed to  
32 all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.

33 6. The District Convention shall elect the District President.

34 a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

35 b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from  
36 consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.  
37

38 C. Nomination and Election of District Vice-Presidents

39 1. Each member congregation of a region of the District shall be entitled to nominate two (2) ordained ministers  
40 from the clergy roster of the District with residence in its designated region as candidates for Vice-President.

41 2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to the  
42 member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.

43 3. Nominations for Vice-President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months prior to the  
44 opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook* the names and tallies  
45 of all ordained ministers who have received nominating votes.

46 4. The names of the three (3) ordained ministers residing within the boundaries of each region who receive the  
47 most nominating votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall be no opportunity  
48 provided for additional nominations.

49 5. The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience and  
50 qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be published and distributed to  
51 all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.

52 6. The District Convention shall elect one (1) Vice-President from each of the four regions of the District.

53 a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

- 1           b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from  
2           consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.  
3       7. Upon the election of the Vice-Presidents, a final election will take place ranking the Vice-Presidents by  
4       separate ballots with a simple majority of voting delegates determining the first, second, third, and fourth  
5       Vice-Presidents in line of succession.  
6

7 D. Nomination and Election of Board of Directors

- 8       1. Each member congregation of a region of the District is entitled to nominate three (3) individuals with  
9       residence in its designated region or combination of regions as candidates for the Regional Board of Directors  
10       positions.  
11       2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to the  
12       member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.  
13       3. Nominations for the Regional Board of Director positions shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to  
14       four months prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook*  
15       the names and tallies of all individuals who have received nominating votes.  
16       4. The names of the three (3) individuals residing within the boundaries of each region or combination of regions  
17       who receive the most nominating votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall  
18       be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.  
19       5. The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience and  
20       qualifications, as well as a statement concerning the individual's candidacy. These shall be published and  
21       distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.  
22       6. The District Convention shall elect one (1) ordained minister from the East or Lake Erie Region, one (1)  
23       ordained minister from the Midwest or West Region, one (1) commissioned minister from the East or Lake  
24       Erie Region, one (1) commissioned minister from the Midwest or West Region, and one (1) layperson from  
25       each of the four regions of the District.  
26       a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.  
27       b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from  
28       consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.  
29       7. The District Convention shall elect two (2) laypersons as at-large members of the Board of Directors.  
30       a. All candidates not elected to a Lay Regional Board of Director positions shall form the ballot for the Lay  
31       At-Large Board of Directors positions.  
32       b. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.  
33       c. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes  
34       and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless  
35       fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest  
36       candidates shall constitute the ballot.  
37

38 E. Nomination and Election of District Secretary, Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers, and  
39 Other Boards or Committees

- 40       1. The Committee on Nominations shall select candidates for all elected offices, boards, and committees other  
41       than President, Vice-President, Board of Directors, and the Canadian representative to the Endowment Fund  
42       Board of Managers. At least two (2) candidates and at least one (1) alternate shall be selected for each  
43       position.  
44       2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter soliciting  
45       names from the officers of the District and the congregational and individual members of the District, along  
46       with the laypersons of the congregations of the District.  
47       3. All suggested names shall be submitted to the Committee on Nominations no later than four months prior to  
48       the opening date of the Convention.  
49       4. All nominees for a particular regional position must reside within the boundaries of the region for which they  
50       are nominated.  
51       5. All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered to be nominees.  
52       6. The Committee on Nominations shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience  
53       and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning the individual's candidacy. These shall be published  
54       and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.  
55       7. The District Convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor.

- 1 a. Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate at the District Convention. The delegate  
2 making such nomination must present the District Secretary written consent of the person whose name  
3 is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the convention that the nominee is able and willing to  
4 serve if elected.  
5 b. Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the District Convention for approval before being  
6 added to the ballot.  
7 8. Election of these offices shall take place at the District Convention.  
8 a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.  
9 b. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes  
10 and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless  
11 fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest  
12 candidates shall constitute the ballot.

13 **B. Vacancies**

- 14 1. ~~In the event that the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve in that capacity~~  
15 ~~because of prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of the office of President shall be~~  
16 ~~performed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President shall remain as the Acting President until~~  
17 ~~the Board determines such illness or disability has been removed, the President resigns or dies, or the Board~~  
18 ~~determines that the illness or disability is permanent.~~  
19 2. ~~In the event that the office of President becomes vacant because of the resignation, death or permanent~~  
20 ~~disability of the President, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President shall succeed to the office of President and shall serve until~~  
21 ~~the next Convention.~~  
22 3. ~~The successor need not terminate his current position while completing the unexpired term.~~  
23 4. ~~Any Vice President, who by the terms of this Article succeeds to the office of President, may decline such~~  
24 ~~office; in which event:~~  
25 ~~1. The next ranking Vice President shall become President of the District;~~  
26 ~~2. All other Vice Presidents shall move up one rank;~~  
27 ~~3. The declining Vice President shall fill the last ranking vacant Vice Presidency.~~  
28 ~~4. In the event that all Vice Presidents decline the office of President, the ranking of the Vice-~~  
29 ~~Presidents shall remain unchanged, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President shall serve as Acting President until~~  
30 ~~the next convention, when a President shall be elected. He need not leave his current position while~~  
31 ~~servng as Acting President.~~  
32 5. ~~A vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the voting members of the Board.~~  
33 6. ~~A vacancy on the Committee on Nominations or in the Vice Presidents shall be filled by the Board of~~  
34 ~~Directors.~~  
35 7. ~~Vacancies that occur in the office of Circuit Counselor between conventions shall be filled by appointment~~  
36 ~~by the District President.~~  
37 8. ~~Persons appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors or other elected or appointed positions shall~~  
38 ~~serve until successors have been elected by the Convention or appointed under the terms of the bylaws.~~

40 **ARTICLE V**  
41 **VACANCIES**

43 **A. District President**

- 44 1. In the event that the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve in that capacity  
45 because of prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of the office of President shall be  
46 performed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall remain as the Acting President until  
47 the Board determines such illness or disability has been removed, the President resigns or dies, or the Board  
48 determines that the illness or disability is permanent.

- 1       2. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant because of the resignation, death or permanent  
2 disability of the President, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President and shall serve until  
3 the next Convention.  
4       3. The successor need not terminate his current position while completing the unexpired term.  
5       4. Any Vice-President, who by the terms of this Article succeeds to the office of President, may decline such  
6 office; in which event:  
7       a. The next ranking Vice-President shall become President of the District;  
8       b. All other Vice-Presidents shall move up one rank;  
9       c. The declining Vice-President shall fill the last ranking vacant Vice-Presidency.  
10       d. In the event that all Vice-Presidents decline the office of President, the ranking of the Vice-Presidents  
11 shall remain unchanged, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall serve as Acting President until the next  
12 convention, when a President shall be elected. He need not leave his current position while serving as  
13 Acting President.

14  
15 **B. Other Elected Positions.**

- 16       1. A vacancy in the Vice-Presidents shall be filled by appointment by the District President, in consultation  
17 with the Circuit Visitors within that the region.  
18       2. Vacancies that occur in the office of Circuit Visitor between conventions shall be filled by appointment by  
19 the District President.  
20       3. A vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the voting members of the Board, in consultation with  
21 the Committee on Nominations.  
22       4. A vacancy on the Committee on Nominations shall be filled by voting members of the Board of Directors,  
23 in consultation with the Committee on Nominations.  
24       5. Vacancies that occur in the office of District Endowment Fund Manager shall be filled:  
25       a. A vacancy in any regional manager position shall be filled by appointment by the District President,  
26 subject to approval by the Board of Directors.  
27       b. A vacancy in the Canadian representative position shall be filled by appointment by the Canada  
28 Corporation.  
29       6. Persons appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors or other elected or appointed positions shall  
30 serve until successors have been elected by the Convention or appointed under the terms of the bylaws.

31  
32 **ARTICLE V VI**

33 **DISTRICT CONFERENCES, CIRCUIT FORUMS, AND CIRCUIT CONVOCATIONS**

- 34  
35 A. The President shall confer with the Board of Directors to arrange for the official conferences of the ordained and  
36 commissioned professional ministers of the District;  
37       1. There shall be a plenary conference held annually for all ordained and commissioned ministers. In years  
38 when District Conventions are held, the plenary conference may be postponed at the discretion of the  
39 President and the Board of Directors.  
40       2. There shall be a conference for ordained ministers held annually in each of the four regions of the District.  
41       3. There shall be at least one conference for commissioned ministers held during each triennium.  
42  
43 ~~B. There shall be four regional pastoral conferences, which shall meet not less than once each year.~~  
44  
45 ~~C. There shall be at least one District Conference for Commissioned Ministers per triennium.~~  
46

- 1 ~~B. D.~~ Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their Circuit Visitors Counselors to select their Circuit Visitors  
 2 Counselors and conduct other business no later than the time established by the District. They shall follow and  
 3 following the procedures stated ~~noted~~ in Synod Bylaws 5.2.2 & and 5.3 (see 2010 Handbook).  
 4  
 5 ~~C. E.~~ The Circuit Visitor Counselors and any other officers of the circuit shall have the primary responsibility of  
 6 preparing the agenda for the Circuit Convocation, following the procedures stated in Synod Bylaw 5.4. (~~see Bylaw~~  
 7 5.4, 2010 Handbook).  
 8

9 **ARTICLE ~~VI~~ VII**  
 10 **POWERS**

11 The District shall have legal powers as follows:

- 12  
 13 1. ~~A.~~ To purchase, acquire, hold, administer, sell, transfer, mortgage and convey property of every description,  
 14 both personal and real, in the interest of the District;  
 15 2. ~~B.~~ To accept, hold, administer, sell, transfer and convey legacies, gifts, donations, commercial papers and  
 16 legal documents of every description in the performance of its work;  
 17 3. ~~C.~~ To delegate to the Board of Directors, who shall exercise the aforementioned powers. No individual or  
 18 officer of the District shall have the power to usurp this authority.  
 19 4. ~~D.~~ No action on the part of the members of the Board of Directors shall be prerequisite to the borrowing of  
 20 money or the execution of any mortgage upon personality or realty.  
 21 5. ~~E.~~ There shall be no shares of stock issued in connection with the District.  
 22  
 23

24 **ARTICLE ~~VH~~ VIII**  
 25 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

26 A. Membership and Composition

- 27  
 28 1. The Board of Directors shall have no more than fifteen (15) voting members, as follows:  
 29 a. The President of the District  
 30 b. The Secretary of the District  
 31 c. Two (2) ministers of religion—ordained, one of whom shall be elected from either the Eastern  
 32 Region or Lake Erie Region and one whom shall be elected from either the Midwestern Region or  
 33 Western Region  
 34 d. Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned, one of whom shall be elected from either the  
 35 Eastern Region or Lake Erie Region and one whom shall be elected from either the Midwestern  
 36 Region or Western Region  
 37 e. One (1) layperson elected from each of the four regions of the District.  
 38 f. Two (2) laypersons elected from the District at large  
 39 g. Up to three (3) at-large laypersons appointed by the elected voting members of the Board of  
 40 Directors to obtain needed additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.)  
 41 2. The Board of Directors shall have six (6) non-voting members:  
 42 a. The Vice-Presidents of the District  
 43 b. The Treasurer of the District  
 44 c. The President of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Canada  
 45 Corporation).  
 46 3. The Board shall elect its own chair and vice-chair from among the voting members of the Board after  
 47 each convention. The President and Secretary shall be ineligible to be elected as chair or vice-chair.  
 48 4. Each Board member shall avoid conflicts of interest and shall disclose to the Board chair any potential  
 49 conflicts of interest, as defined in Synod Bylaw 1.5.2.  
 50 5. Members of the Board of Directors may be removed for cause, as defined in Synod Bylaw 1.5.8.

1 6. No member of the Board of Directors shall receive remuneration (beyond allowable reimbursement)  
2 for service on the Board.

3 The Board of Directors shall be composed of twelve (12) voting members: the President and the Secretary  
4 of the District; two (2) pastors, one of whom shall be elected from the Eastern/Lake Erie Regions and one  
5 from the Midwestern/Western Regions; two (2) commissioned ministers, one of whom shall be elected  
6 from the Eastern/Lake Erie Regions and one from the Midwestern/Western Regions; and six (6) lay  
7 persons, one from each of the four (4) regions and two (2) elected at large. The Board shall also include six  
8 (6) non-voting members: four (4) Vice Presidents, the appointed Treasurer, and the President of the  
9 English District of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (Canada Corporation). They shall serve only in  
10 an advisory capacity. The Board shall elect its own chair and vice chair from among the voting members of  
11 the Board after each convention. The President and Secretary may not serve as chair or vice chair.  
12

13 B. Powers and Duties

14 1. The Board of Directors shall have such powers and duties as are accorded to it by the Constitution,  
15 Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, resolutions, and policies of the Synod, as well as those of the  
16 District. Subject to such limitations, it shall operate within the applicable federal and state laws.

17 2. The Board's chief responsibility is developing and amending policy.

18 3.2. The Board # shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business  
19 and legal affairs and shall adopt policies and require procedures which assure that said management  
20 and supervision is affected.

21 4.3. In fulfilling its functions and in coordinating its work with the Synod, the Board shall be guided  
22 generally by the functions of the Board of Directors of the Synod as defined in Synod Bylaw 3.3.4ff s  
23 3.3.5ff (see 2010 Handbook) as these apply to districts.

24 5.4. Between Conventions it shall provide for implementation within the District of the decisions of the  
25 Synod and District Conventions and allocate necessary funds for the support of the Synod and District  
26 budgets.

27 6. The Board of Directors shall report at each Convention.  
28

29 C. Meetings of the Board of Directors

30 1. C.—Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least four (4) times a year at such time  
31 and place as the Board shall determine.

32 2. D.—Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or upon request of  
33 seven (7) board members at any time, by means of written or email notice, at least three (3) days in  
34 advance of the time, place and purpose thereof to each director. ~~Special meetings may be held by~~  
35 ~~means of conference telephone, video conferencing, or similar communications equipment through~~  
36 ~~which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. A director participating by such~~  
37 ~~means is deemed to be present in person at the meeting.~~

38 3. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be conducted electronically, using audio, video, or internet-  
39 based conferencing technologies.

40 a. In such cases, the technology must allow for each Board member to fully participate (hear, speak,  
41 have or been given access to documents and other materials as appropriate), including the  
42 opportunity to vote.

43 b. Board members must be given a reasonable opportunity to access the electronic meeting. If a  
44 Board member does not have access to the technology to be used, arrangements will be made for  
45 the member to participate in person by coming to the District Office or other mutually agreed upon  
46 location.

47 c. Any Board member listening or watching shall acknowledge their presence to the meeting. These  
48 names along with the attending Board members shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

49 4. ~~E—A majority of voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any properly called or~~  
50 ~~scheduled meeting. A majority of the voting directors shall constitute a quorum.~~

51 5. The Chair may authorize a Board member to participate in meetings of the Board by use of electronic  
52 technology described in Article N.C.3. Such participation by a Board member shall be considered as  
53 being present for the sake of establishing a quorum.

1 6. In situations where board members are not able to meet as described above, the Board of Directors  
2 may take action by use of electronic ballot (i.e., e-mail, internet-based voting, etc.), provided all voting  
3 members of the board cast a vote and the result of the voting is unanimous.

4 ~~F. If and when all voting directors have been polled and a majority consent in writing to any action to be taken~~  
5 ~~by the District, such action shall be as valid corporate action as though it had been authorized at a meeting~~  
6 ~~of the Board of Directors.~~

7 7. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings that record a summary of the major points of discussion and any  
8 action(s) taken.

9  
10 D. Appointment of Officers and Agents

11 ~~1. G.~~The Board of Directors shall have power to appoint such other officers and agents as the Board may  
12 deem necessary for the transaction of the business of the District.

13 ~~2. H.~~The Board of Directors may require any officer or agent to file with the District a satisfactory  
14 fidelity bond.

15  
16 E.I. Execution of Instruments.

17 1. All checks, drafts, and orders for payment of money shall be signed in the name of the District and  
18 may be countersigned by such officers or agents as the Board of Directors designates for that purpose  
19 or by the Treasurer alone.

20 2. When the execution of any contract, conveyance or other instrument has been authorized without  
21 specification of the executing officers, the President and the Secretary may execute the same in the  
22 name of and on behalf of the District and may affix the corporate seal thereto. The Board of Directors  
23 shall have power to designate the officers and agents who shall have authority to execute any  
24 instrument on behalf of the District.

25  
26 F.J. Borrowing Authority

27 1. The Board of Directors shall act on behalf of the District to borrow money the Board deems necessary  
28 and appropriate.

29 2. In such case the Board may authorize the proper officers of the District to make, execute and deliver in  
30 the name of and on behalf of the District such notes, bonds and other evidence of indebtedness as the  
31 Board should deem proper.

32 3. ~~The Board~~ ~~H~~ shall have full power to mortgage the property of the District, or any part thereof, as  
33 security for such indebtedness, and no action on the part of the membership of the District shall be  
34 requisite to the validity of any such note, bond, evidence of indebtedness or mortgage.

35  
36 G. Annual Budgetary Responsibilities

37 ~~1.L.~~The Board of Directors shall establish the annual District budget.

38 ~~2.M.~~The Board of Directors shall establish the salary of the District President on an annual basis.

39  
40 H. District Corporate Operations Manual

41 ~~1.K.~~The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain the District's *Corporate Operations Manual* and  
42 shall approve appropriate modifications.

43 2. Only the District in Convention, ~~however,~~ shall have the power to amend the *Corporate Operations*  
44 *Manual* with respect to sections dealing with the election of officers and the Board.

45 3. Modifications to the *Corporate Operations Manual* approved by the Board to any other sections shall  
46 be reported at the next Convention.

47  
48 ~~N. The Board of Directors shall report at each Convention.~~

49  
50 ~~I.O.~~The Board of Directors shall conduct, supervise, and manage all affairs of the District not otherwise  
51 assigned.

52  
53 ~~P. The Board of Directors shall have full power and authority to exercise any and all of the powers set forth in~~  
54 ~~Article VI.~~

- 1  
2 ~~Q. No member of the Board of Directors shall receive remuneration (beyond allowable reimbursement) for~~  
3 ~~service on the Board.~~  
4  
5 ~~R. Each Board member shall avoid conflicts of interest and shall disclose to the Board chair any potential~~  
6 ~~conflicts of interest.~~  
7  
8 ~~S. A member of the Board of Directors may be removed for witness or actions that are contrary to the mission~~  
9 ~~and ministry of the District or to the functions of a Board member. Such removal requires an affirmative~~  
10 ~~vote of at least three fourths (3/4) of the voting members of the Board present at a duly noticed and~~  
11 ~~constituted Board meeting. All actions must be in accord with Synod Bylaw 1.5.7 (see 2010 Handbook).~~  
12  
13

14 **ARTICLE ~~VIII~~ IX**  
15 **ENGLISH DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND**  
16

- 17 A. The District shall establish and maintain an endowment fund, providing a stewardship opportunity for  
18 congregations and their members and a resource for the support of District and Synod ministries. (The  
19 structure and operation of the fund is described in the English District *Corporate Operations Manual*.)  
20  
21 B. The Board of Directors shall exercise oversight for the English District Endowment Fund (EDEF).  
22  
23 C. The Board shall ~~ensure~~ assure that the EDEF Board of Managers reports on its work at least annually to the  
24 Board.  
25  
26 D. The Board shall elect one of its voting members to serve on the EDEF Board of Managers.  
27  
28

29 **ARTICLE ~~IX~~ X**  
30 **CONFLICTS**  
31

- 32 A. No article of the Bylaws of the District shall be valid which conflicts with the Constitution and Bylaws of  
33 the Synod.  
34  
35 B. Any matter, rule or regulation not specifically herein contained in the Bylaws shall be governed by  
36 comparable provision in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.  
37  
38

39 **ARTICLE ~~X~~ XI**  
40 **AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS**  
41

42 Changes, additions, and alterations to the Bylaws may be made by Conventions of the District: ~~provided~~  
43 ~~they:~~

- 44 1. ~~A. They shall not conflict with~~ Are not contrary to the Constitution or Bylaws of the Synod;.  
45 2. ~~B. They shall be~~ Are separately considered and acted upon by the Board of Directors;.  
46 3. ~~C. They shall be submitted~~ Are presented for review to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the  
47 Synod for review and approval prior to consideration by a District convention;.  
48 4. ~~D. They shall be~~ Are presented in writing to the District in convention; ~~and~~

1 ~~5. E. They shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting. Are passed~~  
2 ~~by a majority of the voting delegates in convention.~~

3  
4 Submitted by  
5 English District Board of Directors  
6  
7

8 **SUMMARY OF PROPOSED DISTRICT BYLAW CHANGES**  
9 **English District Convention – June 2018**

10  
11 Delegates to the English District Convention will be asked to approve multiple revisions to the District  
12 Bylaws. Some of changes proposed by the Board of Directors were made in response to directives from  
13 the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM), which identified some required revisions. That  
14 action also led the Board to evaluate how to improve the current bylaws beyond what the LCMS CCM  
15 requires.

16  
17 The proposed changes are summarized in the following pages, so that delegates can better understand  
18 what they are being asked to approve. This summary will identify where revisions are required. It will  
19 also provide a description of how the proposed bylaw language compares to the current District Bylaws.  
20 The intent is to have each delegate fully informed about the proposal, as well as to gain support for  
21 approving the revisions.  
22

23  
24 **PREAMBLE**

25 Several typographical changes are included in the Preamble to bring it up to date with modern English  
26 usage and the exact text of the Synod Constitution.  
27

28 In the second paragraph, references to the Synod *Handbook* are removed, as directed by the LCMS CCM.  
29

30  
31 **ARTICLE I – CONGREGATIONS OF THE DISTRICT**

32 No changes are proposed to this article.  
33

34  
35 **ARTICLE II – ADMINISTRATION**

36 In Section B.2, the adjective “elected” is removed. This recognizes that officers are both elected and  
37 appointed (e.g. The Treasurer of the District is an officer of the District who carries out decisions of the  
38 Convention and the Board of Directors, though s/he is appointed, not elected.).  
39

40 A new Section C is created. This establishes the regions of the District. Though the District has operated  
41 with regions, the process of how they were created was never defined within the District Bylaws. That is  
42 corrected by drafting language similar to Synod Bylaw 3.12.1.  
43

44 Section D is current Bylaw II.C with a rephrasing of how the Synod Bylaws are referenced.  
45

46 Section E is current Bylaw II.D. Language consistent with Synod Bylaws is used to refer to rostered  
47 workers. The reference to the District *Corporate Operations Manual* is rephrased, so that it is readily  
48 adaptable to any future changes to the *Corporate Operations Manual* concerning election timelines.  
49

50 Section F is current Bylaw II.E with a rephrasing of how the Synod Bylaws are referenced.  
51

1 **ARTICLE III – OFFICERS & STAFF**

2 The title of this article is changed to note the full topic that it addresses.

3  
4 Section A is current Bylaw III.A broken into an outline list, which is more consistent with how the Synod  
5 Constitution and Bylaws list officers. How the Treasurer is appointed is clarified. Language from the  
6 Synod Bylaws is incorporated to describe the Vice-Presidents and the Circuit Visitors.

7  
8 Section B is current Bylaw III.B updated to refer to Circuit Visitors. Additionally, there is a minor change  
9 that rephrases how the Synod Bylaws are referenced.

10  
11 Sections C & D are current Bylaws III.C and III.D without change.

12  
13  
14 **ARTICLE IV – ELECTIONS**

15 In the current Bylaws, Article IV treats both elections and vacancies. The proposed revision splits these  
16 two topics into two articles (Article IV – Elections; Article V – Vacancies). The revised Article IV outlines  
17 with much more detail the election process used by the District; such detail is lacking in the current  
18 Bylaws, where it belongs, though some is found in the *Corporate Operations Manual*. The LCMS CCM also  
19 noted that some of the duties given to the District Committee on Nominations in the *Corporate Operations*  
20 *Manual* are actually duties that belong to the District Secretary.

21  
22 The proposed bylaw amendments attempt to accomplish two goals:

- 23 (1) Codifying what is already present within the District *Corporate Operations Manual*, where those  
24 provisions are consistent with the requirements of the Synod Bylaws.  
25 (2) Establishing new procedures consistent with the requirements of the Synod Bylaws, particularly in  
26 the areas identified by the Synod CCM as needing revision.

27  
28  
29 Section A

30 This shortened section establishes both the terms of office and limitations of tenure for District offices. It  
31 utilizes the current bylaw language concerning length of term and the limitation on tenure in office.

32  
33 Section B

34 This section establishes the process for nominating and electing the District President. It codifies what is  
35 currently present in the *Corporate Operations Manual* (Duties A, D, and E), though making it the District  
36 Secretary’s responsibility as required by the LCMS CCM. Requirements set by Synod Bylaw 4.3.1  
37 concerning eligibility for election are included. The reporting of nominating ballot tallies models the  
38 process of electing the Synod President as noted in Synod Bylaw 3.12.2(d).

39  
40 Section C

41 This section establishes the process for nominating and electing District Vice-Presidents. It codifies what  
42 is currently present in the *Corporate Operations Manual* (Duties B, D, and E), though making it the District  
43 Secretary’s responsibility as required by the LCMS CCM. The rest of the provisions model Synod Bylaw  
44 3.12.2.7 to spell out how Synod Regional Vice-Presidents are elected and then ranked.

45  
46 Section D

47 This section establishes a new procedure for electing the Board of Directors. Congregations would have  
48 the ability to nominate three individuals for regional Board positions, which should help increase the  
49 number of potential candidates. The at-large member election process established by the new language  
50 codifies what had been done at past District Conventions, but which had not been stated in the current  
51 governing documents of the District. The balloting requirements are taken directly from Synod Bylaw  
52 4.7.3.

1  
2 Section E

3 This section provides instructions for the nomination and election of all other elected offices within the  
4 District not covered by the previous sections. The nominating procedure established is modeled after the  
5 Synod's nomination procedure for various Boards and Commissions. Provision for floor nominations is  
6 granted, because the District Convention has the right to amend the work of the Committee on  
7 Nominations.  
8  
9

10 **ARTICLE V – VACANCIES**

11 As noted above, the current Bylaw IV treats both elections and vacancies. The proposed revision creates  
12 a new Article V to separate the two topics.  
13

14 Section A

15 This section outlines the procedure for how vacancies in the office of District President are dealt with.  
16 The text is the current bylaw language (District Bylaw IV.B.1-4) that has been made its own section.  
17

18 Section B

19 This section outlines the procedure for how vacancies in all other District offices are filled. Most of the  
20 provisions are lifted from the current bylaw language (District Bylaw IV.B.5-8) and makes it its own  
21 section. Some rearrangement is done, so that the positions listed follow the order used in the bylaws  
22 concerning elections (i.e. Vice-President, Board of Directors, etc.).  
23

24 Some changes have been made concerning who fills the vacancies:

25 Vice-President: appointed by President, in consultation with the Circuit Visitors of the region

26 Circuit Visitor: direct appointment by President (as stated in Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.1).

27 Board of Directors: appointed by Board, in consultation with Committee on Nominations

28 Committee on Nominations: appointed by Board, in consultation with Committee on Nominations

29 Endowment Fund Managers (Regional): appointed by President, with approval by Board

30 Endowment Fund Manager (Canadian): appointed by Canada Corporation  
31

32 The proposed appointment processes for the Vice-Presidents models the Synod's procedure for filling  
33 vacancies of Synod Regional Vice-Presidents (Synod Bylaw 3.3.2.4). The rest of the appointment processes  
34 are similar to the current bylaw provisions, but include consultation with the Committee on Nominations,  
35 which would have information concerning individuals within the District who had indicated willingness  
36 and ability to serve at the previous District Convention.  
37  
38

39 **ARTICLE VI – DISTRICT CONFERENCES, CIRCUIT FORUMS, AND CIRCUIT**  
40 **CONVOICATIONS**

41 This article is a revision and renumbering of current Bylaw V. Currently, that bylaw addresses the holding  
42 of conferences within the District. However, the topics covered by the bylaw go beyond District  
43 Conferences, addressing Circuit Forums and Circuit Convoications. Within the Synod Bylaws, such  
44 meetings are distinct from the official District Conferences.  
45

46 The proposed changes accomplish several objectives:

- 47 (1) Adjusting the title of the bylaw to reflect the wider range of subject matter.  
48 (2) Providing ease of reading by addressing the three distinct types of meetings in three separate sections:  
49 A - District Conferences; B - Circuit Forums; C - Circuit Convoications.  
50 (3) Updating references to Synod Bylaws.  
51 (4) Using nomenclature consistent with the Synod Bylaws (*e.g. ordained and commissioned ministers vs.*  
52 *professional ministers; Circuit Visitor vs. Circuit Counselor*).

- 1 (5) Codifying the current practice of the District in proposed Bylaw VI.A.1, that no plenary conferences  
2 are held during Convention years.  
3 (6) Properly addressing the actions that Circuit Forums are to take in proposed Bylaw VI.B, as stated in  
4 Synod Bylaws 5.3.3, 5.3.4, and 5.3.5 (*e.g. selecting a Circuit Visitor, suggesting Synod priorities and goals,*  
5 *and drafting overtures for the Synod or District Convention*).  
6  
7

## 8 **ARTICLE VII – POWERS**

9 This article is a revision and renumbering of current Bylaw VI. That bylaw states the powers of the  
10 District, particularly the legal powers that it possesses. The revision simply provides a proper list form.  
11 The legal powers and limitations are listed, so they should be numbered instead of being separate lettered  
12 sections.  
13  
14

## 15 **ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

16 This article is a revision and renumbering of current Bylaw VII. That bylaw outlines the composition,  
17 powers, duties, and functions of the Board of Directors. The proposed revision attempts to improve the  
18 arrangement of the bylaw’s provisions by reorganizing its format, including providing titles for the  
19 sections of the bylaw.  
20

### 21 *Section A – Membership and Composition*

22 In the current District bylaws, this section is one block of text. To facilitate ease of reading, the proposed  
23 text splits the section into several paragraphs. This follows the model of Synod Bylaw 3.3.4.1.  
24

25 Note the provision in A.1.g, which states the Board’s ability to appoint three additional voting members  
26 of the Board. This enshrines in the District Bylaws the power that Synod Bylaw 4.5.1 grants to Districts.  
27

28 Paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 are newly added to this section. They take the provisions of current District Bylaws  
29 VII.Q, VII.R, and VII.S and place them in this section, where they naturally fit. Revisions are made, so  
30 that Synod Bylaws 1.5.2 (Conflicts of Interest) and 1.5.8 (Removal of District Officers) applicable to these  
31 matters are cited.

### 32 *Section B – Powers and Duties*

33 Three minor revisions are made in this section:

- 34 (1) The statement of the Board’s chief responsibility to develop and amend policy is made into its own  
35 paragraph.  
36 (2) The reference to Synod Bylaws is updated, giving the proper reference.  
37 (3) Paragraph 6 is current Bylaw VII.N placed into this section, where it naturally fits.  
38

### 39 *Section C – Meetings*

40 This section groups together all the current Bylaw provisions concerning Board meetings, while making  
41 some revisions.  
42

43 Paragraph 1 is current Bylaw VII.C.  
44

45 Paragraph 2 is the first part of current Bylaw VII.D.  
46

47 Paragraph 3 is new. It addresses the LCMS CCM’s concerns about electronic meetings. The language has  
48 been taken from the LCMS Board of Directors’ *Policy Manual*, with appropriate adjustments made. This  
49 paragraph also clarifies that all meetings of the Board—regular or special—could be done electronically.  
50

51 Paragraph 4 is a revision of current Bylaw VII.E. The language has been drawn from the LCMS Board of  
52 Directors’ *Policy Manual*.  
53

1 Paragraph 5 is new. It codifies the current practice of the Board to allow members to “attend” meetings  
2 by means of telecommunication. The language has been drawn from the LCMS Board of Directors’ *Policy*  
3 *Manual*.

4  
5 Paragraph 6 is a revision of current Bylaw VII.F to address the LCMS CCM’s concerns. The language  
6 has been taken from the LCMS Board of Directors’ *Policy Manual*.

7  
8 Paragraph 7 is new. It states what should be expected concerning minutes. The language has been taken  
9 from the LCMS Board of Directors’ *Policy Manual*.

10  
11 *Section D – Appointment of Officers and Agents*

12 This section was created to group current Bylaws VII.G and VII.H. No language in this section is new,  
13 other than the heading.

14  
15 *Section E – Execution of Instruments*

16 This section is current Bylaw VII.I renumbered.

17  
18 *Section F – Borrowing Authority*

19 This section is current Bylaw VII.J renumbered and split into three paragraphs.

20  
21 *Section G – Annual Budgetary Responsibilities*

22 This section was created to group together current Bylaws VII.L and VII.M. No language in this section  
23 is new, other than the section heading.

24  
25 *Section H – District Corporate Operations Manual*

26 This section is current Bylaw VII.K renumbered and split into three paragraphs. Minor changes in the  
27 language have been made for usage and ease of reading.

28  
29 *Section I*

30 This section is current Bylaw VII.O renumbered. It is the “catch-all provision” of the bylaws concerning  
31 the Board’s authority.

32  
33  
34 **ARTICLE IX – ENGLISH DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND**

35 This article is a revision and renumbering of Current Bylaw VIII. That bylaw establishes the English  
36 District Endowment Fund. The only proposed change is in Section C, using the proper verb (“ensure” vs.  
37 “assure”).

38  
39  
40 **ARTICLE X – CONFLICTS**

41 This article is a renumbering of Current Bylaw IX. No other revisions are proposed.

42  
43  
44 **ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS**

45 This article is a revision and renumbering of Current Bylaw X. That bylaw establishes the procedure by  
46 which the District Bylaws can be amended. The proposed changes accomplish two objectives:

- 47 (1) Using language and terminology consistent with the Synod Bylaws 4.1.1.2 and 7.1.1.  
48 (2) Organizing the provisions into a proper list form similar to Synod Bylaw 7.1.1. (*The requirements are*  
49 *listed, so they should be numbered. They do not form separate sections.*)

*Provided below is a side-by-side comparison of the current bylaws and the proposed changes.*

## **CURRENT DISTRICT BYLAWS**

### **PREAMBLE**

In 1872 an initial conference of English-speaking Lutherans was held in Gravelton, Missouri. In 1888 the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri was organized and in 1911 was invited to join the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States as the English Mission District. An agreement dated May 15, 1911, in Saint Louis, Missouri (*Delegatensynod von Missouri, Ohio u.a. St.*, 1911, pages 31-35) made the English District official. Because of this origin the English District is unique among the districts of the Synod (Denver Convention *Proceedings*, 1969, Resolution 5-15). Since the English District is a district of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, the Constitution of the Synod as given in the *Handbook* is also the Constitution of the District. Also, the Bylaws of the Synod are primarily the Bylaws of the District. The District’s objectives are as noted in the Synod’s Constitution (see *2010 Handbook*), Article III Objectives:

The Synod, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, shall –

1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Ephesians 4:3-6; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:10), work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism (Romans 16:17), and heresy;
2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;
3. Recruit and train pastors, teachers and other professional church workers, and provide opportunity for their continuing growth;
4. Provide opportunities through which its members may express their Christian concern, love and compassion in meeting human needs;
5. Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture, to establish agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools, and to

## **PROPOSED REVISED BYLAWS**

### **PREAMBLE**

In 1872 an initial conference of English-speaking Lutherans was held in Gravelton, Missouri. In 1888 the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri was organized and in 1911 was invited to join the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States as the English Mission District. An agreement dated May 15, 1911, in Saint Louis, Missouri (*Delegatensynod von Missouri, Ohio u.a. St.*, 1911, pp. 31-35) made the English District official. Because of this origin the English District is unique among the districts of the Synod (Denver Convention *Proceedings*, 1969, Resolution 5-15).

Since the English District is a district of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, the Constitution of the Synod is also the Constitution of the District. Also, the Bylaws of the Synod are primarily the Bylaws of the District. The District’s objectives are as stated in Article III of the Synod’s Constitution:

The Synod, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, shall –

1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3–6; 1 Cor. 1:10), work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;
2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;
3. Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth;
4. Provide opportunities through which its members may express their Christian concern, love, and compassion in meeting human needs;
5. Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish agencies of Christian education

support Synod colleges, universities and seminaries;

6. Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;
7. Encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice but also to develop an appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith;
8. Provide evangelical supervision, counsel and care for pastors, teachers and other professional church workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties;
9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights;
10. Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers and other church workers and their families in the event of illness, disability, retirement, special need and death.

Thus in the light of the Synod's objectives the mission of the English District is to seize every opportunity to serve the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, the whole Church in the whole world, and the whole person in the whole society, and in fulfillment of this mission, it 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;
- D. Assist in the revitalization of existing congregations and ministries;
- E. Assist ministries in communities that are changing;
- F. Focus on special, ethnic, urban and campus ministries;

such as elementary and secondary schools and to support synodical colleges, universities, and seminaries;

6. Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;
7. Encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith;
8. Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties;
9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights;
10. Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their families in the event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death.

Thus in the light of the Synod's objectives, the mission of the English District is to seize every opportunity to serve the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, the whole Church in the whole world, and the whole person in the whole society, and in fulfillment of this mission, it shall seek to utilize its unique character to:

1. Assist congregations of the District in their ministries to their own communities with their own characteristics and needs;
2. 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;
3. Begin new churches and support new ministries with particular emphasis on openness to new challenges;
4. Assist in the revitalization of existing congregations and ministries;
5. Assist ministries in communities that are changing;

- G. Support mission initiatives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
- H. Support life-long educational ministries within the District; and
- I. Provide opportunities and avenues for congregations and their members to live out their love for God through the Christian stewardship of their time, talents and treasures.

- 6. Focus on special, ethnic, urban and campus ministries;
- 7. Support mission initiatives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
- 8. Support life-long educational ministries within the District; and
- 9. Provide opportunities and avenues for congregations and their members to live out their love for God through the Christian stewardship of their time, talents and treasures.

**ARTICLE I  
CONGREGATIONS OF THE DISTRICT**

- A. The congregations of the District shall exercise their authority through delegate convention which shall consist of all duly certified delegates from member congregations.
- B. The District shall exercise its authority in harmony with the goals and directives of the Synod and under the guidance of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.
- C. The District shall delegate its authority as hereinafter prescribed. The exercise of such delegated authority shall always be subject to review by the District.

**ARTICLE II  
ADMINISTRATION**

- A. The District shall establish an organizational structure for the effective operation of its programs and conduct of its affairs which shall include the District Convention (*referenced throughout as "Convention"*), the officers of the District, the Board of Directors, and such other staff and personnel as that Board may deem necessary and appropriate.
- B. The administration of the affairs shall be conducted on three levels:
  - 1. The Convention, which shall consist of the District at large through its delegates in convention assembled, and shall be the governing body of the District subject

**ARTICLE I  
CONGREGATIONS OF THE DISTRICT**

- A. The congregations of the District shall exercise their authority through delegate convention which shall consist of all duly certified delegates from member congregations.
- B. The District shall exercise its authority in harmony with the goals and directives of the Synod and under the guidance of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.
- C. The District shall delegate its authority as hereinafter prescribed. The exercise of such delegated authority shall always be subject to review by the District.

**ARTICLE II  
ADMINISTRATION**

- A. The District shall establish an organizational structure for the effective operation of its programs and conduct of its affairs which shall include the District Convention (*referenced throughout as "Convention"*), the officers of the District, the Board of Directors, and such other staff and personnel as that Board may deem necessary and appropriate.
- B. The administration of the affairs shall be conducted on three levels:
  - 1. The Convention, which shall consist of the District at large through its delegates in convention assembled, and shall be the governing body of the District subject to the

to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Resolutions of Synod, and to these Bylaws;

2. The elected officers of the District, who shall have primary responsibility for the implementation of decisions of the Convention and the Board of Directors;
  3. The Board of Directors elected by the Convention, which serves as the legal representative of the District and the custodian of all property of the District. Between conventions the Board shall provide for implementation within the District of the decisions of the Synod and District conventions, establish and review policy, determine general priorities, approve program budgets, allocate necessary funds for the support of the Synod and District budgets, review program performance, make provisions for necessary staff, and review the performance of the District President. It shall report its activities to the Convention.
- C. Dispute Reconcilers shall be chosen in such manner and exercise such jurisdiction as provided by the Bylaws of the Synod (see *2010 Handbook* bylaw 1.10.10ff).
- D. A Committee on Nominations shall be elected at each Convention to prepare the ballot for the next convention. One pastor and one layperson or commissioned minister by name from each conference region will be elected. The Committee will organize itself nine months prior to the convention in accordance with the District's *Corporate Operations Manual*.
- E. A Committee for Stewardship shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to comply with the stewardship programs and goals of the Synod (see *2010 Handbook* Bylaw 4.6).

Constitution, Bylaws, and Resolutions of Synod, and to these Bylaws;

2. The officers of the District, who shall have primary responsibility for the implementation of decisions of the Convention and the Board of Directors;
  3. The Board of Directors elected by the Convention, which serves as the legal representative of the District and the custodian of all property of the District. Between conventions the Board shall provide for implementation within the District of the decisions of the Synod and District conventions, establish and review policy, determine general priorities, approve program budgets, allocate necessary funds for the support of the Synod and District budgets, review program performance, make provisions for necessary staff, and review the performance of the District President. It shall report its activities to the Convention.
- C. For purposes of conferences and elections requiring regional representation, the District shall be divided into four regions: Eastern, Lake Erie, Midwestern, and Western.
1. The President and Vice-Presidents of the District and the Board of Directors acting jointly shall determine the membership of the four regions 24 months prior to Conventions of the District.
  2. For purposes of regional elections, individuals will be considered a part of the geographical region in which they reside.
- D. Dispute Reconcilers shall be chosen in such manner and exercise such jurisdiction as provided by Synod Bylaw 1.10ff.
- E. A Committee on Nominations shall be elected at each Convention to prepare the ballot for the next Convention. One minister of religion—ordained and one minister of religion—commissioned or layperson by name from each of the four regions of the District shall be elected. The Committee shall organize itself as outlined in the District's *Corporate Operations Manual*.

- F. A Committee for Stewardship shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to comply with the stewardship programs and goals of the Synod, as required by Synod Bylaw 4.6.1.

**ARTICLE III  
OFFICERS**

- A. There shall be a President (Bishop), four Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, an appointed Treasurer, and Circuit Counselors.
- B. The duties of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Circuit Counselors are described Bylaw 5.2 (see *2010 Handbook*) and in the resolutions of the conventions.
- C. The Vice-Presidents shall advise the President, serve as his representatives, and assist him in bringing to the Board of Directors any needed recommendations.
- D. All staff shall be directly accountable to the President.

**ARTICLE III  
OFFICERS & STAFF**

- A. The officers of the District are:
  - 1. A President
  - 2. One Vice-President from each of the four regions of the District, in line of succession, as prescribed by these Bylaws.
  - 3. A Secretary
  - 4. A Treasurer, a layperson appointed by the Board of Directors
  - 5. A Circuit Visitor for each Circuit established by the District.
- B. The duties of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Circuit Visitors are described in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and these Bylaws.
- C. The Vice-Presidents shall advise the President, serve as his representatives, and assist him in bringing to the Board of Directors any needed recommendations.
- D. All Staff shall be directly accountable to the President.

**ARTICLE IV  
ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES**

- A. Elections
  - 1. All elections shall take place at the regular Convention.
  - 2. The President and all other elected officers, board and committee members shall be elected by a majority of votes cast.
  - 3. One Vice-President from each of the four regions shall be elected by the delegates. The convention shall determine their rank.
  - 4. Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for Stewardship, and Circuit Counselors shall serve

**ARTICLE IV  
ELECTIONS**

- A. Terms of Office and Tenure
  - 1. Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for Stewardship, and Circuit Visitors shall serve for a term of three years.
  - 2. A person's tenure in the same office or function shall be limited to four (4) consecutive full three-year terms. These persons may be elected to their previous office or function after an interval of no less than three (3) years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an interval of no less than two (2) years.

for a term of three years. A person's tenure in the same office or function shall be limited to four (4) consecutive full three- year terms. These persons may be elected to their previous office or function after an interval of no less than three (3) years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an interval of no less than two (2) years.

B. Vacancies

1. In the event that the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve in that capacity because of prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of the office of President shall be performed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice- President shall remain as the Acting President until the Board determines such illness or disability has been removed, the President resigns or dies, or the Board determines that the illness or disability is permanent.
2. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant because of the resignation, death or permanent disability of the President, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President and shall serve until the next Convention.
3. The successor need not terminate his current position while completing the unexpired term.
4. Any Vice-President, who by the terms of this Article succeeds to the office of President, may decline such office; in which event:
  - a. The next ranking Vice-President shall become President of the District;
  - b. All other Vice-Presidents shall move up one rank;
  - c. The declining Vice-President shall fill the last ranking vacant Vice-Presidency.
  - d. In the event that all Vice-Presidents decline the office of President, the ranking of the Vice-Presidents shall remain unchanged, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall serve as Acting President until the next convention, when a President shall be elected. He need not leave his current position while serving as Acting 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.

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

5. A vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the voting members of the Board.
6. A vacancy on the Committee on Nominations or in the Vice-Presidents shall be filled by the Board of Directors.
7. Vacancies that occur in the office of Circuit Counselor between conventions shall be filled by appointment by the District President.
8. Persons appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors or other elected or appointed positions shall serve until successors have been elected by the Convention or appointed under the terms of the bylaws.

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.

#### D. Nomination and Election of Board of Directors

1. Each member congregation of a region of the District is entitled to nominate three (3) individuals with residence in its designated region or combination of regions as candidates for the Regional Board of Directors positions.
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 the Regional Board of Director positions 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 individuals who have received nominating votes.
4. The names of the three (3) individuals residing within the boundaries of each region or combination of regions 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 the individual's 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) ordained minister from the East or Lake Erie Region, one (1) ordained minister from the Midwest or West Region, one (1) commissioned minister from the East or Lake Erie Region, one (1) commissioned minister from the Midwest or West Region, and one (1) layperson 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. The District Convention shall elect two (2) laypersons as at-large members of the Board of Directors.
  - a. All candidates not elected to a Lay Regional Board of Director positions shall form the ballot for the Lay At-Large Board of Directors positions.
  - b. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

- c. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot.
- E. Nomination and Election of District Secretary, Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers, and Other Boards or Committees
  1. The Committee on Nominations shall select candidates for all elected offices, boards, and committees other than President, Vice-President, Board of Directors, and the Canadian representative to the Endowment Fund Board of Managers. At least two (2) candidates and at least one (1) alternate shall be selected for each position.
  2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter soliciting names from the officers of the District and the congregational and individual members of the District, along with the laypersons of the congregations of the District.
  3. All suggested names shall be submitted to the Committee on Nominations no later than four months prior to the opening date of the Convention.
  4. All nominees for a particular regional position must reside within the boundaries of the region for which they are nominated.
  5. All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered to be nominees.
  6. The Committee on Nominations shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning the individual's candidacy. These shall be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.
  7. The District Convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor.
    - a. Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate at the District Convention. The delegate making such nomination

- must present the District Secretary written consent of the person whose name is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the convention that the nominee is able and willing to serve if elected.
- b. Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the District Convention for approval before being added to the ballot.
8. Election of these offices shall take place at the District Convention.
    - a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
    - b. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot.

**ARTICLE V  
VACANCIES**

- A. District President
  5. In the event that the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve in that capacity because of prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of the office of President shall be performed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice- President shall remain as the Acting President until the Board determines such illness or disability has been removed, the President resigns or dies, or the Board determines that the illness or disability is permanent.
  6. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant because of the resignation, death or permanent disability of the President, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President and shall serve until the next Convention.
  7. The successor need not terminate his current position while completing the unexpired term.

8. Any Vice-President, who by the terms of this Article succeeds to the office of President, may decline such office; in which event:
  - a. The next ranking Vice-President shall become President of the District;
  - b. All other Vice-Presidents shall move up one rank;
  - c. The declining Vice-President shall fill the last ranking vacant Vice-Presidency.
  - d. In the event that all Vice-Presidents decline the office of President, the ranking of the Vice-Presidents shall remain unchanged, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall serve as Acting President until the next convention, when a President shall be elected. He need not leave his current position while serving as Acting President.

B. Other Elected Positions

1. A vacancy in the Vice-Presidents shall be filled by appointment by the District President, in consultation with the Circuit Visitors within that the region.
2. Vacancies that occur in the office of Circuit Visitor between conventions shall be filled by appointment by the District President.
3. A vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the voting members of the Board, in consultation with the Committee on Nominations.
4. A vacancy on the Committee on Nominations shall be filled by voting members of the Board of Directors, in consultation with the Committee on Nominations.
5. Vacancies that occur in the office of District Endowment Fund Manager shall be filled:
  - a. A vacancy in any regional manager position shall be filled by appointment by the District President, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
  - b. A vacancy in the Canadian representative position shall be filled by appointment by the Canada Corporation.
6. Persons appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors or other elected or appointed positions shall serve until successors have been elected by the Convention or

appointed under the terms of the bylaws.

**ARTICLE V  
CONFERENCES**

- A. The President shall confer with the Board of Directors to arrange for the official conferences of the professional ministers of the District.
- B. There shall be four regional pastoral conferences, which shall meet not less than once each year.
- C. There shall be at least one District Conference for Commissioned Ministers per triennium.
- D. Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their Circuit Counselors to select their Circuit Counselors no later than the time established by the District and following the procedures noted in Synod Bylaws 5.2.2 & 5.3 (see *2010 Handbook*).
- E. The Circuit Counselors and any other officers of the circuit shall have the primary responsibility of preparing the agenda for the Circuit Convocation (see Bylaw 5.4, *2010 Handbook*).

**ARTICLE VI  
POWERS**

The District shall have legal powers as follows:

- A. To purchase, acquire, hold, administer, sell, transfer, mortgage and convey property of every description, both personal and real, in the interest of the District;
- B. To accept, hold, administer, sell, transfer and convey legacies, gifts, donations, commercial

**ARTICLE VI  
DISTRICT CONFERENCES, CIRCUIT FORUMS, AND CIRCUIT  
CONVOCATIONS**

- A. The President shall confer with the Board of Directors to arrange for the official conferences of the ordained and commissioned ministers of the District:
  - 1. There shall be a plenary conference held annually for all ordained and commissioned ministers. In years when District Conventions are held, the plenary conference may be postponed at the discretion of the President and the Board of Directors.
  - 2. There shall be a conference for ordained ministers held annually in each of the four regions of the District.
  - 3. There shall be at least one conference for commissioned ministers held during each triennium.
- B. Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their Circuit Visitors to select their Circuit Visitors and conduct other business no later than the time established by the District. They shall follow the procedures stated in Synod Bylaws 5.2.2 and 5.3.
- C. The Circuit Visitor and any other officers of the circuit shall have the primary responsibility of preparing the agenda for the Circuit Convocation, following the procedures stated in Synod Bylaw 5.4.

**ARTICLE VII  
POWERS**

The District shall have legal powers as follows:

- 1. To purchase, acquire, hold, administer, sell, transfer, mortgage and convey property of every description, both personal and real, in the interest of the District.
- 2. To accept, hold, administer, sell, transfer and convey legacies, gifts, donations, commercial

papers and legal documents of every description in the performance of its work;

- C. To delegate to the Board of Directors who shall exercise the aforementioned powers. No individual or officer of the District shall have the power to usurp this authority.
- D. No action on the part of the members of the Board of Directors shall be prerequisite to the borrowing of money or the execution of any mortgage upon personality or realty.
- E. There shall be no shares of stock issued in connection with the District.

**ARTICLE VII  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- A. The Board of Directors shall be composed of twelve (12) voting members: the President and the Secretary of the District; two (2) pastors, one of whom shall be elected from the Eastern/Lake Erie Regions and one from the Midwestern/Western Regions; two (2) commissioned ministers, one of whom shall be elected from the Eastern/Lake Erie Regions and one from the Midwestern/Western Regions; and six (6) lay persons, one from each of the four (4) regions and two (2) elected at-large. The Board shall also include six (6) non-voting members: four (4) Vice-Presidents, the appointed Treasurer, and the President of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Canada Corporation). They shall serve only in an advisory capacity. The Board shall elect its own chair and vice-chair from among the voting members of the Board after each convention. The President and Secretary may not serve as chair or vice-chair.
- B. The Board of Directors shall have such powers and duties as are accorded to it by the Constitution, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, resolutions, and policies of the Synod, as well as those of the District. The Board's chief responsibility is developing and amending policy.
  - 1. Subject to such limitations, it shall operate within the applicable federal and state laws.
  - 2. It shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business and legal affairs and shall adopt policies and require

papers and legal documents of every description in the performance of its work.

- 3. To delegate to the Board of Directors who shall exercise the aforementioned powers. No individual or officer of the District shall have the power to usurp this authority.
- 4. No action on the part of the members of the Board of Directors shall be prerequisite to the borrowing of money or the execution of any mortgage upon personality or realty.
- 5. There shall be no shares of stock issued in connection with the District.

**ARTICLE VIII  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- A. Membership and Composition
  - 1. The Board of Directors shall have no more than fifteen (15) voting members, as follows:
    - a. The President of the District
    - b. The Secretary of the District
    - c. Two (2) ministers of religion—ordained, one of whom shall be elected from either the Eastern Region or Lake Erie Region and one whom shall be elected from either the Midwestern Region or Western Region
    - d. Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned, one of whom shall be elected from either the Eastern Region or Lake Erie Region and one whom shall be elected from either the Midwestern Region or Western Region
    - e. One (1) layperson elected from each of the four regions of the District.
    - f. Two (2) laypersons elected from the District at large
    - g. Up to three (3) at-large laypersons appointed by the elected voting members of the Board of Directors to obtain needed additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.)
  - 2. The Board of Directors shall have six (6) non-voting members:
    - a. The Vice-Presidents of the District
    - b. The Treasurer of the District
    - c. The President of the English District of The

procedures which assure that said management and supervision is affected.

3. In fulfilling its functions and in coordinating its work with the Synod, the Board shall be guided generally by the functions of the Board of Directors of the Synod as defined in Synod Bylaws 3.3.5ff (see *2010 Handbook*) as these apply to districts.
  4. Between conventions it shall provide for implementation within the District of the decisions of the Synod and District conventions and allocate necessary funds for the support of the Synod and District budgets.
- C. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least four (4) times a year at such time and place as the Board shall determine.
- D. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or upon request of seven (7) board members at any time, by means of written or email notice, at least three (3) days in advance of the time, place and purpose thereof to each director. Special meetings may be held by means of conference telephone, video conferencing, or similar communications equipment through which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. A director participating by such means is deemed to be present in person at the meeting.
- E. A majority of the voting directors shall constitute a quorum.
- F. If and when all voting directors have been polled and a majority consent in writing to any action to be taken by the District, such action shall be as valid corporate action as though it had been authorized at a meeting of the Board of Directors.
- G. The Board of Directors shall have power to appoint such other officers and agents as the Board may deem necessary for the transaction of the business of the District.
- H. The Board of Directors may require any officer or agent to file with the District a satisfactory fidelity bond.

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Canada Corporation).

3. The Board shall elect its own chair and vice-chair from among the voting members of the Board after each convention. The President and Secretary shall be ineligible to be elected as chair or vice-chair.
  4. Each Board member shall avoid conflicts of interest and shall disclose to the Board chair any potential conflicts of interest, as defined in Synod Bylaw 1.5.2.
  5. Members of the Board of Directors may be removed for cause, as defined in Synod Bylaw 1.5.8.
  6. No member of the Board of Directors shall receive remuneration (beyond allowable reimbursement) for service on the Board.
- B. Powers and Duties
1. The Board of Directors shall have such powers and duties as are accorded to it by the Constitution, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, resolutions, and policies of the Synod, as well as those of the District. Subject to such limitations, it shall operate within the applicable federal and state laws.
  2. The Board's chief responsibility is developing and amending policy.
  3. The Board shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business and legal affairs and shall adopt policies and require procedures which assure that said management and supervision is affected.
  4. In fulfilling its functions and in coordinating its work with the Synod, the Board shall be guided generally by the functions of the Board of Directors of the Synod as defined in Synod Bylaw 3.3.4ff as these apply to districts.
  5. Between Conventions it shall provide for implementation within the District of the decisions of the Synod and District Conventions and allocate necessary funds for the support of the Synod and District budgets.
  6. The Board of Directors shall report at each Convention.

C. Meetings

- I. Execution of instruments.
  1. All checks, drafts and orders for payment of money shall be signed in the name of the District and may be countersigned by such officers or agents as the Board of Directors designates for that purpose or by the Treasurer alone.
  2. When the execution of any contract, conveyance or other instrument has been authorized without specification of the executing officers, the President and the Secretary may execute the same in the name of and on behalf of the District and may affix the corporate seal thereto. The Board of Directors shall have power to designate the officers and agents who shall have authority to execute any instrument on behalf of the District.
  
- J. The Board of Directors shall act on behalf of the District to borrow money the Board deems necessary and appropriate. In such case the Board may authorize the proper officers of the District to make, execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of the District such notes, bonds and other evidence of indebtedness as the Board should deem proper. It shall have full power to mortgage the property of the District, or any part thereof, as security for such indebtedness, and no action on the part of the membership of the District shall be requisite to the validity of any such note, bond, evidence of indebtedness or mortgage.
  
- K. The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain the District's *Corporate Operations Manual* and shall approve appropriate modifications. Only the District in Convention, however, shall have the power to amend the *Corporate Operations Manual* with respect to sections dealing with the election of officers and the Board. Modifications, approved by the Board to any other sections, shall be reported at the next Convention.
  
- L. The Board of Directors shall establish the annual District budget.
- M. The Board of Directors shall establish the salary of the District President on an annual basis.
  
- N. The Board of Directors shall report at each Convention.
  1. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least four (4) times a year at such time and place as the Board shall determine.
  2. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or upon request of seven (7) board members at any time, by means of written or email notice, at least three (3) days in advance of the time, place and purpose thereof to each director.
  3. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be conducted electronically, using audio, video, or internet-based conferencing technologies.
    - a. In such cases, the technology must be allow for each Board member to fully participate (hear, speak, have or been given access to documents and other materials as appropriate), including the opportunity to vote.
    - b. Board members must be given a reasonable opportunity to access the electronic meeting. If a Board member does not have access to the technology to be used, arrangements will be made for the member to participate in person by coming to the District Office or other mutually agreed upon location.
    - c. Any Board member listening or watching shall acknowledge their presence to the meeting. These names along with the attending Board members shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
  4. A majority of voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any properly called or scheduled meeting.
  5. The Chair may authorize a Board member to participate in meetings of the Board by use of electronic technology described in Article VIII.C.3. Such participation by a Board member shall be considered as being present for the sake of establishing a quorum.
  6. In situations where board members are not able to meet as described above, the Board of Directors may take action by use of electronic ballot (i.e., e-mail, internet-based voting, etc.), provided all voting members of the board cast a vote and the result of the voting is unanimous.
  7. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings that

- O. The Board of Directors shall conduct, supervise, and manage all affairs of the District not otherwise assigned.
- P. The Board of Directors shall have full power and authority to exercise any and all of the powers set forth in Article VI.
- Q. No member of the Board of Directors shall receive remuneration (beyond allowable reimbursement) for service on the Board.
- R. Each Board member shall avoid conflicts of interest and shall disclose to the Board chair any potential conflicts of interest.
- S. A member of the Board of Directors may be removed for witness or actions that are contrary to the mission and ministry of the District or to the functions of a Board member. Such removal requires an affirmative vote of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the voting members of the Board present at a duly noticed and constituted Board meeting. All actions must be in accord with Synod Bylaw 1.5.7 (see *2010 Handbook*).

record a summary of the major points of discussion and any action(s) taken.

- D. Appointment of Officers and Agents
  - 1. The Board of Directors shall have power to appoint such other officers and agents as the Board may deem necessary for the transaction of the business of the District.
  - 2. The Board of Directors may require any officer or agent to file with the District a satisfactory fidelity bond.
- E. Execution of Instruments
  - 1. All checks, drafts, and orders for payment of money shall be signed in the name of the District and may be countersigned by such officers or agents as the Board of Directors designates for that purpose or by the Treasurer alone.
  - 2. When the execution of any contract, conveyance or other instrument has been authorized without specification of the executing officers, the President and the Secretary may execute the same in the name of and on behalf of the District and may affix the corporate seal thereto. The Board of Directors shall have power to designate the officers and agents who shall have authority to execute any instrument on behalf of the District.
- F. Borrowing Authority
  - 1. The Board of Directors shall act on behalf of the District to borrow money the Board deems necessary and appropriate.
  - 2. In such case the Board may authorize the proper officers of the District to make, execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of the District such notes, bonds and other evidence of indebtedness as the Board should deem proper.
  - 3. The Board shall have full power to mortgage the property of the District, or any part thereof, as security for such indebtedness, and no action on the part of the membership of the District shall be requisite to the validity of any such note, bond, evidence of indebtedness or mortgage.

- G. Annual Budgetary Responsibilities
  - 1. The Board of Directors shall establish the annual District budget.
  - 2. The Board of Directors shall establish the salary of the District President on an annual basis.
- H. District *Corporate Operations Manual*
  - 1. The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain the District's *Corporate Operations Manual* and shall approve appropriate modifications.
  - 2. Only the District in Convention shall have the power to amend the *Corporate Operations Manual* with respect to sections dealing with the election of officers and the Board.
  - 3. Modifications to the *Corporate Operations Manual* approved by the Board to any other sections shall be reported at the next Convention.
- I. The Board of Directors shall conduct, supervise, and manage all affairs of the District not otherwise assigned.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**ENGLISH DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND**

- A. The District shall establish and maintain an endowment fund, providing a stewardship opportunity for congregations and their members and a resource for the support of District and Synod ministries. (The structure and operation of the fund is described in the English District *Corporate Operations Manual*.)
- B. The Board of Directors shall exercise oversight for the English District Endowment Fund (EDEF).
- C. The Board shall assure that the EDEF Board of Managers reports on its work at least annually to the Board.
- D. The Board shall elect one of its voting members to serve on the EDEF Board of Managers.

**ARTICLE IX**

**ENGLISH DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND**

- A. The District shall establish and maintain an endowment fund, providing a stewardship opportunity for congregations and their members and a resource for the support of District and Synod ministries. (The structure and operation of the fund is described in the English District *Corporate Operations Manual*.)
- B. The Board of Directors shall exercise oversight for the English District Endowment Fund (EDEF).
- C. The Board shall ensure that the EDEF Board of Managers reports on its work at least annually to the Board.
- D. The Board shall elect one of its voting members to serve on the EDEF Board of Managers.

**ARTICLE IX  
CONFLICTS**

- A. No article of the Bylaws of the District shall be valid which conflicts with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
- B. Any matter, rule or regulation not specifically herein contained in the Bylaws shall be governed by comparable provision in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

**ARTICLE X  
CONFLICTS**

- A. No article of the Bylaws of the District shall be valid which conflicts with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
- B. Any matter, rule or regulation not specifically herein contained in the Bylaws shall be governed by comparable provision in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

**ARTICLE X  
AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS**

Changes, additions and alterations to the Bylaws may be made provided they:

- A. Are not contrary to the Constitution or Bylaws of the Synod;
- B. Are separately considered and acted upon by the Board of Directors;
- C. Are presented for review to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod prior to consideration by a District convention;
- D. Are presented in writing to the District in convention; and
- E. Are passed by a majority of the voting delegates in convention.

**ARTICLE XI  
AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS**

Changes, additions, and alterations to the Bylaws may be made by Conventions of the District:

- 1. They shall not conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws of the Synod.
- 2. They shall be separately considered and acted upon by the Board of Directors.
- 3. They shall be submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod for review and approval prior to consideration by a District convention.
- 4. They shall be presented in writing to the District in convention.
- 5. They shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting.

1 **OVERTURE 3-05**

2  
3 **To Amend the English District Corporate Operations Manual**

4  
5 WHEREAS, the LCMS Committee on Constitutional Matters reviewed the Corporate Operations  
6 Manual of the District and published Opinion 15-2778 which stated:

7  
8 Under COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS, "Duties": This entire section is not the  
9 responsibility of the nominations committee but of the secretary, as in the case of the  
10 Synod's Secretary (Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.6). It is the responsibility of the district  
11 secretary to obtain nominations for district president (paragraph A), obtain  
12 nominations for district vice-president (paragraph B), prepare slates of regional  
13 positions (paragraph C), etc.

14 and

15  
16 WHEREAS, District Bylaw VII.K governs the process of modifying and amending the *District*  
17 *Corporate Operations Manual*:

18  
19 The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain the District's *Corporate Operations*  
20 *Manual* and shall approve appropriate modifications. Only the District in Convention,  
21 however, shall have the power to amend the *Corporate Operations Manual* with respect  
22 to sections dealing with the election of officers and the Board. Modifications, approved  
23 by the Board to any other sections, shall be reported at the next Convention.

24  
25 therefore be it

26  
27 *Resolved*, that the District in Convention amend the District's Corporate Operations Manual to  
28 bring it into compliance with CCM Opinion 15-2778, as follows:

29  
30 **COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS** (*Note English District Bylaw Article II IV*)

31  
32 Function: ~~Prepare slates of candidates for the offices and for the Board, and any other~~  
33 ~~positions to be voted upon by the District Convention.~~ of Secretary, Committee on  
34 Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers, and Other Boards or Committees, as required by  
35 the bylaws of the Synod and District.

36  
37  
38 Membership: The committee shall consist of one pastor, and one layperson or  
39 commissioned ~~ministry minister~~ by name from each region of the District, elected at the  
40 District Convention. They shall organize themselves nine months prior to the Convention at  
41 the "call" of the President.

1 Duties:

2 A. ~~With regard to candidates for the office of the President:~~

- 3 1. ~~Send a letter six months prior to the District convention to the constituent~~  
4 ~~congregations of the District listing the qualifications for the presidency;~~  
5 2. ~~Request each congregation to submit up to two nominations in writing;~~  
6 3. ~~Secure from each nominee a statement in writing of his willingness to serve if~~  
7 ~~elected, accompanied by a description of the nominee's experience and qualification;~~  
8 4. ~~Present to the convention a slate of up to five candidates who receive the highest~~  
9 ~~number of nominations.~~

10 B. ~~With regard to the candidates for the office of vice president, request each District~~  
11 ~~congregation to nominate up to two pastors from its area six months prior to the electing~~  
12 ~~convention. The three pastors receiving the highest number of votes in each area shall be~~  
13 ~~the nominees.~~

14 A. Receive nominations for Secretary, Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund  
15 Managers, and Other Boards or Committees from the congregations, officers, and members  
16 of the District, and the laypersons of the congregations of the District.

17 C. ~~B. With regard to the other positions, prepare Prepare a slate of at least two candidates~~  
18 ~~and one alternate for each above-listed position to be filled by the elections at the District~~  
19 ~~convention. Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate; but the delegate~~  
20 ~~making such nomination must present the District secretary with the written consent of the~~  
21 ~~person whose name is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the convention that~~  
22 ~~the nominee is able and willing to serve if elected;~~

23 D. ~~C. Request from all nominees candidates for elected positions (1) biographical~~  
24 ~~information and (2) a statement concerning his/her candidacy. Publish and distribute the~~  
25 ~~same to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention. The~~  
26 ~~committee may pose questions to the candidates and limit the length of the response.~~

27 E. ~~The cutoff date for acceptance of nominations for the president and vice presidents shall~~  
28 ~~be four months prior to the opening of the electing convention.~~

29  
30 Submitted by  
31 English District Board of Directors  
32

1 **OVERTURE 3-06**

2  
3 **To Amend the Articles of Incorporation of the English District**

4  
5 WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.6 was amended at the 2016 Synod Convention and established  
6 requirements concerning the Articles of Incorporation for Synod agencies, including Districts,  
7 as follows:

8  
9 1.5.3.6 Notwithstanding anything in the Bylaws to the contrary, the Articles of  
10 Incorporation or other governing documents of each agency shall provide:

11 (a) That all provisions of its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the  
12 provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the Synod in  
13 convention; and

14 (b) That in the event of dissolution other than by direction from the Synod in  
15 convention, the assets of such agency, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred,  
16 consistent with applicable state and federal laws, as follows:

17 (1) In the case of a synodwide corporate entity, district, university, college, or  
18 seminary, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as may be more specifically  
19 described elsewhere in these Bylaws;

20 (2) In the case of a corporation formed by an agency (as defined in these  
21 Bylaws), to the agency that formed the dissolving corporation, or if such forming  
22 agency is not then in existence, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod itself.

23 An agency may submit any concerns related to the inclusion of subsections (a) or (b) in  
24 its governing documents to the Board of Directors of the Synod, and the Board of  
25 Directors may determine to permit the removal or modification of these provisions for an  
26 affected agency.

27 and

28  
29 WHEREAS, 2016 Resolution 9-02A requires “That the agencies of the Synod shall comply with  
30 the requirements of this bylaw change in time for the CCM to report the status of compliance  
31 to the 2019 convention of the Synod” (2016 Convention Proceedings, p. 186); therefore be it  
32

33 *Resolved*, that the English District in Convention amend the Articles of Incorporation of the  
34 English District by adding the following provisions:

35  
36 1) All provisions of its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the  
37 provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the Synod in  
38 convention.  
39

1 2) In the event of a dissolution other than by direction from the Synod in convention,  
2 the assets of this corporation, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred, consistent  
3 with the applicable state and federal laws, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.  
4

5 Submitted by  
6 English District Board of Directors  
7

8  
9 **OVERTURE 3-07**

10  
11 **To Nurture Our Lutheran System of Higher Education**  
12

13 WHEREAS, the Concordia University System exists to build national identity, enable  
14 cooperative endeavors and enhance the strength of the colleges and universities of The  
15 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as they engage students of diverse ages and cultures in  
16 quality, Christ-centered, value-oriented, Lutheran higher education for lives of service to  
17 church and community.

18 Goals:

- 19 • To transmit Lutheran values more effectively.
- 20 • To provide enhanced quality education to college students.
- 21 • To attain efficiencies in operation of the campuses.
- 22 • To capitalize the schools and System.

23  
24 and  
25

26 WHEREAS, recent events on some of our campuses have given rise to anti-Christian  
27 philosophies and practices that are contrary to these stated mission and goals; therefore be it  
28

29 *Resolved*, that the English District memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in  
30 convention to reaffirm the stated mission and goals of the Concordia University System; and  
31 be it finally  
32

33 *Resolved*, that the proper ecclesiastical supervisors speak the truth in love by bringing proper  
34 discipline to bear on the faculties and student bodies of the Concordia University System as  
35 needed to maintain and nurture our institutions as centers of Evangelical-Lutheran Christian  
36 teaching, learning, and life together.  
37

38 Submitted by  
39 Pittsburgh Circuit #6  
40

1 **OVERTURE 3-08**

2

3

**To Restructure and Protect the Concordia University System**

4

5 WHEREAS, the Concordia University System exists to build national identity, enable  
6 cooperative endeavors and enhance the strength of the colleges and universities of The  
7 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as they engage students of diverse ages and cultures in  
8 quality, Christ-centered, value-oriented, Lutheran higher education for lives of service to  
9 church and community.

10 Goals:

- 11 • To transmit Lutheran values more effectively.
- 12 • To provide enhanced quality education to college students.
- 13 • To attain efficiencies in operation of the campuses.
- 14 • To capitalize the schools and System.

15

16 and

17

18 WHEREAS, the cultural and political climate in the United States is becoming hostile to these  
19 stated mission and goals; therefore be it

20

21 *Resolved*, that the English District memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in  
22 convention to reaffirm the stated mission and goals of the Concordia University System; and  
23 be it finally

24

25 *Resolved*, that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod restructure the Concordia University  
26 System such that it liquidate the assets of most of the campuses in order to use the proceeds  
27 to create an endowment that will allow up to four remaining campuses to operate on a model  
28 employed by Grove City College in Pennsylvania and Hillsdale College in Michigan.

29

30

31

32

Submitted by  
Pittsburgh Circuit #6

1 **Overture 3-09**

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37

**To Transfer St. Michael Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana  
to the Indiana District**

WHEREAS, since 1953 St. Michael Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana, has enjoyed a prosperous and edifying relationship with the English District; and

WHEREAS, St. Michael gives thanks to the Lord of the Church for this partnership in the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 St. Michael undertook a strategic plan process that included a comprehensive study of its membership in the English District; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this study, on April 17, 2016, the Voter’s Assembly of St. Michael unanimously voted to transfer to the Indiana District; and

WHEREAS, membership in the Indiana District would enhance the partnership between St. Michael and Emmanuel Lutheran Churches who share a K-8 elementary school of 360 children. Furthermore, St. Michael English District rostered workers (two pastors, a DCE and Music Director) would then be in the Indiana District, which is the district affiliation of Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School as well as fifteen of the school’s teachers who are St. Michael members; The St. Michael preschool could then more easily merge with the Emmanuel preschool and be administered by Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School; and

WHEREAS, St. Michael is also connected with these Indiana District ministries: Concordia Lutheran High School of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Camp Lutherhaven of Albion, Indiana; Concordia Theological Seminary of Fort Wayne, Indiana; the Lutheran Early Response Team of Ft. Wayne, Indiana; the Lutheran Foundation of Northeast Indiana; and Lutheran Social Services of Indiana; and

WHEREAS, in January, 2017, Dr. Herbert Mueller, the First Vice-President of the LCMS, after reviewing St. Michael’s ministry context, recommended that the English District transfer St. Michael to the Indiana District; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana District, having been made aware of this request, is ready to receive St. Michael; therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, that the English District Convention transfer St. Michael Lutheran Church of Fort  
2 Wayne, Indiana to the Indiana District, giving thanks to God for our 65 year partnership in the  
3 Gospel.

4  
5  
6  
7

Submitted by  
Saint Michael Lutheran Church  
Fort Wayne, IN

1 **COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES**

2

3 **OVERTURE 4-01**

4

5

**To Encourage and Assist Retired Pastors**

6

7 WHEREAS, one's job often forms a significant part of one's self-image; and

8

9 WHEREAS, church work can often reach into all aspects of a person's life; and

10

11 WHEREAS, transitioning from one stage of life to another is difficult under the best of  
12 circumstances, even more so when retiring from employment that impacts one's life as much  
13 as church work; and

14

15 WHEREAS, many church workers are able to continue doing important work for the church to  
16 some extent, even in retirement; therefore be it

17

18 *Resolved*, that pastors having reached the age of retirement be encouraged to continue serving  
19 in accordance with their physical, mental and emotional ability, and that the district be  
20 encouraged to assist retirees transition into retirement; and be it further

21

22 *Resolved*, that the District be encouraged to research what it can do to help pastors make the  
23 transition from being full-time, active pastors to retirement; and be it finally

24

25 *Resolved*, that all pastors of the District be encouraged to consider well all their many  
26 vocations, as husbands, fathers, grandfathers, sons, brothers, friends, etc., as well as other  
27 activities that they may engage in other than simply the work of the pastoral office (e.g.  
28 hobbies, travel, etc.) in order to have a well-rounded sense of who they are, aside from simply  
29 their work in the pastoral office.

30

31

32

33

Submitted by  
Canada West Circuit #8

1 **OVERTURE 4-02**

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39

**To Support the Well-being of All the Church’s Workers and Church Worker Families  
in the English District**

WHEREAS, the well-being of the church’s workers is vital to the ministry and mission of the church; and

WHEREAS, those who are called to serve the church in various capacities are well advised to care for themselves and for their families so that they can carry out their ministries to the best of their ability; and

WHEREAS, congregations, schools, and other agencies are vital to the well-being of their ministers as they support those ministers in pursuit of their well-being; and

WHEREAS, major challenges to the well-being of the church’s ministers are known and documented, along with effective strategies to deal with those challenges to enhance their wellbeing; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the English District in convention express its support for all efforts of congregations, schools, and agencies to care for our workers and support them and their families in their wellbeing, including the following components of holistic well-being: spiritual, financial, vocational, intellectual, relational, emotional, and physical; and be it further

*Resolved*, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to do all they can to support the holistic well-being of their ministers, focusing on intentional, strategic, practical efforts at preventing problems before they develop and resolving them before they become crises; and be it further

*Resolved*, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to support the holistic well-being of all their other workers as well; and be it finally

*Resolved*, that the church’s workers of the English District be encouraged to care for themselves in every aspect of holistic well-being so that they can continue to serve to the best of their ability with the gifts and strength that God supplies.

Submitted by  
Milwaukee Circuit #17

1 **OVERTURE 4-03**

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36

**To Support the Well-being of All the Church’s Workers and Church Worker Families  
in the English District**

WHEREAS, the well-being of the church’s workers is vital to the ministry and mission of the church; and

WHEREAS, those who are called to serve the church in various capacities are well advised to care for themselves and for their families so that they can carry out their ministries to the best of their ability; and

WHEREAS, congregations, schools, and other agencies are vital to the well-being of their ministers as they support those ministers in pursuit of their well-being; and

WHEREAS, major challenges to the well-being of the church’s ministers are known and documented, along with effective strategies to deal with those challenges to enhance their wellbeing; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the English District in convention express its support for all efforts of congregations, schools, and agencies to care for our workers and support them and their families in their wellbeing, including the following components of holistic well-being: spiritual, financial, vocational, intellectual, relational, emotional, and physical; and be it further

*Resolved*, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to do all they can to support the holistic well-being of their ministers, and all their other church workers as well, focusing on intentional, strategic, practical efforts at preventing problems before they develop and resolving them before they become crises; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the church’s workers of the English District be encouraged to care for themselves in every aspect of holistic well-being so that they can continue to serve to the best of their ability with the gifts and strength that God supplies.

Submitted by  
St. Louis Circuit #18

1 **OVERTURE 4-04**

2  
3 **To Support the Well-being of All the Church's Workers and Church Worker Families**  
4 **in the English District**  
5

6 WHEREAS, the well-being of the church's workers is vital to the ministry and mission of the  
7 church; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, those who are called to serve the church in various capacities are well advised to  
10 care for themselves and for their families so that they can carry out their ministries to the best  
11 of their ability; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, congregations, schools, and other agencies are vital to the well-being of their  
14 ministers as they support those ministers in pursuit of their well-being; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, major challenges to the well-being of the church's ministers are known and  
17 documented, along with effective strategies to deal with those challenges to enhance their  
18 wellbeing; therefore be it

19  
20 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention express its support for all efforts of  
21 congregations, schools, and agencies to care for our workers and support them and their  
22 families in their wellbeing, including the following components of holistic well-being: spiritual,  
23 financial, vocational, intellectual, relational, emotional, and physical; and be it further

24  
25 *Resolved*, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to do all they can to  
26 support the holistic well-being of their ministers, focusing on intentional, strategic, practical  
27 efforts at preventing problems before they develop and resolving them before they become  
28 crises; and be it further

29  
30 *Resolved*, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to support the holistic  
31 well-being of all their other workers as well; and be it finally

32  
33 *Resolved*, that the church's workers of the English District be encouraged to care for  
34 themselves in every aspect of holistic well-being so that they can continue to serve to the best  
35 of their ability with the gifts and strength that God supplies.

36  
37 Submitted by  
38 Canada West Circuit #8  
39

1 **OVERTURE 4-05**

2  
3 **To Support the Well-being of All the Church's Workers and Church Worker Families**  
4 **in the English District**  
5

6 WHEREAS, the well-being of the church's workers is vital to the ministry and mission of the  
7 church; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, those who are called to serve the church in various capacities are well advised to  
10 care for themselves and for their families so that they can carry out their ministries to the best  
11 of their ability; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, congregations, schools, and other agencies are vital to the well-being of their  
14 ministers as they support those ministers in pursuit of their well-being; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, major challenges to the well-being of the church's ministers are known and  
17 documented, along with effective strategies to deal with those challenges to enhance their  
18 well-being; therefore be it

19  
20 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention express its support for all efforts of  
21 congregations, schools, and agencies to care for our workers and support them and their  
22 families in their wellbeing, including the following components of holistic well-being: spiritual,  
23 financial, vocational, intellectual, relational, emotional, and physical; and be it further

24  
25 *Resolved*, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to do all they can to  
26 support the holistic well-being of their ministers, focusing on intentional, strategic, practical  
27 efforts at preventing problems before they develop and resolving them before they become  
28 crises; and be it further

29  
30 *Resolved*, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to support the holistic  
31 well-being of all their other workers as well; and be it finally

32  
33 *Resolved*, that the church's workers of the English District be encouraged to care for  
34 themselves in every aspect of holistic well-being so that they can continue to serve to the best  
35 of their ability with the gifts and strength that God supplies.

36  
37 Submitted by  
38 Western Michigan Circuit #13  
39

1 **COMMITTEE ON CHURCH & THEOLOGY**

2  
3 **RESOLUTION 1-01**

4 (*Overture 1-01*)

5  
6 **To Restore Both Biblical Languages to the Education of Future Pastors**

7  
8 WHEREAS, one of the major qualifications for a man aspiring to the Office of the Holy/Public  
9 Ministry is his ability to teach (1 Timothy 3:2), and

10  
11 WHEREAS, "We believe, teach and confess that the only rule and norm according to which all  
12 teachings, together with <all> teachers, should be evaluated and judged (2 Timothy 3:15-17)  
13 are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testament alone" (Formula of  
14 Concord Epitome Summary 1), and

15  
16 WHEREAS, to teach, a man in the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry should be able to  
17 understand the Scripture as God breathed it out (2 Timothy 3:16), and

18  
19 WHEREAS, the Old Testament was initially "breathed out" in Biblical Hebrew<sup>1</sup>, and the New  
20 Testament in Koine Greek, and

21  
22 WHEREAS, much in the Scriptures that points to Christ and him crucified is embedded in the  
23 nuances of both Biblical languages and can be lost in translation, and

24  
25 WHEREAS, of the routes approved by Synod through which men are prepared for the Office of  
26 the Holy/Public Ministry, only the residential MDiv route requires training in both Hebrew and  
27 Greek, while the remainder of the routes to "general Pastor" require either Greek only or neither  
28 Biblical language, and the Specific Ministry Pastor program requires neither Biblical language<sup>2</sup>,  
29 therefore be it

30  
31 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention call upon The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
32 Synod to require instruction in both Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek as prerequisites for  
33 admission to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry, and be it further

34  
35 *Resolved*, that the English District in Convention call on our seminaries, with synod funding, to  
36 include Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek in the curricula for all of the pathways to the Office of  
37 the Holy/Public Ministry, and be it finally

38  
39 *Resolved*, that the English District in Convention urge our seminaries to develop continuing  
40 education opportunities for all Pastors to obtain and review such training.

41

1 Notes

- 2 1. Small portions of the Old Testament, most notably of Daniel, are written in Aramaic.  
3 2. "Report of the Res. 5-14A Task Force." In *2016 Convention Workbook* (St. Louis: LCMS,  
4 2016), 270-76. Of note, the Center for Hispanic Studies, the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of  
5 Theology, and the Deaf Institute of Theology, all of which lead to "General Pastor" roster  
6 status, do not require either Biblical language.  
7

8  
9 **RESOLUTION 1-02**

10 (*Overture 1-02, 1-03*)  
11

12 **To Improve the Specific Ministry Pastor Program**

13  
14 WHEREAS, the 2007 LCMS Convention established the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP)  
15 program to help congregations unable to support a pastor; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, the SMP program was intended to further meet the needs of the church for pastors  
18 to serve in specific ministry contexts as determined by congregations and districts, and  
19

20 WHEREAS, the SMP program was established to ensure commitment to the biblical and  
21 confessional understanding of The Office of the Holy Ministry, and, specifically, Article XIV of  
22 the Augsburg Confession; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, both LCMS seminaries operate SMP programs which provide academic training to  
25 candidates while serving concurrently in a specific ministry setting, and  
26

27 WHEREAS, the graduates of the SMP program have been a blessing to the Synod and its  
28 congregations, including congregations of the English District; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, 2016 LCMS Convention Resolution 13-02A encourages Licensed Lay Deacons  
31 engaged in Word and Sacrament ministry to either colloquize as an SMP or enter the SMP  
32 program, thus affirming that the SMP program will continue to be a distinct recognized route  
33 to the ministry in the LCMS, and  
34

35 WHEREAS, these positive intentions and benefits of the SMP route have been diminished or  
36 weakened by various factors, including:

- 37 1. That men admitted to the SMP become ordained before completing their academic  
38 program, with some administering the Word and the sacraments prior to ordination,  
39 and  
40 2. That SMPs are not required to learn a biblical language, and  
41 3. That there are men serving as SMPs in settings which could reasonably support a  
42 general pastor, in direct conflict with the stated purpose of the SMP program and in  
43 contradiction to 2013 LCMS Convention Resolution 5-04B, and

1           4. That the constitution and bylaws of the LCMS are not clear as to what might constitute  
2           or limit specific ministry contexts, therefore be it

3

4   *Resolved*, that the English District give thanks to God for the faithful service of SMP's within  
5 congregations of the District; and be it further

6

7   *Resolved*, that the English District memorialize the Synod to improve the SMP program in the  
8 following ways:

- 9           1. That ordination be deferred until all SMP course work has been completed, in  
10           faithfulness to Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession;
- 11           2. That all SMPs be required to complete a prescribed continuing education program  
12           which includes the study of the biblical languages;
- 13           3. That District Presidents do not authorize SMPs to serve in settings which could  
14           reasonably support a general pastor;
- 15           4. That the Synod in convention establish parameters for specific ministry contexts; and  
16           be it finally

17

18   *Resolved*, that the President/Bishop of the English District be encouraged to implement these  
19 improvements already at the District level.

20

21

22

1 **RESOLUTION 1-03**

2 (*Overture 1-04*)

3 **To Encourage Every Sunday Communion**

4  
5 WHEREAS, the Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated every Lord's day during the first  
6 centuries of Christendom; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day was a reality  
9 cherished by Dr. Martin Luther and set forth clearly with high esteem in the Confessional  
10 writings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Article XXIV of the Augsburg Confession and  
11 Article XXIV 1 of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession); and

12  
13 WHEREAS, our Synod's 1983 CTCR document on the Lord's Supper (p.28) and our Synod's  
14 1986 [1991] translation of Luther's *Small Catechism* both remind us that the Scriptures place  
15 the Lord's Supper at the center of worship (Acts 2:42, "*And they devoted themselves to the*  
16 *apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*" Acts 20:7, "*On the*  
17 *first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them,*  
18 *intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.*" 1 Corinthians  
19 11:20 "*When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper that you eat.*" 1 Corinthians 11:23 "*For*  
20 *I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was*  
21 *betrayed took bread . . .*"), and not as an appendage or an occasional extra, and that the new  
22 2017 edition of Luther's *Small Catechism* and Explanation also notes the importance of  
23 receiving the Sacrament and its centrality in worship (pp. 329 [358], 344-345 (374, E); and,

24  
25 WHEREAS, the English District-LCMS in Convention passed Resolution 91-6-02, "To Urge  
26 Weekly Communion" (adopted 6/8/91), which then went as an Overture to the 1995  
27 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and was adopted (Resolution 2-08A),  
28 encouraging an every Sunday celebration of the Holy Supper of our Lord's Body and Blood;  
29 therefore be it

30  
31 *Resolved*, that the English District-LCMS again re-affirm that our congregations and pastors be  
32 encouraged to offer the Holy Supper each Lord's Day; and be it finally

33  
34 *Resolved*, that this resolution be sent to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's 2019  
35 Convention, encouraging its pastors and congregations to study the scriptural, confessional,  
36 and historical witness to every Sunday Communion with a view toward recovering the  
37 opportunity for receiving the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day.

1 **RESOLUTION 1-04**  
2 (*Overture 1-05*)

3

4

**To Encourage Pastors and Laity to Discuss Religion and Politics**

5

6 WHEREAS, Holy Scripture, the Church Fathers, and the writings of Dr. Martin Luther affirm that  
7 Christians, as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, are citizens of two Kingdoms — the Kingdom  
8 of the Right, Christ's Kingdom of grace, His Church on earth, and the Kingdom of the Left,  
9 earthly governments; and

10

11 WHEREAS, St. Augustine, in "City of God" (Book XIX, 21) states, "a republic cannot be  
12 administered without justice. Where, therefore, there is no true justice there can be no right.  
13 For that which is done by right is justly done, and what is unjustly done cannot be done by  
14 right. For the unjust inventions of men are neither to be considered nor spoken of as rights.  
15 Thus, where there is not true justice there can be no assemblage of men associated by a  
16 common acknowledgment of right, and therefore there can be no people; and if there is no  
17 right where there is no justice, then most certainly it follows that there is no republic where  
18 there is no justice."; and

19

20 WHEREAS, the Church is encouraged to engage in the public square, that is, to actively  
21 intercede in prayer or the Kingdom of the Left (1 Timothy 2:1-4), being mindful of her work  
22 toward promoting governance that is in conformity with the will of God as revealed in His  
23 Scriptures, including justice, and that in the present governments of the United States and  
24 Canada such promotion takes the form of elections, lobbying, and the like; and that Christians  
25 are free to work within the present governments of the United States and Canada to establish  
26 and maintain a public context that provides for the Church to exist peacefully so that the field  
27 remains favorable for the Gospel to be given freely; and

28

29 WHEREAS, many Christians may be reluctant to discuss religion and politics, two realms  
30 which undergird the vitality and sustainability of The United States of America; and

31

32 WHEREAS, many well-known statesmen and other observers have underscored the critical role  
33 of religion and morality in general, and Christianity in particular, in the preservation of our  
34 freedoms and governance; therefore be it

35

36 *Resolved*, that the English District encourage its Pastors and congregations to freely and  
37 openly discuss and teach at all times possible within their vocations, the necessity of  
38 maintaining the Christian religion and its accompanying morality within the United States and  
39 Canada, such that we may live a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way, and  
40 liberty and justice may continue for the sake of all citizens of the United States and Canada,  
41 and ultimately, for the sake of all people.

1 **RESOLUTION 1-05**

2 (*Overture 1-05*)

3  
4 **To Adopt the Conclusions of the LCC's CTCR Document, CREMATION AND THE CHRISTIAN**

5  
6 WHEREAS, many pastors of the LCMS seek guidance with respect to the practice of cremating  
7 the dead for the purpose of providing counsel to their congregation members; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, the LCMS Conventions of 2013 and 2016 were presented with Overtures requesting  
10 the study of Cremation with the hope of providing a statement of belief and recommendations  
11 for practice; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the LCMS Conventions of 2013 and 2016 did not bring such an Overture to the  
14 Convention floor, but provided a recommendation following the 2016 Convention that LCMS  
15 pastors use, as a guide, the Lutheran Church - Canada's CTCR 2011 study "Cremation and the  
16 Christian"; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, the LCC CTCR document offers the following conclusions:

- 19 1. While not the case in Canada, there are places in the world where, because of the  
20 scarcity of land, it has become virtually impossible to purchase land for cemeteries  
21 and for burial plots. If cremation has become the only option in certain lands,  
22 Christians need to find ways to make clear witness for our faith in the resurrection of  
23 the body. (pg. 6)
- 24 2. The pastor should not offend the consciences of those who have chosen cremation. In  
25 the case of one who is dying and who has made up one's mind on the subject, using  
26 the law to convince them to do otherwise could create spiritual doubt regarding their  
27 relationship to God. (pg. 6)
- 28 3. The pastor should discourage thoughts of having the ashes of the departed scattered,  
29 for this practice indeed arises from a pagan denial of the importance of the body, and  
30 creates the impression that the spirit's survival is all that matters. (pg. 6)
- 31 4. Families of Christians who have been cremated should be encouraged to have the  
32 remains of their loved ones placed in a columbarium, or kept together in some other  
33 way. The name of the deceased should be noted on the urn and/or on the niche in  
34 memory of the one who has died and who awaits the resurrection. (pg. 6)
- 35 5. Though ashes cannot be committed to the earth in the same way that a body may be  
36 committed, a clear message of hope in the resurrection of the body needs take place  
37 even as the ashes are commended into the hands of God in the hope of the  
38 resurrection. (pg. 7)
- 39 6. As is always the case, the clear message given at the funeral/memorial of all  
40 Christians is the hope of the resurrection of the dead, not merely the survival of the  
41 individual in heaven. Our creeds confess the resurrection of the body (indeed, of the  
42 flesh!), not merely the survival of the soul. (pg. 7)
- 43 7. In sermons and Bible studies throughout the church year, especially when dealing with  
44 lessons that cover the subject, the Christian teaching on the resurrection of the dead

1 must be stressed, and the blessings confessed by the traditional practice of burial  
2 over against cremation must be noted. Burial should be encouraged over against  
3 cremation as the means by which the church best confesses before the world the  
4 return of Christ and the resurrection of the body (pg. 7); therefore be it  
5

6 *Resolved*, that the English District memorialize the 2019 LCMS Convention to adopt the LCC  
7 CTCR study's conclusions.  
8  
9

10 **RESOLUTION 1-06**

11 (*Overture 1-07*)

12 **To Affirm a Six Day Creation and "Young Earth"**

13  
14 WHEREAS, since the publication of Darwin's "Origin of Species 1859", the teaching of a 6-day  
15 creation and "young earth" has been challenged, and  
16

17 WHEREAS, the 1932 LCMS *Brief Statement* states, "We teach that God has created heaven and  
18 earth and that in the manner and in the space of time recorded in the Holy Scriptures,  
19 especially Genesis 1 and 2, namely, by His almighty creative Word, and in six days. We reject  
20 every doctrine which denies or limits the work of creation as taught in Scripture. In our days it  
21 is denied or limited by those who assert, ostensibly in deference to science, that the world  
22 came into existence through a process of evolution; that is, that it has in immense periods of  
23 time, developed more or less of itself."; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, the phrase "We reject ... immense periods of time" from the LCMS 1932 Brief  
26 Statement implies not an "old earth" but a "young earth"; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, the LCMS in Convention has for numerous recent Conventions affirmed the  
29 teaching of Genesis: that of a six, 24-hour day, "young-earth" creation; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, such affirmations are challenged daily in the institutions of our nation, and in some  
32 LCMS universities; therefore be it  
33

34 *Resolved*, that the English District continue to affirm the Biblical teaching of a six, 24-hour day,  
35 "young-earth" creation.

1 **RESOLUTION 1-07**

2 (*Overture 1-08*)

3  
4 **To Oppose Binding Christian Consciences to Political Positions**  
5 **Not Clearly Mandated by Scripture**  
6

7 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is currently involved in the Lutheran  
8 Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) through denominational support of LIRS and the  
9 presence of LCMS members on its Board of Directors,<sup>1</sup> and

10  
11 WHEREAS, the LIRS has advocated political positions on questions not determined by the Holy  
12 Scriptures, and are therefore appropriately subject to debate, and on which Christians may  
13 disagree, such as

- 14 1. Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA)<sup>2</sup> and
- 15 2. The number of refugees entering the United States of America<sup>3</sup>

16 thereby binding the consciences of LCMS Christians who disagree with LIRS' positions and are  
17 not necessarily "heartsick"<sup>4</sup> at every political change, but may well support the change;  
18 therefore, be it

19  
20 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention memorialize the 2019 convention of the LCMS  
21 to:

- 22 1. Censure LIRS for binding Christian consciences to political opinions not clearly found  
23 in Scripture,
- 24 2. Encourage its pastors and congregations to withdraw any support from the LIRS until  
25 such time as its political partisanship comes to an end, and be it finally  
26

27 *Resolved*, that the English District in its 2021 convention to do the same.  
28

---

Notes

<sup>1</sup> [lirs.org/our-work/church-partners/](https://lirs.org/our-work/church-partners/), where it says, "Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services celebrates strong collaborative relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod LC-MS, and the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LELCA)...Each (denomination) contributes financially to the mission and is represented on our board of directors."

<sup>2</sup> "STATEMENT - LIRS Denounces Trump Administration's Decision to End DACA Program," (9/5/2017), [lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/statement-lirs-denounces-trump-administration-decision-to-end-daca/](https://lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/statement-lirs-denounces-trump-administration-decision-to-end-daca/) and [lirs.org/our-work/people-we-serve/children/advocating-for-children/](https://lirs.org/our-work/people-we-serve/children/advocating-for-children/)

<sup>3</sup> [lirs.org/refugee-resettlement](https://lirs.org/refugee-resettlement/), where many particular positions on legislation and political issues are listed at length.

<sup>4</sup> "Churches and communities, employers and mayors, are heartsick at the Administration's callous and tragic decision to deny welcome to refugees most in need," said Linda Hartke, LIRS President and CEO, "STATEMENT-LIRS Responds to Historic Low Refugee Admissions Ceiling," (9/27/2017), [lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/statement-lirs-responds-to-historic-low-refugee-admissions-ceiling/](https://lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/statement-lirs-responds-to-historic-low-refugee-admissions-ceiling/)

1 **RESOLUTION 1-08**

2 *(Overture 1-09)*

3

4 **To Add the Requirement for the Seminaries to Include Courses on Teaching**

5

6 Introduction

7 The purpose of this resolution is to add the requirement for the seminaries to include courses  
8 on teaching (in the education world, these are called methods courses) to provide pastoral  
9 candidates with tools to help them be more effective teachers.

10

11 It would be understood that if the candidate, prior to entering the seminary, has already taken  
12 equivalent courses these courses could be substituted.

13

14 It is also good right and proper for congregations and Synod to encourage and support those  
15 Pastors already out of seminary to supplement their teaching skills.

16

17 Resolution

18

19 WHEREAS, pastoral candidates are not required to complete courses on teaching that would  
20 provide them with tools to be more effective teachers, and

21

22 WHEREAS, the Scriptures tell us that one of the requirements of an overseer is to be "able to  
23 teach" (I Tim. 2:3), and

24

25 WHEREAS, it is expected of our pastors to be the primary teachers of catechism classes for  
26 both the young and adults, and of Bible study classes, and

27

28 WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that, while pastors have sufficient knowledge to be qualified as  
29 teachers, they may lack the tools needed to be effective in their teaching and efficient in their  
30 preparation, and

31

32 WHEREAS, *"Doctor Luther said: ... schoolteachers are used to speaking in school and somewhat  
33 more daring [than pastors]. They also teach in their school language how one must treat and  
34 interpret the language of the Holy Scriptures. I wish that no one would be chosen as a preacher  
35 unless he had first taught school" (Lewis W. Spitz in Bulletin 2, March 1943, Lutheran Education  
36 Association);* therefore be it

37

38 *Resolved,* that the seminaries offer and require of students who have no equivalent course  
39 work in their academic history at least two teacher training classes, and be it further

40

41 *Resolved,* that the substance of these courses include skills in class management, tools for  
42 lesson preparation, and an introduction to the philosophy of education, and be it further

43

1 *Resolved*, that these courses be taught by qualified teaching (education) professionals, the  
2 details of which are to be coordinated with our Synodical seminaries and colleges, and be it  
3 finally

4

5 *Resolved*, that the Seminaries report the progress made to implement these classes at the  
6 2022 Synod Convention.

1 **COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS & EVANGELIZATION**

2  
3 **RESOLUTION 2-01**

4 *(Overture 2-01)*

5  
6 **To Support International Missionaries Who Are Members of the English District**

7  
8 WHEREAS, the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20 has been and will until the Last Day  
9 remain the heart of the Church's mission, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations;  
10 and

11  
12 WHEREAS, one of the reasons congregations banded together to form a synodical union is for  
13 the sending of missionaries; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the number of missionaries in the LCMS has increased in recent years; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the LCMS employs the Network Supported Model for the funding of missionaries,  
18 which requires LCMS missionaries to essentially raise their own salary and funding by visiting  
19 congregations and asking for money in order to enter and remain on the mission field; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, the English District is blessed to count several career missionaries among its  
22 individual members [including Rev. Ted Krey, Rev. Dale Kaster, Rev. Charles Ferry and others];  
23 and

24  
25 WHEREAS, many congregations of the English District are providing support for international  
26 missionaries; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, at present the English District does not provide direct support for any international  
29 missionaries who are members of the English District; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, the English District budget includes a line item for Missions; therefore be it

32  
33 *Resolved*, that the English District give thanks to God for the increase of international  
34 missionaries; and be it further

35  
36 *Resolved*, that the English District celebrate the faithful service of missionaries who are  
37 members of the English District by encouraging congregations to support them financially;  
38 and be it further

39  
40 *Resolved*, that the English District mission budget include funding for international  
41 missionaries who are members of the English District; and be it finally

42  
43 *Resolved*, that the English District memorialize the 2019 LCMS Convention to making the  
44 funding of international missionaries a key priority for the next triennium.

1 **RESOLUTION 2-02**

2 *(Overture 2-02)*

3  
4 **To Invite and Encourage Congregations of Our English District to Begin and Join**  
5 **in 1.1.1 Mission Funding Through Our District**  
6

7 WHEREAS, at our 2012 English District Convention the Rev. Dr. William Schumacher stated  
8 that what we are about as congregations of the English District is "Sharing the good news of  
9 God's Kingdom across every boundary and barrier of human existence," and  
10

11 WHEREAS, our English District Missions Council has stated that 'our English District can be a  
12 model of mission for the whole Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod,' and  
13

14 WHEREAS, our English District Evangelization Team has stated that 'every member of our  
15 English District is called to "Witness Jesus in his or her life,"' and  
16

17 WHEREAS, the congregation of The Lutheran Church of the Prince of Peace, Menomonee Falls,  
18 Wisconsin has provided a clear, doable and successful method of collecting 'significant' gifts  
19 (Namely the \$1 per Member per Week initiative, hereafter "1.1.1"), above and beyond regular  
20 offerings, specifically to be used for mission to the world; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, the beautiful Body of Christ desires that more and more people become disciples,  
23 by being baptized and taught of Jesus, and thus connected to Jesus, have Eternal Life; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, the English District fervently desire more missions to be started, more missionaries  
26 to be sent, more pastors and teachers to be trained, more people to be baptized, to hear of  
27 Jesus and be saved; therefore be it  
28

29 *Resolved*, that our English District in convention affirms our Missions council's intention for our  
30 English District to be a model of mission funding for the LCMS; and be it further  
31

32 *Resolved*, that our English District be a 'model' for our LCMS in recognizing that Jesus Christ  
33 gives us the power and strength to fund the missions and missionaries by many giving a little  
34 extra; and be it further  
35

36 *Resolved*, that we place before the congregations of our District the opportunity to participate  
37 in 1.1.1 which demonstrates the power of the beautiful Body of Christ working together,  
38 prompted by faith; and be it finally  
39

40 *Resolved*, that during the next triennium these funds raised be counted above and beyond our  
41 District budget, being used fully to support directly new mission starts and workers starting  
42 those missions through our District.

1 **COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION & STRUCTURE**

2

3 **RESOLUTION 3-01**

4 *(Overtures 3-01, 3-08)*

5

6 **To Move Our Concordia Universities and Seminaries to Independence**  
7 **from Government Funding**

8

9 WHEREAS, “the common goal (of our Concordia Universities and Seminaries) is to develop  
10 Christian leaders for the church, community and world” (1), and

11

12 WHEREAS, “The Concordia University System is one of the most powerful and far-reaching  
13 tools the Lord of the Church has given The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod to take the Good  
14 News of life in Jesus Christ to a world desperately in need of hearing and believing in Him,  
15 through professional church workers and those trained for other service in our communities”  
16 (2), and

17

18 WHEREAS, in pursuit of its common goal, our Concordia University System adopted ten  
19 Lutheran Identity Standards, which were approved by Synod at its 2016 Convention. The first  
20 paragraph of the preamble reads, “As educational institutions of The Lutheran Church–  
21 Missouri Synod, the colleges and universities of the Concordia University System confess the  
22 faith of the Church. The Concordias uphold the teachings of sacred Scripture and its  
23 articulation in the Lutheran Confessions. This includes the biblical teaching that Jesus Christ  
24 – true God and true man – is the sole way to God’s mercy and grace; that at the beginning of  
25 time the Triune God created all things; that life is sacred from conception to natural death; and  
26 that marriage between a man and a woman is a sacred gift of God’s creative hand – over  
27 against the reductionistic assumptions of many in our culture who view men and women as  
28 only transitory and material beings” (3), and

29

30 WHEREAS, faculty and students in our Concordia Universities and Seminaries receive  
31 government grants and loans for research and tuition support (4), and

32

33 WHEREAS, the schools of the Wisconsin Synod to this day do not receive federal funding, and

34

35 WHEREAS, the acceptance of government monies is increasingly coming with requirements,  
36 which attempt to pressure our institutions of higher learning to compromise their Christian  
37 witness, therefore be it

38

39 *Resolved*, that the English District memorialize The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod in  
40 convention to reaffirm the stated mission and goals of the Concordia University System; and  
41 be it further

42

43 *Resolved* that the English District in Convention call upon The Lutheran Church–Missouri  
44 Synod to urge our institutions of higher learning to issue a financial progress report in 2022,

1 detailing how they are advancing toward independence from government funding, and be it  
2 finally

3  
4 *Resolved* that the English District in Convention call upon The Lutheran Church–Missouri  
5 Synod to take at least one of the following actions: (1) begin a fund-raising campaign with the  
6 goal of supporting our institutions of higher learning to allow them to become financially  
7 independent of government funding; (2) restructure the Concordia University System such that  
8 it liquidate the assets of most of the campuses in order to use the proceeds to create an  
9 endowment that will allow up to four remaining campuses to operate on a model employed by  
10 Grove City College in Pennsylvania and Hillsdale College in Michigan.

11  
12 Notes:

13 1. Quoted on September 8, 2017 from [www.lcms.org/cus](http://www.lcms.org/cus)

14 2. *ibid.*

15 3. Accessed on September 8, 2017 from [www.cus.edu](http://www.cus.edu)

16 4. For an example of the receipt of federal funds for research support, see the listing of Prof.  
17 Matt Wise at [www.cu-portland.edu/academics/college-arts-sciences/faculty-research](http://www.cu-portland.edu/academics/college-arts-sciences/faculty-research)  
18 (accessed September 8, 2017)

19

20

21 **RESOLUTION 3-02**

22 (*Overtures 3-02, 3-03*)

23

24 **To Allow the Use of the Term “Bishop” in The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod**

25

26 WHEREAS, the biblical term of an overseer (*episcopus*; Greek: ἐπίσκοπός) is usually translated  
27 as “bishop” (I Timothy 3:1; Acts 20:28); and,

28

29 WHEREAS, this biblical word is used in the New Testament to describe the pastoral office (I  
30 Peter 5:2-4) but has been used in Church history since the early days of the Church Fathers to  
31 recognize one set in rightful authority of oversight of congregations and pastors; and

32

33 WHEREAS, the term “bishop” is used by most Evangelical Lutheran church bodies, including  
34 those in communion with The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the International  
35 Lutheran Council (ILC), world-wide; and,

36

37 WHEREAS, even in American secular society the term “bishop” is understood to imply a  
38 position of responsibility of oversight, even while the office is to be exercised with humility,  
39 Lutheran confessional loyalty, and great care; and,

40

41 WHEREAS, the term “president” in our LCMS may be confused with simple administrative  
42 authority positions in government, business, and service organizations (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.)  
43 instead of its use among us as an office of ecclesiastical responsibility and oversight for the  
44 good of Christ’s Church on earth; and,

1 WHEREAS, both our Synod and her Districts operate in both the kingdom of the right and the  
2 kingdom of the left; and,  
3  
4 WHEREAS, the term “president” was selected in 1847A+D in the founding documents of the  
5 German Evangelical-Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States (LCMS) in reaction to  
6 the misuse of the term “bishop” during the 1839 Saxon immigration under Martin Stephan, but  
7 now that history is far in the past; and,  
8  
9 WHEREAS, the districts of the LCMS are not confederated to form the Synod but rather are  
10 Synod in any given place, meaning the District President is in the stead of the Synodical  
11 President; and,  
12  
13 WHEREAS, the term “bishop” is practically used by many of our congregations and pastors  
14 across the LCMS in deferring to those serving as district presidents and indeed has had long  
15 usage in several synodical districts, some for decades (English, Atlantic, New Jersey, etc.);  
16 and,  
17  
18 WHEREAS, the term “president” is rightly used in LCMS auxiliaries such as the LWML, but  
19 often this presents terminology problems at LWML Conventions when talking about district  
20 presidents who are bishops in distinction from women district presidents who are LWML  
21 district presidents; and,  
22  
23 WHEREAS, the term “bishop” is more reflective of the responsibilities and respect for the office  
24 held by a pastor elected to such a position in his synodical district and could be beneficial in  
25 the Synod’s public witness for Christ in North America, including through the new LCRL Office  
26 (Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty); therefore be it  
27  
28 *Resolved*, that the English District memorialize Synod to make this nomenclature change at the  
29 2019 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to allow the use of the term  
30 “bishop” alongside “president” for both the synodical president and the district presidents, so  
31 that they be called “Synodical President/Bishop” and “District President/Bishop” respectively;  
32 and be it further  
33  
34 *Resolved*, that the LCMS Handbook (Constitution and Bylaw) reflect this change in terminology.

1 **RESOLUTION 3-03**

2  
3 **To Revise the Bylaws of the English District**

4  
5 WHEREAS, the English District Board of Directors has conducted a thorough review of the  
6 Bylaws of the District during this past triennium, identifying where revisions would be helpful  
7 for the administration of the District; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, the LCMS Committee on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has identified required  
10 revisions to be made to the Bylaws of the District so that they are in compliance with the  
11 Synod Handbook; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the LCMS CCM has suggested revisions to the Bylaws of the District; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the English District Board of Directors has drafted proposed revisions to the  
16 Bylaws of the District and submitted them for review by the LCMS CCM; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, the LCMS CCM has approved these changes (cf. CCM Opinion 17-2833); therefore  
19 be it

20  
21 *Resolved*, that the District in Convention revise the Bylaws of the District as follows:

22  
23 **PREAMBLE**

24  
25 In 1872 an initial conference of English-speaking Lutherans was held in Gravelton, Missouri. In 1888 the English  
26 Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri was organized and in 1911 was invited to join the German Evangelical  
27 Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States as the English Mission District. An agreement dated May 15, 1911,  
28 in Saint Louis, Missouri (*Delegatensynod von Missouri, Ohio u.a. St.*, 1911, pp. pages 31-35) made the English District  
29 official. Because of this origin the English District is unique among the districts of the Synod (Denver Convention  
30 *Proceedings*, 1969, Resolution 5-15).

31  
32 Since the English District is a district of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, the Constitution of the Synod ~~as given~~  
33 ~~in the Handbook~~ is also the Constitution of the District. Also, the Bylaws of the Synod are primarily the Bylaws of  
34 the District. The District’s objectives are as stated ~~noted~~ in Article III of the Synod’s Constitution; (~~see 2010~~  
35 *Handbook*), Article III Objectives:

36  
37 The Synod, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, shall—

- 38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49
1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3–6; 1 Cor. 1:10), work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;
  2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;
  3. Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth;
  4. Provide opportunities through which its members may express their Christian concern, love, and compassion in meeting human needs;
  5. Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools and to support synodical colleges, universities, and seminaries;

6. Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;
7. Encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith;
8. Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties;
9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights;
10. Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their families in the event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death.

Thus in the light of the Synod’s objectives, the mission of the English District is to seize every opportunity to serve the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, the whole Church in the whole world, and the whole person in the whole society, and in fulfillment of this mission, it shall seek to utilize its unique character to:

1. Assist congregations of the District in their ministries to their own communities with their own characteristics and needs;
2. 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;
3. Begin new churches and support new ministries with particular emphasis on openness to new challenges;
4. Assist in the revitalization of existing congregations and ministries;
5. Assist ministries in communities that are changing;
6. Focus on special, ethnic, urban and campus ministries;
7. Support mission initiatives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
8. Support life-long educational ministries within the District; and
9. Provide opportunities and avenues for congregations and their members to live out their love for God through the Christian stewardship of their time, talents and treasures.

## **ARTICLE I CONGREGATIONS OF THE DISTRICT**

- A. The congregations of the District shall exercise their authority through delegate convention, which shall consist of all duly certified delegates from member congregations.
- B. The District shall exercise its authority in harmony with the goals and directives of the Synod and under the guidance of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.
- C. The District shall delegate its authority as hereinafter prescribed. The exercise of such delegated authority shall always be subject to review by the District.

## **ARTICLE II ADMINISTRATION**

- A. The District shall establish an organizational structure for the effective operation of its programs and conduct of its affairs which shall include the District Convention (*referenced throughout as “Convention”*), the officers of the District, the Board of Directors, and such other staff and personnel as that Board may deem necessary and appropriate.

- 1 B. The administration of the affairs shall be conducted on three levels:  
2 1. The Convention, which shall consist of the District at large through its delegates in convention  
3 assembled, and shall be the governing body of the District subject to the Constitution, Bylaws, and  
4 Resolutions of Synod, and to these Bylaws;  
5 2. The ~~elected~~ officers of the District, who shall have primary responsibility for the implementation of  
6 decisions of the Convention and the Board of Directors;  
7 3. The Board of Directors elected by the Convention, which serves as the legal representative of the District  
8 and the custodian of all property of the District. Between conventions the Board shall provide for  
9 implementation within the District of the decisions of the Synod and District conventions, establish and  
10 review policy, determine general priorities, approve program budgets, allocate necessary funds for the  
11 support of the Synod and District budgets, review program performance, make provisions for necessary  
12 staff, and review the performance of the District President. It shall report its activities to the Convention.  
13  
14 C. For purposes of conferences and elections requiring regional representation, the District shall be divided into  
15 four regions: Eastern, Lake Erie, Midwestern, and Western.  
16 1. The President and Vice-Presidents of the District and the Board of Directors acting jointly shall  
17 determine the membership of the four regions 24 months prior to Conventions of the District.  
18 2. For purposes of regional elections, individuals will be considered a part of the geographical region in  
19 which they reside.  
20  
21 ~~D.C.~~ Dispute Reconcilers shall be chosen in such manner and exercise such jurisdiction as provided by Synod  
22 Bylaw 1.10ff. the Bylaws of the Synod (see 2010 Handbook bylaw 1.10.10ff).  
23  
24 ~~E.D.~~A Committee on Nominations shall be elected at each Convention to prepare the ballot for the next  
25 Convention. One minister of religion—ordained pastor and one minister of religion—commissioned or  
26 layperson or commissioned minister by name from each of the four regions of the District conference region  
27 shall will be elected. The Committee shall will organize itself as outlined in nine months prior to the  
28 convention in accordance with the District's Corporate Operations Manual.  
29  
30 ~~F.E.~~A Committee for Stewardship shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to comply with the stewardship  
31 programs and goals of the Synod, as required by Synod Bylaw 4.6.1. (see 2010 Handbook Bylaw 4.6).  
32  
33

### ARTICLE III OFFICERS & STAFF

- 34  
35  
36  
37 A. The officers of the District are:  
38 1. A President  
39 2. One Vice-President from each of the four regions of the District, in line of succession, as prescribed by  
40 these Bylaws.  
41 3. A Secretary  
42 4. A Treasurer, a layperson appointed by the Board of Directors  
43 5. A Circuit Visitor for each Circuit established by the District.  
44 ~~There shall be a President (Bishop), four Vice Presidents, a Secretary, an appointed Treasurer, and Circuit~~  
45 ~~Counselors.~~  
46  
47 B. The duties of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Circuit Visitors Counselors are described in  
48 the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and these Bylaws. Bylaw 5.2 (see 2010 Handbook) and in the  
49 resolutions of the conventions.  
50  
51 C. The Vice-Presidents shall advise the President, serve as his representatives, and assist him in bringing to the  
52 Board of Directors any needed recommendations.

1  
2 D. All Staff shall be directly accountable to the President.

3  
4 **ARTICLE IV**  
5 **ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES**  
6

7 A. Terms of Office and Tenure Elections

8 ~~1. All elections shall take place at the regular Convention.~~

9 ~~2. The President and all other elected officers, board and committee members shall be~~  
10 ~~electd by a majority of votes cast.~~

11 ~~3. One Vice President from each of the four regions shall be elected by the delegates. The~~  
12 ~~convention shall determine their rank.~~

13 ~~4.~~

14 1. Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for Stewardship, and  
15 Circuit Visitors Counselors shall serve for a term of three years.

16 2. A person's tenure in the same office or function shall be limited to four (4) consecutive full three-year terms.  
17 These persons may be elected to their previous office or function after an interval of no less than three (3)  
18 years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an interval of no less than two (2) years.

19  
20 B. Nomination and Election of District President

21 1. Each member congregation of the District shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod  
22 two (2) ordained ministers as candidates for District President.

23 2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to the  
24 member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.

25 3. Nominations for District President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months prior to the  
26 opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook* the names and tallies  
27 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 and consent  
29 to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.

30 5. The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience and  
31 qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be published and distributed to  
32 all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.

33 6. The District Convention shall elect the District President.

34 a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

35 b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from  
36 consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.

37  
38 C. Nomination and Election of District Vice-Presidents

39 1. Each member congregation of a region of the District shall be entitled to nominate two (2) ordained ministers  
40 from the clergy roster of the District with residence in its designated region as candidates for Vice-President.

41 2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to the  
42 member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.

43 3. Nominations for Vice-President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months prior to the  
44 opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook* the names and tallies  
45 of all ordained ministers who have received nominating votes.

46 4. The names of the three (3) ordained ministers residing within the boundaries of each region who receive the  
47 most nominating votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall be no opportunity  
48 provided for additional nominations.

49 5. The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience and  
50 qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be published and distributed to  
51 all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.

52 6. The District Convention shall elect one (1) Vice-President from each of the four regions of the District.

53 a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

- 1           b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from  
2           consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.  
3       7. Upon the election of the Vice-Presidents, a final election will take place ranking the Vice-Presidents by  
4       separate ballots with a simple majority of voting delegates determining the first, second, third, and fourth  
5       Vice-Presidents in line of succession.  
6

7 D. Nomination and Election of Board of Directors

- 8       1. Each member congregation of a region of the District is entitled to nominate three (3) individuals with  
9       residence in its designated region or combination of regions as candidates for the Regional Board of Directors  
10       positions.  
11       2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to the  
12       member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.  
13       3. Nominations for the Regional Board of Director positions shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to  
14       four months prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook*  
15       the names and tallies of all individuals who have received nominating votes.  
16       4. The names of the three (3) individuals residing within the boundaries of each region or combination of regions  
17       who receive the most nominating votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall  
18       be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.  
19       5. The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience and  
20       qualifications, as well as a statement concerning the individual's candidacy. These shall be published and  
21       distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.  
22       6. The District Convention shall elect one (1) ordained minister from the East or Lake Erie Region, one (1)  
23       ordained minister from the Midwest or West Region, one (1) commissioned minister from the East or Lake  
24       Erie Region, one (1) commissioned minister from the Midwest or West Region, and one (1) layperson from  
25       each of the four regions of the District.  
26       a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.  
27       b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated from  
28       consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.  
29       7. The District Convention shall elect two (2) laypersons as at-large members of the Board of Directors.  
30       a. All candidates not elected to a Lay Regional Board of Director positions shall form the ballot for the Lay  
31       At-Large Board of Directors positions.  
32       b. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.  
33       c. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes  
34       and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless  
35       fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest  
36       candidates shall constitute the ballot.  
37

38 E. Nomination and Election of District Secretary, Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers, and  
39 Other Boards or Committees

- 40       1. The Committee on Nominations shall select candidates for all elected offices, boards, and committees other  
41       than President, Vice-President, Board of Directors, and the Canadian representative to the Endowment Fund  
42       Board of Managers. At least two (2) candidates and at least one (1) alternate shall be selected for each  
43       position.  
44       2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter soliciting  
45       names from the officers of the District and the congregational and individual members of the District, along  
46       with the laypersons of the congregations of the District.  
47       3. All suggested names shall be submitted to the Committee on Nominations no later than four months prior to  
48       the opening date of the Convention.  
49       4. All nominees for a particular regional position must reside within the boundaries of the region for which they  
50       are nominated.  
51       5. All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered to be nominees.  
52       6. The Committee on Nominations shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience  
53       and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning the individual's candidacy. These shall be published  
54       and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.  
55       7. The District Convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor.



2. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant because of the resignation, death or permanent disability of the President, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President and shall serve until the next Convention.
3. The successor need not terminate his current position while completing the unexpired term.
4. Any Vice-President, who by the terms of this Article succeeds to the office of President, may decline such office; in which event:
  - a. The next ranking Vice-President shall become President of the District;
  - b. All other Vice-Presidents shall move up one rank;
  - c. The declining Vice-President shall fill the last ranking vacant Vice-Presidency.
  - d. In the event that all Vice-Presidents decline the office of President, the ranking of the Vice-Presidents shall remain unchanged, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall serve as Acting President until the next convention, when a President shall be elected. He need not leave his current position while serving as Acting President.

**B. Other Elected Positions.**

1. A vacancy in the Vice-Presidents shall be filled by appointment by the District President, in consultation with the Circuit Visitors within that the region.
2. Vacancies that occur in the office of Circuit Visitor between conventions shall be filled by appointment by the District President.
3. A vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the voting members of the Board, in consultation with the Committee on Nominations.
4. A vacancy on the Committee on Nominations shall be filled by voting members of the Board of Directors, in consultation with the Committee on Nominations.
5. Vacancies that occur in the office of District Endowment Fund Manager shall be filled:
  - a. A vacancy in any regional manager position shall be filled by appointment by the District President, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
  - b. A vacancy in the Canadian representative position shall be filled by appointment by the Canada Corporation.
6. Persons appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors or other elected or appointed positions shall serve until successors have been elected by the Convention or appointed under the terms of the bylaws.

**ARTICLE V VI**

**DISTRICT CONFERENCES, CIRCUIT FORUMS, AND CIRCUIT CONVOCATIONS**

- A. The President shall confer with the Board of Directors to arrange for the official conferences of the ordained and commissioned professional ministers of the District:
  1. There shall be a plenary conference held annually for all ordained and commissioned ministers. In years when District Conventions are held, the plenary conference may be postponed at the discretion of the President and the Board of Directors.
  2. There shall be a conference for ordained ministers held annually in each of the four regions of the District.
  3. There shall be at least one conference for commissioned ministers held during each triennium.
- ~~B. There shall be four regional pastoral conferences, which shall meet not less than once each year.~~
- ~~C. There shall be at least one District Conference for Commissioned Ministers per triennium.~~

- 1 ~~B. D.~~ Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their Circuit Visitors ~~Counselors~~ to select their Circuit Visitors  
 2 ~~Counselors~~ and conduct other business no later than the time established by the District. They shall follow and  
 3 ~~following~~ the procedures stated ~~noted~~ in Synod Bylaws 5.2.2 & and 5.3 (~~see 2010 Handbook~~).  
 4  
 5 ~~C. E.~~ The Circuit Visitor ~~Counselors~~ and any other officers of the circuit shall have the primary responsibility of  
 6 preparing the agenda for the Circuit Convocation, following the procedures stated in Synod Bylaw 5.4. (~~see Bylaw~~  
 7 ~~5.4, 2010 Handbook~~).  
 8  
 9

10 **ARTICLE ~~VI~~ VII**  
 11 **POWERS**  
 12

13 The District shall have legal powers as follows:

- 14 1. ~~A.~~ To purchase, acquire, hold, administer, sell, transfer, mortgage and convey property of every description,  
 15 both personal and real, in the interest of the District;  
 16 2. ~~B.~~ To accept, hold, administer, sell, transfer and convey legacies, gifts, donations, commercial papers and  
 17 legal documents of every description in the performance of its work;  
 18 3. ~~C.~~ To delegate to the Board of Directors, who shall exercise the aforementioned powers. No individual or  
 19 officer of the District shall have the power to usurp this authority.  
 20 4. ~~D.~~ No action on the part of the members of the Board of Directors shall be prerequisite to the borrowing of  
 21 money or the execution of any mortgage upon personality or realty.  
 22 5. ~~E.~~ There shall be no shares of stock issued in connection with the District.  
 23  
 24

25 **ARTICLE ~~VII~~ VIII**  
 26 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
 27

28 **A. Membership and Composition**

- 29 1. The Board of Directors shall have no more than fifteen (15) voting members, as follows:  
 30 a. The President of the District  
 31 b. The Secretary of the District  
 32 c. Two (2) ministers of religion—ordained, one of whom shall be elected from either the Eastern  
 33 Region or Lake Erie Region and one whom shall be elected from either the Midwestern Region or  
 34 Western Region  
 35 d. Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned, one of whom shall be elected from either the  
 36 Eastern Region or Lake Erie Region and one whom shall be elected from either the Midwestern  
 37 Region or Western Region  
 38 e. One (1) layperson elected from each of the four regions of the District.  
 39 f. Two (2) laypersons elected from the District at large  
 40 g. Up to three (3) at-large laypersons appointed by the elected voting members of the Board of  
 41 Directors to obtain needed additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.)  
 42 2. The Board of Directors shall have six (6) non-voting members:  
 43 a. The Vice-Presidents of the District  
 44 b. The Treasurer of the District  
 45 c. The President of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Canada  
 46 Corporation).  
 47 3. The Board shall elect its own chair and vice-chair from among the voting members of the Board after  
 48 each convention. The President and Secretary shall be ineligible to be elected as chair or vice-chair.  
 49 4. Each Board member shall avoid conflicts of interest and shall disclose to the Board chair any potential  
 50 conflicts of interest, as defined in Synod Bylaw 1.5.2.

- 1 5. Members of the Board of Directors may be removed for cause, as defined in Synod Bylaw 1.5.8.  
2 6. No member of the Board of Directors shall receive remuneration (beyond allowable reimbursement)  
3 for service on the Board.

4 The Board of Directors shall be composed of twelve (12) voting members: the President and the Secretary  
5 of the District; two (2) pastors, one of whom shall be elected from the Eastern/Lake Erie Regions and one  
6 from the Midwestern/Western Regions; two (2) commissioned ministers, one of whom shall be elected  
7 from the Eastern/Lake Erie Regions and one from the Midwestern/Western Regions; and six (6) lay  
8 persons, one from each of the four (4) regions and two (2) elected at large. The Board shall also include six  
9 (6) non-voting members: four (4) Vice Presidents, the appointed Treasurer, and the President of the  
10 English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Canada Corporation). They shall serve only in  
11 an advisory capacity. The Board shall elect its own chair and vice chair from among the voting members of  
12 the Board after each convention. The President and Secretary may not serve as chair or vice chair.

13  
14 B. Powers and Duties

- 15 1. The Board of Directors shall have such powers and duties as are accorded to it by the Constitution,  
16 Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, resolutions, and policies of the Synod, as well as those of the  
17 District. Subject to such limitations, it shall operate within the applicable federal and state laws.  
18 2. The Board's chief responsibility is developing and amending policy.  
19 3.2. The Board shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business  
20 and legal affairs and shall adopt policies and require procedures which assure that said management  
21 and supervision is affected.  
22 4.3. In fulfilling its functions and in coordinating its work with the Synod, the Board shall be guided  
23 generally by the functions of the Board of Directors of the Synod as defined in Synod Bylaw 3.3.4ff s  
24 3.3.5ff (see 2010 Handbook) as these apply to districts.  
25 5.4. Between Conventions it shall provide for implementation within the District of the decisions of the  
26 Synod and District Conventions and allocate necessary funds for the support of the Synod and District  
27 budgets.  
28 6. The Board of Directors shall report at each Convention.

29  
30 C. Meetings of the Board of Directors

- 31 1. C.—Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least four (4) times a year at such time  
32 and place as the Board shall determine.  
33 2. D.—Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or upon request of  
34 seven (7) board members at any time, by means of written or email notice, at least three (3) days in  
35 advance of the time, place and purpose thereof to each director. ~~Special meetings may be held by~~  
36 ~~means of conference telephone, video conferencing, or similar communications equipment through~~  
37 ~~which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. A director participating by such~~  
38 ~~means is deemed to be present in person at the meeting.~~  
39 3. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be conducted electronically, using audio, video, or internet-  
40 based conferencing technologies.  
41 a. In such cases, the technology must allow for each Board member to fully participate (hear, speak,  
42 have or been given access to documents and other materials as appropriate), including the  
43 opportunity to vote.  
44 b. Board members must be given a reasonable opportunity to access the electronic meeting. If a  
45 Board member does not have access to the technology to be used, arrangements will be made for  
46 the member to participate in person by coming to the District Office or other mutually agreed upon  
47 location.  
48 c. Any Board member listening or watching shall acknowledge their presence to the meeting. These  
49 names along with the attending Board members shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.  
50 4. ~~E—A majority of voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any properly called or~~  
51 ~~scheduled meeting. A majority of the voting directors shall constitute a quorum.~~

1           5. The Chair may authorize a Board member to participate in meetings of the Board by use of electronic  
2           technology described in Article N.C.3. Such participation by a Board member shall be considered as  
3           being present for the sake of establishing a quorum.

4           6. In situations where board members are not able to meet as described above, the Board of Directors  
5           may take action by use of electronic ballot (i.e., e-mail, internet-based voting, etc.), provided all voting  
6           members of the board cast a vote and the result of the voting is unanimous.

7           ~~F. If and when all voting directors have been polled and a majority consent in writing to any action to be taken~~  
8           ~~by the District, such action shall be as valid corporate action as though it had been authorized at a meeting~~  
9           ~~of the Board of Directors.~~

10          7. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings that record a summary of the major points of discussion and any  
11          action(s) taken.

12  
13          D. Appointment of Officers and Agents

14          1. ~~G.~~The Board of Directors shall have power to appoint such other officers and agents as the Board may  
15          deem necessary for the transaction of the business of the District.

16          2. ~~H.~~The Board of Directors may require any officer or agent to file with the District a satisfactory  
17          fidelity bond.

18  
19          E.I. Execution of Instruments.

20          1. All checks, drafts, and orders for payment of money shall be signed in the name of the District and  
21          may be countersigned by such officers or agents as the Board of Directors designates for that purpose  
22          or by the Treasurer alone.

23          2. When the execution of any contract, conveyance or other instrument has been authorized without  
24          specification of the executing officers, the President and the Secretary may execute the same in the  
25          name of and on behalf of the District and may affix the corporate seal thereto. The Board of Directors  
26          shall have power to designate the officers and agents who shall have authority to execute any  
27          instrument on behalf of the District.

28  
29          F.J. Borrowing Authority

30          1. The Board of Directors shall act on behalf of the District to borrow money the Board deems necessary  
31          and appropriate.

32          2. In such case the Board may authorize the proper officers of the District to make, execute and deliver in  
33          the name of and on behalf of the District such notes, bonds and other evidence of indebtedness as the  
34          Board should deem proper.

35          3. The Board ~~H~~ shall have full power to mortgage the property of the District, or any part thereof, as  
36          security for such indebtedness, and no action on the part of the membership of the District shall be  
37          requisite to the validity of any such note, bond, evidence of indebtedness or mortgage.

38  
39          G. Annual Budgetary Responsibilities

40          1. ~~L.~~The Board of Directors shall establish the annual District budget.

41          2. ~~M.~~The Board of Directors shall establish the salary of the District President on an annual basis.

42  
43          H. District Corporate Operations Manual

44          1. ~~K.~~The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain the District's *Corporate Operations Manual* and  
45          shall approve appropriate modifications.

46          2. Only the District in Convention, ~~however,~~ shall have the power to amend the *Corporate Operations*  
47          *Manual* with respect to sections dealing with the election of officers and the Board.

48          3. Modifications to the Corporate Operations Manual approved by the Board to any other sections shall  
49          be reported at the next Convention.

50  
51          ~~N. The Board of Directors shall report at each Convention.~~

52  
53          ~~O.~~The Board of Directors shall conduct, supervise, and manage all affairs of the District not otherwise  
54          assigned.

- 1 ~~P. The Board of Directors shall have full power and authority to exercise any and all of the powers set forth in~~  
 2 ~~Article VI.~~  
 3  
 4 ~~Q. No member of the Board of Directors shall receive remuneration (beyond allowable reimbursement) for~~  
 5 ~~service on the Board.~~  
 6  
 7 ~~R. Each Board member shall avoid conflicts of interest and shall disclose to the Board chair any potential~~  
 8 ~~conflicts of interest.~~  
 9  
 10 ~~S. A member of the Board of Directors may be removed for witness or actions that are contrary to the mission~~  
 11 ~~and ministry of the District or to the functions of a Board member. Such removal requires an affirmative~~  
 12 ~~vote of at least three fourths (3/4) of the voting members of the Board present at a duly noticed and~~  
 13 ~~constituted Board meeting. All actions must be in accord with Synod Bylaw 1.5.7 (see 2010 Handbook).~~

14  
 15 **ARTICLE ~~VIII~~ IX**  
 16 **ENGLISH DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND**

- 17  
 18 A. The District shall establish and maintain an endowment fund, providing a stewardship opportunity for  
 19 congregations and their members and a resource for the support of District and Synod ministries. (The  
 20 structure and operation of the fund is described in the English District *Corporate Operations Manual*.)  
 21  
 22 B. The Board of Directors shall exercise oversight for the English District Endowment Fund (EDEF).  
 23  
 24 C. The Board shall ensure ~~assure~~ that the EDEF Board of Managers reports on its work at least annually to the  
 25 Board.  
 26  
 27 D. The Board shall elect one of its voting members to serve on the EDEF Board of Managers.

28  
 29 **ARTICLE ~~IX~~ X**  
 30 **CONFLICTS**

- 31  
 32 A. No article of the Bylaws of the District shall be valid which conflicts with the Constitution and Bylaws of  
 33 the Synod.  
 34  
 35 B. Any matter, rule or regulation not specifically herein contained in the Bylaws shall be governed by  
 36 comparable provision in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.  
 37  
 38

39 **ARTICLE ~~X~~ XI**  
 40 **AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS**

41  
 42 Changes, additions, and alterations to the Bylaws may be made by Conventions of the District: ~~provided~~  
 43 ~~they:~~

- 44 1. A. They shall not conflict with ~~Are not contrary to~~ the Constitution or Bylaws of the Synod;  
 45 2. B. They shall be ~~Are~~ separately considered and acted upon by the Board of Directors;  
 46 3. C. They shall be submitted ~~Are presented for review~~ to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the  
 47 Synod for review and approval prior to consideration by a District convention;  
 48 4. D. They shall be ~~Are~~ presented in writing to the District in convention; and  
 49 5. E. They shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting. ~~Are passed~~  
 50 ~~by a majority of the voting delegates in convention.~~

1 **RESOLUTION 3-04**

2  
3 **To Amend the English District Corporate Operations Manual**

4  
5 WHEREAS, the LCMS Committee on Constitutional Matters reviewed the Corporate Operations  
6 Manual of the District and published Opinion 15-2778 which stated:

7  
8 Under COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS, "Duties": This entire section is not the  
9 responsibility of the nominations committee but of the secretary, as in the case of the  
10 Synod's Secretary (Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.6). It is the responsibility of the district  
11 secretary to obtain nominations for district president (paragraph A), obtain  
12 nominations for district vice-president (paragraph B), prepare slates of regional  
13 positions (paragraph C), etc.

14 and

15  
16 WHEREAS, District Bylaw VII.K governs the process of modifying and amending the *District*  
17 *Corporate Operations Manual*:

18  
19 The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain the District's *Corporate Operations*  
20 *Manual* and shall approve appropriate modifications. Only the District in Convention,  
21 however, shall have the power to amend the *Corporate Operations Manual* with respect  
22 to sections dealing with the election of officers and the Board. Modifications, approved  
23 by the Board to any other sections, shall be reported at the next Convention.

24  
25 therefore be it

26  
27 *Resolved*, that the District in Convention amend the District's Corporate Operations Manual to  
28 bring it into compliance with CCM Opinion 15-2778, as follows:

29  
30 **COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS** (*Note English District Bylaw Article II IV*)

31  
32 Function: Prepare slates of candidates for the offices ~~and for the Board, and any other~~  
33 ~~positions to be voted upon by the District Convention.~~ of Secretary, Committee on  
34 Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers, and Other Boards or Committees, as required by  
35 the bylaws of the Synod and District.

36  
37  
38 Membership: The committee shall consist of one pastor, and one layperson or  
39 commissioned ~~ministry minister~~ by name from each region of the District, elected at the  
40 District Convention. They shall organize themselves nine months prior to the Convention at  
41 the "call" of the President.

1 Duties:

2 ~~A. With regard to candidates for the office of the President:~~

- 3 ~~1. Send a letter six months prior to the District convention to the constituent~~  
4 ~~congregations of the District listing the qualifications for the presidency;~~  
5 ~~2. Request each congregation to submit up to two nominations in writing;~~  
6 ~~3. Secure from each nominee a statement in writing of his willingness to serve if~~  
7 ~~elected, accompanied by a description of the nominee's experience and qualification;~~  
8 ~~4. Present to the convention a slate of up to five candidates who receive the highest~~  
9 ~~number of nominations.~~

10 ~~B. With regard to the candidates for the office of vice president, request each District~~  
11 ~~congregation to nominate up to two pastors from its area six months prior to the electing~~  
12 ~~convention. The three pastors receiving the highest number of votes in each area shall be~~  
13 ~~the nominees.~~

14 A. Receive nominations for Secretary, Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund  
15 Managers, and Other Boards or Committees from the congregations, officers, and members  
16 of the District, and the laypersons of the congregations of the District.

17 ~~C. B. With regard to the other positions, prepare Prepare a slate of at least two candidates~~  
18 ~~and one alternate for each above-listed position to be filled by the elections at the District~~  
19 ~~convention. Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate; but the delegate~~  
20 ~~making such nomination must present the District secretary with the written consent of the~~  
21 ~~person whose name is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the convention that~~  
22 ~~the nominee is able and willing to serve if elected;~~

23 ~~D. C. Request from all ~~nominees~~ candidates for elected positions (1) biographical~~  
24 ~~information and (2) a statement concerning his/her candidacy. Publish and distribute the~~  
25 ~~same to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention. The~~  
26 ~~committee may pose questions to the candidates and limit the length of the response.~~

27 ~~E. The cutoff date for acceptance of nominations for the president and vice presidents shall~~  
28 ~~be four months prior to the opening of the electing convention.~~

29

1 **RESOLUTION 3-05**

2  
3 **To Amend the Articles of Incorporation of the English District**

4  
5 WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.6 was amended at the 2016 Synod Convention and established  
6 requirements concerning the Articles of Incorporation for Synod agencies, including Districts,  
7 as follows:

8  
9 1.5.3.6 Notwithstanding anything in the Bylaws to the contrary, the Articles of  
10 Incorporation or other governing documents of each agency shall provide:

11 (a) That all provisions of its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the  
12 provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the Synod in  
13 convention; and

14 (b) That in the event of dissolution other than by direction from the Synod in  
15 convention, the assets of such agency, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred,  
16 consistent with applicable state and federal laws, as follows:

17 (1) In the case of a synodwide corporate entity, district, university, college, or  
18 seminary, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as may be more specifically  
19 described elsewhere in these Bylaws;

20 (2) In the case of a corporation formed by an agency (as defined in these  
21 Bylaws), to the agency that formed the dissolving corporation, or if such forming  
22 agency is not then in existence, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod itself.

23 An agency may submit any concerns related to the inclusion of subsections (a) or (b) in  
24 its governing documents to the Board of Directors of the Synod, and the Board of  
25 Directors may determine to permit the removal or modification of these provisions for an  
26 affected agency.

27 and

28  
29 WHEREAS, 2016 Resolution 9-02A requires “That the agencies of the Synod shall comply with  
30 the requirements of this bylaw change in time for the CCM to report the status of compliance  
31 to the 2019 convention of the Synod” (2016 Convention Proceedings, p. 186); therefore be it  
32

33 *Resolved*, that the English District in Convention amend the Articles of Incorporation of the  
34 English District by adding the following provisions:

35  
36 1) All provisions of its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the  
37 provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the Synod in  
38 convention.

39 2) In the event of a dissolution other than by direction from the Synod in convention,  
40 the assets of this corporation, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred, consistent  
41 with the applicable state and federal laws, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.  
42

1 **RESOLUTION 3-06**

2

3

**To Nurture Our Lutheran System of Higher Education**

4

5 WHEREAS, the Concordia University System exists to build national identity, enable  
6 cooperative endeavors and enhance the strength of the colleges and universities of The  
7 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as they engage students of diverse ages and cultures in  
8 quality, Christ-centered, value-oriented, Lutheran higher education for lives of service to church  
9 and community.

10 Goals:

- 11 • To transmit Lutheran values more effectively.
- 12 • To provide enhanced quality education to college students.
- 13 • To attain efficiencies in operation of the campuses.
- 14 • To capitalize the schools and System; and

15

16 WHEREAS, recent events on some of our campuses have given rise to anti-Christian  
17 philosophies and practices that are contrary to these stated mission and goals; therefore be it

18

19 *Resolved*, that the English District memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in  
20 convention to reaffirm the stated mission and goals of the Concordia University System; and  
21 be it finally

22

23 *Resolved*, that the proper ecclesiastical supervisors speak the truth in love by bringing proper  
24 discipline to bear on the faculties and student bodies of the Concordia University System as  
25 needed to maintain and nurture our institutions as centers of Evangelical-Lutheran Christian  
26 teaching, learning, and life together.

1 **Resolution 3-07**

2  
3 **To Transfer St. Michael Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana**  
4 **to the Indiana District**  
5

6 WHEREAS, St. Michael Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana, gives thanks to the Lord of the  
7 Church for her partnership in the Gospel with the English District and for this prosperous and  
8 edifying relationship begun in 1953A+D; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, in 2014A+D St. Michael undertook a strategic planning process that included a  
11 comprehensive study of its membership in the English District which resulted in the  
12 congregational Voters Assembly unanimously voting to transfer the congregation's LCMS  
13 district membership to the Indiana District on April 17, 2016A+D; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, membership in the Indiana District would enhance the partnership between St.  
16 Michael and Emmanuel Lutheran Churches who share a K-8 elementary school of 360  
17 children<sup>1</sup>; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, St. Michael is also involved with these Indiana District ministries: Concordia  
20 Lutheran High School of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Camp Lutherhaven of Albion, Indiana; and the  
21 Lutheran Early Response Team of Fort Wayne, Indiana; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, in January 2017A+D, Rev'd. Dr. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr., First Vice-President of the  
24 LCMS, after reviewing St. Michael's ministry context, recommended that the English District  
25 transfer St. Michael to the Indiana District; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, the Indiana District has been made aware of this request; therefore be it  
28

29 *Resolved*, that the English District Convention direct the District Board of Directors to transfer  
30 St. Michael Lutheran Church of Fort Wayne, Indiana, to the Indiana District, giving thanks to  
31 God for our 65-year partnership in the Gospel.

---

<sup>1</sup> This would allow St. Michael's rostered workers (two pastors, one DCE, one Music Director) to hold membership in the Indiana District, which is the district affiliation of Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School as well as of fifteen of the school's teachers who are St. Michael members. Also, St. Michael Preschool could then more easily merge with Emmanuel Preschool and be administered by Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School.

1 **COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES**

2

3 **RESOLUTION 4-01**

4 (*Overtures 4-02, 4-03, 4-04, 4-05*)

5

6 **To Support the Well-being of All the Church's Workers and Church Worker Families**  
7 **in the English District**

8

9 WHEREAS, the well-being of the church's workers is vital to the ministry and mission of the  
10 church; and

11

12 WHEREAS, those who are called to serve the church in various capacities are well advised to  
13 care for themselves and for their families so that they can carry out their work to the best of  
14 their ability; and

15

16 WHEREAS, congregations, schools, and other agencies are vital to the well-being of their  
17 church workers as they support those workers in pursuit of their well-being; and

18

19 WHEREAS, major challenges to the well-being of the church's workers are known and  
20 documented, such as depression, addiction, marital strife, and burnout, etc.; and

21

22 WHEREAS, there are effective strategies to deal with those challenges to enhance their well-  
23 being; therefore be it

24

25 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention express its support for all efforts of  
26 congregations, schools, and agencies to care for our workers and support them and their  
27 families in their wellbeing, including the following components of holistic well-being: spiritual,  
28 financial, vocational, intellectual, relational, emotional, and physical; and be it further

29

30 *Resolved*, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to do all they can to  
31 support the holistic well-being of their church workers, focusing on intentional, strategic,  
32 practical efforts at preventing problems before they develop and resolving them before they  
33 become crises; and be it further

34

35 *Resolved*, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to support the holistic  
36 well-being of all their workers' families as well; and be it further

37

38 *Resolved*, that the church's workers of the English District be encouraged to care for  
39 themselves in every aspect of holistic well-being so that they can continue to serve to the best  
40 of their ability with the gifts and strength that God supplies; and be it further

41

42 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention publicly recognize and show appreciation for  
43 District Ministerial Health Committee for all of the work it does; and be it finally

44

1 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention memorialize the 2019 Regular Convention of  
2 the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to encourage the care and well-being of church workers  
3 and their families throughout the Synod.  
4  
5

6 **RESOLUTION 4-02**  
7 (*Overture 4-01*)

8 **To Encourage and Assist Retired Pastors**  
9

10 WHEREAS, one's job often forms a significant part of one's self-image; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, church work can often reach into all aspects of a person's life; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, transitioning from one stage of life to another is difficult under the best of  
15 circumstances, even more so when retiring from employment that impacts one's life as much  
16 as church work; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, many church workers are able to continue doing important work for the church to  
19 some extent, even in retirement; therefore be it  
20

21 *Resolved*, that pastors having reached the age of retirement be encouraged to continue serving  
22 in accordance with their physical, mental and emotional ability, and that the district be  
23 encouraged to assist retirees transition into retirement; and be it further  
24

25 *Resolved*, that the District be encouraged to research what it can do to help pastors make the  
26 transition from being full-time, active pastors to retirement; and be it finally  
27

28 *Resolved*, that all pastors of the District be encouraged to consider well all their many  
29 vocations, as husbands, fathers, grandfathers, sons, brothers, friends, etc., as well as other  
30 activities that they may engage in other than simply the work of the pastoral office (e.g.  
31 hobbies, travel, etc.) in order to have a well-rounded sense of who they are, aside from simply  
32 their work in the pastoral office.

## **2018 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 residence 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.

The *Corporate Operations Manual* of the English District outlines the nominating process for District President:

- A. With regard to candidates for the office of the President:
  - 1. Send a letter six months prior to the District convention to the constituent congregations of the District listing the qualifications for the presidency;
  - 2. Request each congregation to submit up to two nominations in writing;
  - 3. Secure from each nominee a statement in writing of his willingness to serve if elected, accompanied by a description of the nominee's experience and qualification;
  - 4. Present to the convention a slate of up to five candidates who receive the highest number of nominations.

Following this nominating process, each congregation of the English District had opportunity to nominate two members of the clergy roster of the Synod to serve as District President. Forty-four congregations submitted nominating ballots for District President by the February 19, 2018 deadline. Seven congregations submitted nominating ballots after the deadline; those were not counted within the tally of nominations.

Individuals nominated for District President are listed below with the number of nominations each received:

Rev. Ben Eder	2
Rev. Michael Frese	1
Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy	39
Rev. J. Derek Mathers	1
Rev. R. Wayne Morton	2
Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner	1
Rev. Robert Rogers	3
Rev. David Thiele	1

The slate of candidates for District President is limited to the five individuals who receive the highest number of nominations and consent to stand for election. Of the eight individuals receiving nominations, two gave consent to stand for election. Because no floor nominations are permitted for this office, these are the two candidates for District President, in alphabetical order:

Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy  
Rev. Robert Rogers

## CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

### THE REV. DR. JAMISON HARDY

College/University: Concordia, Mequon, WI

Grad Yr/Degree: 1996/BS-Ed

Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: 2000/MDiv

Grad School: Walden University

Grad Yr/Degree: 2009/MPA

Other Degrees: Walden University

Grad Yr/Degree: 2012/DBA

### Congregations Served:

Peace, McMurray, PA

Year(s): 2008-present

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 of District Convention Floor Committee #1 on Structure, 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.): 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 has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve as English District Bishop/President. It is even a greater honor and privilege that so many congregations have nominated me once again to serve in this office. I have personally believed, as well as taught, that we should always be prepared and open to what God might ask of us. This is clearly seen in 1 Samuel 3:10, "speak for Thy servant is listening". I daily ask our Lord to call on me and I daily listen for His command to go and present the Gospel to all people. To love thy neighbor as thyself. This has been one of the great pleasures in my life in the English District and over the last three years I have watched our district grow in the love of*

*the neighbor. Having brothers and sisters in Christ who have that same desire to follow where the Lord calls. Isaiah 6:8, "Then I heard the voice of the lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" I believe that the Lord has called and I am ready to continue faithfully to follow His call. I believe in the English District and what it brings to the overall synod. I believe we have become relevant once again in Synod. I give thanks for all of you, my brothers in sisters in this district and for the mission heart of faith we share together. Thy will be done Father, not mine.*

**THE REV. ROBERT A. ROGERS**

College/University: Concordia University Texas

Grad Yr/Degree: 1986/BA

Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Grad Yr/Degree: 1990/MDiv

Seminary: Louisville Presbyterian Theol. Seminary, Louisville, KY

Grad Yr/Degree: NA

**Congregations Served:**

Trinity, Villa Park, IL

Year(s): 2005-present

Our Savior, Louisville, KY

Year(s): 2002-2004

Messiah, Seattle, WA

Year(s): 1990-2002

**SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

**District:** English District - Midwest Regional Vice President, 2014-present; Circuit Visitor, Chicago Central Circuit; Northwest District - Board of Youth Ministry; Olympic Zone Counselor, LWML

**Synod:** Convention Delegate for Chicago North Circuit, 2007

**Other (church, community, etc.):** District Representative and Trustee, Lutheran Child and Family Services of IL; Board of Directors, Lutheran Child and Family Services of IL; Chamber of Commerce, Villa Park, IL; Puget Sound Youth Board

*If I am elected Bishop/President of the English District, I will do my very best to continue the current Bishop's mission to center the English District in the love of God and the love of neighbor that flows from the love of God. I will continue strongly advocating for good financial management particularly of the Endowment Fund from whence flows some of our ability to show our love for our neighbor. I also will strive to connect the English District with ministries that serve our most overlooked and undervalued people by encouraging our congregations to seriously turn their attention outside of themselves and go into all nations, not only geographically but culturally as well. To thrive, we must understand, appreciate and engage new cultures, new ways of being and new expressions of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am not satisfied with the status quo of surviving. The LCMS has been a sleeping giant for too long and who better than the English District to bring the giant awake? Finally, as our current Bishop is doing, so will I continue empowering our Circuit Visitors and Vice-Presidents to lead wherever they are and to be my eyes and ears to the district.*

## **2018 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 residence 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.A.3 requires the election of a Vice-President from each region of the District:

One Vice-President from each of the four regions shall be elected by the delegates. The convention shall determine their rank.

The *Corporate Operations Manual* of the English District outlines the nominating process for District Vice-Presidents:

- B. With regard to the candidates for the office of vice-president, request each District congregation to nominate up to two pastors from its area six months prior to the electing convention. The three pastors receiving the highest number of votes in each area shall be the nominees.

Following this nominating process, each congregation of the English District had opportunity to nominate two members of the clergy roster of the District residing in its region to serve as District Vice-President. Forty congregations submitted qualifying nominating ballots for District Vice-President by the February 19, 2018 deadline (Eastern Region - 10; Lake Erie Region - 10; Midwestern Region - 6; Western Region - 14). Four congregations submitted nominating ballots after the deadline; those were not counted within the tally of nominations.

Individuals receiving qualifying nominations for District Vice-President are listed below with the number of nominations each received:

***Eastern Region***

Rev. Ben Eder	8
Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy	2
Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel	2

***Midwestern Region***

Rev. Jonathan Gruen	1
Rev. James Huenink	1
Rev. Robert Rogers	1

***Lake Erie Region***

Rev. Ryan Beffrey	1
Rev. Michael Frese	1
Rev. Daniel Grams	1
Rev. J. Derek Mathers	1
Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	7

***Western Region***

Rev. Todd Arnold	8
Rev. John Berg	1
Rev. Peter Ledic	1
Rev. R. Wayne Morton	1
Rev. Daniel Pezzica	4
Rev. James Thelen	1

The slate of candidates for District Vice-President is limited to the three ordained ministers from each region who receive the highest number of nominations and consent to stand for election. No floor nominations are permitted for this office.

In the ***Eastern Region***, three ordained ministers received nominations; one consented to stand for election. In the ***Lake Erie Region***, five ordained ministers received nominations; three consented to stand for election. In the ***Midwestern Region***, three ordained ministers received nominations; two consented to stand for election. In the ***Western Region***, six ordained ministers received nominations; two individuals consented to stand for election, one of them became ineligible to be elected due to accepting a call outside of the District.

The following ordained ministers, listed in alphabetical order by region, have consented to serve if elected:

**Eastern Region**

Rev. Ben Eder

**Lake Erie Region**

Rev. Ryan Beffrey  
Rev. Daniel Grams  
Rev. Jeffrey Miskus

**Midwestern Region**

Rev. James Huenink  
Rev. Robert Rogers

**Western Region**

Rev. Todd Arnold

## CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – EASTERN REGION

### THE REV. BEN EDER

College/University: UW-Green Bay, WI

Grad Yr/Degree: 1979/BA-Humanities

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: 1985/MDiv

### Congregations Served:

Pilgrim, Kenmore, NY

Year(s): 1993-present

Incarnate Word, Florence, SC

Year(s): 1985-1993

### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Vice President - Eastern Region, 2015-present; Circuit Visitor, 1997-2006; Board of Directors, 2012-2015

Synod: Pastoral delegate to Synod Convention; frequent contributor to "The Lutheran Witness."

Other (church, community, etc.): Volunteer Hospital Chaplain; member and former president, Lions Club of Kenmore; former Rotarian; member, Kenmore Village Improvement Society; graduate, Kenmore Police Citizens Police Academy; active in sharing the Gospel through social media; monthly radio program for local station called "Lutheran 3-0"

Experience with Policy-Based Governance Boards:

Other Experience/Qualifications:

*It has been a privilege and joy to serve the English District and the Church in various capacities and I am willing to serve for as long as the Lord permits it.*

## CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – LAKE ERIE REGION

### THE REV. RYAN BEFFREY

College/University: Concordia, Ann Arbor

Grad Yr/Degree: BA/Comm/Journalism/2008

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: MDiv/2012

### Congregations Served:

Epiphany, Dorr, MI

Year(s): 2017-present

Mt. Olive, Cleveland Heights, OH

Year(s): 2012-2017

### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, Circuit #9, 2015-2017; Committee on Constitutions and Membership, 2015-present; Worship Committee, 2015-present

Synod: LCMS Stewardship Ministry national training, 2014 & 2015

Other (church, community, etc.): Bible Study leader, Lutheran High School East, Cleveland Heights, OH, 2012-2017; LWML Zone counselor, English District Western Michigan, 2018-present; North Allegan County Right to Life

*I have been humbled to serve as a pastor in Christ's Church and in the Lake Erie Region of the English District for six years. Having served in two different parts of this region, I have been able to see our District at work in these places. If I am elected, it would be my honor to work with the Bishop in serving the pastors, congregations, schools, and service organizations of this region as we seek to continue to teach the faithful and reach the lost, seeing that the Lord has placed each in unique situations, each with their own unique, God-given gifts and challenges.*

## CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – LAKE ERIE REGION (CONT.)

### THE REV. DANIEL GRAMS

College/University: Concordia, Ann Arbor, MI      Grad Yr/Degree: 1998/BA-Religious Studies  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne      Grad Yr/Degree: 2002/MDiv

#### Congregations Served:

Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI	Year(s): 2013-present
St. Paul, Luxemburg, WI	Year(s): 2010-2013
Holy Trinity, Garfield, NJ	Year(s): 2002-2010
Trinity, Palo Alto, CA (vicarage)	Year(s): 2000-2001

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, SELC Eastern Circuit 2009-10; Circuit Visitor Detroit North, 2015-present; SELC District Nominations Committee, Outreach Committee; Michigan District Nominations Committee; Chair, English District Committee on Constitutions and Membership

Synod: Convention Delegate 1998, 2016; Floor Committee on Seminaries, 2016

Other (church, community, etc.): Board of Directors, Loaves & Fishes Interfaith Food Pantry; Fire Department Chaplain; Board of Directors, Care Net Pregnancy Information Center of Berkley/Detroit; Interim Principal, St. Paul Lutheran School; Campus Ministry Vicar at Stanford University; NJ District LWML Zone Counselor; Theological Educator, Ev. Lutheran Church in South Sudan/Sudan; Participant, 2018 Spring Foro Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission; Graduate of the Inaugural Class of Doxology, 2009

Experience with Policy-Based Governance Boards: Executive Secretary, Eritrean Evangelical Lutheran Synod, 1994-2003; Chairman of the Task Force on drafting a new constitution in the process of the unification of the Evangelical Synod and The Lutheran Church of Eritrea, 1995-2002; Secretary of the Eritrean Interfaith Dialogue for Peace and Reconciliation during the Eritrea/Ethiopia border conflict, 1998-2000; Founding Member of FECCLAHA, (Fellowship of Churches and Church Councils of the Horn of Africa ) on Peace and Reconciliation, 2000 -2003, Nairobi Kenya.

*If selected by the convention it would be an honor to serve alongside our President/Bishop to support his vision that congregations and church workers of our district be known by their love of of Jesus and their neighbors. My service to congregations located in diverse geographic (east, west, midwest) and ministry settings (urban, rural with school, suburban, and campus) would be helpful in our non-geographic district. I believe congregations want to know that district leaders understand the anxieties they face as many struggle with challenging ministry circumstances. It is also important for congregations to view the district as being helpful to them in developing strategies for sustaining viable Word and Sacrament ministry for the future.*

## CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – LAKE ERIE REGION (CONT.)

### THE REV. JEFFREY MISKUS

College/University: University of Windsor

Grad Yr/Degree: 1990/BA-Maj Psych

Seminary: Concordia Luth Theol Sem, St. Catharines

Grad Yr/Degree: 1994/MDiv-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: Circuit Visitor, 2002-2010; Secretary/Board of Directors Member, Canada Corporation (Canadian Church Extension Fund), 2010-present; Regional Vice President, English District, 2016-present; Chair, Organizing Committee for Lake Erie Fall Regional Conference, 2015-present

Synod: EIIT Mentor, 2012-2016; SMP Mentor, 2013-present

Other (church, community, etc.): Community Fun Fair Board Member (raising funds for 2 Christian food banks in the city of Mississauga); past soccer and hockey coach; Chair, Charity Dinner for Flooding in Mozambique

### Experience with Policy-Based Governance Boards:

Member/Secretary, Board of Directors of Canada Corporation (Canadian Church Extension Fund) which manages the investments made to the fund, sets interest rates, and considers loan requests from congregations in Canada seeking to borrow funds for capital projects. 4th 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.

*It has been an honor to serve our beloved English District as 4th Vice President over the past 3 years. I thank our Lord Jesus for the opportunity he gave me to serve you. I am willing to continue to serve the Lord's Church in these capacities. It is a great privilege.*

## CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – MIDWEST REGION

### THE REV. JAMES HUENINK

College/University: Concordia, Mequon, WI  
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Grad Yr/Degree: 2003/BA-Pastoral Ministry  
Grad Yr/Degree: 2008/MDiv

### Congregations Served:

Concordia, Berwyn, IL  
St. James, Chicago, IL

Year(s): 2013-present  
Year(s): 2008-2013

### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, Chicago-South, 2015-present; Planning committee, Midwest Fall Regional Conference, 2015-2017

Synod: Delegate, LCMS Convention, 2016; Supervisor for Deaconess Field Work Student, Concordia University Chicago

Other (church, community, etc.): Member, ministerial association in Berwyn; Committee member, Berwyn Development Corporation; Committee member, Scout Troop; Group leader, Chicago Area Runners Association

*I am happy to serve if chosen.*

## CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – MIDWEST REGION (cont.)

### THE REV. ROBERT ROGERS

College/University: Concordia University Texas

Grad Yr/Degree: 1986/BA

Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Grad Yr/Degree: 1990/MDiv

Seminary: Louisville Presbyterian Theol. Sem., Louisville, KY

Grad Yr/Degree: NA

### Congregations Served:

Trinity, Villa Park, IL

Year(s): 2005-present

Our Savior, Louisville, KY

Year(s): 2002-2004

Messiah, Seattle, WA

Year(s): 1990-2002

### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District - Midwest Regional Vice President, 2014-present; Circuit Visitor, Chicago Central Circuit; Northwest District - Board of Youth Ministry; Olympic Zone Counselor, LWML

Synod: Convention Delegate for Chicago North Circuit, 2007

Other (church, community, etc.): District Representative and Trustee, Lutheran Child and Family Services of IL; Board of Directors, Lutheran Child and Family Services of IL; Chamber of Commerce, Villa Park, IL; Puget Sound Youth Board

*If I am elected Vice-President of the Midwest Region, I will continue supporting our Bishop in his mission to make the people of the English District beacons of God's love among Christians. I will do whatever I can with the congregations of the Midwest Region to encourage the intentional proclamation of God's love in both word and deed. In addition, I will strive to be a pastor to our pastors, giving them someone to turn to when in need of a listening friend who is outside their own personal system, and consoling them with God's healing Word. Finally, I will continue to seek to improve our endowment fund, which will eventually enable us to commit to ministry that has been only a dream heretofore.*

## CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – WESTERN REGION

### THE REV. TODD ARNOLD

College/University: North Central College

Grad Yr/Degree: 1979/BA-Chem/Biology

Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Grad Yr/Degree: 1996/MDiv

Other Degrees: Advanced pastoral studies, San Francisco Theol. Seminary, San Anselmo, CA

### Congregations Served:

Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ

Year(s): 2016-present

West Portal Church and School, San Francisco, CA

Year(s): 2009-2016

Shepherd of the Pines, Payson, AZ

Year(s): 1996-2008

### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Vice President-Western Region, 2015-2018; Board of Directors, 2015-2018; Western Regional Fall Pastors Conference host committee & host church

Synod: Circuit coordinator, His Love - Our Response; Circuit Coordinator, *Ablaze*; Delegate to 2 Conventions

Other (church, community, etc.): Alpha Pregnancy Center (SF) Board of Directors; New Beginnings Crisis Pregnancy Center, (Payson) Board of Directors; Parks and Rec soccer and basketball coach; Little League Baseball coach

Experience with Policy-Based Governance Boards: 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 2 years.

### Other Experience/Qualifications:

*It has been a pleasure to serve this past triennium as 2nd Vice-President representing the Western Region. I have now served as pastor in three of the region's circuits and have developed a lot of helpful relationships. I would be honored to serve another term.*

## 2018-2021 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 19, 2018 deadline was set for Circuit Forums to be held by each Visitation Circuit. 14 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.

The following is the slate of Circuit Visitors to be ratified at the District Convention:

**Circuit 1 - New York/New Jersey**

Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt

**Circuit 2 - Philadelphia**

Rev. Adam Koontz

**Circuit 3 - Florida**

Rev. William Douthwaite

**Circuit 4 - Georgia**

Rev. David Miller

**Circuit 5 - Buffalo**

Rev. Dwayne Hendricks

**Circuit 6 - Pittsburgh**

Rev. Brian Westgate

**Circuit 7 - Canada-East**

Rev. Dusan Toth

**Circuit 8 - Canada-West**

Rev. Jason Kouri

**Circuit 9 - Cleveland-Akron**

Rev. James Gau

**Circuit 10 - Cleveland**

Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer

**Circuit 11 - Detroit-South**

Rev. Bradford Scott

**Circuit 12 - Detroit-North**

Rev. Daniel Grams

**Circuit 13 - Western Michigan**

Rev. Eric Forss

**Circuit 14 - Indiana**

Rev. Chad Trouten

**Circuit 15 - Chicago-North**

Rev. Anthony Oliphant

**Circuit 16 - Chicago-South**

Rev. James Huenink

**Circuit 17 - Milwaukee**

Rev. Fred Reaman

**Circuit 18 - St. Louis**

Rev. Theodore Laesch

**Circuit 19 - Arizona-North**

Rev. Nicholas Wirtz

**Circuit 20 - Arizona-South**

Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler

**Circuit 21 - Nevada/Utah**

Rev. Travis Lauterbach

**Circuit 22 - San Diego**

Rev. Steven Duescher

**Circuit 23 - Los Angeles**

Rev. Daniel Pezzica

**Circuit 24 - San Francisco**

Rev. John Berg

**2018 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 VII.A); and a Committee on Nominations with ordained ministers and commissioned ministers or laypersons elected from each region (District Bylaw II.D).

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 *Corporate Operations Manual* of the English District outlines the nominating process for these positions:

- C. With regard to the other positions, prepare a slate of at least two candidates for each position to be filled by the elections at the District convention. Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate; but the delegate making such nomination must present the District secretary with the written consent of the person whose name is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the convention that the nominee is able and willing to serve if elected.

Following that procedure, congregations of the District, members of the District, and members of District congregations had the opportunity to nominate individuals for election as Secretary, Directors of the District, members of the Committee on Nominations, and Managers of the Endowment Fund. This process began in September 2017; the deadline for submitting nominations was February 19, 2018.

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 are listed alphabetically on the following pages.

**SECRETARY**

The Rev. Luke Zimmerman

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**ORDAINED (Eastern/Lake Erie)**

Rev. Mark Braden  
Rev. R. Wayne Morton  
Rev. Michael Scheer  
Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel  
Rev. Robert Tauscher  
Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr.

**ORDAINED (Midwestern/Western)**

Rev. Thomas Engler  
Rev. Theodore Laesch  
Rev. Justin Laughridge  
Rev. Michael Morehouse

**COMMISSIONED (Eastern/Lake Erie)**

Deaconess Sara Bielby

**COMMISSIONED (Midwestern/Western)**

Albert Amling  
Christy Wood

**LAY (Eastern)**

Michael Coffey  
Jane Duffy  
Carol George  
Bill Magill

**LAY (Lake Erie)**

Terry Leu

**LAY (Midwestern)**

Chris Cassel  
Charles Porter

**LAY (Western)**

Shirley Holle  
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.*

**ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS**

**EASTERN REGION**

Michael Coffey

**LAKE ERIE REGION**

Rev. Ray Kirk

**MIDWESTERN REGION**

Gregory Collins  
Rex Toepke  
Alan Zacharias

**WESTERN REGION**

Rev. Fred Gerlach  
Thomas Schlitt  
Paul Sticha  
Rev. Nicholas Wirtz  
Christy Wood

**COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

**ORDAINED (Eastern)**

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, Jr.  
Rev. David Miller  
Rev. Brian Westgate

**ORDAINED (Lake Erie)**

**ORDAINED (Midwestern)**

**ORDAINED (Western)**

Rev. Travis Lauterbach

**COMMISSIONED/LAY (Eastern)**

Connor Hagey

**COMMISSIONED/LAY (Lake Erie)**

**COMMISSIONED/LAY (Midwestern)**

**COMMISSIONED/LAY (Western)**

Thomas Honebrink  
James Rawlings

## CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY

### THE REV. LUKE ZIMMERMAN

College/Univ.: Central Michigan Univ., Mt. Pleasant, MI

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Geography & Political Science/1999

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/Historical Theology/2003

#### Congregations Served:

Calvary, Mechanicsburg, PA

Year(s): 2008-present

St. John's, Casey, IA/Zion, Dexter, IA

Year(s): 2004-2008

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District – Secretary, 2015-present; Committee on Constitutions (2009-2015); Philadelphia Circuit Visitor, 2014; Committee on Nominations, 2015

Synod: Delegate, Synod Convention, 2007, 2010, 2013; 2016 Res. 11-10 LCMS Task Force on Nominations & Elections

Other (church, community, etc.): Board of Directors, Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, 2014-2017; LWML Zone Pastoral Counselor, 2006-2008; Contributing Author - *Concordia Pulpit Resources*; Contributor - *Treasury of Daily Prayer*; Regular Guest – KFUD-AM Morning Show (“His Time”/“Sharper Iron”)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Historical Theology Department Assistant, Concordia Theological Seminary (2003-2004 Academic Year).

Statement concerning candidacy: *During my ten years as a pastor within the English District, I have had the privilege of being selected for various leadership roles that require service to its congregations and their members. It is an honor to have both fellow ministers and laity entrust those duties to me. Should the delegates at the District Convention deem it wise to have me serve another term as District Secretary, I will endeavor to fulfill that office to the best of my abilities.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

### *EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS*

#### **THE REV. MARK BRADEN**

College/University: Concordia Univ., Ann Arbor	Degree/Field/Yr: BA/Human Res/1988
College/University: Eastern Michigan Univ.	Degree/Field/Yr: MS/Hosp Mgt/Educ/1995
Seminary: Concordia Theol Sem, Fort Wayne	Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2003
Seminary: Concordia Theol Sem, Fort Wayne	Degree/Field/Year: STM/2011
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; North Wisconsin District Scholarship Committee, 2005-2008; Spanish Teacher, Eau Claire Lutheran School, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, 2004-2007; Spanish Teacher, Emmanuel Lutheran School, Dearborn, Michigan 2009-2011

Synod: Adjunct Faculty, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort 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

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

Statement concerning candidacy: I am honored to be nominated for a position on the English District Board of Directors. I believe that my experience as a pastor, a theological educator, an administrator, in human resources and training and development, can be effectively brought to bear to the benefit of our District Board of Directors, and of the congregations of the District. I

speak Spanish, teach Biblical Greek, have taught extensively internationally, am experienced in urban ministry, urban renewal, facilities and property management, and community relations. Inasmuch as it is according to God's will, I believe I can effectively serve the District in this leadership role to accomplish the goals and mission of the English District.

Prior service on a board of directors: Board of Directors, Lutheran Center Association, 2013-present, currently Chairman of Board; Board of Directors, City of Dearborn Chamber of Commerce, past member; Board of Directors, Lutheran City Ministries, Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit, MI, past member

**THE REV. R. WAYNE MORTON**

College/University: Grove City College	Degree/Field/Year: BS/Math/1975
Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne	Degree/Field/Year: Grad Asst/ D. Missiology Student/1992-92
Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne	Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/1994

Congregations Served:

Shepherd of the Mountains, Pinetop, AZ	Year(s): 1994-2018
Shepherd of the Mountains, Pinetop, AZ (Vicar)	Year(s): 1993-1994

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Standard Oil of Ohio	Service Station Supervisor	Year(s): 1975-1979
Travelers Insurance	Commercial Linea Underwriter	Year(s): 1979-1989

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Member/Chair, Board of Directors, 2015-present; Chair, Committee on Nominations; Chair, Elections Committee; Circuit Visitor; Regional Vice-President; Acting Missions Council Chair; Presented Small Church Ministry workshop at a District Professional Church Workers Conference (with Rev. Todd Arnold)

Other (church, community, etc.): Blue Ridge Unified School District Site Council; Pinetop-Lakeside 2020 Vision Committee; Pinetop-Lakeside People's Vision Committee; Navopache Regional Hospital Chaplain

Statement concerning candidacy: It would be my privilege to continue serving the English District through its Board of Directors.

Prior service on a board of directors: Advisory member (regional Vice President) and Chair, English District Board of Directors, 2009-present.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

### *EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS (CONT.)*

#### **THE REV. MICHAEL SCHEER**

College/University: Miami University Oxford, OH	Degree/Field/Year: BS/Engineering/1989
Grad. School: Baldwin Wallace College	Degree/Field/Year: MA/Education/1991
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne	Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2002
Other Degrees: Kent State University	Degree/Field/Year: ABD
PhD/Education	

#### Congregations Served:

Holy Cross, Cleveland, OH	Year(s): 2017-present
Concordia University - Portland	Year(s): 2016-2017
All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA	Year(s): 2002-2015

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, 2009-2012

Synod: Board of Regents Concordia University – Portland, 2013-2016; Board of Directors, Concordia Lutheran Ministries, Cabot, PA, 2012-2015

Other (church, community, etc.): Slippery Rock School Board, 2004-2016, Board President, 2006-2014

Other Experience/Qualifications: The experience of being Director of Church Relations for Concordia University - Portland expanded my understanding of how our synod strives and sometimes struggles to walk together, and I learned a great deal working with a wide array of congregations and unique ministries from another district.

Statement concerning candidacy: I have been a member of the English District for 15 of my 16 years in ministry and understand both the unique nature of our district and the challenges we face being non-geographic and so vastly spread out across the continent. Through my service on a number of boards within the synod and in public education I believe that God has provided me with a strong foundation to serve in this position on the Board of Directors as it works to support the many congregations, schools, and outreach ministries of the district.

Prior service on a board of directors: My primary experience comes from serving as a director for the Slippery Rock Area School District Board of Education. This is a public school board that I served on for 12 years and through three election cycles. For seven of those 12 years I was the board president and worked closely with the superintendent during that time. As a board member I served on and chaired every committee available, including Personnel, Athletics, Educational Programming, and Operations. I was also the representative to our local vocational high school board of directors. In addition I conducted two superintendent searches and chaired the committees for two contract negotiations.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

### *EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS (CONT.)*

#### **THE REV. DR. DOUGLAS SPITTEL**

College/University: Concordia, Ann Arbor  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne  
Grad. Sch./Sem.: Pittsburgh Theol. Seminary  
Grad. Sch./Sem.: Duquesne University

Degree/Field/Year: BA/Sociology/1986  
Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/Past. Theol./1990  
Degree/Field/Year: DMin/Spir. Form./2007  
Degree/Field/Year: ABD PhD/Sys. Theol.

#### Congregations Served:

First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA  
John Huss, Arnold, PA

Year(s): 1998-present  
Year(s): 1990-1998

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District, Worship Committee Chairman, 2017 – present; Eastern District: Pittsburgh Southwest Circuit Visitor, 2009 – 2016; SELC District: Secretary, Central Circuit, 1996-1998

Other (church, community, etc.): Missionary, Holy Cross Lutheran Mission, Pittsburgh, PA. 2017-present; Pastoral Advisor, Lutherans for Life – Pittsburgh; 2009-present; Executive Board, Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference (LCMS); 1991-present; Mission Facilitator or Initiator: Pittsburgh Lutheran Campus Ministry, 1998; Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind, 1999; Augsburg Academy of Pittsburgh, 2000; First Trinity Homeless Ministry, 2008; and Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry, 2015

Other Experience/Qualifications: International Conference of Police Chaplains, 2006-2009; American Institute of Parliamentarians, 1995-present; several certifications and publications; (see [linkedin.com/in/douglas-spittel-7360862a](https://www.linkedin.com/in/douglas-spittel-7360862a))

Statement concerning candidacy: I am the Senior Pastor of First Trinity Lutheran Church and as such have initiated and advise our several outreach missions including those to the campus, blind, deaf, and homeless. I hold a doctorate specializing in spiritual direction and formation. I have experience in service on the Board of Directors of LCMS Recognized Service Organizations including Concordia Lutheran Ministries and Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries. I have served in financial and personnel capacities with both RSOs. I have also served our local LCMS Pastoral Conference for many years on their executive board. I am committed to serving the English District for the extension of the Gospel ministry and to the greater glory of Christ.

Prior service on a board of directors: Concordia Lutheran Ministries (LCMS RSO) Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, CLM Foundation Board, CLM of Pittsburgh Board, Mission and Ministry Committee, Nominating Committee Chairman, Personnel and Chaplaincy Committee Chairman, 2013-present; Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (LCMS RSO) Board of Directors, President, Treasurer, Urban Ministries Director, 1999-2002; 2016-present

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

### *EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS (CONT.)*

#### **THE REV. ROBERT WELDON, SR.**

College/University: Purdue University	Degree/Field/Year: Engineering
College/University: Indiana University	Degree/Field/Year: BA/GS-Psych
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne	Degree/Field/Year: MDiv
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne	Degree/Field/Year: Working on DMin

Other degrees: AS degree from Kentucky Polytechnic in Architectural Design; also attended University of Louisville for Engineering

#### Congregations Served:

Grace, Elyria, OH	Year(s): 6 years
Hope, Smyrna, TN	Year(s): 1 year
Holy Trinity, Bowling Green, KY	Year(s): 8 years

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Pastoral Advisor, LWML

Synod: Pastoral delegate at 3 Synod Conventions; Director, Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ, Indiana/Kentucky circuit

Other (congregation, community, etc.): VP of Operations, Southern Indiana Habitat for Humanity; Lorain County Habitat for Humanity; church council; construction committee and general contractor; Auxiliary Chaplain, Medical Center, Bowling Green, KY; Elder, Grace Lutheran Church

Other Relevant Experience: I have merged two sets of congregations together, one a merger of two churches that chartered Hope Lutheran Church and at my current congregation merging Trinity Lutheran Church into Grace Lutheran; President/CEO, RFW Design, Inc. for 15 yrs.; Advisory Board, Prosser Vocational School; Advisory Board, Louisville Technical School; various committees for Southern Indiana Home Builders Association, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) series 7 and series 63 licensed.

Statement concerning candidacy: I am a second career pastor who owned a successful architectural and industrial design company for 15 years until I entered the seminary. I have always been active in the community as well as the leadership of my home congregation. I feel with my experience in business, working with Habitat, and serving on advisory boards, I am qualified and have the tools to serve on the Board. In addition, my experience of merging congregations gives me additional insights to help the board with the challenges faced in our churches today.

Prior service on a board of directors: Vice president of operation for Southern Indiana Habitat for Humanity, responsible for all the construction management of Habitat projects.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

### *MIDWESTERN / WESTERN REGIONS*

#### **THE REV. THOMAS ENGLER**

College/University: University of Nebraska-Lincoln Degree/Field/Year: BA/Chemistry/1986  
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/1990  
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Degree/Field/Year: STM/OT Exegesis/1999

#### **Congregations Served:**

Prince of Peace, Menomonee Falls, WI	Year(s): 2014-present
St. Mark's, Ridley Park, PA	Year(s): 2009-2014
Calvary, Havertown, PA/St. John, Springfield, PA	Year(s): 2002-2007/2005-2007
Oksudong, Seoul, Korea (Asst to Pastor)	Year(s): 1995-2001
St. John, Staten Island, NY	Year(s): 1990-1994

#### **SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

**District:** Mission Developer, LCMS-Eastern District, 2002-2005; Executive Director, Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, 2004-2007, 2009-2014; Member, Missions Council, English District, 2014-present

**Synod:** Missionary to Korea, 1994-2001; Assistant Professor, Luther (Theological) University, 1998-2001; Korean Lutheran Hour Director, 1997-2001; Urban Strategist for Philadelphia, LCMS World Mission, 2007-2009; LCMS Board for National Missions, 2010- 2014

**Statement concerning candidacy:** My greatest desire is to see the English District grow in missions and I would hope the Board of Directors members would direct all toward this goal. Mission is the Lord's work. His authority is behind it. Mission is pleasing to God because through it Christ establishes His Church and brings His Kingdom.

**Prior service on a board of directors:** Member of the Board for National Missions (BNM) of the LCMS - policy based governance; Writing and amending of the policies for the Office of National Missions; Executive Director of Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, a RSO of the LCMS, and worked closely with a dedicated Board of Directors using policy based governance

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

### *MIDWEST / WESTERN REGIONS (cont.)*

#### **THE REV. THEODORE LAESCH**

College/University: Concordia University, River Forest, IL Degree/Field/Year: BA/1993  
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/1998  
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Degree/Field/Year: STM/1999

#### **Congregations Served:**

Chapel of the Cross, St. Louis, MO Year(s): 2005-present  
Christ the Life, San Jose, CA Year(s): 1999-2005

#### **SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

**District:** CNH District - Stewardship Committee; English District - Human Care and Disaster Response Committee

**Other (congregation, community, etc.):** Board of Trustees, Lutheran High School Association of St. Louis, 2012-present; Board of Directors, The Lutheran Hope Center of Ferguson, 2016-present

**Statement concerning candidacy:** We live in a world which is in desperate need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The congregations of the English District have the responsibility and the opportunity to be the light of Christ to a world darkened by sin and to bring that Gospel of Jesus to His children throughout our nation and world. It would be a privilege to serve on the Board of Directors of the English District as we work to strengthen, support, and encourage new and existing congregations and ministries to reach the lost for Christ.

**Prior service on a board of directors:** I currently serve on the Lutheran High School of St. Louis (LHSA) Board of Trustees. LHSA provides college preparatory education through two high schools in the St. Louis area. The Board of Trustees meets regularly to set policy, plan strategically for the future of Lutheran secondary education in the St. Louis area, and monitor progress on those goals. I have also served on call committees and strategic planning committees as part of my service with the LHSA. I also currently serve on the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Hope Center of Ferguson. The mission of the Hope Center is to give the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ to a broken and hurting community in words and acts of mercy.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

### *MIDWEST / WESTERN REGIONS (cont.)*

#### **THE REV. DR. MICHAEL MOREHOUSE**

College/University: University of Michigan  
College/University: Adrian College  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne  
Grad. Sch./Sem.: Trinity Ev. Div. School

Degree/Field/Yr: ROTC (Signal Corps)/1985  
Degree/Field/Yr: BBA/Mgt/German/1987  
Degree/Field/Yr: MDiv/History/1998  
Degree/Field/Yr: DMin/Pastoral Min./2017

#### Congregations Served:

Catalina, Tucson, AZ	Year(s): 1998-present
Christ Lutheran Mission, Marana, AZ	Year(s): 1999-2006

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Vice-President, University of Arizona Campus Christian Center Board of Directors, 2006-present; Interim Circuit Visitor, Arizona South Circuit, 2015

Synod: Operation Barnabas Advisory Group, St. Louis, MO, 2007-present; Board of Regents, Concordia University Irvine, CA, 2010-2016;

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Interim Chaplain/Supervisor, LCMSU U of AZ, 2014-2015; AZ South Lutheran Servanthood School Instructor, 1999-present; Supervisory Chaplain, US Army, Army National Guard, 1999-2006; Saddlebrooke Rotary, 1999-2002; Officiant/Preacher, Annual Catalina Community Veterans' Day Memorial Service, 2011-2017

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: I served as an Army Staff Officer in Battalion and Brigade level units for twelve years. These positions provided oversight of various specialized areas and staff members served to advise commanders in their military decision-making process. The model of governance used in those settings is most readily compared to a not-for-profit advisory board.

Statement concerning candidacy: I am willing to serve if elected. Catalina Lutheran Church council and voters' assemblies both support my nomination.

Prior service on a board of directors: As a member of the U of AZ Campus Christian Center CCC Board of Directors, a not-for-profit entity, I served as an English District pastoral voting representative, and for several years, as Vice-President. We use a management team model of governance blended with a cooperative governance model. As a member of the Board of Regents of CUI, I served as the LCMS Synod-elected pastor voting representative. A policy board model of governance was used during my tenure.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – COMMISSIONED

### *MIDWESTERN / WESTERN REGIONS*

#### **ALBERT AMLING**

College/University: Concordia, Mequon, WI

Degree/Field/Year: MS/1991

College/University: Concordia, Seward, NE

Degree/Field/Year: BS/1981

Present Congregation: Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI

#### Congregations/Schools Served:

Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI (Teacher/Principal)

Year(s): 1995-present

Trinity, Mequon, WI (Principal/Teacher)

Year(s): 1986-1995

St. John's, Orange, CA (Teacher/Assistant Principal)

Year(s): 1982-1986

Trinity, Grand Island, NE (Teacher)

Year(s): 1981-1982

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: South Wisconsin District – Superintendents Cabinet, Teacher of the Year committee chairman, Principals Conference chairman, Salary Committee, Board of Directors and Program Committee, Lutheran Special School; English District – Accreditation Commission, Board of Directors, 2005-2006, Board of Directors, 2009-present

Synod: LEA - Convocation Steering Committee, 1993, 2013

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Lay Worship Assistant; Bible class leader; Coach

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: God has provided me opportunity in the past to provide vision for the future of the organizations that I serve. I would be honored to continue working with the Board of Directors in the future.

Prior service on a board of directors: Hales Corners Lutheran has been policy based for the past 20 plus years. In my role as principal, I am directly involved in this process from a staff position. I have worked in policy-based governance as a leader in our church since 1995 as well as a district board member for 11 years.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY**

***EASTERN REGION***

**MICHAEL COFFEY**

College/University: Cornell University

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Agri./1963

Present Congregation: Trinity, Scarsdale, NY

Occupation: Retired

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Owner, C & C Moving & Storage

Year(s): 25 years

Councilman, City of White Plains

Year(s): 1974-1993

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Delegate, 5 District Conventions

Synod: Delegate, 2 LCMS Conventions; Floor Committee, LCMS Convention

Other (congregation, community, etc.): President and Elder, Trinity Lutheran Church; also served as Property Manager and Treasurer

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: President and Member, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans; Councilman, 20 years experience with federal community development funds for various city projects (as both grants and gifts)

Statement concerning candidacy: I am pleased to serve my Lord and my Church in any way possible.

Prior service on a board of directors:

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

### *EASTERN REGION (CONT.)*

#### **JANE DUFFY**

College/University: Rutgers University

Degree/Field/Year: BA/Economics/1986

Present Congregation: Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ

Occupation:

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

General Accident Insurance, accountant

Year(s): 1989-1993

Prudential Insurance, accountant

Year(s): 1986-1989

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Lay Member, English District Board of Directors 2012-present; Convention Delegate - 2018, 2015, 2012, 2009, 2003

Synod: Convention Delegate 2013, 2010 and Member of Elections Floor Committee, 2010 Convention

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Business Administrator/Treasurer, Martin Luther Chapel and Christian School, 1999-present; Member, Board of Christian Education, 1997-present; Treasurer and Member of Executive Board, Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, 2010-2012; Treasurer, Metro-Camden Habitat for Humanity, 1994-1998; Executive Board Member and Treasurer Haddon Township Crew Club, 2012-2017

Statement concerning candidacy: I believe it is important to have Board members of varying perspectives and experience in different settings. The church that I attend and serve is in a changing/urban neighborhood and our school shares the love of Christ with a multi-cultural population.

Prior service on a board of directors: I am currently serving as a member of the English District Board of Directors and have served as a Board Member of the Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries (PLM).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

### *EASTERN REGION (CONT.)*

#### **CAROL GEORGE**

College/University: University of Pittsburgh Degree/Field/Year: BA/Political Science/1975  
Grad. School: Edinboro University of Penns. Degree/Field/Year: MA/Rehab Counseling/1982

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-present
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 and 2018

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

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 recently returned from 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.

Prior service on a board of directors: For the past three 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.

**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/International 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

Other (congregation, community, etc.): President, Elder/Head Elder, Director of Mercy Works Ministry, Call Committees - Celebration Lutheran Church; Team Leader, South Africa Mission Trips; President and Board of Directors, Truck Body & Equipment Association (national association of truck equipment manufacturers and distributors); President and Board of Directors, Secret Oaks Homeowners Association

Statement concerning candidacy: I see my nomination to serve on the English District Board as an honor and privilege. I look forward to being a part of the good work being accomplished by the English District in expanding God's kingdom. The Lord has blessed me with an abundance of gifts and opportunities throughout my life. If any of my talents are viewed as beneficial to the English District, I would appreciate the opportunity to put them to good use.

Prior service on a board of directors: English District Board of Directors; Board Member and Past President, Truck Body & Equipment Association – Governing Board; Homeowners Association, Working Board

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

### *LAKE ERIE REGION*

#### **TERRY LEU**

College/University: Ashland College

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Elem Ed/1978

Present Congregation: Prince of Peace, Medina, OH

Occupation: Retired - Self-employed, retail sales

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Terleu Enterprises, DBA Rolston Poultry

Year(s): 1992-2016

Leu Brothers Meats

Year(s): 1978-1992

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Member, District Board of Directors, 2012-present; Board Representative to Endowment Fund Board of Managers, 2016-present

Synod: Lay Delegate, Synodical Conventions, 2001, 2004, 2013; Advisory Delegate, Synodical Convention, 2016

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Currently - Youth Director, Confirmation teacher, high school Bible class teacher; Formerly - Executive Director, Assistant Director, Head Elder, Elder, Trustee, many other boards and committees

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: I am a lifelong Lutheran actively involved in many different ministries of my local congregation and circuit. I have organized and led youth mission trips, retreats and Bible studies. Owning and operating my own business has given me sound decision-making skills. Being retired has given me time to serve.

Prior service on a board of directors: As a member of the English District Board of Directors, I have served on a variety of task forces when asked. I have worked with all parts of our congregation's government, and as a leader, I am active in policy making and goal setting.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

### *MIDWESTERN REGION*

#### **CHRISTOPHER CASSEL**

College/Univ.: Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Bus Admin/Mgmt  
1990

College/Univ.: Concordia Univ., Mequon, NE

Degree/Field/Year: MBA/Mgmt Info Sys  
2013

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Lincoln, NE

Occupation: Software Development Manager

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Assurity Life Insurance/Software Development Manager	Year(s): 6
Nebraska Dept. of Educ./Director, Neb. Student & Staff Record Sys	Year(s): 8
University of Nebraska/Data Warehouse Analyst	Year(s): 3
Lucent Technologies/Senior Software Developer	Year(s): 1
Electronic Data Systems/Software Developer Manager	Year(s): 10

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District Board of Directors, 2015-present; Lay Delegate, English District Convention, 2015; English District Nominating Committee, 2015

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Redeemer Board of Elders, 2009-present (Chair, 2013-2015); Redeemer Foundation Inc., Board of Directors, 2015-present (President, 2016-present); Redeemer Personnel Committee, 2009-present (Chair, 2013-2015); Redeemer Church Council, 2009-present; Redeemer Budget Study Committee, 2009-2011 (Chair, 2011); Redeemer Board of Ushers, 2002-present; Facilitator, Financial Peace University at Redeemer, 2007-2008; Leader, DivorceCare at Redeemer, 2010-2011; Concordia University, Seward, NE, Weller Society for Leadership, 2014-present

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: My professional experience involves supervision and leading large software development and integration projects. The opportunities to serve Redeemer, Lincoln and the English District continue to reinforce the notion that the skills and practices developed during my professional life might be considered warm-up for application more directly to left-hand activities of our church bodies. Examples include job description and salary administration as well as leading the effort to switch from percentage-based tuition assistance model to an amount per student to more effectively budget congregational expenditures.

Statement concerning candidacy: The English District Board of Directors is a wonderful opportunity for a layperson to serve the Body of Christ. I am constantly reminded of how blessed the English District is to have congregations across the United States and Ontario, Canada, bringing the same Gospel of Jesus Christ to such varied and unique circumstances.

The Board should continue holding its regular meetings at member congregations, which enables Board members, District staff, pastors, and laypersons to encourage each other and see firsthand how His Word does not return to him empty.

Prior service on a board of directors: My board experience includes the English District and Redeemer Foundation, Inc., my congregation's charitable foundation. I currently serve as a lay member of the English District Board of Directors representing the Midwest Region and assisted in crafting this triennium's End Statements. As President of Redeemer Foundation, Inc., I led efforts to implement a Gift Acceptance Policy, Investment Policy, and Spending Policy as well as host an LCMS Foundation "Lifetime Plan for Giving"© event.

### **CHARLES PORTER**

Present Congregation: Greenfield Park, West Allis, WI

Occupation: Tool and Die Maker

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Strattec Security Co., Tool & Die Maker

Year(s): 1986-present

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Trained Reconciler; Convention lay delegate; lay delegate, Circuit Forum, 2014

Synod: Trained Reconciler; lay delegate, Synod Convention

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Greenfield Park: Service Team, 1990-present; Congregation chair, 1995-2004; Nurture Team, 1990-1995; Board of Public Works, City of Franklin; Executive board member (Trustee, Sergeant at Arms), United Steel Workers, Local 2-232

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Member of exploratory team, mission to Panama; various positions at pack and troop level, Boy Scouts of America;

Statement concerning candidacy: It is a true honor to be nominated to serve in this position. If elected, I pledge, with God's guidance, to use my gifts and talents to serve as needed.

Prior service on a board of directors: Local union executive board member for 12 years, plus other duties; Board of Public Works member for 7 years. Both these and other positions I have served on over the years require guidance and fiscal responsibility.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

### *WESTERN REGION*

#### **SHIRLEY HOLLE**

College/Univ.: Western Illinois University

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Math Ed/1973

College/Univ.: Florida International University

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Computer Sci/1980

Present Congregation: Catalina, Catalina, AZ

Occupation:

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Realtor, Long Realty

Year(s): 2000-present

Personal Assistant, Dillard Group Real Estate

Year(s): 1992-2000

Holle Computer Consultant, Self-employed

Year(s): 1981-1992

Lutheran HS of South Florida/teacher, basketball coach

Year(s): 1973-1977

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District Board of Directors, 2015-present; LWML English District President, 2010-2014; LWML English District VP of Christian Life, 2002-2008

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Congregation: Member of Bell Choir, VBS Teacher, Sunday School Teacher, Women’s Bible study leader; LWML: Zone President, Bylaws, and VP of Christian Life, same at Society Level

Statement concerning candidacy: I believe that helping church workers pay off student educational debt is very important and also for congregations to be aware of the need for Church Workers to have a decent salary. It is important to encourage people to be active in the life of the Church and in their communities - Loving their neighbor.

Prior service on a board of directors: English Board of Directors; Board of Education for Lutheran HS of South Florida; National LWML Board of Directors, 2010-2014

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

### *WESTERN REGION (CONT.)*

#### **KRISTIN WELLIK**

College/Univ.: University of Arizona

Degree/Field/Year: BA/Marketing/1987

Present Congregation: Ascension, Tucson, AZ

Occupation: Financial Planning

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Ascension Lutheran Church: Congregational President, 2 terms; Confirmation teacher, 6 years; High School Youth Coordinator, 3 years; Congregation Secretary, 5 years; VBS teacher; LCMS-U at U of AZ: Board Secretary, 4 years

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Boy Scouts of America Catalina Council: District Membership Chair, 4 years; Pack Trainer, 3 years; Den Leader, 6 years; Junior League of Tucson: President, Secretary, Fund Development Director, Chair; Board positions provided opportunities to participate in Association conferences and training conferences; currently a sustaining member; Sigma Kappa Sorority: Chapter President (college) (included participation at national conference); Corporation Board President (after graduation)

Statement concerning candidacy: 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 have had the privilege to serve on different types of boards and have attended many conferences. I am one of those people who enjoy meetings. Through travels and our son's pursuit of becoming a LCMS pastor, I have had the opportunity to visit many churches and interact with many pastors. I am passionate about the LCMS and welcome the opportunity to serve at the district level.

Prior service on a board of directors: Ascension Lutheran Church: I served as secretary during the process of moving from a board system to the Carver Governance Model. I participated in the writing of a new Constitution/Bylaws, and the creation and evaluation of policies. Once we became a governance board, I served as secretary and as president. Junior League of Tucson: time served on the board was 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.

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

### *EASTERN REGION*

#### **MICHAEL COFFEY**

College/University: Cornell University

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Agri./1963

Present Congregation: Trinity, Scarsdale, NY

Occupation: Retired

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Owner, C & C Moving & Storage

Year(s): 25 years

Councilman, City of White Plains

Year(s): 1974-1993

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Delegate, 5 District Conventions

Synod: Delegate, 2 LCMS Conventions; Floor Committee, LCMS Convention

Other (congregation, community, etc.): President and Elder, Trinity Lutheran Church; also served as Property Manager and Treasurer

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: President and Member, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans; Councilman-20 years of experience with federal community development funds for various city projects (as both grants and gifts)

Statement concerning candidacy: I am pleased to serve my Lord and my Church in any way possible.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: Thrivent Financial for Lutherans—board member and chapter president; point person to oversee reconstruction of church (outside roof, dormers, porch, steeple work) in excess of \$400,000. Redoing outside grounds (\$35,000). Supporter of various mission projects, Wartburg Home, Concordia, Bronxville, Lutheran World Relief, two seminary students (one from each seminary) for past several years.

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

### *EASTERN REGION (CONT.)*

#### **CONNOR HAGEY**

College/University: Shippensburg University Degree/Field/Year: BS/Bus. Mktg./2003

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Oakmont, PA

Occupation: Director of Retirement Living

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Concordia Lutheran Ministries/ Director of Retirement Living Year(s): 2013-present

PNC Bank, N.A./multiple investment operations positions Year(s): 2005-2013

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Current Director, Redeemer Lutheran School Board of Directors; Current Chairman, Redeemer Lutheran Church Board of Christian Education; Former Vice President, Redeemer Lutheran Church; Former Chairman & President, Redeemer Lutheran School Board of Directors; Former Chairman, Redeemer Lutheran School Call Committee

Statement concerning candidacy: I consider it to be both a blessing and honor to be considered for a role within the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, English District. Should the Lord see fit to have me serve the English District in any capacity, I will do so with joy and commitment to His glory and honor.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: I currently sit on three different endowment fund boards: Concordia Lutheran Ministries (CLM) Foundation; Rebecca Residence Foundation (CLM subsidiary); Redeemer Lutheran School (RLS) Finance Committee, Committee Chair (oversees RLS endowment fund)

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

### *LAKE ERIE REGION*

#### **THE REV. RAY KIRK**

College/Univ.: Concordia College, Bronxville, NY Degree/Field/Year: AA/Liberal Arts/1966

College/Univ.: Concordia Sr. College, Ft. Wayne, IN Degree/Field/Year: BA/Liberal Arts/1968

Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/Theology/1972

Present Congregation: Retired

#### Congregations Served:

Hope, Kitchener, ON (Intentional Interim) Year(s): 2017-present

Trinity, Syracuse, NY Year(s): 1999-2010

St. Matthew, Scarborough, ON Year(s): 1982-1998

Lutherwood Children's Mental Health Centre, Waterloo, ON Year(s): 1977-1982

St. Paul's & Zion, Indian Head/Wolseley Year(s): 1972-1977

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District: Canada Circuit Visitor, 1985-1994; Endowment Fund Board of Managers, 2013-present; Eastern District: Circuit Visitor, Central/New York North, 2002-2006; Mission Board, 2004-2006; Manitoba-Saskatchewan District: Director of Public Relations, 1974-1977

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Pastoral Care Committee, Chair, Scarborough General Hospital, 1984-1991; Board Member, The practices of Ministry in Canada Journal (PMC), 1984-1988; Board member, Kitchener-Waterloo Social Planning Council, 1981-1982

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: My previous experience as a Public Relations Director and in public relations and development at a Lutheran children's mental health center as well as a promoter of stewardship principles in parishes has provided me with experience to offer the Endowment Fund Managers ways to promote contributions to this significant Fund. As a parish pastor I can bring that perspective to reviewing and recommending grant proposals.

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

### *MIDWESTERN REGION*

#### **GREG COLLINS**

College/Univ.: Univ. of North Dakota                      Degree/Field/Year: Journalism/Political Science

Present Congregation: Hope, Hastings, MN

Occupation: Financial Advisor

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District:

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Congregational President; Past President, Noontime Kiwanis; Past Vice President, Black Dirt Theater Association; Past Board Member, Chamber of Commerce

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Currently own and operate Collins Wealth Management, financial advisory firm managing over \$60 million in assets

Statement concerning candidacy: I have over 25 years experience in active asset management and my firm currently manages Minnesota South LCMS Endowment Fund and understands the concerns and needs a board member has.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: Over 25 years experience in active asset management which gives me special insight into grant applications in addition to understanding how each investment class is impacted by markets and interest rates.

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

### *MIDWESTERN REGION (CONT.)*

#### **REX TOEPKE**

College/Univ.: Illinois State Univ., Normal, IL Degree/Field/Year: BS/Educ.

College/Univ.: Joliet Jr. College, Joliet, IL Degree/Field/Year: Acct & Programming

Present Congregation: Trinity, New Lenox, IL

Occupation: Retired

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Northern Trust Company/2<sup>nd</sup> VP-Trust tax Year(s): 16 yrs.

Other Community Banks Year(s): 27 yrs.

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Trinity Lutheran Church: Treasurer, 6 yrs; Council President, 6 yrs; Boy Scouts of America, Assistant Leader and Chaplain, 7 yrs

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Board member, New Lenox School District, 12 yrs

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.

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.

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

### *MIDWESTERN REGION (CONT.)*

#### **ALAN ZACHARIAS**

College/Univ.: Murray State University      Degree/Field/Year: Mktg & Journalism/1984  
College/Univ.: Dominican University      Degree/Field/Year: MBA/Mktg & Finance/1999  
College/Univ.: University of Missouri      Degree/Field/Year: ABD (PhD)/Ed. Leadership  
Other Degrees/Educ.: Higher Education Leadership Program, Harvard University, 2000

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Elmhurst, IL

Occupation: Development Consultant

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Alan Zacharias Assoc., LLC/President	Year(s): 1999-present
Gonser Gerber/Consultant	Year(s): 2004-2009
SE Missouri State Univ./VP, University Advancement	Year(s): 2000-2004
Concordia Univ. Chicago Foundation/President	Year(s): 1995-2000
Concordia Univ. Irvine/VP, University Advancement	Year(s): 1988-1995

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Endowment Fund Board of Managers

Synod: Stewardship Project Coordinator, LCMS Department of Stewardship

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Although my work travel makes it difficult to be integrally involved in congregational leadership, I am a committed member of the LCMS and my congregation.

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: As a consultant working with numerous Lutheran Christian organizations, I am able to bring to the Endowment Committee clarity around best practices and procedures, and how to help the Endowment Fund grow.

Statement concerning candidacy: I am a lifelong Lutheran with a long history of helping Lutheran organizations achieve their highest potential. It is an honor to serve on the Board of Managers, and to use the experiences and the gifts that God has given me to help advance the mission of the English District.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: Executive Director, Concordia University Irvine Foundation; President, Concordia University Chicago Foundation; Executive Director, Southeast Missouri State University Foundation; Advisor, Lutheran Legacy Foundation/Clara and Spencer Werner Foundation

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

### *WESTERN REGION*

#### **THE REV. FRED GERLACH**

College/University: Pace University Degree/Field/Year: BBA/Pub. Accting/1979

College/University: Concordia Seminary, St Louis Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2005

#### Congregations Served:

Family of Christ, Phoenix, AZ Year(s): 2018

Bethany, Ewing, NJ Year(s): 2005-2018

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Endowment Fund Board of Managers, 2013-present

Other (congregation, community, etc.): While serving at Bethany in Ewing, NJ, I was a member of the Ewing Drug and Alcohol Alliance supporting initiatives promoting the prevention of substance abuse. I also belong to Trenton Health Team, a faith-based state organization promoting and supporting programs to benefit various members of the community that provide access to various health programs, supported community safety and overall health of the citizens of our community.

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: After graduating Pace University, I was employed by the investment banking firm Solomon Bros., was a real estate broker and worked 16 years in the mortgage banking industry.

Statement concerning candidacy: Bethany Lutheran in NJ is a mission congregation to Liberian immigrants and other ethnic groups in the community. Serving on the board gives me the opportunity to help other congregations to reach out to various groups of people to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: Having served in a mission church for 13 years, I have developed understanding of what is required to evangelize in a multi-cultural community. My finance and practical experience as a pastor in the mission field gives me knowledge to evaluate the proposals that come before board, to offer insights as to the challenges mission congregations encounter and to encourage congregations to seek ways to reach the lost in creative and productive ways.

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

### *WESTERN REGION (CONT.)*

#### **THOMAS SCHLITT**

Coll./Univ.: Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Degree/Field/Year: BBA/Mgmt Inf Sys/1980

Grad. Schl: Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Degree/Field/Year: MS/ Mgmt Inf Sys/1988

Occupation: Retired

Present Congregation: Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Firstar Information Services Corp-Information Services Officer Year(s): 1981-2000

Firstar Trust Co-Trust Accounting & Operations-Assistant VP Year(s): 1965-1981

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Endowment Fund Board Manager, 2013-present

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Risen Savior: Member of Endowment Fund Board, 2009-2015, 4 years as Chairman; Appointed to Endowment Fund Board as Chairman, Feb. 2018; Stewardship Team, 2008-2016; Also involved in S.O.U.L. lunch program and ushering; Volunteer tax preparer for 14 years; Faith, Germantown, WI: Congregational VP, President, Member of Stewardship Team, and Usher

Statement concerning candidacy: I love serving the Lord and His Church. I desire to use the spiritual gifts that God has given me to further the work of the Church through the Endowment Fund. I want to prudently invest the funds God has provided by carefully selecting and employing investment management firms at reasonable fees. I also believe I can carefully review ministry grant requests with the goal of maximizing the effectiveness of each dollar invested in projects.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: I believe that I have the qualifications and God-given abilities to be an effective member of the Endowment Fund Board of Managers. I have years of experience with investment securities dating back to 1965 and, more recently, as a member of the Risen Savior Lutheran Church Endowment Fund and chairman for four years. When I worked in Information Technology, I managed a project to reengineer a Bond Portfolio Analysis System. As a member of the Stewardship Team at Risen Savior, I have been involved in the promotion of stewardship.

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

### *WESTERN REGION (CONT.)*

#### **PAUL STICHA**

Coll./Univ.: Univ. of Wisconsin-Whitewater Degree/Field/Year: BBA/Economics/1976  
Grad. School: Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison Degree/Field/Year: MS/Actuarial Science/1981  
Other: Fellow of the Society of Actuaries (FSA)/1989

Present Congregation: Catalina, Catalina, AZ

Occupation: Retired

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Sentry Insurance - Actuary Year(s): 33 years

#### 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: St. Paul, Stevens Point, WI: Financial Secretary, 8 years, Stewardship Board, 10 years; Sentry Credit Union Board of Directors, 15 years.

Statement concerning candidacy: I have a life-long commitment to analyzing financial information and making sound financial decisions.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: I was an actuary for an insurance company for 33 years. My work involved developing mathematical models and making projections to assist management in making sound financial decisions. I have no direct experience in marketing, investment decision-making or working with grants.

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

### *WESTERN REGION (CONT.)*

#### **THE REV. NICHOLAS WIRTZ**

College/Univ.: Concordia, Portland, OR

Degree/Field/Year: BA/Beh. Sci./1985

College/Univ.: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne

Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/Missions/1994

#### Congregations Served:

Faith, Overgaard, AZ

Year(s): 2013-present

Highland Park, Los Angeles, CA

Year(s): 1999-2013

Lamb of God, Ontario, CA

Year(s): 1996-1999

St. Paul, West Point, NE

Year(s): 1994-1996

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, Arizona North Circuit, 2017-present; Circuit Visitor, Los Angeles Circuit, 2007-2013

Synod: Missions Floor Committee, LCMS Convention, 2001

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Overgaard: Secretary, Citizen's Emergency Response Team; Chaplain, American Legion Riders Post 86; Advisory Board Member, Overgaard Salvation Army; Secretary, Zane Grey Community Clubhouse; Columnist, Mogollon Rim News.

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: While experience with financial management is limited to pastoral observance and advice to congregation councils and boards, experience in communication, publication and promotion is extensive, going back more than 40 years.

Statement concerning candidacy: Again, while my financial management experience has been mostly advisory, I have always learned well "on the job". As promoting the Fund is part of the job description, I am well qualified to jump right in in that area. I would be honored to serve this district however I can.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: I have already addressed "promotion" above. As for "overseeing investments", as a de facto member of every church council and board I have served, I have had almost 25 years of observing and advising congregations regarding faithful stewardship. Review and recommendation for "grants" has been a constant part of my job for the last 25 years, as we look at how to help the needy, which missions to support, and support of seminary students and missionaries.

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

### *EASTERN REGION*

#### **THE REV. ROBERT KIESELOWSKY, JR.**

College/Univ.: Philadelphia Biblical Univ.

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Bibl. studies/2000

College/Univ.: University of Virginia

Degree/Field/Year: ME/Educ Social Found/  
2007

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft Wayne, IN

Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2011

#### Congregations Served:

Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, Executive Director

Year(s): 2012-present

St. John, Springfield, PA

Year(s): 2012-present

Immanuel, Alexandria, VA

Year(s): 2011-2012

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, 2015-present

#### **THE REV. BRIAN WESTGATE**

College/University: Martin Luther College

Degree/Field/Year: BA/Pre-Sem/2004

Seminary: Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Degree/Field/Year:

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft Wayne, IN

Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2011

#### Congregations Served:

Redeemer, Oakmont, PA

Year(s): 2016-present

Faith, Butler, PA

Year(s): 2011-2016

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor; Human Care-Disaster Relief Coordinator; Committee on Nominations

Other (congregation, community, etc.): English District Representative on the Board of Directors of Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries, 2013-2016, 2017-present, serving as president for most of that time, and as Secretary for a short period in 2017; Secretary, Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference of the LCMS, 2017-present

Statement concerning candidacy: It will be an honor to serve on this committee again in 2021.

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

### *EASTERN REGION*

#### **CONNOR HAGEY**

College/University: Shippensburg University      Degree/Field/Year: BS/Bus. Mktg./2003

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Oakmont, PA

Occupation: Director of Retirement Living

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Concordia Lutheran Ministries/ Director of Retirement Living      Year(s): 2013-present

PNC Bank, N.A./multiple investment operations positions      Year(s): 2005-2013

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Current Director, Redeemer Lutheran School Board of Directors; Current Chairman, Redeemer Lutheran Church Board of Christian Education; Former Vice President, Redeemer Lutheran Church; Former Chairman & President, Redeemer Lutheran School Board of Directors; Former Chairman, Redeemer Lutheran School Call Committee

Statement concerning candidacy: I consider it to be both a blessing and honor to be considered for a role within the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, English District. Should the Lord see fit to have me serve the English District in any capacity, I will do so with joy and commitment to His glory and honor.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: I currently sit on three different endowment fund boards: Concordia Lutheran Ministries (CLM) Foundation; Rebecca Residence Foundation (CLM subsidiary); Redeemer Lutheran School (RLS) Finance Committee, Committee Chair (oversees RLS endowment fund)

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

### *WESTERN REGION*

#### **THOMAS HONEBRINK**

College/University: Concordia, St. Paul      Degree/Field/Year: BA/Environ. Science/1989

Present Congregation: Catalina, Tucson, AZ

Occupation: Deacon/Teacher

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Casas Christian School/Middle School Science Teacher	Year(s): 1 yr.
Catalina Lutheran Church/Deacon and Assistant	Year(s): 7 yrs.
Oro Valley Pediatrics/Administrator	Year(s): 7 yrs.
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency/Rule Coordinator	Year(s): 5 yrs.
United States Peace Corps/Conservation Officer	Year(s): 2 yrs.

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Committee on Nominations, 2012-present; Convention Lay Delegate, 2006

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Deacon of Music, Bell Choir Director, Bible Study Leader, Elder, VBS and Sunday School Teacher, School Board Chair, Pregnancy Center Board Member, Town Parks and Recreation Board Chair, Concordia-St. Paul Alumni Council, Little League Coach

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Participant at Institute on Liturgy, Worship and Church Music

Statement concerning candidacy: I enjoy serving God in whatever avenues and through whatever means He provides.

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

### WESTERN REGION (CONT.)

#### **JAMES RAWLINGS**

College/University: Concordia, River Forest Degree/Field/Year: BA/Sec. Educ., Math/1972

Grad School: Barry College Degree/Field/Year: MS/Admin-Super/1976

Present Congregation: Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ

Occupation: Retired

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Wisc Valley Luth HS, Mosinee, WI – Admin, Teacher	Year(s): 2003-2008
Lutheran HS, San Antonio, TX – Principal	Year(s): 2001-2003
Lutheran HS, Little Rock, AR – Asst. Principal, Teacher	Year(s): 1998-2001
Christ, Little Rock, AR - Principal, Teacher, AD	Year(s): 1986-1998
St. Martins, Clintonville, WI – Principal, Teacher, AD	Year(s): 1977-1986
Holy Cross, North Miami, FL – Teacher, AD	Year(s): 1972-1977

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Mid-South District: Elections Committee; Committee for Teachers Conference and District Principals Conference; Mid-South and North Wisconsin Districts: National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) Committee

Synod: Advisory Delegate, LCMS Convention; Board Member, National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA); visiting team member at numerous schools for NLSA

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Member, various congregational boards; Member, Board for SAFE Lutheran (a scholarship organization for Lutheran schools in Arizona); Member, Lutheran High School Exploratory Committee; Member, men’s Bible study; Member, Founding Committee for Gracepoint (now Crosspoint) Lutheran Church, Sahuarita, AZ

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Experience in reading resumes and qualifications as an administrator of Lutheran schools

Statement concerning candidacy: I am willing and able to serve on the Nominations Committee to find the best qualified candidates for our District offices.

**2018 ENGLISH DISTRICT NOMINATION REPORT**  
**SYNOD COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS**

Synod Bylaws 3.12.3.1, 3.12.3.2, and 3.12.3.3 establish the process by which the Synod Committee for Convention Nominations is elected:

- 3.12.3.1 In preparation for a convention of the Synod, one-half of the districts shall elect through their regular election procedures at the district convention one member to the Committee for Convention Nominations and an alternate:

Atlantic	Nebraska
California-Nevada-	North Wisconsin
Hawaii	Northern Illinois
Central Illinois	Northwest
Florida-Georgia	Oklahoma
Indiana	SELC
Iowa West	South Dakota
Minnesota South	Southern
Missouri	Wyoming

- 3.12.3.2 In preparation for the following convention, the remaining districts shall elect in the same manner:

Eastern	New Jersey
English	North Dakota
Iowa East	Ohio
Kansas	Rocky Mountain
Michigan	South Wisconsin
Mid-South	Southeastern
Minnesota North	Pacific Southwest
Montana	Southern Illinois
New England	Texas

- 3.12.3.3 One-half of the electing districts shall be designated by the Secretary of the Synod to elect a professional church worker and the other half a layperson, with roles reversed every six years.

In a July 2017 memo from Synod Secretary John Sias, the English District was informed of its duty to elect a layperson to serve on the Synod Committee for Convention Nominations, as well as an alternate. Congregations of the District had opportunity to nominate a layperson for this role. This process began in September 2017; the deadline for submitting nominations was February 19, 2018.

Nominations received were submitted to the District Committee on Nominations for it to review and prepare a slate of candidates for election by the Convention Delegates. The slate of candidates is listed alphabetically below:

Rick Crain  
Roni Grad  
Connor Hagey  
Thomas Honebrink

## SYNOD COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS

### **RICHARD CRAIN**

College/University: DeVry University

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Comp Info Sys/2000

College/University: Franklin University

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Comp Science/2006

Present Congregation: Peace, McMurray, PA

Occupation: Software Developer

### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

MARC USA/Sr. Programmer-Analyst

Year(s): 2011-present

Focus on the Family/Sr. Business Reports Developer

Year(s): 2008-2011

Sogeti USA/Sr. Consultant

Year(s): 2006-2008

vSync/Sr. Software Developer

Year(s): 1999-2006

### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District:

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Head Elder; Church Council; Technology Director; Confirmation Teacher; Call Committee; Elder

Statement concerning candidacy: I would be honored to serve the Lord in this capacity.

## SYNOD COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS (CONT.)

### RONI GRAD

College/University: Boston University

Degree/Field/Year: BA/MD/1982

Present Congregation: Catalina, Tucson, AZ

Occupation: Retired Physician

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

U of AZ Pediatrics faculty Year(s): 2008-2016

UAB Pediatrics faculty Year(s): 1998-2008

Private Practice, San Antonio Year(s): 1995-1997

U of NM Pediatrics faculty Year(s): 1991-1995

U of AZ Pediatrics faculty Year(s): 1988-1991

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Chair, Reformation 500 Committee

Synod: Member, Resolution 13-01A Task Force, 2017-present; Delegate, Synodical Convention, 2016; Member, Floor Committee 5: Theology and Church Relations, Synodical Convention, 2016

Other (church, community, etc.): Catalina Lutheran Church: Deacon in Training, Chair of Education, Usher, Building Committee, Music Planning Committee, Church Council (all present); AZ South Circuit: Vice President of Circuit Forum (present), Co-Chair, Reformation 500 Events Planning Committee, 2017; Faculty advisor LCMSU at UA, 2009-16

#### Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications:

Statement concerning candidacy: Synod is richly blessed through outstanding leadership on all levels. I am thankful to God for the work of past Synod Nominating Committees, and if elected, am looking forward, God willing, to helping identify leaders to continue to maintain and strengthen our Confessional witness.

## SYNOD COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS (CONT.)

### CONNOR HAGEY

College/University: Shippensburg University      Degree/Field/Year: BS/Bus. Mktg./2003

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Oakmont, PA

Occupation: Director of Retirement Living

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Concordia Lutheran Ministries/ Director of Retirement Living      Year(s): 2013-present

PNC Bank, N.A./multiple investment operations positions      Year(s): 2005-2013

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Current Director, Redeemer Lutheran School Board of Directors; Current Chairman, Redeemer Lutheran Church Board of Christian Education; Former Vice President, Redeemer Lutheran Church; Former Chairman & President, Redeemer Lutheran School Board of Directors; Former Chairman, Redeemer Lutheran School Call Committee

Statement concerning candidacy: I consider it to be both a blessing and honor to be considered for a role within the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, English District. Should the Lord see fit to have me serve the English District in any capacity, I will do so with joy and commitment to His glory and honor.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: I currently sit on three different endowment fund boards: Concordia Lutheran Ministries (CLM) Foundation; Rebecca Residence Foundation (CLM subsidiary); Redeemer Lutheran School (RLS) Finance Committee, Committee Chair (oversees RLS endowment fund)

## SYNOD COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS (CONT.)

### THOMAS HONEBRINK

College/University: Concordia, St. Paul      Degree/Field/Year: BA/Environ. Science/1989

Present Congregation: Catalina, Tucson, AZ

Occupation: Deacon/Teacher

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Casas Christian School/Middle School Science Teacher	Year(s): 1 yr.
Catalina Lutheran Church/Deacon and Assistant	Year(s): 7 yrs.
Oro Valley Pediatrics/Administrator	Year(s): 7 yrs.
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency/Rule Coordinator	Year(s): 5 yrs.
United States Peace Corps/Conservation Officer	Year(s): 2 yrs.

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Committee on Nominations, 2012-present; Convention Lay Delegate, 2006

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Deacon of Music, Bell Choir Director, Bible Study Leader, Elder, VBS and Sunday School Teacher, School Board Chair, Pregnancy Center Board Member, Town Parks and Recreation Board Chair, Concordia-St. Paul Alumni Council, Little League Coach

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Participant at Institute on Liturgy, Worship and Church Music

Statement concerning candidacy: I enjoy serving God in whatever avenues and through whatever means He provides.

1 **OVERTURE 4-06**

2  
3 **To Encourage Students to Learn to Become Lutheran Organists**

4  
5 WHEREAS our congregations have much trouble finding capable organists; and

6  
7 WHEREAS in the past many of our teachers were trained to play organ and direct choirs; and

8  
9 WHEREAS the Wisconsin Synod still does this, proving this is still practical; therefore be it

10  
11 *Resolved* that the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the colleges and high schools of  
12 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod encourage all their students to learn to become competent Lutheran  
13 organists.

14  
15 Submitted by  
16 Eastern Regional Pastor Conference

17  
18  
19 **OVERTURE 4-07**

20  
21 **To Limit the Months When a Pastor Can Be Called into the Mission Field**

22  
23 WHEREAS, the LCMS Office of National Mission has the right to call pastors out of their parishes at  
24 any time to serve in the mission field; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, this right has been exercised by them, to the detriment of both parishes and circuits during  
27 Lent; therefore be it

28  
29 *Resolved* that the English District in convention memorialize Synod that pastors no longer be required  
30 or asked to leave their parishes for the mission fundraising field between Thanksgiving and New Year's  
31 Eve and between Ash Wednesday and Easter.

32  
33 Submitted by  
34 Eastern Regional Pastor Conference

35

1 **RESOLUTION 4-06**

2 (*Overture 4-06*)

3

4 **To Encourage Synodical Educational Institutions to Train Students to Become Organists**

5

6 WHEREAS our congregations have much trouble finding capable organists; and

7

8 WHEREAS in the past many of our teachers were trained to play organ and direct choirs; and

9

10 WHEREAS the Wisconsin Synod still does this, proving this is still practical; therefore be it

11

12 *Resolved* that the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the colleges and high schools of  
13 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod encourage all their students to learn to become competent Lutheran  
14 organists.

15

16

17 **RESOLUTION 4-07**

18 (*Overture 4-07*)

19

20 **To Limit Mission Fundraising During Advent and Lent**

21

22 WHEREAS the LCMS Office of National Mission has the right to call pastors out of their parishes at any  
23 time to serve in the mission field; and

24

25 WHEREAS this right has been exercised by them, to the detriment of parishes and circuits during Advent  
26 and Lent; therefore, be it

27

28 *Resolved* that the English District in convention memorialize Synod that pastors no longer be required or  
29 asked to leave their parishes for the mission fundraising field between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve  
30 and between Ash Wednesday and Easter.

## **CORRECTION TO VICE-PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS REPORT**

The Vice-Presidential Nominations Report included an incorrect tally of nominations for the Midwestern Region Vice-Presidential nominees. (*See Page 5-6 of the Convention Workbook.*)

The correct tally of nominations is as follows:

Rev. Jonathan Gruen	1
Rev. James Huenink	1
Rev. Robert Rogers	6

All other nomination totals are correct.

Following is an updated slate of candidates listed alphabetically:

**SECRETARY**

The Rev. Luke Zimmerman

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**ORDAINED (Eastern/Lake Erie)**

Rev. Mark Braden  
Rev. R. Wayne Morton  
Rev. Michael Scheer  
Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel  
Rev. Robert Tauscher  
Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr.

**ORDAINED (Midwestern/Western)**

Rev. Thomas Engler  
Rev. Theodore Laesch  
Rev. Justin Laughridge  
Rev. Michael Morehouse

**COMMISSIONED (Eastern/Lake Erie)**

**COMMISSIONED (Midwestern/Western)**

Albert Amling  
Rod Lane

**LAY (Eastern)**

Michael Coffey  
Jane Duffy  
Carol George  
Bill Magill

**LAY (Lake Erie)**

Terry Leu

**LAY (Midwestern)**

Chris Cassel  
Charles Porter

**LAY (Western)**

Shirley Holle  
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.*

**ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS**

**EASTERN REGION**

Michael Coffey  
Connor Hagey

**LAKE ERIE REGION**

Rev. Ray Kirk

**MIDWESTERN REGION**

Gregory Collins  
Rex Toepke  
Alan Zacharias

**WESTERN REGION**

Rev. Fred Gerlach  
Thomas Schlitt  
Paul Sticha  
Rev. Nicholas Wirtz

**COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

**ORDAINED (Eastern)**

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, Jr.  
Rev. Brian Westgate

**ORDAINED (Lake Erie)**

Rev. Mark Braden

**ORDAINED (Midwestern)**

**ORDAINED (Western)**

Rev. Victor Manuel De La Rosa

**COMMISSIONED/LAY (Eastern)**

Connor Hagey

**COMMISSIONED/LAY (Lake Erie)**

**COMMISSIONED/LAY (Midwestern)**

**COMMISSIONED/LAY (Western)**

Thomas Honebrink  
James Rawlings

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED**

### ***MIDWESTERN / WESTERN REGIONS***

#### **THE REV. JUSTIN LAUGHRIDGE**

College/University: Concordia Univ., River Forest  
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Degree/Field/Year: BA/Sec. Educ./2004  
Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2008

#### **Congregations Served:**

Morning Star, Lakeside, CA  
Crossroads, San Diego, CA  
First, El Cajon, CA

Year(s): 2015-present  
Year(s): 2012-present  
Year(s): 2008-2012

#### **SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

**District:** English District Missions Council, 2013-present, Chairman, 2015-present; English District-LCMS Floor Committee Member (Evangelism & Missions), 2015 & 2018; District Liaison for Managing Partnership in our Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (2016-present)

**Synod:** Pastoral Delegate, LCMS Convention, 2016.

**Other (church, community, etc.):** Local community involvement in Rec League Basketball, Cub Scouts, etc.

**Statement concerning candidacy:** I am honored at this nomination and the opportunity to possibly serve the District as a member of her Board of Directors. I have valued the unique ability of the English District to serve the wider Church in missions and to serve her own congregations so well across non-geographic boundaries. I would consider it a blessing and privilege to serve her in this capacity over the next triennium.

**Prior service on a board of directors:** Advisory member, City Transformation Ministries - San Diego, 2011-2014 and Chairman, 2014-2018; Board Member (At Large), Lutheran Border Concerns Ministries (policy-based governance), 2016-present

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS – COMMISSIONED**

### ***MIDWESTERN / WESTERN REGIONS***

#### **ROD LANE**

College/University: Concordia, Seward, NE  
College/University: Concordia, St. Paul, MN

Degree/Field/Year: Colloquy/DCE/2010  
Degree/Field/Year: BA/Org. Mgt./1997

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Lincoln, NE

#### **Congregations/Schools Served:**

Redeemer, Lincoln, NE (DCE)

Year(s): 2010-present

Redeemer Lincoln, NE (Lay-Worker of Youth and Education) Year(s): 2007-2010

#### **SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

**District:** Nebraska District - District gathering coordinator for high school servant event (arrange and facilitate off site service opportunities for 600 adults and youth at multi-sites. Work with district team, community liaison between district and service agency. Evaluate sites as work takes place. Write recommendation for future gatherings. Still serving in this capacity.) Middle School Gathering (support role - set up; provide resource for coordinator; back up team; support new leaders; assist with needed resources); English District – District Coordinator/Chair, LCMS Malaria Initiative, 3 years (facilitate team meetings; provide presence at Convention and conferences; recruit volunteers; set monetary support goal)

**Other (congregation, community, etc.):** Education Board: Assist in facilitation of parochial tuition program; assist board with implementation of comprehensive Christian education program; adapt program as needed; oversee dynamic Sunday school program. Youth Board: Facilitate activities that promote fellowship and Christian Growth for families and youth. State of NE Region V Services: Serve on Personal Advisory Council (board for developmentally delayed individuals), primary duty is to represent the public and do chart audits and listen to oral reports from housing managers; make sure individuals served have the least amount of restrictions and have the most freedoms. Board also assures individuals are being fully served to the best of staff's ability; make recommendations and advocate for individuals being served, 2012 to present; Board of Elders, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1998-2006; Church Council, 1998-2006

**Statement concerning candidacy:** As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen 1 Peter 4:10-11 ESV

Utilizing my gifts to help develop and promote strategies that will support the greater church. 1. Reflect on the past, what worked and was good, what didn't work and failed. 2. Review and revise the present. 3. Re-focus everyone to look forward keeping site and perspective on the heavenly goal.

Prior service on a board of directors: Served on Grievance Board for major Midwest trauma center. Oversight of employer and employee relations. Board's primary responsibility to listen and make recommendations to the Governing Board regarding decisions made by human resource department.

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

### *LAKE ERIE REGION*

#### **THE REV. MARK BRADEN**

College/University: Concordia Univ., Ann Arbor Degree/Field/Yr: BA/Human Res/1988  
College/University: Eastern Michigan Univ. Degree/Field/Yr: MS/Hosp Mgt/Educ/1995  
Seminary: Concordia Theol Sem, Fort Wayne Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2003  
Seminary: Concordia Theol Sem, Fort Wayne Degree/Field/Year: STM/2011  
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; North Wisconsin District Scholarship Committee, 2005-2008; Spanish Teacher, Eau Claire Lutheran School, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, 2004-2007; Spanish Teacher, Emmanuel Lutheran School, Dearborn, Michigan 2009-2011

Synod: Adjunct Faculty, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort 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

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**

***WESTERN REGION***

**THE REV. VICTOR MANUEL DE LA ROSA**

College/Univ.: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis    Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2017

Congregations Served:

Chapel of the Cross, Mission Hills, CA            Year(s): 2017-present

**SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

Other (*Congregation, Community, etc.*): Chapel of the Cross Administrative Council, 6 years

Statement concerning candidacy: Candidacy is God’s will.

## 2018 CONVENTION DELEGATES

### PASTOR

### LAYPERSON

#### **Circuit #1 - New York**

Ewing, NJ	Bethany		
Flushing, NY	Immanuel		
Palisades Park, NJ	Cho Won Korean		
Palisades Park, NJ	Grace		
Pennsauken, NJ	Martin Luther Chapel	Rev. Robert Bruggeman	Jane Duffy
Princeton, NJ	Messiah	Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt	Justin Hylden
Saint Albans, NY	Redeemer		
Scarsdale, NY	Trinity	Rev. Gordon Naumann	Michael Coffey
Valley Stream, NY	Our Saviour		

#### **Circuit #2 - Philadelphia**

Blue Bell, PA	Gloria Dei		
Chesapeake, VA	Faith	Rev. Christian Morales	Walter Dissen
Harrisburg, PA	Gloria Dei		
Lititz, PA	Mount Calvary	Rev. Adam Koontz	Duane Zentz
Mechanicsburg, PA	Calvary	Rev. Luke Zimmerman	James Blockus
Springfield, PA	Saint John	Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	Joseph Schlie
Warminster, PA	Grace		

#### **Circuit #3 - Florida**

Inverness, FL	Tree of Life		
Naples, FL	Faith		
Ocala, FL	Trinity		
Palm Coast, FL	Shepherd of the Coast	Rev. William Douthwaite	Richard Rhodes
Saint John's, FL	Celebration	Rev. Steve De Santo	Kristina Rider

#### **Circuit #4 - Georgia**

Alpharetta, GA	Christ the Shepherd		Gary Church
Atlanta, GA	Ascension	Rev. David Miller	Brian Beckman

#### **Circuit #5 - Buffalo**

Amherst, NY	Calvary		
Buffalo, NY	Nazareth	Rev. Dwayne Hendricks	
Erie, PA	Trinity	Rev. Travis Schmidt	Carol George
Kenmore, NY	Pilgrim	Rev. Ben Eder	Carol Obot
North Tonawanda, NY	Redeemer		
Syracuse, NY	Hope Community		

#### **Circuit #6 - Pittsburgh**

Butler, PA	Faith		
McMurray, PA	Peace	Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy	Richard Crain
Oakmont, PA	Redeemer	Rev. Brian Westgate	Jeffrey Meier
Pittsburgh, PA	First Trinity	Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel	Justin Spittel
Slippery Rock, PA	All Saints	Rev. Larry Loree	

## 2018 CONVENTION DELEGATES

### PASTOR

### LAYPERSON

#### Circuit #7 - Canada East

Aurora, ON	Christ		Anne Goodwin
Golden Lake, ON	Saint John	Rev. Richard Klein	William Sterling
Mississauga, ON	Saint Mark	Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	Ken Freeman
North York, ON	Saint Luke	Rev. Junghun Park	Ian Farquharson
Pembroke, ON	Saint John	Rev. Stephen Alles	Don Davidson
Toronto, ON	Saint Matthew	Rev. Dereck Pillay	Derick Ackloo

#### Circuit #8 - Canada West

Chatham, ON	Our Saviour's	Rev. Daniel Murray	
Kitchener, ON	Hope	Rev. Raymond Kirk	Elke Kreitzer
Mitchell, ON	Grace	Rev. Gerald Luck	Lucille Radke
Sarnia, ON	Redeemer	Rev. Dr. Jason Kouri	Michel Poliquin
Windsor, ON	Gethsemane	Rev. Robert Voelker	Paul Tombura
Windsor, ON	Peace	Rev. James Leistico	Ron Scherzer

#### Circuit #9 - Cleveland-Akron

Akron, OH	Concordia	Rev. Robert Tauscher	Mark Thomas
Akron, OH	Fairlawn	Rev. James Gau	Larry Pantages
Akron, OH	Good Shepherd		Michael Morgan
Akron, OH	Grace		
Cleveland Heights, OH	Mount Olive		Matthew Lower
Northfield, OH	Epiphany		
Streetsboro, OH	Saint Thomas	Rev. Christian Just	Gilbert Ayers

#### Circuit #10 - Cleveland-West

Cleveland, OH	Holy Cross	Rev. Michael Scheer	Daniel Kenney
Cleveland, OH	Iglesia		
Elyria, OH	Grace	Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr.	Alan Porter
Medina, OH	Prince of Peace	Rev. Daniel Haberkost	Terry Leu
North Olmsted, OH	Ascension	Rev. Joshua Ulm	Shirley Scheuermann
Oberlin, OH	Grace	Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer	Barb Hadaway

#### Circuit #11 - Detroit-South

Allen Park, MI	Angelica	Rev. Jonathan Sachs	Ted Orosz
Allen Park, MI	Christ Our Redeemer		Paul Jentzen
Detroit, MI	Zion	Rev. Mark Braden	Michael Anderson
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI	Christ the King	Rev. Randy Boelter	Jessica Garrett
Plymouth, MI	Risen Christ		
Sylvania, OH	King of Glory		
Toledo, OH	Good Shepherd	Rev. Bradford Scott	Tina Jahn
Toledo, OH	Holy Cross		

## 2018 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<b><u>Circuit #12 - Detroit-North</u></b>			
Beverly Hills, MI	Ascension of Christ	Rev. Daniel Grams	David Lambert
Redford, MI	Grace	Rev. Zachary Marklevitz	Ralph Trendle
Saint Clair Shores, MI	Saint Paul	Rev. David Rutter	Paul Blackwell
Sandusky, MI	Holy Redeemer		
Shelby Township, MI	Epic		
West Bloomfield, MI	Shepherd King	Rev. Timothy Holzerland	Tony Pauza
West Branch, MI	New Beginnings		
<b><u>Circuit #13 - Western Michigan</u></b>			
Dorr, MI	Epiphany	Rev. Ryan Beffrey	Bray MacIntosh
East Lansing, MI	Martin Luther Chapel	Rev. Curt Dwyer	Andrew Barrus
Grand Rapids, MI	Hope	Rev. Daniel Gruenwald	Jason Harnish
Hartland, MI	Our Savior	Rev. Christopher Thoma	Alden Erdman
Howell, MI	Immanuel	Rev. Eric Forss	Robert Mansell
Lakeview, MI	Holy Trinity	Rev. Alexander Sabol	
Wyoming, MI	Grace	Rev. John Diener	Jeff DeYoung
<b><u>Circuit #14 - Indiana</u></b>			
Florence, KY	Abiding Faith	Rev. Winston Grieser	
Fort Wayne, IN	Bethany	Rev. Chad Trouten	Dain Christensen
Fort Wayne, IN	Jacob's Well		
Fort Wayne, IN	Redeemer	Rev. David Petersen	Nancy Osbun
Fort Wayne, IN	Saint Michael	Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing	
Fremont, IN	Peace	Rev. Jeffrey Teeple	Jim Miller
LaPorte, IN	Trinity		
Stroh, IN	Prince of Peace	Rev. James Elsner	Gary Lybarger
Zionsville, IN	Advent	Rev. James Grady	Larry Irving
<b><u>Circuit #15 - Chicago-North</u></b>			
Arlington Heights, IL	Faith	Rev. Thomas Sanders	John Coates
Chicago, IL	Bethany		
Chicago, IL	Bethesda	Rev. Dr. Paul Bacon	Roop Charles
Chicago, IL	Christ English	Rev. C. J. Wright	Marva Newman
Chicago, IL	Grace English		Cliff Higley
Elk Grove Village, IL	Holy Spirit	Rev. Steven Okpiz	
Elmhurst, IL	Redeemer	Rev. Anthony Oliphant	Jeffrey Williamson-Link
Villa Park, IL	Trinity	Rev. Robert Rogers	Scott Golz

## 2018 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<b><u>Circuit #16 - Chicago-South</u></b>			
Berwyn, IL	Concordia	Rev. James Huenink	Sarah Lofgren
Chicago, IL	Chatham Fields		David Young, Sr.
Chicago, IL	Ephphatha	Rev. Prentice Marsh	
Chicago, IL	Faith		
Chicago, IL	Good Shepherd		
Chicago, IL	New Hope		
Chicago, IL	Saint John the Divine		
Elmhurst, IL	Messiah	Rev. Brad Maxon	Daniel Maxon
Markham, IL	Markham	Rev. Dr. Larry Schneekloth	Rosemary Schneekloth
New Lenox, IL	Trinity	Rev. Douglas Hoag	Rex Toepke
<b><u>Circuit #17 - Milwaukee</u></b>			
Forest Lake, MN	Messiah	Rev. Gregory Musolf	
Hales Corners, WI	Hales Corners	Rev. Keith Speaks	Paula Speaks
Hastings, MN	Hope	Rev. Kenneth Boudreau	Greg Collins
Janesville, WI	Saint Mark	Rev. Bradley Urlaub	Paul Schneider
Lake Mills, WI	Christ	Rev. Aaron Boerst	
Menomonee Falls, WI	Prince of Peace	Rev. Thomas Engler	Norman Schwantes
Mount Pleasant, WI	Living Hope		
New Berlin, WI	Peace	Rev. Gregory Michel	Bill Vath
Shawano, WI	Resurrection		
Sheboygan, WI	Saint Mark	Rev. Brett Matz	Jim Leonhardt
Watertown, WI	Faith	Rev. Seth Hoepfner	
West Allis, WI	Greenfield Park	Rev. Fred Reaman	Charles Porter
<b><u>Circuit #18 - Saint Louis</u></b>			
Hannibal, MO	Saint John	Rev. Eric Carlson	Devron Sterneke
Lee's Summit, MO	Beautiful Savior	Rev. Jonathan Gruen	Chris Troester
Lincoln, NE	Redeemer		Chris Cassel
O'Fallon, MO	Peace	Rev. Ronald Millard	Rebecca Hoskins
Saint Louis, MO	Chapel of the Cross	Rev. Theodore Laesch	Ellory Glenn
Vine Grove, KY	Grace	Rev. Ryan Schneider	Steve White
<b><u>Circuit #19 - Arizona-North</u></b>			
Overgaard, AZ	Faith	Rev. Nick Wirtz	Brian Parker
Parker, AZ	Messiah		
Payson, AZ	Shepherd of the Pines	Rev. David Burge	Andy McKinney
Phoenix, AZ	Family of Christ	Rev. Fred Gerlach	Robert Earl
Pinetop, AZ	Shepherd of the Mountains	Rev. R. Wayne Morton	Beth Morton

## 2018 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<b><u>Circuit #20 - Arizona-South</u></b>			
Benson, AZ	Peace in the Valley	Rev. Ron York	Jack Martin
Green Valley, AZ	Risen Savior	Rev. Todd Arnold	Richard Loesch
Rio Rico, AZ	Christus Rex	Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler	Mike Duggan
Sahuarita, AZ	Crosspoint		Mark Constantine
Tucson, AZ	Ascension	Rev. Jim Thelen	Andy Wellik
Tucson, AZ	Catalina	Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse	Shirley Holle
Tucson, AZ	Faith	Rev. Kurt Cockran	Judith Hughes
Tucson, AZ	Holy Trinity		
Tucson, AZ	Messiah		
Tucson, AZ	Mount Olive	Rev. Dr. Frank Ciampa	Richard Greenfield
<b><u>Circuit #21 - Nevada/Utah</u></b>			
Las Vegas, NV	Trinity		
Mesquite, NV	Prince of Peace	Rev. Travis Lauterbach	Nichole Lauterbach
Saint George, UT	Our Savior's	Rev. Arthur Drehman	
<b><u>Circuit #22 - San Diego</u></b>			
Borrego Springs, CA	Borrego		
El Cajon, CA	First	Rev. Andrew Fedder	Susan Neff
Lakeside, CA	Morning Star	Rev. Justin Laughridge	Kara Birren
Mira Mesa, CA	Crossroads		
Pine Valley, CA	Inter-Mountain		
San Diego, CA	Living Water	Rev. Steven Duescher	
<b><u>Circuit #23 - Los Angeles</u></b>			
Long Beach, CA	Saint Paul's		
Los Angeles, CA	Highland Park		
Mission Hills, CA	Chapel of the Cross	Rev. William Naumann	Rosa Wiebers
Palm Desert, CA	Peace		
San Dimas, CA	Trinity	Rev. Matthew Payne	
Sherman Oaks, CA	Sherman Oaks		
<b><u>Circuit #24 - San Francisco</u></b>			
Danville, CA	Messiah		Kevin McGladdery
Fremont, CA	Hope	Rev. John Berg	
Moses Lake, WA	Apostolic		
San Francisco, CA	New Life Chinese	Rev. Charles Fox	Andrew Yee
San Francisco, CA	West Portal	Rev. Curtis Binz	Edmund Proehl

## 2018 CIRCUIT YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

### CIRCUIT

*Florida Circuit #3*  
*Pittsburgh Circuit #6*  
*Pittsburgh Circuit #6*  
*Canada-East Circuit #7*  
*Canada-East Circuit #7*  
*Cleveland-Akron Circuit #9*  
*Cleveland-West Circuit #10*  
*Cleveland-West Circuit #10*  
*Western Michigan Circuit #13*  
*Saint Louis Circuit #18*  
*Saint Louis Circuit #18*

### REPRESENTATIVE

Jonathan Rider  
Diana (Ana) Crain  
Noah Hardy  
Tyler Aylin  
Andrew Trautrim  
Elena Robinson  
Nicholas Manley  
Olivia Maschke  
Dillon Mrozek  
Nate Laesch  
Madisen Smith

**Jubilarians - Ordained**  
Ordination/Colloquy Anniversary

**25 years (1991, 1992, 1993)**

The Rev. David C. Adams  
The Rev. Henry V. Gerike  
The Rev. Douglas E. Hoag  
The Rev. Timothy A. Holzerland  
The Rev. Dr. Terry N. Hursh  
The Rev. Dr. James W. Jasper  
The Rev. Wallace J. Kimari  
The Rev. Gregory S. Musolf  
The Rev. David A. Rutter

**30 years (1986, 1987, 1988)**

The Rev. Stephen C. Alles  
The Rev. Wayne C. Berkesch  
The Rev. William Douthwaite, III  
The Rev. Daniel R. Haberkost  
The Rev. David S. Tannahill  
The Rev. Donald E. Treglown

**35 years (1981, 1982, 1983)**

The Rev. Paul W. Anderson  
The Rev. Dr. Frederic W. Baue  
The Rev. Randy S. Boelter  
The Rev. Mark H. Ebert  
The Rev. Kevin P. Elseroad  
The Rev. Charles A. Fox  
The Rev. Daniel J. Gruenwald  
The Rev. Kenneth J. Kramer  
The Rev. Peter Ledic  
The Rev. Prentice D. Marsh  
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Naumann  
The Rev. Robert J. Nemoyer  
The Rev. George D. Schaetzle  
The Rev. Bradford E. Scott  
The Rev. David L. Thiele  
The Rev. Dr. Larry M. Vogel

**40 years (1976, 1977, 1978)**

The Rev. John B. Erickson  
The Rev. Christian G. Morales  
The Rev. Thomas J. Sanders  
The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz

**45 years (1971, 1972, 1973)**

The Rev. Jeffrey O. Anderson  
The Rev. Charles R. Aufdenkampe  
The Rev. Clifford L. Bischoff  
The Rev. Robert A. Bruckner  
The Rev. Dr. Gary L. Danielsen  
The Rev. Dr. Roger C. Ellis  
The Rev. Dr. Michael S. Ernst  
The Rev. Luther P. Esala  
The Rev. Paul J. H. Habersock  
The Rev. Dr. Christian F. Just  
The Rev. Raymond V. Kirk  
The Rev. Richard E. Klein  
The Rev. Paul R. Koester  
The Rev. Dr. Gilbert C. Meilaender  
The Rev. Dr. Frank J. Pies

**50 years (1966, 1967, 1968)**

The Rev. Dr. Paul E. Bacon  
The Rev. Michael P. Drews  
The Rev. Richard L. Ingmire  
The Rev. Dr. Keith L. Johnson  
The Rev. Paul W. Krause  
The Rev. Charles D. Lentner  
The Rev. Larry L. Leuthaeuser  
The Rev. Robert W. Maass  
The Rev. Neville Mirtschin  
The Rev. Myron K. Prok  
The Rev. Arthur W. Schiemann  
The Rev. Dr. Vernon L. Schindler  
The Rev. Dr. Larry G. Schneekloth  
The Rev. Charles A. Weinrich

**55 years (1961, 1962, 1963)**

The Rev. Dr. Richard D. Drews  
The Rev. Paul H. Eggold  
The Rev. Noble P. Lach  
The Rev. Ronald H. Laue  
The Rev. Willaim E. Meier  
The Rev. Joseph Molitoris  
The Rev. Dr. James E. Murray  
The Rev. Arthur C. Repp, Jr.  
The Rev. Dr. David T. Stein  
The Rev. Arthur R. Stennett  
The Rev. C. David Stuckmeyer  
The Rev. Dr. Dusan Toth  
The Rev. Guy A. Vogel

**60 years (1956, 1957, 1958)**

The Rev. William C. Beckmann  
The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth  
The Rev. David A. Kruse  
The Rev. Myron G. Mader  
The Rev. Dr. Roger D. Pittelko  
The Rev. Thomas G. Van der Bloemen  
The Rev. Raymond W. Wypich

**65 years (1951, 1952, 1953)**

The Rev. Ernest N. Hahn  
The Rev. Dr. Charles T. Knippel  
The Rev. Eugene W. Kreutz  
The Rev. Dr. Daniel Pourchot

**Jubilarians - Commissioned**  
Graduation Anniversary

**25 years (1991, 1992, 1993)**

Mr. Larry J. Arnold  
Mr. Thomas K. Guilford  
Mr. Hugh H. McMartin  
Mrs. Sandra J. Wehmeier

**30 years (1986, 1987, 1988)**

Mrs. Margaret A. Finley  
Mr. Jonathan P. Hilmer  
Ms. Laurie A. Horne  
Mr. Frederick R. Jacob  
Mrs. Carol E. Slettvedt  
Mrs. Sherri T. Steigerwalt  
Ms. Marilyn L. Stroik  
Mrs. Catherine A. Summerset  
Mrs. Charlene E. Bruggemann-Wong  
Deac. Catherine Ann Wurster

**35 years (1981, 1982, 1983)**

Mr. Albert J. Amling, III  
Mr. David M. Funke  
Mr. Craig Mellendorf  
Mrs. Victoria L. Mertz  
Mrs. Nadine L. Schilke  
Mrs. Betty J. Sodemann  
Ms. Suzanne E. Zobel

**40 years (1976, 1977, 1978)**

Mrs. Mary Ann Berkesch  
Mrs. Denise A. Dash  
Mr. Russell J. Granley  
Mrs. Vicki J. Helmling  
Ms. Ruth R. Hempel  
Ms. Diane L. Kosmala  
Mr. George T. Moore  
Mrs. Paula K. Mueller  
Mrs. Christine R. Seiler  
Mrs. Kathy E. Slupik

**45 years (1971, 1972, 1973)**

Mrs. Michele A. Boyer  
Mrs. Mary Jo Fischl  
Mrs. Andrea L. Johnson  
Mrs. Toni L. Krone  
Mr. James E. Rawlings  
Mrs. Cheryl E. Sanders  
Mr. Randy B. Schallhorn  
Mrs. Valjean A. Schallhorn  
Mrs. Joan K. Schlehlein  
Ms. Kathryn B. Trinklein

**50 years (1966, 1967, 1968)**

Mr. Theodore T. Braun  
Mr. Carl S. Eisman  
Mr. Waldemar C. Heuer  
Mrs. Marilyn R. McClure  
Miss Sharon K. Nobis  
Mrs. Ruth A. Paschal

**55 years (1961, 1962, 1963)**

Mrs. Annette L. Bacon  
Mrs. Marian F. Brockhoff  
Mrs. Sandra C. Fields  
Mrs. Belva J. Schindler  
Ms. Ruth E. Stresow

**60 years (1956, 1957, 1958)**

Mr. Ronald L. Kasten  
Mr. Russell C. Krecklow  
Mrs. Beverly M. Pittelko

**65 years (1951, 1952, 1953)**

Mr. Carl G. Gruendler

## **CONVENTION MINUTES**

### **June 19, 2018**

Gathering at Concordia University—Ann Arbor, Michigan, the English District met in convention for the fifty-sixth time. “Love Your Neighbor as Yourself,” a statement drawn from Jesus’ teaching recorded in Matthew 22:39, served as the convention theme.

Prior to the convention opening, floor committees held open hearings on Tuesday, June 19. An orientation for delegates was provided by District Officers and Staff. Both activities took place in Krieger Hall.

#### **FIRST SESSION: TUESDAY AFTERNOON – JUNE 19, 2018**

Delegates and guests assembled in the gymnasium of Concordia University—Ann Arbor, Michigan. At 2:00pm, 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.

President Hardy presented his report of the 2015–2018 triennium to the Convention. He stated that the condition of the District is good. He thanked the District for supporting his ministry emphasis theme of “Love Your Neighbor.” He highlighted the 22% increase in the District Endowment Fund during the triennium. This helped lead to \$30,000 given to debt relief for professional church workers. Further mission and human care efforts have also been supported because of this increase. Two staff members were added during the triennium: Kevin Klein for church relations, deployed in Washington, DC and Ron Grimm as Gift Planner in cooperation with LCEF.

Rev. Dr. Patrick Ferry, President of Concordia University Wisconsin, greeted the delegates, welcoming them to the Ann Arbor campus. He thanked the District for its participation with Concordia University and past support of Synod higher education institutions, including his alma mater: St. John College – Winfield, KS. A short publicity video “Live Uncommon” produced by the university was shown to delegates. President Ferry noted several challenges facing higher educational institutions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, particularly those which are dedicated to a Christian identity and worldview. One challenge includes the declining enrollment by professional church work students. He highlighted the “Luther Promise,” a special tuition grant assistance initiative for Lutheran students.

Rev. R. Wayne Morton, Chairman of the English District Board of Directors, presented the Board of Directors report for the 2015–2018 triennium. He directed delegates to read the written report that the Board provided in the *Convention Workbook*. Following this, a verbal report was provided. The report spoke of makeup of the Board, the basic duties of the Board, and where the Board had held its meetings during the triennium. Chairman Morton also outlined how the Board fulfilled its 2015–2018 End Statements.

President Hardy directed delegates to the Convention Banner designed by Rebecca Kaiser and made by Carol Leu.

At 2:44pm, Rev. Luke Zimmerman, Secretary of the English District, provided the initial credentials report of the Convention. The credentials report at the opening of the convention at 2:00pm on June 19, 2018 was as follows:

Voting Pastoral Delegates	93
<u>Voting Lay Delegates</u>	<u>87</u>
<b>Total Voting Delegates</b>	<b>180</b>
<i>Total Advisory Delegates</i>	<i>21</i>
Youth Representatives	10
Board Members	1
District Support Staff	6
<u>Visitors/Guests</u>	<u>53</u>
<b>Total in Attendance</b>	<b>271</b>

At 2:47pm, President Hardy summoned Rev. Robert Tauscher, Chairman of the Elections Committee, and Secretary Zimmerman to the dais. Secretary Zimmerman explained how candidates for District President were nominated. He then announced the slate of candidates:

Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy  
Rev. Robert Rogers

Rev. Tauscher informed delegates of the election procedures, including how to operate the electronic voting devices. With delegates aware of how voting was to take place, the Convention moved to the election of the District President.

The results of the ballot were posted:

<b>Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy</b>	<b>156</b>
Rev. Robert Rogers	25

Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy was elected to a second term as District President. He invited his wife Wendy to the dais, where photos of them were taken.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for District Vice-President (Eastern Region):  
Rev. Ben Eder

The results of the ballot for District Vice-President (Eastern Region):

<b>Rev. Ben Eder</b>	<b>168</b>
----------------------	------------

Rev. Ben Eder was elected to a second term as District Vice-President (Eastern Region).

The convention proceeded with balloting for District Vice-President (Lake Erie Region). The results of the first and only ballot were posted:

Rev. Ryan Beffrey	30
Rev. Daniel Grams	54
<b>Rev. Jeffrey Miskus</b>	<b>91</b>

Rev. Jeffrey Miskus was elected to a first term as District Vice-President (Lake Erie Region).

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for District Vice President (Midwestern Region):

Rev. James Huenink  
Rev. Robert Rogers

The convention proceeded with balloting for District Vice-President (Midwestern Region). The results of the ballot were posted:

Rev. James Huenink	47
<b>Rev. Robert Rogers</b>	<b>125</b>

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

The convention proceeded with balloting for District Vice-President (Western Region). The results of the ballot were posted:

<b>Rev. Todd Arnold</b>	<b>170</b>
-------------------------	------------

Rev. Todd Arnold was elected to a second term as District Vice-President (Western Region).

While Convention staff reset the voting apparatus to rank the Vice-Presidents, President Hardy invited Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis, President of the SELC District, to the dais. President Vinovskis greeted delegates, speaking of some of his ties with English District congregations during the past. He also mentioned the opportunities that both the English District and the SELC District as districts without borders and districts in mission have in common.

The convention proceeded to rank the Vice-Presidents. The slate of newly elected Vice-Presidents was presented and delegates were instructed to vote for who should serve as First Vice-President of the English District. The results of the first ballot were posted:

Rev. Todd Arnold	20
Rev. Ben Eder	54
Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	55
Rev. Robert Rogers	53

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Rev. Arnold's name was removed. A second ballot was held. The results of the second ballot were posted:

Rev. Ben Eder	60
Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	64
Rev. Robert Rogers	56

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Rev. Rogers' name was removed. A third ballot was held. The results of the third ballot were posted:

Rev. Ben Eder	87
<b>Rev. Jeffrey Miskus</b>	<b>92</b>

Rev. Jeffrey Miskus was ranked as First Vice-President of the English District.

The convention was presented the slate of candidates for Second Vice-President of the English District. The first and only ballot was held. The results were posted:

Rev. Todd Arnold	26
<b>Rev. Ben Eder</b>	<b>95</b>
Rev. Robert Rogers	62

Rev. Ben Eder was ranked as Second Vice-President of the English District.

The convention was presented with the slate of candidates for Third Vice-President of the English District. The ballot was held. The results were posted:

Rev. Todd Arnold	63
<b>Rev. Robert Rogers</b>	<b>115</b>

Rev. Robert Rogers was ranked as Third Vice-President of the English District. Rev. Todd Arnold was ranked as Fourth Vice-President of the English District.

President Hardy thanked Rev. Tauscher and the Convention Staff for completing the election and ranking of District Vice-Presidents.

At 3:25pm, Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, greeted the delegates. He spoke of the opportunities that both the District and the Seminary have to serve the world. He shared part of the historical background of the seminary and how it met challenges in the new world. President Rast spoke to the challenge being raised by the decline of Master of Divinity student enrollment levels at both seminaries of the Synod. He stated that the Synod and its seminaries are facing challenges that they have not faced before, but these can be opportunities for service. He also reminded delegates that both seminaries of the Synod are considered either very large (Concordia – St. Louis) or large (Concordia Theological Seminary – Fort Wayne) by The Association of Theological Schools. Both are healthy institutions. Both will be able to offer full tuition assistance to incoming students. This is due to the support given by the Synod's congregations and their congregational members, which will be necessary to

continue such efforts. He thanked the District congregations for their participation in Christ's mission in the world.

Following President Rast's presentation, President Hardy summoned the newly-elected Vice-Presidents of the District to the dais for pictures to be taken of them.

At 3:50pm, President Hardy invited Rev. Dr. Darrell Zimmerman, Program Director of Grace Place Wellness Ministries, to speak about the Recognized Service Organization's work for church worker wellness within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Rev. Zimmerman noted the origins of Grace Place in Dr. John Eckrich's work among Lutheran pastors in the St. Louis area to teach them healthy lifestyles; the first wellness retreat was offered in 2000. Two major emphases of Grace Place are teaching church worker self-care and congregations to care for their church workers. Several presentation videos about Grace Place's work were shown to the delegates.

At 4:20pm, President Hardy introduced Rev. Larry Vogel, Associate Executive Director of Commission on Theology and Church Relations. Rev. Vogel led the Convention's theological convocation, entitled "Eat, Pray, Love" that spoke to the Convention's theme "Love your neighbor as yourself." Each of these verbs in the title of Elizabeth Gilbert's memoirs was treated by Rev. Vogel. We eat from love—and we do so in faith; eating is tied to the nourishment that the LORD provides for His people for their salvation. To pray is an expression of our hope; we hope because we are loved by the LORD, most especially seen in the person and selfless work of Christ for our salvation, and we are confident about that divine love being shown to us. To love is to live in Him who has loved us fallen humans; that love shown by Christians acknowledges and meets the need of the neighbor, other fellow fallen humans.

Following the conclusion of Rev. Vogel's presentation and various announcements given to the delegates, President Hardy declared the Convention to be in recess until 8:00am on Wednesday, June 20.

During the evening, delegates and guests enjoyed a banquet held in the Manor Tent on campus, beginning at 5:30pm.

After the banquet, the Convention Divine Service took place in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, gave the sermon. First Trinity Lutheran Church – Pittsburgh, PA, sponsored the Divine Service. The offering collected at the Divine Service was designated to be given to Concordia Lutheran Mission – Myerstown, PA.

Submitted,

Rev. Luke T. Zimmerman  
Secretary, English District – LCMS

1 **RESOLUTION 1-03A**

2 **To Encourage Every Sunday Communion**

3  
4 *Whereas*, the Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated every Lord's day during the first  
5 centuries of Christendom; and

6  
7 *Whereas*, the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day was a reality cherished  
8 by Dr. Martin Luther and set forth clearly with high esteem in the Confessional writings of the  
9 Evangelical Lutheran Church (Article XXIV of the Augsburg Confession and Article XXIV 1 of  
10 the Apology of the Augsburg Confession); and

11  
12 *Whereas*, our Synod's 1983 CTCR document on the Lord's Supper (p.28) and our Synod's 1986  
13 [1991] translation of Luther's *Small Catechism* both remind us that the Scriptures place the  
14 Lord's Supper at the center of worship (Acts 2:42, "*And they devoted themselves to the apostles'*  
15 *teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*" Acts 20:7, "*On the first day*  
16 *of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to*  
17 *depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.*" 1 Corinthians 11:20 "*When*  
18 *you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper that you eat.*" 1 Corinthians 11:23 "*For I received*  
19 *from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed*  
20 *took bread . . .*" ), and not as an appendage or an occasional extra, and that the new 2017  
21 edition of Luther's *Small Catechism and Explanation* also notes the importance of receiving the  
22 Sacrament and its centrality in worship (pp. 329 [358], 344-345 (374, E); and,

23  
24 *Whereas* the English District-LCMS in Convention passed Resolution 91-6-02, "To Urge Weekly  
25 Communion" (adopted 6/8/91), which then went as an Overture to the 1995 Convention of The  
26 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and was adopted (Resolution 2-08A), encouraging an every  
27 Sunday celebration of the Holy Supper of our Lord's Body and Blood; therefore be it

28  
29 *Resolved*, that the English District-LCMS commend our congregations and pastors who have  
30 instituted weekly Communion in accordance with LCMS Resolution 91-6-02, and continue to  
31 encourage them in this common practice, and be it finally

32  
33 *Resolved*, that this resolution be sent to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's 2019  
34 Convention, encouraging its pastors and congregations to study the scriptural, confessional,  
35 and historical witness to every Sunday Communion with a view toward recovering the  
36 opportunity for receiving the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day.

1 **RESOLUTION 1-04A**

2  
3 **To Encourage Pastors and Laity to Discuss Religion and Politics**

4  
5 *Whereas*, Holy Scripture, the Church Fathers, and the writings of Dr. Martin Luther affirm that  
6 Christians, as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, are citizens of two Kingdoms — the Kingdom  
7 of the Right, Christ's Kingdom of grace, His Church on earth, and the Kingdom of the Left,  
8 earthly governments; and

9  
10 *Whereas*, St. Augustine, in "City of God" (Book XIX, 21) states, "a republic cannot be  
11 administered without justice. Where, therefore, there is no true justice there can be no right.  
12 For that which is done by right is justly done, and what is unjustly done cannot be done by  
13 right. For the unjust inventions of men are neither to be considered nor spoken of as rights.  
14 Thus, where there is not true justice there can be no assemblage of men associated by a  
15 common acknowledgment of right, and therefore there can be no people; and if there is no  
16 right where there is no justice, then most certainly it follows that there is no republic where  
17 there is no justice."; and

18  
19 *Whereas*, the Church is encouraged to engage in the public square, that is, to actively intercede  
20 in prayer for the Kingdom of the Left (1 Timothy 2:1-4), being mindful of her work toward  
21 promoting governance that is in conformity with the will of God as revealed in His Scriptures,  
22 including justice, and that in the present governments of the United States and Canada such  
23 promotion takes the form of elections, lobbying, and the like; and that Christians are free to  
24 work within the present governments of the United States and Canada to establish and  
25 maintain a public context that provides for the Church to exist peacefully so that the field  
26 remains favorable for the Gospel to be given freely; and

27  
28 *Whereas*, many Christians may be reluctant to discuss religion and politics, two realms which  
29 undergird the vitality and sustainability of The United States of America and Canada; and

30  
31 *Whereas*, many well-known statesmen and other observers have underscored the critical role  
32 of religion and morality in general, and Christianity in particular, in the preservation of our  
33 freedoms and governance; therefore be it

34  
35 *Resolved*, that the English District, without binding consciences to positions not determined by  
36 Holy Scripture, encourage its Pastors and congregations to freely and openly discuss and  
37 teach at all times possible within their vocations, the necessity of maintaining the Christian  
38 religion and its accompanying morality within the United States and Canada, such that we may  
39 live a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way, and liberty and justice may  
40 continue for the sake of all citizens of the United States and Canada, and ultimately, for the  
41 sake of all people.

1 **RESOLUTION 1-07A**

2  
3 **To Oppose Binding Christian Consciences to Political Positions**  
4 **Not Clearly Mandated by Scripture**  
5

6 *Whereas* The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) is currently involved in the Lutheran  
7 Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) through denominational support of LIRS and the  
8 presence of LCMS members on its Board of Directors,<sup>1</sup> and  
9

10 *Whereas* the LIRS has advocated political positions on questions not determined by the Holy  
11 Scriptures, and are therefore appropriately subject to debate, and on which Christians may  
12 disagree, such as

- 13 1. Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA)<sup>2</sup> and
- 14 2. the number of refugees entering the United States of America<sup>3</sup>

15  
16 thereby binding the consciences of LCMS Christians who disagree with LIRS' positions and are  
17 not necessarily "heartsick"<sup>4</sup> at every political change, but may well support the change,  
18 therefore, be it  
19

20 *Resolved* that the English District in convention memorialize the 2019 convention of the LCMS  
21 to:

- 22 1. Censure LIRS for binding Christian consciences to political opinions not clearly found  
23 in Scripture,
- 24 2. Encourage its pastors and congregations to withdraw any support from the LIRS until  
25 such time as its political partisanship comes to an end, and be it finally  
26

27 *Resolved* that the English District in its 2021 convention do the same.  
28

29 **Notes**

30 <sup>1</sup> [lirs.org/our-work/church-partners/](http://lirs.org/our-work/church-partners/), where it says, "Lutheran Immigration and Refugee  
31 Services celebrates strong collaborative relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
32 America (ELCA), the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod LC-MS, and the Latvian Evangelical  
33 Lutheran Church in America (LELCA)...Each (denomination) contributes financially to the  
34 mission and is represented on our board of directors."

35 <sup>2</sup> "STATEMENT - LIRS Denounces Trump Administration's Decision to End DACA  
36 Program," (9/5/2017), [lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/statement-lirs-denounces-trump-](http://lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/statement-lirs-denounces-trump-administration-decision-to-end-daca/)  
37 [administration- decision-to-end-daca/](http://lirs.org/our-work/people-we-serve/children/advocating-for-children/) and [lirs.org/our-work/people-we-serve](http://lirs.org/our-work/people-we-serve/children/advocating-for-children/)  
38 [/children/advocating-for-children/](http://lirs.org/our-work/people-we-serve/children/advocating-for-children/)

39 <sup>3</sup> [lirs.org/refugee-resettlement](http://lirs.org/refugee-resettlement), where many particular positions on legislation and  
40 political issues are listed at length.

41 <sup>4</sup> "'Churches and communities, employers and mayors, are heartsick at the  
42 Administration's callous and tragic decision to deny welcome to refugees most in need,' said  
43 Linda Hartke, LIRS President and CEO," "STATEMENT-LIRS Responds to Historic Low Refugee

1 Admissions Ceiling," (9/27/2017), lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/statement-lirs-responds-  
2 to-historic-low-refugee-admissions-ceiling/  
3

4  
5 **RESOLUTION 2-01A**  
6

7 **To Support International Missionaries Who Are Members of the English District**  
8

9 WHEREAS, the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20 has been and will until the Last Day  
10 remain the heart of the Church's mission, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations;  
11 and  
12

13 WHEREAS, one of the reasons congregations banded together to form a synodical union is for  
14 the sending of missionaries; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, the number of missionaries in the LCMS has increased in recent years; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, the LCMS employs the Network Supported Model for the funding of missionaries,  
19 which requires LCMS missionaries to essentially raise their own salary and funding by visiting  
20 congregations and asking for money in order to enter and remain on the mission field; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, the English District is blessed to count several career missionaries among its  
23 individual members [including Rev. Ted Krey, Rev. Dale Kaster, Rev. Charles Ferry and others];  
24 and  
25

26 WHEREAS, many congregations of the English District are providing support for international  
27 missionaries; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, at present the English District does not provide direct support for any international  
30 missionaries who are members of the English District; and  
31

32 WHEREAS, the English District budget includes a line item for Missions; therefore be it  
33

34 *Resolved*, that the English District give thanks to God for the increase of international  
35 missionaries; and be it further  
36

37 *Resolved*, that the English District celebrate the faithful service of missionaries who are  
38 members of the English District by encouraging congregations to support them financially;  
39 and be it finally  
40

41 *Resolved*, that the English District memorialize the 2019 LCMS Convention to making the  
42 funding of international missionaries a key priority for the next triennium.

1 **RESOLUTION 3-03A**

2  
3 **To Amend the District Bylaws**

4  
5 WHEREAS, The English District Board of Directors has conducted a thorough review of the  
6 Bylaws of the District during this past triennium, identifying where revisions would be helpful  
7 for the administration of the District; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, The LCMS Committee on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has identified required  
10 revisions to be made to the Bylaws of the District so that they are in compliance with the  
11 Synod Handbook; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, The LCMS CCM has suggested revisions to the Bylaws of the District; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, The English District Board of Directors has drafted proposed revisions to the  
16 Bylaws of the District and submitted them for review by the LCMS CCM; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, The LCMS CCM has approved these changes (cf. CCM Opinion 17-2833); therefore  
19 be it

20  
21 Resolved, that the District in Convention revise the Bylaws of the District as follows:

22  
23  
24 **PREAMBLE**

25  
26 In 1872 an initial conference of English-speaking Lutherans was held in Gravelton, Missouri. In  
27 1888 the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri was organized and in 1911 was invited  
28 to join the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States as the English  
29 Mission District. An agreement dated May 15, 1911, in Saint Louis, Missouri (*Delegatensynod*  
30 *von Missouri, Ohio u.a. St.*, 1911, pp. pages 31-35) made the English District official. Because of  
31 this origin the English District is unique among the districts of the Synod (Denver Convention  
32 *Proceedings*, 1969, Resolution 5-15).

33  
34 Since the English District is a district of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, the Constitution  
35 of the Synod ~~as given in the Handbook~~ is also the Constitution of the District. Also, the Bylaws of  
36 the Synod are primarily the Bylaws of the District. The District’s objectives are as stated ~~noted~~ in  
37 Article III of the Synod’s Constitution: ~~(see 2010 Handbook), Article III Objectives:~~

38  
39 The Synod, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, shall—

- 40  
41 1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3–6; 1 Cor. 1:10), work through  
42 its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a  
43 united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;
- 44 2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to  
45 the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness  
into all the world;

- 1 3. Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide  
2 opportunity for their continuing growth;
- 3 4. Provide opportunities through which its members may express their Christian concern,  
4 love, and compassion in meeting human needs;
- 5 5. Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and  
6 to establish agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools and  
7 to support synodical colleges, universities, and seminaries;
- 8 6. Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing,  
9 promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;
- 10 7. Encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an  
11 appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with  
12 our common profession of faith;
- 13 8. Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers, and other  
14 professional church workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties;
- 15 9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the  
16 performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights;
- 17 10. Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their  
18 families in the event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death.

19  
20 Thus in the light of the Synod’s objectives, the mission of the English District is to seize every  
21 opportunity to serve the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, the whole Church in the whole world,  
22 and the whole person in the whole society, and in fulfillment of this mission, it shall seek to utilize  
23 its unique character to:

- 24 1. Assist congregations of the District in their ministries to their own communities with their  
25 own characteristics and needs;
- 26 2. Serve as a progressive element in the church body, both in applying the Gospel to new and  
27 changing situations and in demonstrating concern about community problems and  
28 ecumenical opportunities;
- 29 3. Begin new churches and support new ministries with particular emphasis on openness to  
30 new challenges;
- 31 4. Assist in the revitalization of existing congregations and ministries;
- 32 5. Assist ministries in communities that are changing;
- 33 6. Focus on special, ethnic, urban and campus ministries;
- 34 7. Support mission initiatives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
- 35 8. Support life-long educational ministries within the District; and
- 36 9. Provide opportunities and avenues for congregations and their members to live out their  
37 love for God through the Christian stewardship of their time, talents and treasures.

38  
39

40 **ARTICLE I**  
41 **CONGREGATIONS OF THE DISTRICT**

- 42
- 43 A. The congregations of the District shall exercise their authority through delegate  
44 convention, which shall consist of all duly certified delegates from member congregations.

45

- 1 B. The District shall exercise its authority in harmony with the goals and directives of the  
2 Synod and under the guidance of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.  
3  
4 C. The District shall delegate its authority as hereinafter prescribed. The exercise of such  
5 delegated authority shall always be subject to review by the District.  
6  
7

8 **ARTICLE II**  
9 **ADMINISTRATION**

- 10  
11 A. The District shall establish an organizational structure for the effective operation of its  
12 programs and conduct of its affairs which shall include the District Convention (*referenced*  
13 *throughout as "Convention"*), the officers of the District, the Board of Directors, and such  
14 other staff and personnel as that Board may deem necessary and appropriate.  
15  
16 B. The administration of the affairs shall be conducted on three levels:  
17 1. The Convention, which shall consist of the District at large through its delegates in  
18 convention assembled, and shall be the governing body of the District subject to the  
19 Constitution, Bylaws, and Resolutions of Synod, and to these Bylaws;  
20 2. The ~~elected~~ officers of the District, who shall have primary responsibility for the  
21 implementation of decisions of the Convention and the Board of Directors;  
22 3. The Board of Directors elected by the Convention, which serves as the legal  
23 representative of the District and the custodian of all property of the District. Between  
24 conventions the Board shall provide for implementation within the District of the  
25 decisions of the Synod and District conventions, establish and review policy, determine  
26 general priorities, approve program budgets, allocate necessary funds for the support  
27 of the Synod and District budgets, review program performance, make provisions for  
28 necessary staff, and review the performance of the District President. It shall report its  
29 activities to the Convention.  
30  
31 C. For purposes of conferences and elections requiring regional representation, the District  
32 shall be divided into four regions: Eastern, Lake Erie, Midwestern, and Western.  
33 1. The President and Vice-Presidents of the District and the Board of Directors acting  
34 jointly shall determine the membership of the four regions 24 months prior to  
35 Conventions of the District.  
36 2. For purposes of regional elections, individuals will be considered a part of the  
37 geographical region in which they reside.  
38  
39 ~~D.C.~~ Dispute Reconcilers shall be chosen in such manner and exercise such jurisdiction as  
40 provided by Synod Bylaw 1.10ff. ~~the Bylaws of the Synod (see 2010 Handbook bylaw~~  
41 ~~1.10.10ff).~~  
42  
43 ~~E.D.~~ A Committee on Nominations shall be elected at each Convention to prepare the ballot for  
44 the next Convention. One minister of religion—ordained pastor and one minister of  
45 religion—commissioned or layperson ~~or commissioned minister~~ by name from each of the  
46 four regions of the District conference region shall ~~will~~ be elected. The Committee shall

1 will organize itself as outlined in ~~nine months prior to the convention in accordance with~~  
2 the District's *Corporate Operations Manual*.

3  
4 ~~F.E.~~A Committee for Stewardship shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to comply with  
5 the stewardship programs and goals of the Synod, as required by Synod Bylaw 4.6.1. ~~(see~~  
6 ~~2010 Handbook Bylaw 4.6).~~

7  
8  
9 **ARTICLE III**  
10 **OFFICERS & STAFF**

11  
12 A. The officers of the District are:

- 13 1. A President  
14 2. One Vice-President from each of the four regions of the District, in line of succession,  
15 as prescribed by these Bylaws.  
16 3. A Secretary  
17 4. A Treasurer, a layperson appointed by the Board of Directors  
18 5. A Circuit Visitor for each Circuit established by the District.

19 ~~There shall be a President (Bishop), four Vice Presidents, a Secretary, an appointed~~  
20 ~~Treasurer, and Circuit Counselors.~~

21  
22 B. The duties of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Circuit Visitors  
23 Counselors are described in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and these Bylaws.  
24 Bylaw 5.2 (see 2010 Handbook) and in the resolutions of the conventions.

25  
26 C. The Vice-Presidents shall advise the President, serve as his representatives, and assist him  
27 in bringing to the Board of Directors any needed recommendations.

28  
29 D. All Staff shall be directly accountable to the President.

30  
31 **ARTICLE IV**  
32 **ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES**

33  
34 A. Terms of Office and Tenure Elections

- 35 1. ~~All elections shall take place at the regular Convention.~~  
36 2. ~~The President and all other elected officers, board and committee members shall be~~  
37 ~~elected by a majority of votes cast.~~  
38 3. ~~One Vice President from each of the four regions shall be elected by the delegates. The~~  
39 ~~convention shall determine their rank.~~  
40 4.  
41 1. Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for  
42 Stewardship, and Circuit Visitors Counselors shall serve for a term of three years.  
43 2. A person's tenure in the same office or function shall be limited to four (4) consecutive full  
44 three-year terms. These persons may be elected to their previous office or function after an  
45 interval of no less than three (3) years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an  
46 interval of no less than two (2) years.

1  
2 B. Nomination and Election of District President

- 3 1. Each member congregation of the District shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy  
4 roster of the Synod two (2) ordained ministers as candidates for District President.  
5 2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall  
6 send a letter to the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to  
7 submit nominations.  
8 3. Nominations for District President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four  
9 months prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the  
10 Convention Workbook the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received  
11 nominating votes.  
12 4. The names of the five (5) ordained ministers who receive the highest number of nominating  
13 votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall be no opportunity  
14 provided for additional nominations.  
15 5. The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's  
16 experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall  
17 be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the  
18 convention.  
19 6. The District Convention shall elect the District President.  
20 a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.  
21 b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes  
22 eliminated from consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast,  
23 who shall be declared elected.

24  
25 C. Nomination and Election of District Vice-Presidents

- 26 1. Each member congregation of a region of the District shall be entitled to nominate two (2)  
27 ordained ministers from the clergy roster of the District with residence in its designated  
28 region as candidates for Vice-President.  
29 2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall  
30 send a letter to the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to  
31 submit nominations.  
32 3. Nominations for Vice-President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four  
33 months prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the  
34 Convention Workbook the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received  
35 nominating votes.  
36 4. The names of the three (3) ordained ministers residing within the boundaries of each region  
37 who receive the most nominating votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of  
38 candidates. There shall be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.  
39 5. The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's  
40 experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall  
41 be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the  
42 convention.  
43 6. The District Convention shall elect one (1) Vice-President from each of the four regions of  
44 the District.  
45 a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

1           b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes  
2           eliminated from consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast,  
3           who shall be declared elected.

4       7. Upon the election of the Vice-Presidents, a final election will take place ranking the Vice-  
5       Presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority of voting delegates determining the  
6       first, second, third, and fourth Vice-Presidents in line of succession.

7  
8 D. Nomination and Election of Board of Directors

9       1. Six months prior to the opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall  
10       send a letter soliciting names from the officers of the District and the congregational and  
11       individual members of the District, along with the laypersons of the congregations of the  
12       District.

13       2. All suggested names shall be submitted to the Committee on Nominations no later than  
14       four months prior to the opening date of the Convention.

15       3. All nominees for a particular regional position must reside within the boundaries of the  
16       region for which they are nominated.

17       4. All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered to be nominees.

18       5. The Committee on Nominations shall request from each candidate a description of the  
19       candidate's experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning the  
20       individual's candidacy. These shall be published and distributed to all the convention  
21       delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.

22       6. The Committee on Nominations shall select at least two (2) candidates and at least one (1)  
23       alternate for each position.

24       7. The District Convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor.

25           a. Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate at the District Convention.  
26           The delegate making such nomination must present the District Secretary written  
27           consent of the person whose name is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the  
28           convention that the nominee is able and willing to serve if elected.

29           b. Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the District Convention for  
30           approval before being added to the ballot.

31       8. The District Convention shall elect one (1) ordained minister from the Eastern or Lake Erie  
32       Region, one (1) ordained minister from the Midwestern or Western Region, one (1)  
33       commissioned minister from the Eastern or Lake Erie Region, one (1) commissioned  
34       minister from the Midwestern or Western Region, and one (1) layperson from each of the  
35       four regions of the District.

36           a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

37           b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes  
38           eliminated from consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast,  
39           who shall be declared elected.

40       9. The District Convention shall elect two (2) laypersons as at-large members of the Board of  
41       Directors.

42           a. All candidates not elected to a Lay Regional Board of Director positions shall form the  
43           ballot for the Lay At-Large Board of Directors positions.

44           b. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

45           c. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving  
46           the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall

1 be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or  
2 more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the  
3 ballot.

4  
5 E. Nomination and Election of District Secretary, Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund  
6 Managers, and Other Boards or Committees

7 1. The Committee on Nominations shall select candidates for District Secretary, Committee  
8 on Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers, and other Boards or Committees. At least two  
9 (2) candidates and at least one (1) alternate shall be selected for each position.

10 2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall  
11 send a letter soliciting names from the officers of the District and the congregational and  
12 individual members of the District, along with the laypersons of the congregations of the  
13 District.

14 3. All suggested names shall be submitted to the Committee on Nominations no later than  
15 four months prior to the opening date of the Convention.

16 4. All nominees for a particular regional position must reside within the boundaries of the  
17 region for which they are nominated.

18 5. All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered to be nominees.

19 6. The Committee on Nominations shall request from each candidate a description of the  
20 candidate's experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning the  
21 individual's candidacy. These shall be published and distributed to all the convention  
22 delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.

23 7. The District Convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor.

24 a. Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate at the District Convention.  
25 The delegate making such nomination must present the District Secretary written  
26 consent of the person whose name is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the  
27 convention that the nominee is able and willing to serve if elected.

28 b. Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the District Convention for  
29 approval before being added to the ballot.

30 8. Election of these offices shall take place at the District Convention.

31 a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

32 b. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving  
33 the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall  
34 be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or  
35 more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the  
36 ballot.

37 B. Vacancies

38 ~~1. In the event that the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve in~~  
39 ~~that capacity because of prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of~~  
40 ~~the office of President shall be performed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice~~  
41 ~~President shall remain as the Acting President until the Board determines such illness or~~  
42 ~~disability has been removed, the President resigns or dies, or the Board determines that the~~  
43 ~~illness or disability is permanent.~~

44 ~~2. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant because of the resignation, death~~  
45 ~~or permanent disability of the President, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President shall succeed to the office~~  
46 ~~of President and shall serve until the next Convention.~~

- 1 ~~3. The successor need not terminate his current position while completing the unexpired term.~~  
2 ~~4. Any Vice President, who by the terms of this Article succeeds to the office of President,~~  
3 ~~may decline such office; in which event:~~  
4 ~~1. The next ranking Vice President shall become President of the District;~~  
5 ~~2. All other Vice Presidents shall move up one rank;~~  
6 ~~3. The declining Vice President shall fill the last ranking vacant Vice Presidency.~~  
7 ~~4. In the event that all Vice Presidents decline the office of President, the ranking of~~  
8 ~~the Vice Presidents shall remain unchanged, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President shall serve~~  
9 ~~as Acting President until the next convention, when a President shall be elected. He~~  
10 ~~need not leave his current position while serving as Acting President.~~  
11 ~~5. A vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the voting members of the Board.~~  
12 ~~6. A vacancy on the Committee on Nominations or in the Vice Presidents shall be filled by~~  
13 ~~the Board of Directors.~~  
14 ~~7. Vacancies that occur in the office of Circuit Counselor between conventions shall be filled~~  
15 ~~by appointment by the District President.~~  
16 ~~8. Persons appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors or other elected or appointed~~  
17 ~~positions shall serve until successors have been elected by the Convention or appointed~~  
18 ~~under the terms of the bylaws.~~  
19  
20

## ARTICLE V VACANCIES

### A. District President

- 25 1. In the event that the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve in  
26 that capacity because of prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of  
27 the office of President shall be performed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-  
28 President shall remain as the Acting President until the Board determines such illness or  
29 disability has been removed, the President resigns or dies, or the Board determines that the  
30 illness or disability is permanent.  
31 2. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant because of the resignation, death  
32 or permanent disability of the President, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall succeed to the office  
33 of President and shall serve until the next Convention.  
34 3. The successor need not terminate his current position while completing the unexpired term.  
35 4. Any Vice-President, who by the terms of this Article succeeds to the office of President,  
36 may decline such office; in which event:  
37 a. The next ranking Vice-President shall become President of the District;  
38 b. All other Vice-Presidents shall move up one rank;  
39 c. The declining Vice-President shall fill the last ranking vacant Vice Presidency.  
40 d. In the event that all Vice-Presidents decline the office of President, the ranking of the  
41 Vice-Presidents shall remain unchanged, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall serve as  
42 Acting President until the next convention, when a President shall be elected. He need  
43 not leave his current position while serving as Acting President.

### B. Other Elected Positions.

- 1 1. A vacancy in the Vice-Presidents shall be filled by appointment by the District President,  
2 in consultation with the Circuit Visitors within that the region.
- 3 2. Vacancies that occur in the office of Circuit Visitor between conventions shall be filled by  
4 appointment by the District President.
- 5 3. A vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the voting members of the Board,  
6 in consultation with the Committee on Nominations.
- 7 4. A vacancy on the Committee on Nominations shall be filled by voting members of the  
8 Board of Directors, in consultation with the Committee on Nominations.
- 9 5. Vacancies that occur in the office of District Endowment Fund Manager shall be filled:  
10 a. A vacancy in any regional manager position shall be filled by appointment by the  
11 District President, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.  
12 b. A vacancy in the Canadian representative position shall be filled by appointment by  
13 the Canada Corporation.
- 14 6. Persons appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors or other elected or appointed  
15 positions shall serve until successors have been elected by the Convention or appointed  
16 under the terms of the bylaws.

## ARTICLE V VI

### DISTRICT CONFERENCES, CIRCUIT FORUMS, AND CIRCUIT CONVOCATIONS

- 21 A. The President shall confer with the Board of Directors to arrange for the official conferences  
22 of the ordained and commissioned ~~professional~~ ministers of the District:;  
23 1. There shall be a plenary conference held annually for all ordained and commissioned  
24 ministers. In years when District Conventions are held, the plenary conference may be  
25 postponed at the discretion of the President and the Board of Directors.  
26 2. There shall be a conference for ordained ministers held annually in each of the four regions  
27 of the District.  
28 3. There shall be at least one conference for commissioned ministers held during each  
29 triennium.
- 31 ~~B. There shall be four regional pastoral conferences, which shall meet not less than once each~~  
32 ~~year.~~
- 34 ~~C. There shall be at least one District Conference for Commissioned Ministers per triennium.~~
- 36 ~~B.~~ D. Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their Circuit Visitors ~~Counselors~~ to select their  
37 Circuit Visitors ~~Counselors~~ and conduct other business no later than the time established by  
38 the District. They shall follow ~~and following~~ the procedures stated ~~noted~~ in Synod Bylaws  
39 5.2.2 & and 5.3 (see *2010 Handbook*).
- 41 ~~C.~~ E. The Circuit Visitor ~~Counselors~~ and any other officers of the circuit shall have the primary  
42 responsibility of preparing the agenda for the Circuit Convocation, following the procedures  
43 stated in Synod Bylaw 5.4. (see *Bylaw 5.4, 2010 Handbook*).

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19

**ARTICLE ~~VI~~ VII**  
**POWERS**

The District shall have legal powers as follows:

- 20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45
1. ~~A.~~ To purchase, acquire, hold, administer, sell, transfer, mortgage and convey property of every description, both personal and real, in the interest of the District;
  2. ~~B.~~ To accept, hold, administer, sell, transfer and convey legacies, gifts, donations, commercial papers and legal documents of every description in the performance of its work;
  3. ~~C.~~ To delegate to the Board of Directors, who shall exercise the aforementioned powers. No individual or officer of the District shall have the power to usurp this authority.
  4. ~~D.~~ No action on the part of the members of the Board of Directors shall be prerequisite to the borrowing of money or the execution of any mortgage upon personality or realty.
  5. ~~E.~~ There shall be no shares of stock issued in connection with the District.

**ARTICLE ~~VII~~ VIII**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

A. Membership and Composition

1. The Board of Directors shall have no more than fifteen (15) voting members, as follows:
  - a. The President of the District
  - b. The Secretary of the District
  - c. Two (2) ministers of religion—ordained, one of whom shall be elected from either the Eastern Region or Lake Erie Region and one whom shall be elected from either the Midwestern Region or Western Region
  - d. Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned, one of whom shall be elected from either the Eastern Region or Lake Erie Region and one whom shall be elected from either the Midwestern Region or Western Region
  - e. One (1) layperson elected from each of the four regions of the District.
  - f. Two (2) laypersons elected from the District at large
  - g. Up to three (3) at-large laypersons appointed by the elected voting members of the Board of Directors to obtain needed additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.)
2. The Board of Directors shall have six (6) non-voting members:
  - a. The Vice-Presidents of the District
  - b. The Treasurer of the District
  - c. The President of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Canada Corporation).
3. The Board shall elect its own chair and vice-chair from among the voting members of the Board after each convention. The President and Secretary shall be ineligible to be elected as chair or vice-chair.
4. Each Board member shall avoid conflicts of interest and shall disclose to the Board chair any potential conflicts of interest, as defined in Synod Bylaw 1.5.2.

1           5. Members of the Board of Directors may be removed for cause, as defined in Synod  
2           Bylaw 1.5.8.

3           6. No member of the Board of Directors shall receive remuneration (beyond allowable  
4           reimbursement) for service on the Board.

5           ~~The Board of Directors shall be composed of twelve (12) voting members: the President~~  
6           ~~and the Secretary of the District; two (2) pastors, one of whom shall be elected from the~~  
7           ~~Eastern/Lake Erie Regions and one from the Midwestern/Western Regions; two (2)~~  
8           ~~commissioned ministers, one of whom shall be elected from the Eastern/Lake Erie~~  
9           ~~Regions and one from the Midwestern/Western Regions; and six (6) lay persons, one~~  
10           ~~from each of the four (4) regions and two (2) elected at large. The Board shall also~~  
11           ~~include six (6) non-voting members: four (4) Vice Presidents, the appointed Treasurer,~~  
12           ~~and the President of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod~~  
13           ~~(Canada Corporation). They shall serve only in an advisory capacity. The Board shall~~  
14           ~~elect its own chair and vice chair from among the voting members of the Board after~~  
15           ~~each convention. The President and Secretary may not serve as chair or vice chair.~~

16  
17       B. Powers and Duties

18           1. The Board of Directors shall have such powers and duties as are accorded to it by the  
19           Constitution, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, resolutions, and policies of the  
20           Synod, as well as those of the District. Subject to such limitations, it shall operate  
21           within the applicable federal and state laws.

22           2. The Board's chief responsibility is developing and amending policy.

23           ~~3.2.~~ ~~The Board~~ ~~It~~ shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the  
24           District's business and legal affairs and shall adopt policies and require procedures  
25           which assure that said management and supervision is affected.

26           ~~4.3.~~ In fulfilling its functions and in coordinating its work with the Synod, the Board shall  
27           be guided generally by the functions of the Board of Directors of the Synod as  
28           defined in Synod Bylaw 3.3.4ff s 3.3.5ff (see *2010 Handbook*) as these apply to  
29           districts.

30           ~~5.4.~~ Between Conventions it shall provide for implementation within the District of the  
31           decisions of the Synod and District Conventions and allocate necessary funds for the  
32           support of the Synod and District budgets.

33           6. The Board of Directors shall report at each Convention.

34  
35       C. Meetings of the Board of Directors

36           1. ~~C.~~ Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least four (4) times a  
37           year at such time and place as the Board shall determine.

38           2. ~~D.~~ Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or upon  
39           request of seven (7) board members at any time, by means of written or email notice,  
40           at least three (3) days in advance of the time, place and purpose thereof to each  
41           director. ~~Special meetings may be held by means of conference telephone, video~~  
42           ~~conferencing, or similar communications equipment through which all persons~~  
43           ~~participating in the meeting can hear each other. A director participating by such~~  
44           ~~means is deemed to be present in person at the meeting.~~

45           3. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be conducted electronically, using audio,  
46           video, or internet-based conferencing technologies.

- 1           a. In such cases, the technology must be allow for each Board member to fully  
2           participate (hear, speak, have or been given access to documents and other  
3           materials as appropriate), including the opportunity to vote.  
4           b. Board members must be given a reasonable opportunity to access the electronic  
5           meeting. If a Board member does not have access to the technology to be used,  
6           arrangements will be made for the member to participate in person by coming to  
7           the District Office or other mutually agreed upon location.  
8           c. Any Board member listening or watching shall acknowledge their presence to the  
9           meeting. These names along with the attending Board members shall be recorded  
10           in the minutes of the meeting.  
11          4. ~~A majority of voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any~~  
12           properly called or scheduled meeting. A majority of the voting directors shall  
13           constitute a quorum.  
14          5. The Chair may authorize a Board member to participate in meetings of the Board by  
15           use of electronic technology described in Article VIII.C.3. Such participation by a  
16           Board member shall be considered as being present for the sake of establishing a  
17           quorum.  
18          6. In situations where board members are not able to meet as described above, the Board  
19           of Directors may take action by use of electronic ballot (i.e., e-mail, internet-based  
20           voting, etc.), provided all voting members of the board cast a vote and the result of  
21           the voting is unanimous.  
22          ~~F. If and when all voting directors have been polled and a majority consent in writing to any~~  
23           ~~action to be taken by the District, such action shall be as valid corporate action as though~~  
24           ~~it had been authorized at a meeting of the Board of Directors.~~  
25          7. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings that record a summary of the major points of  
26           discussion and any action(s) taken.  
27

#### 28          D. Appointment of Officers and Agents

- 29           1. ~~G.~~The Board of Directors shall have power to appoint such other officers and agents  
30           as the Board may deem necessary for the transaction of the business of the District.  
31           2. ~~H.~~The Board of Directors may require any officer or agent to file with the District a  
32           satisfactory fidelity bond.  
33

#### 34          E.~~I.~~Execution of Instruments.

- 35           1. All checks, drafts, and orders for payment of money shall be signed in the name of  
36           the District and may be countersigned by such officers or agents as the Board of  
37           Directors designates for that purpose or by the Treasurer alone.  
38           2. When the execution of any contract, conveyance or other instrument has been  
39           authorized without specification of the executing officers, the President and the  
40           Secretary may execute the same in the name of and on behalf of the District and may  
41           affix the corporate seal thereto. The Board of Directors shall have power to designate  
42           the officers and agents who shall have authority to execute any instrument on behalf  
43           of the District.  
44

1 F.J. Borrowing Authority

- 2 1. The Board of Directors shall act on behalf of the District to borrow money the Board  
3 deems necessary and appropriate.  
4 2. In such case the Board may authorize the proper officers of the District to make,  
5 execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of the District such notes, bonds and  
6 other evidence of indebtedness as the Board should deem proper.  
7 3. ~~The Board~~ ~~It~~ shall have full power to mortgage the property of the District, or any  
8 part thereof, as security for such indebtedness, and no action on the part of the  
9 membership of the District shall be requisite to the validity of any such note, bond,  
10 evidence of indebtedness or mortgage.  
11

12 G. Annual Budgetary Responsibilities

- 13 ~~1.L.~~The Board of Directors shall establish the annual District budget.  
14 ~~2.M.~~The Board of Directors shall establish the salary of the District President on an  
15 annual basis.  
16

17 H. District *Corporate Operations Manual*

- 18 ~~1.K.~~The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain the District's *Corporate*  
19 *Operations Manual* and shall approve appropriate modifications.  
20 2. Only the District in Convention, ~~however~~, shall have the power to amend the  
21 *Corporate Operations Manual* with respect to sections dealing with the election of  
22 officers and the Board.  
23 3. Modifications to the *Corporate Operations Manual* approved by the Board to any  
24 other sections shall be reported at the next Convention.  
25

26 ~~N. The Board of Directors shall report at each Convention.~~

27  
28 ~~I.O.~~The Board of Directors shall conduct, supervise, and manage all affairs of the District not  
29 otherwise assigned.  
30

31 ~~P. The Board of Directors shall have full power and authority to exercise any and all of the~~  
32 ~~powers set forth in Article VI.~~  
33

34 ~~Q. No member of the Board of Directors shall receive remuneration (beyond allowable~~  
35 ~~reimbursement) for service on the Board.~~  
36

37 ~~R. Each Board member shall avoid conflicts of interest and shall disclose to the Board chair~~  
38 ~~any potential conflicts of interest.~~  
39

40 ~~S. A member of the Board of Directors may be removed for witness or actions that are~~  
41 ~~contrary to the mission and ministry of the District or to the functions of a Board~~  
42 ~~member. Such removal requires an affirmative vote of at least three fourths (3/4) of the~~  
43 ~~voting members of the Board present at a duly noticed and constituted Board meeting.~~  
44 ~~All actions must be in accord with Synod Bylaw 1.5.7 (see 2010 Handbook).~~  
45

1 **ARTICLE VIII IX**  
2 **ENGLISH DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND**

- 3  
4 A. The District shall establish and maintain an endowment fund, providing a stewardship  
5 opportunity for congregations and their members and a resource for the support of District and  
6 Synod ministries. (The structure and operation of the fund is described in the English District  
7 *Corporate Operations Manual*.)  
8  
9 B. The Board of Directors shall exercise oversight for the English District Endowment Fund  
10 (EDEF).  
11  
12 C. The Board shall ensure ~~assure~~ that the EDEF Board of Managers reports on its work at least  
13 annually to the Board.  
14  
15 D. The Board shall elect one of its voting members to serve on the EDEF Board of Managers.  
16  
17

18 **ARTICLE IX X**  
19 **CONFLICTS**

- 20  
21 A. No article of the Bylaws of the District shall be valid which conflicts with the Constitution and  
22 Bylaws of the Synod.  
23  
24 B. Any matter, rule or regulation not specifically herein contained in the Bylaws shall be governed  
25 by comparable provision in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.  
26  
27

28 **ARTICLE X XI**  
29 **AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS**

30  
31 Changes, additions, and alterations to the Bylaws may be made by Conventions of the District:  
32 ~~provided they:~~

- 33 1. ~~A. They shall not conflict with~~ Are not contrary to the Constitution or Bylaws of the  
34 Synod;  
35 2. ~~B. They shall be~~ Are separately considered and acted upon by the Board of Directors;  
36 3. ~~C. They shall be submitted~~ Are presented for review to the Commission on Constitutional  
37 Matters of the Synod for review and approval prior to consideration by a District  
38 convention;  
39 4. ~~D. They shall be~~ Are presented in writing to the District in convention; ~~and~~  
40 5. ~~E. They shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and~~  
41 voting. Are passed by a majority of the voting delegates in convention.  
42

1 RESOLUTION 3-04A

2  
3  
4 **To Amend the English District Corporate Operations Manual**

5  
6 WHEREAS, the LCMS Committee on Constitutional Matters reviewed the Corporate Operations  
7 Manual of the District and published Opinion 15-2778 which stated:

8  
9 Under COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS, "Duties": This entire section is not the  
10 responsibility of the nominations committee but of the secretary, as in the case of the  
11 Synod's Secretary (Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.6). It is the responsibility of the district  
12 secretary to obtain nominations for district president (paragraph A), obtain  
13 nominations for district vice-president (paragraph B), prepare slates of regional  
14 positions (paragraph C), etc.; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, District Bylaw VII.K governs the process of modifying and amending the *District*  
17 *Corporate Operations Manual*:

18  
19 The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain the District's *Corporate Operations*  
20 *Manual* and shall approve appropriate modifications. Only the District in Convention,  
21 however, shall have the power to amend the *Corporate Operations Manual* with respect to  
22 sections dealing with the election of officers and the Board. Modifications, approved by  
23 the Board to any other sections, shall be reported at the next Convention; therefore be it

24  
25 *Resolved*, That the District in Convention amend the District's Corporate Operations Manual to  
26 bring it into compliance with CCM Opinion 15-2778, as follows:

27  
28 **COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS** (*Note English District Bylaw Article # IV*)

29 Function: Prepare slates of candidates for the offices ~~and for the Board, and any other~~  
30 ~~positions to be voted upon by the District Convention.~~ of Secretary, Board of Directors,  
31 Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers, and Other Boards or Committees,  
32 as required by the bylaws of the Synod and District.

33 Membership: The committee shall consist of one pastor, and one layperson or  
34 commissioned ~~ministry minister by name~~ from each region of the District, elected at the  
35 District Convention. They shall organize themselves nine months prior to the Convention at  
36 the "call" of the President.

37 Duties: A. ~~With regard to candidates for the office of the President:~~

- 38 1. ~~Send a letter six months prior to the District convention to the constituent~~  
39 ~~congregations of the District listing the qualifications for the presidency;~~  
40 2. ~~Request each congregation to submit up to two nominations in writing;~~  
41 3. ~~Secure from each nominee a statement in writing of his willingness to serve if~~  
42 ~~elected, accompanied by a description of the nominee's experience and~~  
43 ~~qualification;~~  
44 4. ~~Present to the convention a slate of up to five candidates who receive the~~

1                                   —highest number of nominations.  
2     ~~B. With regard to the candidates for the office of vice president, request each District~~  
3     ~~congregation to nominate up to two pastors from its area six months prior to the electing~~  
4     ~~convention. The three pastors receiving the highest number of votes in each area shall be~~  
5     ~~the nominees.~~  
6     A. Receive nominations for Secretary, Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations,  
7     Endowment Fund Managers, and Other Boards or Committees from the congregations,  
8     officers, and members of the District, and the laypersons of the congregations of the District.  
9     ~~G. B. With regard to the other positions, prepare~~ Prepare a slate of at least two candidates  
10    ~~and one alternate~~ for each above-listed position to be filled by ~~the~~ elections at the District  
11    convention. ~~Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate; but the delegate~~  
12    ~~making such nomination must present the District secretary with the written consent of the~~  
13    ~~person whose name is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the convention that~~  
14    ~~the nominee is able and willing to serve if elected;~~  
15    ~~D. C.~~ C. Request from all ~~nominees~~ candidates for elected positions (1) biographical  
16    information and (2) a statement concerning his/her candidacy. Publish and distribute the  
17    same to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention. The  
18    committee may pose questions to the candidates and limit the length of the response.  
19    ~~E. The cutoff date for acceptance of nominations for the president and vice presidents shall~~  
20    ~~be four months prior to the opening of the electing convention.~~  
21

1 **RESOLUTION 4-01A**

2 **To Support the Well-being of All the Church's Workers and Church Worker Families**  
3 **in the English District**

4  
5 WHEREAS, the well-being of the church's workers is vital to the ministry and mission of the  
6 church; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, those who are called to serve the church in various capacities are well advised to  
9 care for themselves and for their families so that they can carry out their work to the best of  
10 their ability; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, congregations, schools, and other agencies are vital to the well-being of their  
13 church workers as they support those workers in pursuit of their well-being; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, major challenges to the well-being of the church's workers are known and  
16 documented, such as depression, addiction, marital strife, and burnout, etc.; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, there are effective strategies to deal with those challenges to enhance their well-  
19 being; therefore be it

20  
21 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention express its support for all efforts of  
22 congregations, schools, and agencies to care for our workers and support them and their  
23 families in their wellbeing, including the following components of holistic well-being: spiritual,  
24 financial, vocational, intellectual, relational, emotional, and physical; and be it further

25  
26 *Resolved*, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to do all they can to  
27 support the holistic well-being of their church workers, focusing on intentional, strategic,  
28 practical efforts at preventing problems before they develop and resolving them before they  
29 become crises; and be it further

30  
31 *Resolved*, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to support the holistic  
32 well-being of all their workers' families as well; and be it further

33  
34 *Resolved*, that the church's workers of the English District be encouraged to care for  
35 themselves in every aspect of holistic well-being so that they can continue to serve to the best  
36 of their ability with the gifts and strength that God supplies; and be it further

37  
38 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention publicly recognize and show appreciation for  
39 the District Ministerial Health Committee for all of the work it does; and be it finally

40  
41 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention memorialize the 2019 Regular Convention of  
42 the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to encourage the care and well-being of church workers  
43 and their families throughout the Synod.

1 **RESOLUTION 4-03A**

2

3 **To Encourage Synodical Educational Institutions to Train Students to Become Organists**

4

5 WHEREAS our congregations have much trouble finding capable organists; and

6

7 WHEREAS in the past many of our teachers were trained to play organ and direct choirs; and

8

9 WHEREAS the Wisconsin Synod still does this, proving this is still practical; therefore be it

10

11 *Resolved* that the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the colleges and schools  
12 of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod encourage all their students to learn to become  
13 competent Lutheran organists.

## CONVENTION MINUTES JUNE 20 – MORNING SESSION

President Hardy called the Convention back in session at 8:00-am. Rev. Brian Westgate led opening devotions with Vice-President Ben Eder providing a homily on 1 Timothy 1:12-17.

At 8:15am, Synod President Harrison presented his report of the Synod to the delegates. A published report “Joy:fully Lutheran” was distributed to each delegate. The initial part of the report spoke to how Luther spoke of the Gospel as stated in the Scriptures as a “joyful exchange” and joy creating. Further descriptions of joy connected with the Christian faith and the various facets of Christian life were provided. The second part of the report issued two positive challenges to delegates: (a) study the Scriptures and (b) read the Book of Concord. The third part of the report provided demographic data of the Synod. The fourth part of the report offered potential answers to the membership difficulties facing the Synod. Delegates had opportunity to ask questions of Synod President Harrison.

President Hardy directed the delegates’ attention to the copies of the minutes from the June 19 session of the Convention. Motion: **“To approve the minutes as presented.”** Motion carried.

Delegates enjoyed a coffee break in the Ministry Tent beginning at 10:03am.

President Hardy called the convention to order at 10:25am. He directed the delegates’ attention to the proposed standing rules found on Page 1-4 of the Convention Workbook. Motion: **“To adopt the proposed standing rules.”** Motion carried.

President Hardy announced that the offering collected at from the Convention Worship Service on June 19 totaled \$4,000. He invited Rev. Adam Koontz, pastor at Mount Calvary – Lititz, PA and missionary pastor at Concordia Lutheran Mission – Myerstown, PA to the dais. Rev. Koontz spoke briefly about the mission being planted in Lebanon County, PA and thanked the delegates for their financial support of the mission.

President Hardy introduced members of the District Staff to the delegates, thanking them for their service to the District and the District congregations. Staff recognized were Kathy Stanis, Sally Naglich, Peggy Oke, Ron Grimm, Lynne Cobb, Evelyn Jentzen, Rev. David Thiele, Rev. J. Derek Mathers, and Gail Holzer.

At 10:35am, President Hardy summoned Mrs. Sally Naglich, Treasurer of the English District, to the dais. Treasurer Naglich presented reports on the financial status of the District from the 2015—2018 triennium. She explained how the financial records of the District are kept and were presented in the Convention Workbook. She also informed the delegates of the positive audit review that the District received from the Synod Audit Department. She presented a summary statement of the Financial Position of the District, comparing the financial positions for the three Fiscal Years that ended January 2016, January 2017, and January 2018. Note was made of the

overall decline in congregational support given during the 2008—2018 decade. A chart detailing the number of congregations giving money to the District comparing the years 2011, 2016, 2017, and 2018. Congregations and ministries that received grants during the past triennium were also identified.

At 10:55am, President Hardy invited Rev. Bart Day, Chief Executive Officer of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), to the dais. Rev. Day spoke to the delegates about the activity of LCEF within the Synod. He informed delegates that the English District joined LCEF in 1982. He reported that \$36 million dollars are currently invested by congregations of the English District and their members and that 63 loans are currently active within the District. He described various services that LCEF can provide to congregations and rostered church workers.

At 11:05am, President Hardy invited Rev. Marcus Zill, Synod Director of Campus Ministry, to the dais. Rev. Zill noted that the English District is currently the most active District of the Synod with campus ministries. He encouraged District congregations to be diligent in caring for their members who attend college. He identified three future frontiers for work among individuals 18-25 years old: (a) community colleges, (b) urban centers with multiple campuses located in them, and (c) young people who choose not to attend college. A program meant to prepare students before they attend college is also being developed.

At 11:13am, Secretary Zimmerman provided the second credentials report of the Convention. The credentials report as of 10:00am on June 20, 2018 was as follows:

Voting Pastoral Delegates	101
<u>Voting Lay Delegates</u>	<u>96</u>
<b>Total Voting Delegates</b>	<b>197</b>
<i>Total Advisory Delegates</i>	23
Youth Representatives	12
Board Members	1
District Support Staff	8
<u>Visitors/Guests</u>	<u>57</u>
<b>Total in Attendance</b>	<b>298</b>

At 11:15am, President Hardy summoned Rev. Tauscher to announce the slate of candidates for District Secretary and the District Board of Directors. Secretary Zimmerman informed delegates of how the candidates for these offices were nominated.

President Hardy then asked if there were any floor nominations for District Secretary or District Board of Directors. None were offered. The slate of candidates was closed.

President Hardy asked Rev. Jeff Teeple, convention chaplain, to offer prayers prior to conducting the elections for District Secretary and Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for District Secretary:

Rev. Luke Zimmerman

The convention proceeded with balloting for District Secretary. The ballot was held. The results were posted:

**Rev. Luke Zimmerman**                      **177**

Rev. Zimmerman was elected to a second term as District Secretary.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for the Ordained (Eastern/Lake Erie) seat on the Board of Directors:

Rev. Mark Braden

Rev. R. Wayne Morton

Rev. Michael Scheer

Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel

Rev. Robert Tauscher

Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr.

The convention proceeded with balloting for the Board of Directors (Ordained – Eastern/Lake Erie Regions). The first *[and only]* ballot was held. The results were posted:

Rev. Mark Braden                      36

Rev. R. Wayne Morton                70

Rev. Michael Scheer                 14

Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel             25

Rev. Robert Tauscher                34

Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr.             3

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of Revs. Scheer, Spittel, and Weldon were removed. A second ballot was held and the vote totals were posted:

Rev. Mark Braden                      40

**Rev. R. Wayne Morton**                **96**

Rev. Robert Tauscher                42

Rev. R. Wayne Morton was elected to a second term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors (Midwestern/Western Regions):

Rev. Thomas Engler

Rev. Theodore Laesch

Rev. Justin Laughridge

Rev. Michael Morehouse

The convention continued with balloting for the Board of Directors (Ordained – Midwestern/Western Regions). The first ballot was held. The results were posted:

Rev. Thomas Engler	66
Rev. Theodore Laesch	41
Rev. Justin Laughridge	34
Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse	41

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Rev. Laughridge’s name was removed. A second ballot was held. The results of the second ballot were posted:

<b>Rev. Thomas Engler</b>	<b>91</b>
Rev. Theodore Laesch	42
Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse	47

Rev. Thomas Engler was elected to a first term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher informed the delegates that no candidates for Board of Directors (Commissioned – Eastern/Lake Erie Regions) were presented for election. This creates a vacancy that will be filled by the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for Board of Directors (Commissioned – Midwestern/Western Regions):

Albert Amling  
Rod Lane

The convention continued with balloting for the Board of Directors (Commissioned – Midwestern/Western Regions). The ballot was held. The results were posted:

<b>Albert Amling</b>	<b>108</b>
Rod Lane	68

Mr. Albert Amling was elected to a fourth term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for Board of Directors (Lay – Eastern Region):

Michael Coffey  
Jane Duffy  
Carol George  
William Magill

The convention continued with balloting for the Board of Directors (Lay – Eastern Region). The first ballot was held. The results were posted:

Michael Coffey	37
Jane Duffy	57
Carol George	58
William Magill	20

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, William Magill's name was removed. A second ballot was held. The results were posted:

Michael Coffey	41
Jane Duffy	63
Carol George	70

With no candidate receiving a majority, Michael Coffey's name was removed. A third ballot was held. The results were posted:

Jane Duffy	80
<b>Carol George</b>	<b>94</b>

Carol George was elected to a second term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors (Lay – Lake Erie Region):

Terry Leu

The convention continued with balloting for the Board of Directors (Lay – Lake Erie Region). The results were posted:

<b>Terry Leu</b>	<b>174</b>
------------------	------------

Terry Leu was elected to a third term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for Board of Directors (Lay – Midwestern Region):

Chris Cassel  
Charles Porter

The convention continued with balloting for the Board of Directors (Lay – Midwestern Region). The results were posted:

<b>Chris Cassel</b>	<b>113</b>
Charles Porter	61

Chris Cassel was elected to a second term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for Board of Directors (Lay – Western Region):

Shirley Holle  
Kristin Wellik

The convention continued with balloting for the Board of Directors (Lay – Western Region). The results were posted:

<b>Shirley Holle</b>	<b>104</b>
Kristin Wellik	69

Shirley Holle was elected to a second 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. The results were posted:

Michael Coffey	30
Jane Duffy	75
William Magill	13
Charles Porter	27
Kristin Wellik	27

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, William Magill’s name was removed. A second ballot was held. The results were posted:

Michael Coffey	43
Jane Duffy	79
Charles Porter	29
Kristin Wellik	24

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Kristin Wellik’s name(s) was/were removed. A third ballot was held. The results were posted:

Michael Coffey	50
<b>Jane Duffy</b>	<b>88</b>
Charles Porter	35

Jane Duffy was elected to a third 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. The results were posted:

Michael Coffey	69
William Magill	12
Charles Porter	42
Kristin Wellik	55

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, William Magill’s name was removed. A second ballot was held. The results were posted:

Michael Coffey	69
Charles Porter	37
Kristin Wellik	67

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Charles Porter’s name was/were removed. A third ballot was held. The results were posted:

Michael Coffey

83

**Kristin Wellik**

**89**

Kristin Wellik 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.

President Hardy invited Rev. Rich Heinz from Concordia University Chicago to greet the delegates. Rev. Heinz spoke about the necessity to recruit church workers, a task that begins well before when high school students examine options for college. He informed delegates about the CUC Guarantee, a tuition grant program that is offered to LCMS students and graduates of Lutheran high schools. Another program to reduce costs of graduate level studies for LCMS church work students was highlighted.

President Hardy declared the Convention to be in recess until 1:30pm.

## **CONVENTION MINUTES JUNE 20 – AFTERNOON SESSION**

President Hardy called the Convention to order at 1:30pm.

President Hardy invited Rev. David P. Maier, President of the Michigan District, to address the delegates. He spoke about the reach of Concordia University to individuals around the nation, as well as how the Michigan, Ohio, and English Districts partnered to help save the college. He also informed the delegates about the regional groupings of the District Presidents, of which both the Michigan District and English District are part.

President Hardy recognized the past presidents of the District: Roger Pittelko, David Ritt, and David Stechholz. David Stechholz, who was present, was invited to the dais.

President Hardy invited Rev. John Diener, Chairman of the District Evangelization Team, to speak about the efforts of the team. He reminded delegates that the greatest opportunity that each of us have is to share the gospel with those who have not yet heard it. That truth of the gospel is what defines individuals. Members of the Evangelization Team were listed. Goals of the team were presented to the delegates. Rev. Diener also informed the delegates of the witnessing modules being made available as part of the “Every One His Witness” curriculum.

Vice-President Ben Eder assumed the chair while President Hardy was absent to attend another matter.

Vice-President Eder invited Rev. Derek Mathers to the dais to introduce Rev. Tom Engler, Pastor of Prince of Peace – Menomonee Falls, WI, to speak about the 1.1.1 Initiative, a plan to fund missions within the District. Rev. Engler told delegates about his own passion for missions and how that led to the development of the initiative. The 1.1.1 Initiative is a way for congregations to deliberately raise dedicated money for mission. Congregations would participate by having worshipers contribute \$1 per week for a designated mission project identified by the District. The strength of the initiative is that every worshiper can participate and the weekly dollar gifts add up to large amounts. It also incorporates individuals into a larger movement, a motivator for many to contribute. Mr. Norm Schwantes, a member of Prince of Peace, also spoke to how the 1.1.1 Initiative has been received at that congregation. Rev. Derek Mathers informed delegates that two missions have been identified as recipients of 1.1.1 Initiative money: Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission and Concordia Lutheran Mission.

Following the 1.1.1 Initiative presentation, President Hardy reassumed the chair. He also presented the delegates with a way that the District can now receive mission money by texting.

President Hardy invited members of the District Campus Ministry Task Force. Rev. Curt Dwyer spoke of the work being done by the task force. Representatives from congregations involved with campus ministries were present on the dais. Rev. Dwyer noted that campus ministries

provide multiple mission fields; though many of them with North American students, others are with international students or with non-students connected with colleges and their communities. During the presentation, highlights of work being done by campus ministries around the District.

At 2:35pm, Secretary Zimmerman provided the third credentials report of the Convention. As of 2:00pm on June 20, 2018, the credentials report was as follows:

Voting Pastoral Delegates	100
<u>Voting Lay Delegates</u>	<u>96</u>
<b>Total Voting Delegates</b>	<b>196</b>
<i>Total Advisory Delegates</i>	<i>23</i>
Youth Representatives	12
Board Members	1
District Support Staff	8
<u>Visitors/Guests</u>	<u>56</u>
<b>Total in Attendance</b>	<b>296</b>

President Hardy invited representatives from the congregations added to the English District during the 2015—2018 triennium to the dais:

- Tree of Life – Inverness, FL
- Apostolic – Moses Lake, WA
- St Paul – Long Beach, CA
- First Trinity – Pittsburgh, PA
- Trinity – San Dimas, CA

Certificates were presented to the present representatives and photos were taken.

Following this presentation, delegates enjoyed a coffee break in the Ministry Tent.

President Hardy called the Convention back to order at 3:00pm. President Hardy summoned Rev. Jim Elsner, convention chaplain, to offer prayers. Petitions were offered for various individuals whose conditions or afflictions were brought to the attention of the convention chaplains by delegates.

At 3:05pm, President Hardy called members of the District Lifeline Team to the dais. Members spoke about the activities sponsored by this team to educate District congregations about life matters. A new chairman for the District Life Lineline Team is being sought.

At 3:10pm, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 2, Missions & Evangelization to the dais.

Floor Committee 2 moved adoption of Resolution 2-01A (*Page 6-27*). During debate, the motion was offered: ***“To amend Resolution 2-01A by inserting after line 39 the additional resolved which was removed by the Committee from Resolution 2-01 found in Convention Workbook on Page 4-77 (Lines 40-41).”*** The chair ruled that this would be considered a substitute motion: ***“To***

**move adoption of Resolution 2-01.”** By a 96–74 vote, consideration of the proposed substitute motion was adopted. Debate ensued on Resolution 2-01. Following debate, Resolution 2-01 was adopted [Y-133; N-40].

Floor Committee 2 moved adoption of Resolution 2-02 (*Page 4-78*). Following debate, Resolution 2-02 was adopted [Y-163; N-12].

At 3:30pm, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 1 to the dais.

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-06 (*Page 4-73*). During debate, the motion was offered: **“To amend the resolution by striking the term ‘young earth’ throughout the resolution.”** The Floor Committee received the amendment. Following debate, amended Resolution 1-06 was adopted [Y-139; N-35].

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-07A (*Pages 6-26, 6-27*). Following debate, Resolution 1-07A failed [Y-65; N-110].

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-01 (*Page 4-67*). During debate, the motion was offered: **“To replace ‘call on’ in Line 35 with ‘encourage.’”** The Floor Committee received the amendment. Following debate, Resolution 1-01 was adopted [Y-143; N-35].

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-02 (*Pages 4-68, 4-69*). Following debate, Resolution 1-02 was adopted [Y-133; N-44].

President Hardy announced where Circuit Caucuses were to meet to elect Synod Convention Delegates and where the Canada Corporation was to meet to conduct corporate elections/business. Secretary Zimmerman informed circuits of their responsibilities concerning the Synod Convention. Following prayer by Rev. C.J. Wright, delegates were dismissed. President Hardy declared the Convention to be in recess until 7:00pm.

## **CONVENTION MINUTES JUNE 20 – EVENING SESSION**

President Hardy called the Convention to order at 7:00pm.

President Hardy invited James Wolf, member of the LCMS Board for International Mission, to the dais. He spoke about the role of the layperson in mission work to love the neighbor. He emphasized the benefits that mission work brings to all people involved, both those who are recipients of the mission and those who are doing the work. He encouraged delegates to reach out to others in their congregations to become personally engaged in mission work.

Following his presentation, James Wolf introduced Rev. Theodore Krey, LCMS International Mission Director for Latin America, to the delegates. He thanked the District for its past and continued support for the mission work being done in the Dominican Republic. He spoke to the goal of planting Lutheran churches within the Latin American nations. He also informed delegates of the Fall 2017 formation of a Lutheran seminary in the Dominican Republic that will prepare pastors for new congregations in Latin America. These efforts will accompany the various mercy ministries taking place in the Dominican Republic.

At 7:27pm, President Hardy invited Dr. David Schmidt of Concordia Seminary – St. Louis, MO to the dais. He greeted the delegates and thanked them on behalf of Seminary President Dale Meyer. He described the new curriculum that has been implemented at the seminary that has been designed to train pastors who have been raised in 21<sup>st</sup> Century North America. He also informed delegates of the financial assistance that will be given to cover all tuition for residential pastoral and deaconess students. He also spoke of how the seminary is looking to turn upward (toward God) and outward (toward new students) when reacting to times of distress.

At 7:40pm, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 3 to the dais.

Floor Committee 3 introduced Resolution 3-07 (*Page 4-97*) to the convention for action. Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, pastor of St. Michael – Fort Wayne, IN, first addressed the Convention in favor of the resolution. Rev. Wayne Morton, Chairman of the English District Board of Directors, responded by speaking against the resolution. Following debate but prior to the vote, prayer was offered by Rev. James Elsner, convention chaplain. Resolution 3-07 was adopted [*Y-125; N-51*].

Floor Committee 3 moved adoption of Resolution 3-06 (*Page 4-96*). Without debate, Resolution 3-06 was adopted [*Y-160; N-12*].

Floor Committee 3 moved adoption of Resolution 3-01 (*Pages 4-79, 4-80*). Following debate, Resolution 3-01 was adopted [*Y-112; N-64*].

Floor Committee 3 moved adoption of Resolution 3-02 (*Pages 4-80, 4-81*). Following debate, Resolution 3-02 was adopted [*Y-149; N-28*].

President Hardy declared the Convention to in recess until 8:00am on Thursday, June 21.

Submitted,

Rev. Luke T. Zimmerman  
Secretary, English District—LCMS

## **OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CORRECTION**

The Rev. Gordon Bynum's status change from Candidate to Non-Candidate occurred in January of 2009, and not in January of 2008. This corrects the error in the 2012 Convention Workbook on page 2-26.