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Section V

Overtures

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**NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT
2018 CONVENTION
FLOOR COMMITTEE I**

I. Witness/Mercy

Ordained Ministers

Rev. Leonard Payton (Chair) St. John, 305 Circle Ave, Forest Park, IL 60130-1609
(708) 574-9649 lrpayton@stjohnforestpark.org

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Commissioned Ministers

Donna Laughlin, Immanuel, Batavia, 950 Hart Rd, Batavia, IL 60510-9346, 630-406-
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Lay Delegates

Jennifer Allen, Immanuel, DeKalb, 611 Wood St, DeKalb, IL 60115, 815-739-
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Advisory

Rev. James Kellerman (chair), 1649 W Le Moyne St, Chicago, IL 60622-2240, (773)
276-2338, jkellrmn@aol.com

Staff

Rev. Keith Haney, keith.haney@ni.lcms.org

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**NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT
2018 CONVENTION
FLOOR COMMITTEE II**

II. Life Together

Ordained Ministers

Rev. Ken Krause, Mt. Olive, 2001 N Alpine Rd, Rockford, IL 61107-1417, (815) 399-3171, mtopastor@gmail.com

Rev. Ben Roberts, St. John, 505 S Park Rd, LaGrange, IL 60525-6112, 720-357-5626, pastorbenroberts@gmail.com

Commissioned Ministers

Katy Munson, Mt. Olive, 2001 N Alpine Rd, Rockford, IL 61107-1417, 815-399-3171, kmunson@mtolivelutheran.com

Lay Delegates

Doreen Peterson, Christ the Rock, 2500 Ridgefield Dr, Rockford, 61108, 815-547-7970, doreen.peterson@hotmail.com

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Advisory

Rev. Tom Niermann, tom.niermann@ni.lcms.org

Staff

Mike Zimmer, mike.zimmer@ni.lcms.org

NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT
2018 CONVENTION
FLOOR COMMITTEE III

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V – Elections

Ordained Ministers

Rev. Eric Kennaugh; Immanuel; 950 Hart Road, Batavia, 60510; 630.879-7163;
ekennaugh@immanuelbatavia.org

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2 **Northern Illinois District 2018 Convention**
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38

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

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6 OVERTURE: 1-01

7 **Subject:** Funding NID Life Task Force Events

8 Whereas the NID Life Task Force's mission, summarized in its mission
9 statement: "Affirming God's Will to create and sustain mortal life in the
10 anticipation of Life in Christ, the Northern Illinois District Life Task Force's
11 mission is to connect with church workers and their congregations by
12 presenting unique educational and outreach opportunities about the
13 reverence of life from conception through natural death." ...and its work is an
14 integral expression of Christ's Church and its confession in the Northern
15 Illinois area, and

16 Whereas the NID Life Task force's work is expression of the mission of
17 Christ's Church in the Northern Illinois region, and

18 Whereas the NID Life Task Force has networked church workers and
19 congregations, and prepared and implemented workshops and other events
20 each year since its inception, and

21 Whereas NID Life Task Force and its work were not funded through the NID
22 budget, but through monies solicited from private donors, and

23 Whereas, in response to observed needs, the NID Life Task Force would like
24 to provide greater support and resources for churches and people in the
25 Northern Illinois, therefore be it..

26 Resolved, the Northern Illinois District Life Task Force be provided funding of
27 \$2,000 per year as a regular item of the NID annual budget, and be it
28 further

29 Resolved, the NID Life Task Force give an annual report of its expenditures
30 of this allotted amount to the NID Board of Directors, and be it further

31 Resolved the funding the NID Life Task Force be reconsidered at each
32 subsequent regular Convention of the NID.

33 Respectfully submitted

- 1 South Region Pastoral Conference
- 2 Signed, Rev. Craig Meissner Chairperson
- 3 Signed, Rev. Jared Eggebraaten Secretary
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

1 To the 59th Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District of
3 The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
4 March 9-10, 2018
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6 OVERTURE 1-02

7 **Subject:** To Exhort LCMS Partner Churches to Leave the Lutheran World
8 Federation

9 WHEREAS, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) "is a global communion of
10 145 churches in the Lutheran tradition, representing over 74 million
11 Christians in 98 countries," and it declares of itself that its member churches
12 "share a vision, purpose and values. We work to strengthen our relationships
13 and build an inclusive, respectful communion. We are on a common journey
14 of renewal shaped and enriched by the different contexts within which we
15 live." (www.lutheranworld.org/content/about-lwf) Article III of the LWF
16 Constitution states, "The Lutheran World Federation is a communion of
17 churches which confess the triune God, agree in the proclamation of the
18 Word of God and are united in pulpit and altar fellowship." The LCMS is not a
19 member of the LWF. The LCMS is a member of the International Lutheran
20 Council (ILC), which is not a communion fellowship. However, the majority
21 of ILC member churches are partner churches of the LCMS with whom we
22 share altar and pulpit fellowship; and

23 WHEREAS, The July 7, 2017 Reporter article "Boards and Business:
24 International, National Mission" states, The Rev. Dr. Al Collver, director of
25 Church Relations for the Synod, provided an overview of two kinds of
26 Lutheranism evident worldwide. He described the differences between
27 church bodies affiliated with the International Lutheran Council (ILC) and the
28 more liberal Lutheran World Federation – with its focus on women's
29 ordination, acceptance of the LGBT lifestyle and using a higher critical
30 approach to interpreting Scripture. Collver explained that the ILC exists to
31 encourage, strengthen and promote confessional Lutheran theology and
32 practice. Increasingly, he said, Lutheran church bodies in the Global South
33 are seeking closer ties with the ILC and the LCMS. He pointed out that the
34 LCMS has 36 official partner churches and 25 "allied church bodies," which
35 have some degree of partnership but do not yet have altar and pulpit
36 fellowship. An additional 14 "emerging church bodies" have made contact
37 with the LCMS to learn more about its doctrine and practice. Collver also
38 noted that many large, established church bodies are seeking a more equal
39 partnership with the Synod and desire theological education, financial

1 expertise to better manage growing ministry institutions and help with
2 mercy work. "There is no time like the present to have a significant impact
3 on world Lutheranism," said Collver.

4 <https://bloesicrns.org/2017/international-national-mission>; and

5 WHEREAS, The LCMS has remained faithful and continues to confess the
6 truth of God's Word as its members subscribe unconditionally to the Book of
7 Concord. As a result of its confessional subscription (Article II of the LCMS
8 Constitution), the LCMS has not joined the LWF. Sadly, the LCMS has twelve
9 partner churches with whom we are in full altar and pulpit fellowship who
10 are members of the LWF. They are as follows with the year they joined the
11 LWF:

12 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana – 2004
13 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya – 1970
14 The Lutheran Church of Nigeria – 1973
15 India Evangelical Lutheran Church – 1970
16 Japan Lutheran Church – (Associate Member) 1999
17 Lutheran Church in Korea – 1972
18 Gutnius Lutheran Church (Papua New Guinea) – 1979
19 Lutheran Church in the Philippines – 1973
20 Lanka Lutheran Church (Sri Lanka) – 2001
21 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia – 1963
22 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania – 1967
23 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia – 1994; and

24 WHEREAS, For the sake of our common confession with our partner
25 churches and in faithfulness and love for the True God and His Word, the
26 LCMS should exhort its partner churches leave the fellowship of the LWF;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), has as its focus women's
29 ordination, acceptance of the LGBT lifestyle, and using a higher critical
30 approach to interpreting Scripture; and

31 WHEREAS, The Word of God says, "Do not be unequally yoked together with
32 unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And
33 what communion has light with darkness?" (2 Cor. 6:14) and "Now I urge
34 you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the
35 doctrine which you learned, and avoid them." (Rom. 16:17); therefore be it

36 Resolved, that in Christian love, and faithfulness to our common confession,
37 the LCMS exhort the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana, Evangelical
38 Lutheran Church in Kenya, The Lutheran Church of Nigeria, India Evangelical

1 Lutheran Church, Japan Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church in Korea, Gutnius
2 Lutheran Church (Papua New Guinea), Lutheran Church in the Philippines,
3 Lanka Lutheran Church (Sri Lanka), Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia,
4 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania, and Evangelical Lutheran Church
5 of Ingria in Russia to leave the membership of the Lutheran World
6 Federation as soon as possible; and be it further

7 Resolved, That that the Commission on Theology and Church Relations
8 report to the Synod regarding the results of this exhortation one year prior
9 to the opening of the 2022 LCMS Convention for further action; and be it
10 further

11 Resolved, That the Northern Illinois District in convention submit this
12 overture to the 2019 Convention of the LCMS.

13
14

15 Respectfully submitted

16 St. Paul, Brookfield
17 Signed, Mark Stern Chairperson
18 Signed, Secretary

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21

1 To the 59th Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District of
3 The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
4 March 9-10, 2018
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6 OVERTURE: 2-01

7 **Subject:** TO GRANT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORITY TO REALIGN CIRCUITS

8 Rationale

9 All districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have the authority to reconfigure
10 their circuits at a regular or special convention (Synod Constitution XII.3.c; Bylaws 1.3.2
11 and 5.1.2). A district may also grant that authority to its board of directors as well, but
12 the district’s intention to give that authority to the board must be stated explicitly in its
13 bylaws.

14 Circuits must be kept within the ranges stipulated by Synod Bylaw 3.1.2.a (7 to 20
15 congregations with a total communicant membership between 1,500 and 10,000
16 members), and demographic changes will likely continue to precipitate the need for
17 frequent redrawing of the map. While special conventions have been a way in which this
18 issue has been addressed in recent years (specifically, in 2005 and 2017), they are an
19 additional expense and burden of time for the district and its congregations. A regular
20 district convention could address this matter, but its solution could not be implemented
21 until the next district convention, thus affecting representation at the Synod convention
22 in the intervening years.

23 A sensible solution would be to grant the Northern Illinois District Board of Directors the
24 authority to reconfigure the circuits and, if necessary, adjust the four regions to keep
25 the number of circuits in each region roughly the same (as the district’s Bylaw I.C
26 requires). However, congregations and circuits are rightly concerned whenever there is
27 discussion of changing the way circuits are organized. Therefore, it is imperative that the
28 board not make changes arbitrarily. It would make sense then that all circuits that would
29 be affected by a proposed realignment first give their approval to the changes through
30 their circuit visitors before the district’s Board of Directors adopts the changes. In
31 addition, it would be sensible for all the district’s circuit visitors to be consulted and give
32 advice on possible changes to the way circuits are arranged, even if the proposed
33 changes do not directly

34
35 RESOLVED, That bylaw III.A.3 be amended to read as follows:
36

- 37 3. Powers.
38 a. The Board of Directors shall have such authority over and responsibility for
39 the property of the district as is generally vested in and imposed upon the
40 Board of Directors of a corporation.

- 1 b. The Board of Directors shall have the power to borrow money in the
2 corporate name of the district, to issue and sell the district's obligations and
3 evidences of indebtedness, and to exercise such power within and without
4 the State of Illinois.
- 5 c. The Board of Directors shall be legal representative and custodian of all
6 properties and documents of the district, maintain an accurate inventory of
7 all properties, legacies, and valuable documents, and provide for the
8 adequate safekeeping of such documents and negotiable securities.
- 9 d. The Board of Directors shall have all powers necessary or incidental to the
10 full exercise of the foregoing powers and to the discharge of its duties in
11 these Bylaws, the Bylaws of the Synod or duties assigned to it by the district
12 convention.
- 13 **e. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to reconfigure the**
14 **circuits of the district, including making adjustments in the**
15 **organization of the regions, as long as the principles of Bylaw I.C are**
16 **observed and the Board has secured advice from all the circuit**
17 **visitors and the consent of the circuit visitors of the circuits whose**
18 **congregations would be affected by the change.**
- 19 e-f. The Board of Directors shall in all actions be accountable to the district
20 convention.

21
22
23 Respectfully submitted

24 Northern Illinois District Board of Directors
25 Signed, Dan P. Gilbert Chairperson
26 Signed, James A. Kellerman Secretary
27
28

1 To the 59th Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District of
3 The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
4 March 9-10, 2018
5

6 OVERTURE: 2-02

7 **Subject:** TO ALLOW AMENDMENTS TO THE DISTRICT BYLAWS TO BE ADOPTED
8 PROVISIONALLY

9 Rationale

10 Because all amendments to the district's bylaws must be approved by the Synod's
11 Commission on Constitutional Matters before they can be implemented, the procedure
12 that our district has followed is that proposed amendments to the bylaws are submitted
13 to the Commission on Constitutional Matters months in advance of the district
14 convention; then, once tweaks have been made and final approval granted, the
15 amendments are brought before the district convention for their approval. The downside
16 of this procedure is that no last minute changes can be made to resolutions presenting
17 proposed amendments to our bylaws. Instead, such resolutions have to be voted up or
18 down without alteration.

19
20 The 2016 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod wisely recognized the
21 flaw in this procedure and revised the Synod's bylaws to allow districts to make changes
22 to their bylaws at their convention on the provision that the revised bylaws will not go
23 into force until and unless the Commission on Constitutional Matters grants their
24 approval. If the commission decides that some additional tweaks need to be made
25 before the bylaws can go into force, a district's board of directors is authorized to make
26 the revisions.

27
28 Regardless of whether this procedure is stated explicitly in the district's bylaws, the new
29 provisions of Synod's bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 (b) still apply. Nonetheless, it is desirable that the
30 district bylaws reflect the language of the Synod's bylaws as much as possible and that
31 procedures available to a district convention be stated in its bylaws. Therefore, be it
32

33 RESOLVED, That bylaw VI be amended to read as follows:

34
35 Amendments to the bylaws may be made by using one of two procedures.

- 36 1. Amendments may be made by conventions of the district.
 - 37 a. They shall be presented in writing to a convention of the district.
 - 38 b. They shall be specified as bylaw amendments and be considered by a
39 convention floor committee.

- 1 c. They shall be examined by the district Constitution Committee prior to
2 presentation to the convention to determine that they are not in conflict
3 with the Bylaws of the Northern Illinois District.
- 4 d. They shall be reviewed and approved by the Commission on
5 Constitutional Matters of the Synod prior to presentation to the
6 convention to determine that they are not in conflict with the Constitution
7 and Bylaws of the Synod.
- 8 e. **If discussion at a district convention gives rise to a proposed**
9 **amendment to the bylaws that was not pre-approved by the**
10 **Commission on Constitutional Convention, then the procedure of**
11 **Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 (b) shall apply. The district in convention**
12 **may vote to amend its articles or bylaws provided the resolution**
13 **is contingent on approval of the Commission on Constitutional**
14 **Matters. The amended articles or bylaws become effective**
15 **immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission on**
16 **Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional**
17 **Matters not approve the adopted changes, the district Board of**
18 **Directors may modify the amendments to comply with the**
19 **Commission on Constitutional Matters requirements upon their**
20 **two-thirds vote.**
- 21 f. They shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the
22 delegates present and voting.
- 23 2. In exceptional circumstances and upon the direction of a convention of the
24 district or Synod, amendments may be made by a two-thirds majority of the
25 Board of Directors of the district.
- 26 a. Such amendments to the bylaws shall be necessary to implement
27 resolutions adopted by a convention of the district or Synod.
- 28 b. Such amendments shall be drafted by the Secretary of the district and
29 shall receive, before presentation to the district board of directors, review
30 and approval by the Constitution Committee of the district and by the
31 Commission on Constitutional Matters of Synod.
- 32
33

34 Respectfully submitted

35 Northern Illinois District Board of Directors

36 Signed, Dan P. Gilbert Chairperson

37 Signed, James A. Kellerman Secretary

38

1 To the 59th Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District of
3 The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
4 March 9-10, 2018
5

6 OVERTURE: 2-03

7 **Subject:** TO CLARIFY SOME LANGUAGE IN THE DISTRICT'S BYLAWS

8 WHEREAS, The Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters, in reviewing other
9 proposed bylaws, changes noted that our bylaws would be better served by cross
10 referencing the Synod's bylaws in the district's bylaw III.D.2.b, and

11
12 WHEREAS, An old reference to the Synod's Handbook in district bylaw V.B.5 needed to
13 be updated; therefore be it

14
15 RESOLVED, That the duties of the Constitution Committee in bylaw III.D.2.b be amended
16 to read as follows:

17
18 Embody in the District Bylaws such changes as are necessitated by
19 convention actions of the district or the Synod. **Changes to a district's**
20 **bylaws require either adoption by the convention or an action of the**
21 **board of directors consonant with LCMS Bylaw 7.1.2.**

22
23 And be it finally

24
25 RESOLVED, That bylaw V.B.5 be amended to read as follows:

26
27 The convention shall ratify the election of the circuit visitors in the manner
28 set forth in the *Handbook* of the Synod (5.2.2 **[g]-[h]**)
29
30

31 Respectfully submitted

32 Northern Illinois District Board of Directors
33 Signed, Dan P. Gilbert Chairperson
34 Signed, James A. Kellerman Secretary
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36

1 To the 59th Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District of
3 The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
4 March 9-10, 2018
5

6 OVERTURE: 2-04

7 **Subject:** To Declare the Reverend Dan Gilbert, President Emeritus of the Northern
8 Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

9 WHEREAS, The Reverend Dan Gilbert has served The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
10 for 40 years and the Northern Illinois District for 30 years with the past 12 years as our
11 District President, and

12 WHEREAS, in recent times previous district presidents have been designated “President
13 Emeritus” upon their retirement, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District thank God for His
15 servant Dan; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, that the NID declare the Reverend Dan Gilbert to be district President
17 Emeritus; and be it finally

18 RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois District gathered in convention stand and give
19 praise to God by singing the Common Doxology

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22 Respectfully submitted

23 Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church,
24 Signed, Russ Pape Chairperson

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

OVERTURE: 2-05

Subject: TO RETURN TO A THREE TERM LIMIT FOR THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT
PRESIDENT

Whereas, the District previously had a three term limit for the District President as well
as all other offices in the District, and;

Whereas, the three term limit was increased to four terms in response to the love and
affection the District had for a particular holder of that office, and;

Whereas, the District President is the only office in the district that has a four term limit,
all other offices being three terms, and;

Whereas, the District may benefit by a more frequent change in leadership, and;

Whereas, the most opportune time to make changes in term limits is on the occasion of
an open seat so the change cannot be interpreted as a reflection upon an individual,
and;

Whereas, the current District President is retiring from office and this convention will
elect a new man to fill that office, therefore be it;

Resolved: Resolved, that the District change its bylaws back to a three term limit for
District President, and be it finally;

Resolved, that the District Board of Directors shall make the appropriate change in
wording of the bylaws for the immediate implementation of this new term limit.

Respectfully submitted

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, River Grove, IL
Signed, Chairperson
Signed, Secretary

1 To the 59th Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District of
3 The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
4 March 9-10, 2018
5

6 OVERTURE: 2-06

7 **Subject:** TO MOVE TO BETTER STEWARDSHIP OF DISTRICT RESOURCES

8 Whereas, it is our responsibility as God’s people to be good stewards of the gifts and
9 resources our Lord has given us, and;

10 Whereas, the Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has seen
11 declines in both the number of congregations and in total membership in recent
12 decades, and;

13 Whereas, demographic data suggests that this decline will continue for some time even
14 if we were to have the best evangelistic outreaches in our history, and;

15 Whereas, it is our responsibility to plan for the future, and;

16 Whereas, it is often helpful to have individuals examine organizational structure who are
17 not part of that structure, therefore be it;

18 Resolved, that the Board of Directors establish a Blue Ribbon Commission on District
19 Structure to examine the future structure and organization of our district, and be it
20 further;

21 Resolved, that said Commission be composed of four members of the Board of Directors,
22 four outside laymen with experience and expertise in large organizations and
23 management and four parish pastors with extensive familiarity with the District that do
24 not hold office in the District, and be it further;

25 Resolved, that among the questions the Commission should examine but not be limited
26 to are the following: 1. Is a full time District President needed or should we return to a
27 part time District President? 2. In what ways might volunteers and circuit counselors
28 visitors be utilized to carry out the functions of previous district staff that the District can
29 no longer afford to employ? 3. Is the maintenance of the current District office the best
30 stewardship of District resources? 4. Would consolidation with a neighboring District or
31 sharing of resources provide better stewardship of limited resources? and, be it finally;

32 Resolved, that this Commission shall issue a report one year prior to the next District
33 convention, and be it finally;

1 Resolved, that the District President shall establish a special floor committee for the next
2 district convention to draft resolutions to implement the Commission's recommendations
3 for the convention's consideration.

4
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6 Respectfully submitted

7 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, River Grove, IL
8 Signed, Chairperson
9 Signed, Secretary

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11

1 To the 59th Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District of
3 The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
4 March 9-10, 2018
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6 OVERTURE: 2-07

7 **Subject:** To Care for the Members of the Body of Christ Through Fraternal
8 Communication

9 WHEREAS, though many members, we are all one body in Christ (Romans 12:5); and

10 WHEREAS, we are gathered in over 200 congregations in our District, and over 6,000 in
11 our Synod; all of these congregations matter, and every member of the body of Christ
12 matters; and

13 WHEREAS, an absent member is a missing member of the body of Christ and the loss is
14 felt by all of those in the body and by the pastor serving the congregation; and

15 WHEREAS, for the sake of pastoral care, for good order, for church discipline, and as a
16 matter of fraternity in the body of Christ, the shepherds called to serve each of these
17 congregations need and ought to know when their absent members are regularly
18 attending other congregations, or even have transferred to other congregations; and

19 WHEREAS, it sometimes happens that individuals fail to take the appropriate steps to
20 transfer their membership from one congregation to another, to the detriment of their
21 own spiritual care and to the detriment of those called to provide it; therefore be it

22 Resolved, That as a matter of Christian love for the individual concerned, for the prior
23 congregation and pastor, and for the receiving congregation, each pastor in the District
24 seek to follow these practices in dealing with members of another congregation of the
25 Synod who regularly attend services or seek pastoral care outside their home
26 congregation: To speak with the individual and ascertain why the individual is not
27 attending services and seeking pastoral care within the body of the home congregation
28 of which the member is a vital part; Promptly to notify the pastor of the home
29 congregation, to advise the home pastor of the situation, and determine if any
30 disciplinary or other spiritual care situation exists, giving due respect to the discipline of
31 the home congregation if such exists; Where the individual can still be cared for by the
32 home congregation and has no Scriptural basis for severing his membership with that
33 congregation (e.g., the congregation has accepted false doctrine, or the pastor has
34 refused to carry out his proper duties), to encourage the individual to resume
35 attendance and/or seek pastoral care at the home congregation, explaining how it is for
36 the benefit of the individual and the congregations involved to maintain a stable
37 connection to the home congregation, supporting reconciliation as necessary; Where the
38 individual cannot adequately be cared for by the home congregation (e.g., the individual
39 has moved a significant distance), to encourage the individual to transfer membership to

1 the receiving congregation; and If an individual seeks transfer of membership, to
2 confirm that the individual is a member in good standing of the home congregation, and
3 to ensure that the individual properly requests transfer from the home congregation
4 prior to taking the individual into membership at the receiving congregation; and be it
5 further

6 Resolved, That the District President communicate the foregoing steps through
7 appropriate resources throughout the District (such as in the Northern Light and
8 electronic publications) with the expectation that pastors (and the laity) will follow them;
9 and be it further;

10 Resolved, That the District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to adopt
11 appropriate resolutions to designate such steps as best practices in ministry, that all
12 Synod congregations may walk together in doctrine and practice for the benefit of all
13 congregations and their members.

14
15

16 Respectfully submitted

17 St. Paul, Brookfield
18 Signed, Mark Stern Chairperson
19 Signed, Secretary
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1 To the 59th Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District of
3 The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
4 March 9-10, 2018
5

6 OVERTURE: 2-08

7 **Subject:** TO ALLOW FALL PASTORAL CONFERENCES TO SUBMIT OVERTURES TO THE
8 DISTRICT CONVENTION

9 Whereas, moving the district convention from June to March means that the fall pastoral
10 conferences in many cases meet after the deadline for the submission of overtures to
11 the District Convention, and;

12 Whereas, it is desirable to give the pastoral conferences the opportunity to submit
13 overtures for consideration by the District Convention, therefore be it;

14 **Resolved:** that the bylaws of the district be changed to allow the District Board of
15 Directors to establish a deadline for the submission of overtures that would allow all
16 district pastoral conferences to submit overtures for the following year's convention of
17 District, and be it finally;

18 Resolved, that the District Board of Directors shall make necessary changes to the
19 District Bylaws to carry out this resolution.

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21

22 Respectfully submitted

23 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, River Grove, IL
24 Signed, Chairperson
25 Signed, Secretary
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1 To the 59th Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District of
3 The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
4 March 9-10, 2018
5

6 Overture: 2-09

7 **Subject:** To Divide Electoral Circuit 13 into Two Visitation Circuits

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

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

16 WHEREAS, The congregations that will form circuit 13 effective June 1, 2018 met on November
17 18th and agreed that it should be divided into two visitation circuits in the
18 following way:

19 Circuit 13 A	Circuit 13 B
20 Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Burbank, IL
21 Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL	Mount Greenwood Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL
22 Hope Lutheran Church, Countryside, IL	St. Peter Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL
23 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hodgkins, IL	Faith Lutheran Church, Oak Lawn, IL
24 Zion Lutheran Church, Summit, IL	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oak Lawn, IL
25 Grace Lutheran Church, Western Springs, IL	Zion Lutheran Church, Oak Lawn, IL
26	Grace Lutheran Church, Willow Springs, IL
27	Zion Lutheran Church, Lyons, IL

28 WHEREAS, Circuit 13 will not officially come into existence until after the district
29 convention, but the assembled congregations wanted their wishes to be made known
30 and has asked the undersigned body to submit this overture, therefore be it

31 RESOLVED, That electoral circuit 13 be divided into two visitation circuits as proposed
32 above.

33 Respectfully submitted

34 Circuits E19 and E20
35 Signed, Chairperson
36 Signed, Secretary