

Note: When the Special 2017 Convention of the District established new circuits, the primary concern was that each circuit would be able to serve as a viable electoral circuit for quite some time. However, some circuits have a large number of member congregations (as many as 16) in order to meet the requirements for communicant membership, and some circuits might find it unwieldy to work with so many congregations and their pastors. Since an electoral circuit may be composed of one or two visitation circuits, the circuits created by the special 2017 convention could remain the electoral circuits, while two visitation circuits are created out of a particular (electoral) circuit. Each visitation circuit would have its own circuit visitor. The two visitation circuits that form one electoral circuit may or may not choose to meet together or to do so only occasionally.

That said, visitation circuits are created by the district and any proposal to create two visitation circuits must be approved by the district in convention, and that entails getting an overture submitted to the district convention by September 30, 2017. A sample overture is given below. The process should take place as follows:

- 1. Every new electoral circuit that anticipates the need for subdividing into two visitation circuits should meet informally by early to mid-September. At this meeting, pastors should not only get to know each other better, but talk about how there might be an appropriate division of labor into two circuits.*
- 2. Because the new circuit will have no legal standing until June 1, 2018, the new circuit will not be able to submit an overture asking for the change. Instead, the group assembled should ask either one of the old circuits or one or more of the member congregations of the new circuit to submit the overture below. This overture, like all others, must be submitted before September 30, 2017.*
- 3. Meanwhile, also before September 30, 2017, each congregation will nominate up to two pastors to fill the office of circuit visitor for the new circuit to be formed on June 1, 2018.*
- 4. Sometime between October 5, 2017 (after the nominees for each circuit have been collated and given to the current circuit visitors) and December 1, 2017, a circuit forum will be held in each circuit (according to the new distribution of churches that will take effect in June 2018) to elect a circuit visitor. Even if the new circuit agreed earlier to get an overture submitted to subdivide the electoral circuit into two visitation circuits, only one circuit visitor may be elected at that time, since the two visitation circuits are simply a proposal at that point in time, while the new (electoral) circuits were formally approved in March of 2017.*
- 5. If the convention creates two new visitation circuits for the electoral circuit, the office of circuit visitor then becomes vacant. Typically when there is a vacancy (such as when a nominated circuit visitor takes a call between the time of his election and the convention, or when the circuit had not been able to agree on a candidate in advance of the convention), the circuit caucuses at the convention before the list of circuit visitors is ratified. Technically, it is in the district president's purview to make the appointment to the slate of circuit visitors by himself (Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.f), but he usually does so after that circuit has caucused at the convention. We will follow this tradition at this convention and make sure that all the resolutions concerning circuits are handled before the circuit visitors are ratified.*

To the 59th Convention of
The Northern Illinois District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
March 9-10, 2018

OVERTURE [A Number will be assigned here.]

SUBJECT TO DIVIDE ELECTORAL CIRCUIT ____ INTO TWO VISITATION
CIRCUITS

WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 3.1.2.a states that “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000”; and

WHEREAS, The 2017 special district convention formed electoral circuits in such a way that they would meet the requirements of Synod bylaws, but created some circuits that contain too many congregations for one circuit visitor to handle; and

WHEREAS, The congregations that will form circuit ____ effective June 1, 2018 met on [*insert date*] and agreed that it should be divided into two visitation circuits in the following way:

Circuit ____ A
Congregation, City
Congregation, City

Circuit ____ B
Congregation, City
Congregation, City (etc.)

and

WHEREAS, Circuit ____ will not officially come into existence until after the district convention, but the assembled congregations wanted their wishes to be made known and has asked the undersigned body to submit this overture, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That electoral circuit ____ be divided into two visitation circuits as proposed above.

Respectfully submitted,

Name of body submitting the overture

[Note: This should be a congregation or current circuit, not a new circuit]

Signed by the Chairperson
And signed by the Secretary