



58th Convention of
Northern Illinois District LCMS 

Breaking Through

“...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18b

Convention Proceedings 2015

LCMS Northern Illinois District
March 6 & 7, 2015
Concordia University Chicago
River Forest, IL

1 Proceedings of the 58th Convention
2 of the
3 Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
4 March 6 and 7, 2015
5
6

7 Worship in the chapel preceded the opening of the convention.
8

9 **CALL TO ORDER Friday, March 6, 2015**

10 President Dan Gilbert called the 58th convention of the Northern Illinois District at Concordia
11 University in Chicago, River Forest, Illinois, to order in the name of the Father and of the Son
12 and of the Holy Spirit at 10:35 a.m., with the secretary present.
13

14 After opening with prayer, President Gilbert and the assembly expressed thanks to Concordia
15 University, its president, Dr. Daniel Gard, and its staff for hosting the convention.
16

17 Dr. Gard brought greetings from Concordia University Chicago.
18

19 President Gilbert thanked Lutheran Church Extension Fund for coffee and introduced LCEF
20 regional Vice President Steve Bremer who spoke briefly to the convention.
21

22 President Gilbert introduced Pastor Torkild Masvie of The Lutheran Church in Norway.
23

24 President Gilbert delivered the President's Address.
25

26 A number of introductions and announcements were made.
27

28 **CREDENTIALS REPORT, QUORUM, STANDING RULES, AGENDA**

29 Secretary Ken Krause presented the Credentials Report with 337 delegates, 142 pastoral voting
30 delegates, 151 lay voting delegates, 44 advisory delegates and 8 guests. The motion was
31 adopted viva voce.
32

33 President Gilbert announced that a quorum was established.
34

35 Secretary Krause read and moved adoption of the proposed standing rules with one correction.
36 The rules were adopted with over $\frac{2}{3}$ in the affirmative and are attached as Appendix A.
37

38 Secretary Krause moved adoption of the agenda as printed in of Today's Business. The agenda
39 as adopted is attached as Appendix B.
40
41

1 **VOTING PROCEDURES**

2 The assembly received an orientation of the voting devices from the Elections Committee
3 (Committee III) chairperson Ron Weidler.

4

5 **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**

6 Vice President Kris Whitby chaired this portion of the convention. After prayer led by Ron
7 Weidler, the chair announced that Dan Gilbert had been nominated through procedures
8 specified in the bylaws. There were no nominations from the floor. Dan Gilbert was elected to
9 president with 214 votes and 3 n/a.

10

11 As President Elect, Dan Gilbert addressed the assembly.

12

13 **NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARY**

14 President Dan Gilbert returned to the chair. President Gilbert announced the nominations for
15 the vice-presidents which had been made through procedures specified in the bylaws:

16 North Region: Kristopher Whitby

17 East Region: Steven Anderson and Harold Therwanger

18 South Region: Cory Estby and Mark Schulz

19 West Region: David Anderman and Ken Krause

20 There were no nominations from the floor.

21

22 By direction of the *Committee for Convention Nominations*, Mark Bestul nominated David Juhl
23 and James Kellerman for secretary. There were no nominations for from the floor.

24

25 **COMMITTEE III RESOLUTIONS**

26 A committee member read Resolution 3-01, *To Change NID Bylaw V C 2 g (4)*,
27 and moved adoption. Resolution 3-01 was adopted with 265 yes votes, and 3 no votes.

28

29 A committee member read Resolution 3-02, *To Change NID Bylaw V C 2 d*, and moved
30 adoption. Resolution 3-02 was adopted with 242 yes votes, and 4 no votes.

31

32 **ADJOURNMENT**

33 Following prayer led by President Gilbert, the convention adjourned for lunch at 11:52 a.m.

34

35 **CALL TO ORDER**

36 President Gilbert called the convention to order at 1:20 p.m.

37

38 **CREDENTIALS REPORT**

39 Secretary Ken Krause presented the Credentials Report with 348 delegates, 148 pastoral voting
40 delegates, 152 lay voting delegates, and 48 advisory delegates. The motion was adopted by
41 unanimous consent.

42

1 **DISTRICT STAFF**

2 District staff was introduced and thanked.

3

4 **ELECTION AND RANKING OF VICE PRESIDENTS, ELECTION OF SECRETARY**

5 Elected Vice President for the North Region was Kristopher Whitby:

6	<u>Kristopher Whitby</u>	<u>189</u>
7	other	4

8

9 Elected Vice President for the South Region was Mark Schulz:

10	Cory Estby	73
11	<u>Mark Schulz</u>	<u>117</u>

12

13 Elected Vice President for the East Region Harry Therwanger:

14	Steven Anderson	93
15	<u>Harry Therwanger</u>	<u>122</u>

16

17 Elected Vice President for the West Region was Ken Krause:

18	David Andermann	69
19	<u>Ken Krause</u>	<u>138</u>

20

21 Ranking of the Vice Presidents:

22	Kristopher Whitby	38	24	12	33	<u>119</u>	(3 rd)
23	Mark Schulz	70	87	<u>115</u>	(1 st)		
24	Harry Therwanger	26	15	6	28	89	(4 th)
25	Ken Krause	58	77	77	<u>149</u>	(2 nd)	

26

27 The Vice Presidents were ranked as follows:

- 28 1st Vice President: Mark Schulz (on the third ballot for 1st Vice President)
- 29 2nd Vice President: Ken Krause (on the first ballot for 2nd Vice President)
- 30 3rd Vice President: Kristopher Whitby (on the first ballot for 3rd Vice President)
- 31 4th Vice President: Harry Therwanger

32

33 Elected secretary was James Kellerman:

34	David Juhl	53
35	<u>James Kellerman</u>	<u>164</u>

36

37 **BIBLE STUDY**

38 Vice President Larry Frazier introduced Synod President Matthew Harrison to lead Bible Study.

39

40 **RECESS**

41 The assembly recessed at 2:05 p.m. The assembly reconvened at 2:35 p.m.

42

1 **OMNIBUS RESOLUTIONS**

2 Secretary Krause moved to adopt Omnibus A (to refer overture 1-08 to NID Board of Directors).
3 Advisory delegates voted 24 yes and 1 no. Voting delegates adopted Omnibus A with 196 yes
4 votes, and 34 no votes.

5
6 Secretary Krause moved to adopt Omnibus B (to decline overture 1-03). Advisory delegates
7 voted 26 yes and 3 no. Voting delegates adopted Omnibus B with 203 yes votes and 33 no
8 votes.

9
10 **DISTRICT MINISTRY PRESENTATION 1**

11 Teri Rice made the presentation.

12
13 **COMMITTEE I RESOLUTIONS**

14 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 1-01A. After a friendly amendment was
15 accepted to change the title to: "To Request Concordia Publishing House Change the Rite of
16 Marriage Found in the Lutheran Service Book Agenda," advisory delegates voted 29 yes votes, 2
17 no votes on the resolution. Voting delegates adopted Resolution 1-01A as amended with 201
18 yes votes, and 14 no votes.

19
20 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 1-02, *To Alert the Congregations of the*
21 *NID of Thrivent Financial's Unwillingness to Provide Grants to Lutherans For Life*. Advisory
22 delegates voted 30 yes and 4 no. Voting delegates adopted Resolution 1-02 with 204 yes votes
23 and 13 no votes.

24
25 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 1-05, *To Call to Repentance All Who*
26 *Publicly Teach Contrary to the Well-Established Positions of Scripture and the Confessions in The*
27 *Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*.

28 A motion was made and seconded to amend by adding the following resolved: "Resolved that
29 in faithfulness to God's Word and in Christian love the NID of the LCMS call the Rev. Dr.
30 Matthew Becker to repentance of his false and divisive doctrines and that this be
31 communicated to him by the NID President by sending him this resolution"

32 A motion was made and seconded to call the question. Advisory delegates cast 21 yes votes
33 and 10 no votes. Voting delegates voted in favor of calling the question with 142 yes votes and
34 67 no votes.

35 Then came voting on the amendment. Advisory delegates cast 19 yes votes and 18 no votes.
36 Voting delegates adopted the amendment with 157 yes votes and 79 no votes.

37 A motion was made and seconded to suspend the orders of the day for 15 minutes. Advisory
38 delegates cast 24 yes votes and 6 no votes. Voting delegates suspended the orders of the day
39 for 15 minutes with 160 yes votes and 59 no votes.

40 A motion was made and seconded to add "Word of God and the Lutheran confessions" and to
41 strike "the well established positions of the LCMS" in the title and in the second resolved.

42 A motion was made to end debate on the amendment. Advisory delegates cast 27 yes votes
43 and 5 no votes. Voting delegates ended debate with 197 yes votes and 19 no votes.

1 Voting took place on the amendment. Advisory delegates cast 22 yes votes and 7 no votes.
2 Voting delegates adopted the amendment with 184 yes votes and 56 no votes.
3 A motion to amend by adding the words “encouraging the District President to extend tender
4 personal pastoral care and” was accepted by unanimous consent.
5 A vote was taken on the full resolution, amended thrice. Advisory cast 27 yes votes, 9 no
6 votes. Voting delegates adopted the thrice amended resolution 1-05 with 211 yes votes and 29
7 no votes.

8

9 **SYNOD PRESENTATION**

10 Rev. Matthew Harrison made the Synod Presentation.

11

12 **COMMITTEE II RESOLUTIONS**

13 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-01, *To Amend the Articles of*
14 *Incorporation*. Advisory delegates voted 18 yes and 1 no. Voting delegates adopted Resolution
15 2-01 with 186 yes votes and 2 no votes.

16

17 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-02, *To Amend District Bylaws to Reflect*
18 *the Change in Nomenclature from “Circuit Counselor” to “Circuit Visitor.”* Voting delegates
19 adopted resolution 2-02 with 194 yes votes and 13 no votes.

20

21 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-03, *To Realign Circuits 27 and 28 to*
22 *Comply with Synod Guidelines*. Voting delegates adopted resolution 2-03 with 210 yes votes
23 and 1 no vote.

24

25 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-04, *To Summarize Duties of Reconcilers*.
26 Voting delegates adopted Resolution 2-04 with 212 yes votes and 3 no votes.

27

28 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-05, *To Amend the Bylaws for Greater*
29 *Clarity*. Voting delegates adopted Resolution 2-05 with 208 yes votes and 6 no votes.

30

31 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-06, *To Allow More Flexibility in the Size*
32 *of the Constitution Committee*. Voting delegates adopted Resolution 2-06 with 215 yes votes
33 and 9 no votes.

34

35 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-07A, *To Promote Greater Participation*
36 *in the Board of Directors*. Advisory delegates voted 18 yes and 5 no. Voting delegates adopted
37 Resolution 2-07A with 208 yes votes and 13 no votes.

38

39 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-08, *To Encourage Vibrant Mission Work*
40 *throughout the District*.

41 A motion to amend to change “vibrant” to “faithful” in the title was accepted by consensus.

1 A motion was made and seconded to amend by striking “especially in the city” in the last
2 resolved.
3 A motion to amend “located in strategic urban locations” was ruled out of order.
4 A motion was made and seconded to call the question on the amendment (2nd amendment
5 above). Advisory delegates cast 21 yes votes and 2 no votes. Voting delegates agreed to vote
6 on the amendment with 208 yes votes and 5 no votes.
7 A vote was taken on the amendment to strike “especially in the city” in the last resolved.
8 Advisory delegates cast 14 yes votes and 7 no votes. Voting delegates adopted the amendment
9 with 164 yes votes and 47 no votes.
10 A motion to amend by striking “where the district would not like to lose its presence” in the last
11 resolved was received by consensus.
12 A motion was made to refer to committee with instructions to bring back tomorrow. Advisory
13 cast 7 yes votes and 19 no votes. Voting delegates defeated the motion with 77 yes votes and
14 133 no votes.
15 (No vote was taken at this time because of orders of the day.)

16
17 **ADJOURNMENT**

18 Following prayer led by Secretary Krause, the assembly adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

19
20
21

22 **CALL TO ORDER Saturday, March 7, 2015**

23 President Gilbert called the assembly to order at 9:00 a.m.

24
25
26

Vice President Whitby led the opening devotion.

27 **SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARD**

28 President Gilbert presented a Servant Leadership Award to Reuben Baerwald.

29

30 **CREDENTIALS REPORT**

31 Secretary Ken Krause presented the Credentials Report with delegates 363 registered from 177
32 congregations, 151 pastoral voting delegates, 159 lay voting delegates were registered, 53
33 advisory delegates and 10 guests. The report was adopted by unanimous consent.

34

35 **DISTRICT MINISTRY PRESENTATION II**

36 Mike Mast led the presentation.

37

38 **COMMITTEE I RESOLUTIONS**

39 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 1-03A, *To Encourage A Proper Balance*
40 *Between the Right of Self-Governance of Congregations and the Commitment We Make to Walk*
41 *Together As Members of Synod in Foreign Missions.* Advisory delegates cast 30 yes votes and 0
42 no votes. Voting delegates adopted Resolution 1-03A with 214 yes votes and 23 no votes.

1
2 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 1-04, *To Foster Great Unity in Worship*
3 *Practice*. Advisory delegates cast 26 yes votes and 2 no votes. Voting adopted Resolution 1-04
4 with 219 yes votes and 28 no votes.

5
6 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 1-06, *To Memorialize Synod to Restore the*
7 *Right of Appeal for Church Workers in Serious Cases of Discipline*. Advisory delegates cast 28 yes
8 votes and 1 no vote. Voting delegates adopted Resolution 1-06 with 218 yes votes and 15 no
9 votes.

10
11 Committee I was dismissed with thanks.

12
13 **COMMITTEE II RESOLUTIONS**

14 Resolution 2-08A was brought back for consideration. A vote was taken on the amendment
15 (last resolved on the yellow sheet): "Resolved that the Board of Directors appoint an ad hoc
16 committee to develop a strategy as to how struggling congregations and ministries could be
17 supported (financially and otherwise) apart from the district budget." Advisory delegates cast
18 25 yes votes and 2 no votes. Voting delegates accepted the last resolved of 2-08A with 206 yes
19 and 10 no votes.

20 A vote was taken on resolution 2-08A as printed. Advisory delegates cast 30 yes votes and 1 no
21 vote. Voting delegates adopted the amended resolution 2-08A with 218 yes votes and 20 no
22 votes.

23
24 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-09, *To Encourage Cooperation amongst*
25 *the Congregations of the Northern Illinois District*. Advisory delegates voted 26 yes and 1 no.
26 Voting delegates adopted Resolution 2-09 with 228 yes votes and 16 no votes.

27
28 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-10A, *To Encourage Stewardship of the*
29 *People's Offerings for Mission Work*. Advisory delegates voted 27 yes and 2 no. Voting delegates
30 adopted Resolution 2-10A with 197 yes votes and 18 no votes.

31
32 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-11, *To Continue the Appropriate Use*
33 *and Review of the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program*. Advisory delegates voted 20 yes and
34 7 no. Voting delegates adopted Resolution 2-11 with 214 yes votes and 28 no votes.

35
36 **RECESS**

37 The assembly recessed at 10:21 a.m. The assembly reconvened at 10:55 a.m

38
39 The assembly witnessed the signing of papers by Synod President Matthew Harrison and
40 Torkild Masvie of the Lutheran Church in Norway.

41
42

1 **NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

2 Vice President Allan Buss was in the chair. Nominations were made by Mark Bestul by direction
3 of the Committee on Convention Nominations.

4
5 From the North Region: Thomas Acton and Matthew Gunia were nominated for Ordained
6 Minister. Lauren Olsen, Julie Heck, and Ingrid Wickboldt were nominated for Commissioned
7 Minister. Karen Leicht, Gale Moe, Paul Pasche, and Chuck Schild were nominated for Layperson.
8 There were no nominations from the floor.

9
10 From the South Region. Paul Mumme and Ron Rock were nominated for Ordained Minister.
11 Paul W. Eggert and Pam Mueller were nominated for Commissioned Minister. Robert P. Grimm,
12 Janet Mauer, Steve Baker and Henry Treftz were nominated for Layperson. There were no
13 nominations from the floor.

14
15 From the East Region: Mark Birkholz and Ralph Tausz were nominated for Ordained Minister.
16 Marilyn Brondos and Sharon Voight were nominated for Commissioned Minister. Orlando
17 Pabon, Daniel Sedory, Matt Struve and Jacob Tomaw were nominated for Layperson. There
18 were no nominations from the floor.

19
20 From the West Region: Ron Weidler, David Andermann, and Stephen Heuser were nominated
21 for Ordained Minister. Kayleigh Belvery and Betsy Karkan were nominated for Commissioned
22 Minister. Dave Laabs, Carol-Joy Motisi and Aaron Wolf were nominated for Layperson. There
23 were no nominations from the floor.

24
25 **NOMINATIONS FOR 2018 NID COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS**

26 Vice President Allan Buss was in the chair. Nominations were made by Mark Bestul by direction
27 of the Committee on Convention Nominations.

28
29 From the North Region: Mark Bestul, George Borghardt and Matt Gunia were nominated for
30 Ordained Minister. Heidi Bishop and Ingrid Wickboldt were nominated for Commissioned
31 Minister. James Carter and Arielle Pate were nominated for Layperson. Aaron Doehring was
32 nominated from the floor for Layperson and was added to the ballot with voting delegates
33 voting 186 yes and 34 no.

34
35 From the South Region: Cory Estby, Hans Fiene and Paul Mumme were nominated for
36 Ordained Minister. Chad Baganz and Rob Johnson were nominated for Commissioned Minister.
37 Steven Baker, Michael J. Dobbs, David DeYoung and Henry Treftz were nominated for
38 Layperson. There were no nominations from the floor.

39
40 From the East Region: Steven Anderson and Roger Gallup were nominated for Ordained
41 Minister. Katie Laubenstein and Sharon Voight nominated for Commissioned Minister. Mark

1 Stern and Daniel Sedory were nominated for Layperson. There were no nominations from the
2 floor.

3
4 To the West Region: Charles Mueller, Jr., Stephen Heuser, Ken Krause and Marcus Nelson were
5 nominated for Ordained Minister. Betsy Karkan and Mike Rottmann were nominated for
6 Commissioned Minister. Marshall Gillam and Elvin Harms were nominated for Layperson. There
7 were no nominations from the floor.

8
9 **NOMINATIONS FOR CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO BOARD OF REGENTS**

10 Vice President Allan Buss was in the chair. Nominations were made by Mark Bestul by direction
11 of the Committee on Convention Nominations.

12
13 Gerald Schalk, Gary Bertels, and Allan Buss were nominated for Ordained Minister. Theodore
14 Lams, Jonathan Laabs and Don Gillingham were nominated for Commissioned Minister. John
15 Kroll, Dominic Salvino, Daniel Sedory, and Elizabeth Vernick were nominated for Layperson.
16 Paul Wickland was nominated from the floor as Layperson and was added to the ballot with
17 voting delegates voting 177 yes and 38 no.

18
19 **NOMINATIONS for 2015 SYNOD COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS**

20 Vice President Allan Buss was in the chair. Nominations were made by Pastor Mark Bestul by
21 direction of the Committee on Convention Nominations.

22
23 Mark Bestul, Roger Gallup, Ken Krause, and Chris Navurskis were nominated. Allan Buss was
24 nominated from the floor and was added to the ballot with voting delegates voting 186 yes and
25 40 no.

26
27 **DISTRICT MINISTRY PRESENTATION III**

28 President Gilbert resumed the chair and introduced Mike Mast and Mike Zimmer to make the
29 presentation.

30
31 **ELECTIONS for BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

32 Vice President Mark Schulz was in the chair with Elections Committee chairperson Ron Weidler
33 assisting.

34 For Ordained Minister from the North Region, Thomas Acton was elected:

35 Thomas Acton 120
36 Matthew Gunia 88

37
38 For Commissioned Minister from the North Region, Julie Heck was elected:

39 Julie Heck 106
40 Lauren Olsen 61
41 Ingrid Wickboldt 29

42

1 For Layperson from the North Region Chuck Schild and Karen Leicht were elected:

2	<u>Karen Leicht</u>	109	<u>60</u>
3	Gale Moe	74	25
4	Paul Pasche	75	19
5	<u>Chuck Schild</u>	<u>122</u>	

6

7 For Ordained Minister from the South Region, Ron Rock was elected:

8	Paul Mumme	90	
9	<u>Ron Rock</u>	<u>118</u>	

10

11 For Commissioned Minister from the South Region, Paul Eggert was elected:

12	<u>Paul Eggert</u>	<u>131</u>	
13	Pam Mueller	63	

14

15 For Layperson from the South Region, Robert Grimm and Jan Mauer were elected:

16	Steve Baker	56	21
17	<u>Robert Grimm</u>	<u>118</u>	
18	<u>Janet Mauer</u>	98	<u>122</u>
19	Henry Treftz	73	55

20

21 For Ordained Minister from the East Region, Mark Birkholz was elected:

22	<u>Mark Birkholz</u>	<u>113</u>	
23	Ralph Tausz	82	

24

25 For Commissioned Minister from the East Region, Sharon Voight was elected:

26	Marilyn Brondos	88	
27	<u>Sharon Voight</u>	<u>96</u>	

28

29 For Layperson from the East Region, Matt Struve and Jacob Tomaw were elected:

30	Orlando Pabon	76	80
31	Daniel Sedory	64	
32	<u>Matt Struve</u>	105	<u>135</u>
33	<u>Jacob Tomaw</u>	92	<u>121</u>

34

35 For Ordained Minister from the West Region, Ron Weidler was elected:

36	David Andermann	50	
37	Stephen Heuser	57	82
38	<u>Ron Weidler</u>	91	<u>128</u>

39

40 For Commissioned Minister from the West Region, Betsy Karkan was elected:

41	Kayleigh Blevery	58	
42	<u>Betsy Karkan</u>	<u>133</u>	

1 For Layperson from the West Region, Aaron Wolf and Carol-Joy Motisi were elected:

2	Dave Laabs	101
3	<u>Carol-Joy Motisi</u>	<u>125</u>
4	<u>Aaron Wolf</u>	<u>127</u>

5
6 The list of 2015-2018 Circuit Visitors as printed on page 8 of Today's Convention Business with
7 Terry Tiemann's name added for Circuit 6 was ratified with voting delegates voting 209 yes and
8 11 no. The list is attached as Appendix C.

9
10 **ELECTION FOR 2018 NID COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS**

11 Vice President Mark Schulz was in the chair with Elections Committee chairperson Ron Weidler
12 assisting.

13 For Ordained Minister from the North Region, Mark Bestul was elected:

14	<u>Mark Bestul</u>	<u>148</u>
15	George Borghardt	21
16	Matt Gunia	35

17
18 For Commissioned Minister from the North Region, Heidi Bishop was elected:

19	<u>Heidi Bishop</u>	<u>161</u>
20	Ingrid Wickboldt	39

21
22 For Layperson from the North Region, Aaren Doehring was elected:

23	James Carter	88	104
24	<u>Aaron Doehring</u>	84	<u>108</u>
25	Ardelle Pate	23	

26
27 For Ordained Minister from the South Region, Cory Estby was elected:

28	<u>Cory Estby</u>	<u>126</u>
29	Hans Fiene	30
30	Paul Mumme	36

31
32 For Commissioned Minister from the South Region, Chad Baganz was elected:

33	<u>Chad Baganz</u>	<u>97</u>
34	Rob Johnson	87

35
36 For Layperson from the South Region, Michael Dobbs was elected:

37	Steve Baker	30
38	David DeYoung	38
39	<u>Michael Dobbs</u>	<u>118</u>
40	Henry Treftz	16

41 For Ordained Minister from the East Region, Roger Gallup was elected:

42	Steve Anderson	67
43	<u>Roger Gallup</u>	<u>122</u>

1 For Commissioned Minister from the East Region, Katie Laubenstein was elected:

2 Katie Laubenstein 119
3 Sharon Voight 67

4

5 For Layperson from the East Region, Mark Stern was elected:

6 Daniel Sedory 45
7 Mark Stern 161

8

9 For Ordained Minister from the West Region, Stephen Heuser was elected:

10 Stephen Heuser 59 75 107
11 Ken Krause 46 34
12 Charles Mueller, Jr. 73 82 103
13 Marcus Nelson 20

14

15 For Commissioned Minister from the West Region, Betsy Karkan was elected:

16 Betsy Karkan 123
17 Mike Rottmann 67

18

19 For Layperson from the West Region, Marshall Gillam was elected:

20 Marshall Gillam 142
21 Elvin Harms 44

22

23 **ELECTION FOR CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO BOARD OF REGENTS**

24 Vice President Mark Schulz was in the chair with Elections Committee chairperson Ron Weidler
25 assisting.

26 For Ordained Minister, Gary Bertels was elected.

27 Gary Bertels 71 116
28 Allan Buss 68 105
29 Gerald Schalk 61

30

31 For Commissioned Minister, Theodore Lams was elected

32 Don Gillingham 39
33 Jonathan Laabs 60 79
34 Theodore Lams 91 121

35

36 For Layperson, Elizabeth Vernick and Dominic Salvino were elected:

37 John Kroll 63 57
38 Dominic Salvino 75 84 108 105
39 Daniel Sedory 41
40 Elizabeth Vernick 89 111 144
41 Paul Wickland 87 102 110 102

42

1 **ELECTION OF THE 2016 SYNOD COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS**

2 Vice President Mark Schulz was in the chair with Elections Committee chairperson Ron Weidler
3 assisting.

4 Roger Gallup was elected member and Allan Buss was elected alternate:

5	Mark Bestul	23				
6	<u>Allan Buss</u>	38	59	95	<u>117</u>	alternate
7	<u>Roger Gallup</u>	66	77	<u>109</u>		member
8	Ken Krause	43	54	76		
9	Chris Navurskis	20				

10

11 **RECESS**

12 After prayer led by Pastor Schulz, the assembly recessed at 12:32 p.m. The assembly
13 reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

14

15 **COMMITTEE II RESOLUTIONS**

16 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-12B.

17 After a motion to amend the resolution was defeated, the advisory delegates voted 12 yes and
18 8 no on the resolution as printed. Voting delegates adopted Resolution 2-12B with 151 yes
19 votes and 63 no votes.

20

21 Committee II was dismissed with thanks.

22

23 **SYNOD Q & A**

24 President Harrison answered questions.

25

26 **CREDENTIALS REPORT**

27 Secretary Krause presented the final Credentials Report with 153 pastoral voting delegates, 159
28 lay voting delegates, 53 advisory delegates representing 177 congregations and 10 guests. The
29 report was adopted by unanimous consent.

30

31 **CLOSING REMARKS**

32 President Gilbert addressed the assembly with closing remarks.

33

34 **ADJOURNMENT**

35 Following prayer led by President Gilbert, the singing of the doxology, and the benediction, the
36 convention adjourned sine die at 3:30 p.m.

37

38

Soli Deo Gloria

39

Appendix A: Adopted STANDING RULES of the 2015 NID Convention

1. ELECTRONIC DEVICES. Only recording devices approved by the president shall be permitted. Mobile phones and pagers shall be kept in non-audible mode; vocal phone conversations shall not be permitted.
2. CREDENTIALS. Delegates, guests and staff shall wear official badges during all convention functions.
3. VOTING. Votes will normally be made with electronic keypads. At the discretion of the chair, votes may be taken by voice, rising vote, voting cards, or standing counted vote.
4. Nominations from the floor shall be seconded and a majority vote shall add the nominee to ballot.
5. MOTIONS - RESOLUTIONS - OVERTURES
 - a. Resolutions shall be submitted in triplicate.
 - b. Only voting delegates may make or second motions.
 - c. Floor Committee Resolutions
 1. Omnibus A, B and C resolutions shall be disposed of before taking up Floor Committee resolutions.
 2. Floor Committee representatives shall read only a resolution's *resolving clauses* unless, in the judgment of the committee, each *whereas clause* should also be read.
 3. Floor Committee resolutions not taken up during the convention fall to the ground.
 4. In connection with resolutions adopted during the convention, the Constitution Committee shall be authorized to correct punctuation and grammar and to make other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the delegates, including applicable modifications to section designations and cross references in the bylaws.
6. DEBATE - DISCUSSION
 - a. Motions may be made from any microphone, however those speaking in favor motion shall do so at the odd numbered microphones and those opposed shall speak at the even numbered microphones.
 - b. Members seconding a motion need not go to the microphone nor be recognized by the chair.
 - c. After recognition, a delegate shall state his or her name, congregation and location or the administrative unit represented. If applicable, members shall preface remarks with "I speak for/against the motion."
 - d. Debate shall be limited to two (2) minutes per speech and twice to each motion, the second time only after all who wish to speak have done so, except that Floor Committee members have unlimited time provided Rule 6e does not apply. An extension of time may be granted at the discretion of the chair.
 - e. If a substitute motion is moved and seconded, the framer shall have two (2) minutes to speak for consideration and a Floor Committee member shall have two (2) minutes to speak against consideration. Without further debate, delegates shall vote whether to consider the substitute; a majority is required to adopt. If the substitute is subsequently adopted, the original motion is not considered. If the substitute motion is (a) not considered or (b) is considered and not adopted, the original motion is then considered.
 - f. The *previous question* (call the question) may only be made by a delegate who rises solely for this purpose.
7. THE PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY AND A HIGHER AUTHORITY. The rules contained in the current edition of *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the convention in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Bylaws of the Northern Illinois District, and these convention standing rules. Above all, the rules of Christian love shall govern the convention.

APPENDIX B: Adopted Agenda

Convention Schedule Friday, March 6, 2015 (All convention sessions will be in the north gym)

- 7:00 – 8:30 am Delegate Registration – (Kretzmann Hall, art gallery)
Vendor Registration - (south gym)
- 7:30 am Continental breakfast available in the south gym (vondor area)
- 8:45 am Pre-devotion singing – Led by Dr. Steve Wenthe, CUC Professor (Chapel of Our Lord)
- 9:00 am Opening worship service – (Chapel of Our Lord)
Preacher – Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, LCMS President
Worship Leader – Rev. Dan Gilbert, NID President
- Welcome new congregations and church workers
 - Congratulations to those with anniversaries
 - Commemoration of those Called to Glory
- 10:30 am CALL TO ORDER – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President (north gym)
- 10:35 am Greetings
- Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Gard, CUC President
 - Steve Bremer, East Region Lutheran Church Extension Fund, Sr. Vice President
- 10:45 am District President’s Address – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President
- 11:00 am Introductions, Announcement – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President
- 11:10 am Credentials Report, Standing Rules, Agenda – Rev. Ken Krause, NID Secretary
- 11:20 am Electronic Voting Procedures and Practice – Rev. Ron Weidler, *Elections Committee Chairperson*
- 11:35 pm Nominations and Election of President – Rev. Kris Whitby, Fourth Vice President
- Report of Committee for Convention Nominations – Rev. Mark Bestul, Chairperson
 - Nominations from the Floor
 - Election
 - Acceptance Speech
- 11:50 am Nominations of Vice President and Secretary – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President
- Vice President
 - Report of Committee for Convention Nominations – Rev. Mark Bestul, Chairman
 - Nominations from the Floor
 - Secretary
 - Report of Committee for Convention Nominations – Rev. Mark Bestul, Chairman
 - Nominations from the Floor
- 12:00 pm (Remarks, Announcements, Prayer, Adjournment) – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President
- 12:05 pm Lunch – (CUC cafeteria/ Oak Park~River Forest Room, Koehneke Center)
Caucuses of Advisory Ministers of Religion, Ordained Advisory Delegates to Synod 2016 Convention
Caucus for Circuit Visitor – Circuit 6
- 1:20 pm Hymn sing - Led by Dr. Steve Wenthe, CUC Professor (north gym)
- 1:25 pm CALL TO ORDER - Rev. Dan Gilbert, President
Credentials Report – Rev. Ken Krause, Secretary
Committee III Resolutions – Rev. Ron Weidler, Elections Committee Chairperson
Elections of Vice Presidents – Rev. Ron Weidler, Elections Committee Chairperson
- Vice Presidents
 - Regional Primary Balloting (if necessary)
 - Regional Elections
 - Ranking of Vice Presidents
- Election of Secretary – Rev. Ron Weidler, Elections Committee Chairperson
- 1:45 pm Bible Study / Convention Essay – Rev. Dr. Mathew Harrison, LCMS President
- 2:15 pm Break
- 2:35 pm ABC Resolutions, Rev, Ken Krause, Secretary
- 2:50 pm District Ministry Presentation I
- 3:20 pm Committee I Resolutions– Rev. Mark Schulz, Witness/Mercy Committee Chairperson
- 4:05 pm Synod Presentation – Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President
- 5:05 pm Committee II Resolutions – Rev. Allan Buss, Life Together Chairperson
- 5:35 pm Closing (Remarks, Announcements, Prayer, Adjournment) – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President
- 5:45 pm Floor Committee meetings as needed
- 6:00 pm Convention team and Floor Committee dinner - Alumni Room
- Saturday, March 7, 2015 (All convention sessions will be in the north gym)***
- 8:00 am Coffee “and” – (south gym)

- 1 8:45 am Pre-devotion singing – led by Dr. Steve Wentz, CUC Professor (north gym)
- 2 9:00 am CALL TO ORDER – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President
- 3 Convention Devotion – Rev Kris Whitby, NID 4th Vice President
- 4 9:15 am Special Presentation – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President
- 5 9:20 am Credentials report – Rev. Ken Krause, Secretary
- 6 9:25 am District Ministry Presentation II
- 7 9:55 am Committee I Resolutions – Rev Mark Schulz, Witness/Mercy Chairperson
- 8 10:25 am Break
- 9 10:55 am Nominations – Rev. Ron Weidler, Elections Committee Chairperson
- 10 • Board of Directors, Northern Illinois District
- 11 ○ Report of Committee for Convention Nominations – Rev. Mark Bestul, Chairperson
- 12 ○ Nominations from the floor
- 13 • 2018 NID Committee for Convention Nominations
- 14 ○ Report of Committee for Convention Nominations – Rev. Mark Bestul, Chairperson
- 15 ○ Nominations from the floor
- 16 • Board of Regents, Concordia University Chicago
- 17 ○ Report of Committee for Convention Nominations – Rev. Mark Bestul, Chairperson
- 18 ○ Nominations from the floor
- 19 • 2016 Synod Committee for Convention Nominations
- 20 ○ Report of Committee for Convention Nominations, Rev. Mark Bestul, Chairperson
- 21 ○ Nominations from the floor
- 22 11:25 am District Ministry Presentation III
- 23 11:55 am Elections – Rev. Ron Weidler, Elections Committee Chairperson
- 24 • Election of Board of Directors
- 25 ○ Regional Elections
- 26 ○ Ratification of Circuit Visitor Elections
- 27 • 2018 NID Committee for Convention Nominations
- 28 • Board of Regents, Concordia University Chicago
- 29 • 2016 Synod Committee for Convention Nominations
- 30 12:25 pm (Remarks, Announcements, Prayer, Adjournment) – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President
- 31 12:30 pm Lunch – (CUC cafeteria/Oak Park~River Forest Room - Koehneke center)
- 32 1:40 pm Pre-session singing - led by Dr. Steve Wentz, CUC Professor
- 33 1:45 pm CALL TO ORDER – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President
- 34 Committee II Resolutions - Life Together, Rev. Allan Buss, chairperson
- 35 2:15 pm Synod Presentation/Q & A - Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President
- 36 2:45 pm Committee I or II – if necessary
- 37 3:15pm Credentials Report – Rev. Ken Krause, Secretary
- 38 3:25 pm Closing remarks – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President
- 39 3:40 pm CLOSING (Remarks, Announcements, Prayer, Adjournment) – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President
- 40

1 **APPENDIX C**

2
3 **CIRCUIT VISITORS**
4 **2015-2018 Circuit Visitor Nominations**

- 5 Circuit 1
6 John Shumate, Prince of Peace, Waukegan
7 Circuit 2
8 Matt Hoffman, St. Andrew, Park Ridge
9 Circuit 3
10 Micah Greiner, St. Peter, Arlington Hgts
11 Circuit 4
12 Tim Kinne, St. Matthew, Hawthorn Woods
13 Circuit 5
14 Mark Bestul, Calvary, Elgin
15 Circuit 6
16 Larry Tieman, Immanuel, Crystal Lake
17 Circuit 7
18 Caleb Schauer, St. Johns, Union
19 Circuit 8
20 Dan Wegryzn, St. John, Lombard
21 Circuit 9
22 Steve Kass, Family in Faith, Glendale Hgts
23 Circuit 10
24 Reuben Baerwald, St. Marks, St. Charles
25 Circuit 11
26 Jeremy Heilman, Trinity, Genoa
27 Circuit 12
28 Steve Klemp, Redeemer, Rockford
29 Circuit 13
30 Willis Schwichtenberg, Immanuel, Freeport
31 Circuit 14
32 David Anderman, Our Savior, Dixon
33 Circuit 15
34 Rev. Martin Doering, Tabor, Chicago
35 Circuit 16
36 Harry Therwanger, 1st Immanuel, Chicago
37 Circuit 17
38 Leonard Payton, St. John, Forest Park
39 Circuit 18
40 Robert Niehus, Christ, Oak Park
41 Circuit 19
42 Steven Anderson, Gloria Dei, Chicago
43 Circuit 20
44 Valdas Ausra, Zion, Oak Lawn
45 Circuit 21 a & b
46 Elstner Lewis, Chicago
47 Michael Udoekong, St. Paul, Dolton
48 Circuit 22
49 Robert Geaschel, Trinity, Burr Ridge
50 Circuit 23
51 Mike Graham, Emmanuel, Aurora
52 Circuit 24
53 Michael Croon, St. Paul, Chicago Hgts
54 Circuit 25
55 David Constien, Immanuel, Mokena
56 Circuit 26
57 David Daniel, Zion, Ottawa
58 Circuit 27
59 Cory Estby, Zion, Grant Park
60 Circuit 28
61 Dan Ognoski, Emmanuel, Dwight
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APPENDIX D

Full Text of Adopted Resolutions

The 58th Convention of
The Northern Illinois District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
March 6-7, 2015

RESOLUTION 1-01A To Request Concordia Publishing House Change the Rite of Marriage Found in the Lutheran Service Book Agenda

Referencing Overture 1-01

WHEREAS, there is a broad shift within our culture to accept same-sex marriage, and

WHEREAS, the Word of God only knows of marriage as the joining of a man and a woman to be one flesh by action of God, and

WHEREAS, all rites used in the church teach, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the LCMS Board for National Mission, in consultation with Concordia Publishing house, revise the language of the wedding rite in future editions of *The Lutheran Service Book*, *The Pastoral Care Companion*, and *The Agenda* (along the lines of the example given) to more pointedly express the marriage of one man and one woman, so as to further guard against any possible re-reading of the text that would intend to allow or support the false concept of same-sex marriage, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod submit this resolution to the 2016 national convention of Synod for its consideration and adoption.

Example of changes needed:

Holy Matrimony
(Taken from pages 64-70 of the Lutheran Service Book – Agenda)

General Notes

- 1. Holy Matrimony is the union of a man and a woman. Under no circumstances is this rite or any other form of blessing to be used any other type of union.
- 2. The rite of Holy Matrimony may be used at the beginning of the Divine Service or Daily Office. It may also stand by itself as an independent order of service.
- 3. If the rite is used at the beginning of the Divine Service, it comes before the Introit, Psalm, or Entrance Hymn. If it is used at the beginning of the Daily Office (Matins or Morning Prayer, Vespers or Evening Prayer), it precedes the opening versicles or psalmody.
- 4. Because of the solemn character of Holy Week, it is inappropriate to schedule a marriage during that time.
- 5. When used within the Divine Service, Holy Communion is offered to all eligible communicants and is not to be limited to the bride and bridegroom or the wedding party.
- 6. As in all worship in the house of God, the rite of Holy Matrimony invokes the presence and blessing of God. Therefore, it should avoid triteness and empty sentimentality.
- 7. Music selected for this rite should embody high standards of quality and be within the ability of the performers. The music should reflect the praise of God and His steadfast love in Christ as the foundation and model for

1 marriage.⁸This rite is a more complete version of the corresponding rite in *Lutheran Service Book*,
2 pages 275-277.
3

4 *Stand*

5 *At the conclusion of the procession to the foot of the chancel, the pastor says:*
6

7 P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

8 C **Amen.**
9

10 P Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and before His Church to witness the union of
11 this man and this woman in holy matrimony. This is an honorable estate instituted and blessed by God
12 in Paradise, before humanity's fall into sin.
13

14 In marriage we see a picture of the communion between Christ and His bride, the Church. Our Lord
15 blessed and honored marriage with His presence and first miracle at Cana in Galilee. This estate is also
16 commended to us by the apostle Paul as good and honorable. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered
17 into inadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it
18 was instituted by God.
19

20 The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for the mutual
21 companionship, help, and support that each person ought to receive from the other, both in prosperity
22 and adversity. Marriage was also ordained so that man and woman may find delight in one another.
23 Therefore, ~~all persons who marry shall take a spouse of the opposite gender.~~ **every man wo marries**
24 **shall take a wife for himself** in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust, for God has not called us to
25 impurity but in holiness. God also established marriage for the procreation of children who are to be
26 brought up in the fear and instruction of the Lord so that they may offer Him their praise.

27 For these reasons God has established the holy estate that name of man and name of woman wish
28 to enter. **This man and this woman (instead of "They")** desire our prayers as they begin their marriage in
29 the Lord's name and with His blessing.
30

31 *If this wedding rite is being used as an independent service (or when the rite precedes a*
32 *regularly scheduled service of the congregation), the following or other appropriate passages*
33 *from Holy Scripture are now read. Each reading may conclude with the response:*

34 L This is the Word of the Lord.

35 C **Thanks be to God.**
36

37 *Scripture Readings*

38
39 *When the rite stands alone, a sermon is also preached. A hymn may precede or follow. The*
40 *wedding party may be seated throughout.*

41
42 *If the wedding party has been seated, they now stand and take their places before the chancel*
43 *steps.*
44

45 *The pastor asks the bridegroom:*

46 P Name of bridegroom, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together in the holy
47 estate of matrimony as God ordained it? Will you nourish and cherish her as Christ loved His body, the
48 Church, giving Himself up for her? Will you love, honor, and keep her in sickness and in health and,
49 forsaking all others, remain united to her alone, so long as you both shall live? Then say: I will.

50 R *I will.*
51

52 *The pastor asks the bride:*

1 P Name of bride, will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate
2 of matrimony as God ordained it? Will you submit to him as the Church submits to Christ? Will you love,
3 honor, and keep him in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, remain united to him alone, so
4 long as you both shall live? Then say: I will.

5 R I will.

6
7 *If the bride is being given in marriage, the pastor may ask:*

8 P Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

9 R We/I do.

10
11 *The pastor may address the parents of the bridegroom and bride as follows:*

12 P Do you give your consent and blessing to this man and this woman (instead of "couple")? Then say: We
13 do.

14 R We do.

15
16 P Will you pray for and encourage name and name in their marriage, remembering at all times that
17 God wills them to live within their vows until they are parted by death? Then say: We will.

18 R We will.

19
20 *The pastor leads the bridegroom and bride to the altar. The bridegroom, taking the right hand of*
21 *the bride and facing her, says after the pastor:*

22 I, name of the man, take you name of the woman, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this
23 day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till
24 death us do part, according to God's holy will; and I pledge to you my faithfulness.

25
26 *The bride, in the same way, says after the pastor:*

27 I, name of the woman, take you name of the man, to be my wedded husband, to have and to
28 hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health,
29 to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy will; and I pledge to you my
30 faithfulness.

31
32 *The rings are presented to the pastor; then the following prayer is said:*

33 P Almighty Father, You have generously created all things to serve us for our good. Send your blessing
34 upon this man and this woman (instead of "couple") who shall wear these rings as a constant reminder
35 of their marital fidelity. Grant that by Your mercy they may live gladly and faithfully in this holy estate;
36 through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
37 now and forever.

38 C Amen.

39
40 *The bridegroom and bride exchange rings beginning with the bridegroom. While giving the ring, each says*
41 *after the pastor one of the following:*

42 Receive this ring as a pledge and token of wedded love and faithfulness. In the name of the Father and of the
43 Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

44
45 With this ring I marry you, my worldly goods I give to you, and with my body I honor you. In the name of the
46 Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

47
48 *The couple kneels*

49 P Now that name and name have committed themselves to each other in holy matrimony, have given
50 themselves to each other by their solemn pledges, and have declared the same before God and these
51 witnesses, I pronounce them to be husband and wife, in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of
52 the Holy Spirit.

53 C Amen.

1 P What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

2 C **Amen.**

3
4 *The pastor blesses the couple.*

5 P The almighty and gracious God abundantly grant you His favor and sanctify and bless you with the
6 blessing given to Adam and Eve in Paradise, that you may please Him in both body and soul and live
7 together in holy love until your life's end.

8 C **Amen.**

9
10 *If this rite precedes the Divine Service, the service continues with the Introit, Psalm, or Entrance Hymn. If this*
11 *rite precedes the Daily Office, the service continues with the opening versicles or psalmody. If this rite stands*
12 *by itself as an independent service, it concludes with the following. The bridegroom and bride remain*
13 *kneeling.*

14
15 *Stand*

16 P Let us pray.

17 Almighty, everlasting God, our heavenly Father, grant that by Your blessing name and name may
18 live together according to Your Word and promise. Strengthen them in faithfulness and love toward
19 each other. Sustain and defend them in every trial and temptation. Help them to live in faith toward
20 You, in the communion of Your holy Church, and in loving service to each other that they may ever
21 enjoy Your heavenly blessing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
22 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

23 C **Amen.**

24
25 Lord's Prayer

26
27 Benediction

28
29 *The wedding party departs in procession to the accompaniment of appropriate music.*

30
31
32 The 58th Convention of
33 The Northern Illinois District of
34 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
35 March 6-7, 2015

36
37 **RESOLUTION 1-02 To Alert the Congregations of the NID of Thrivent Financial's Unwillingness to Provide**
38 **Grants to Lutherans for Life**

39 Referencing Overture 1-02

40
41 WHEREAS, Thrivent Financial, an investment company that has a long history of being identified with the Lutheran
42 name and confession, had this past year publicly distanced itself from 'pro-life issues' and the defense of the
43 unborn, and

44
45 WHEREAS, after much outrage, Thrivent had reinstated its grants (including *Choice Dollars*) to pro-life
46 organizations *but never reinstated its grants to Lutherans for Life*, and

47
48 WHEREAS, it is the Church's duty to defend the most vulnerable and defenseless of our neighbors, including the
49 unborn, therefore be it

50
51 RESOLVED, that the 58th convention of the Northern Illinois District raise awareness with congregations of the
52 District that Thrivent has *not* reinstated Lutherans for Life's access to financial grants, and be it further

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RESOLVED, that the convention direct the District President to communicate to Thrivent concerns about the congregations of the NID’s ongoing working relationship with Thrivent in light of its decision regarding Lutherans for Life, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Thrivent be asked to send a representative to the NID Pastors’ Conference on May 5 & 6, 2015 and/or the June 2015 meeting of the NID Board of Directors to explain Thrivent’s position on this matter, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the District President reports back to the congregations of the District Thrivent’s response so congregations can reevaluate their work with Thrivent, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the district be encouraged to increase financial support to Lutherans for Life and increase awareness and education among their people regarding life issues, and be it finally,

RESOLVED, that the NID thank Lutherans for Life and also our own district LFL leadership, especially Lori Trinche (Mission and Ministry Coordinator), and Pastor Dave Bottorff (LCMS District Life Coordinator) for their work in supporting congregations on life issues.

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**RESOLUTION 1-03A To Encourage a Proper Balance between the Right of Self Governance of
Congregations and the Commitment we Make to Walk together as Members of Synod
in Foreign Missions**

Referencing Overtures 1-04 and 1-05

WHEREAS, God’s Word speaks to the responsibility of all Christians to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20) and is replete with examples of individuals and congregations directly caring for the needs of missionaries and foreign mission fields (Romans 15:25-29, 1 Corinthians 16:1-14, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15, Philippians 2:19-30, Philippians 4:10-20, etc.); and

WHEREAS, Article VII of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states that in relation to its members, the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or coercive powers, and with respect to the individual congregation’s right of self-government is but an advisory body; and

WHEREAS, Article XIV of the Constitution states that the Synod in convention may adopt bylaws that are consistent with and do not contradict the Constitution of the Synod, which controls and supersedes such bylaws and all other rules and regulations of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of synod is for congregations to join together in ministry.
(by law 1.1.1)

“Committed to a common confession and mission, congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod join with one another in the Synod to support one another and to work together in carrying out their commonly adopted objectives. The Synod is organized to work in support of and on behalf of congregations to assist them in carrying out their ministries as they seek to serve our Lord Jesus Christ, the members of His body, and the world which stands in need of the Word and the impact of His redeeming love.

1
2 (a) The Synod functions in support of its member congregations by providing assistance as
3 congregations conduct their ministries locally, as well as their ministries at large.

4 (b) The Synod on behalf of its member congregations administers those ministries that can be
5 accomplished more effectively in association with other member congregations through the Synod.
6 In this way member congregations utilize the Synod to assist them in carrying out their functions of
7 worship, witness, teaching and nurture, service, and support.”

8 , and
9

10 WHEREAS, there has been conflict between congregations’ individual mission work and the work of synod as a
11 joint body, and
12

13 WHEREAS, 2010 Convention Res. 8-32-B encourages the Synod to study Article VII of the Constitution, including
14 study of “Congregations and Synod, Background Material on the Advisory Nature of the LCMS” along with opinions
15 of the Commission on Constitutional Matters related to this topic; and
16

17 WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 09-2573 states in part that “. . . there is a common understanding that a congregation
18 exercises its self-government . . . in carrying out . . . its own ministry programs and financial affairs . . .”; and
19

20 WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.8.3 say in part “Upon the recommendation of the Office of International Mission, the board
21 shall serve as the only sending agency through which workers and funds are sent to the foreign mission areas of
22 the Synod, including the calling, appointing, assigning, withdrawing, and releasing of missionaries (ministers of
23 religion–ordained and ministers of religion–commissioned) and other workers for the ministries in foreign areas.
24

25 WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 14-2724 states in part, “Congregations may not send funds to mission societies and non-
26 Synod entities for work in foreign areas without taking into consideration policies developed and determined for
27 this purpose by the Board of International Mission as the only sending agency;” and
28

29 WHEREAS, it is desirable to maintain the right of local congregations to engage in mission activity while at the
30 same time working to ensure that the work of synod goes on in good order and without conflict, therefore, be it
31

32 RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois district of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod request the synod’s
33 Commission on Handbook to review bylaw 3.8.3 and relevant bylaws and then make the necessary
34 recommendations to amend the bylaws to maintain the proper balance between the congregations’ right of self
35 governance and our commitment to walk together in foreign mission work, and be it
36

37 RESOLVED, that the Board for International Mission be requested to publish as quickly as possible the policies
38 referenced in CCM Opinion 14-2724 (“without taking into consideration *policies developed and determined for this*
39 *purpose* by the Board of International Mission”), an be it finally
40

41 RESOLVED that the Commission report these recommendations to the 2016 LCMS Convention for action to be
42 taken by the convention.
43
44

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46 The Northern Illinois District of
47 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
48 March 6-7, 2015
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50 **RESOLUTION 1-04 To Foster Greater Unity in Worship Practice**

51 Referencing Overture 1-07
52

1 WHEREAS Christian doctrine and practice cannot be separated from each other, and
2
3 WHEREAS worship of our holy Triune God is to be done in all reverence, decency, and order, conveying divine love
4 in Christ and
5
6 WHEREAS the Lord desires His Church to be one with Him and each other, and
7
8 WHEREAS there are diversities of good gifts and diverse contexts in which we are to confess our Christian faith in
9 word and deed, and
10
11 WHEREAS the LCMS in its 2013 Convention commended the document *Text, Music, Context* and the guidelines
12 included therein to be used throughout the Synod (Convention Resolution 3-12A), and
13
14 WHEREAS the Synod in the same resolution “embrace[d] full use and appreciation of the historical treasures of
15 music and liturgy and whatever good things the Lord sees fit to add from the gifts and talents of people in this
16 day,” (Convention Resolution 3-12A), therefore be it
17
18 RESOLVED the Northern Illinois District promote the use and dissemination of the document *Text, Music, Context*
19 among our circuit pastors’ conferences, congregations, and ministries, especially to congregational and worship
20 leaders, and be finally
21
22 RESOLVED the NID take measures to promote continuing discussion of the worship practice of our congregations
23 by encouraging existing and future Koinonia groups to address these matters to the glory of God in Christ.
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25
26 The 58th Convention of
27 The Northern Illinois District of
28 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
29 March 6-7, 2015
30
31 **RESOLUTION 1-05 To Call to Repentance and Reform All Who Publicly Teach Contrary to Word of God**
32 **and the Lutheran confessions in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**

33 Referencing Late Overture 1-10
34
35 WHEREAS The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) has, in many past convention actions as well as in clearly
36 expressed opinions by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, consistent positions on the issues of
37 women’s ordination, homosexuality, creation and evolution, the inerrancy and inspiration of Scripture, and proper
38 methods for Biblical interpretation, and
39
40 WHEREAS all pastors in the LCMS pledge when they are ordained and installed their unconditional subscription to
41 the Holy Scriptures and to the Lutheran Confessions as a correct exposition of Holy Scriptures and a correct
42 exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and
43
44 WHEREAS events in the LCMS have made it evident that there are some that teach and advocate publicly against
45 the established positions of the LCMS and in violation of their ordination vows, specifically and recently the case of
46 Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker, currently an Associate Professor of Theology at Valparaiso University, and
47
48 WHEREAS the LCMS has established procedures for those who wish to express dissent, as well as for calling to
49 repentance those who teach or advocate publicly against these positions or for expulsion of those who refuse to
50 repent and reform their actions, and
51

1 WHEREAS there is frustration that some are ignoring the established procedures for dissent and correction of
2 those in error, or refusing to abide by the outcome of such procedures, and therefore be it,
3

4 RESOLVED that the NID in convention reaffirm the consistent positions on the issues of women’s ordination,
5 homosexuality, creation and evolution, the inerrancy and inspiration of Scripture, and proper methods for Biblical
6 interpretation that the LCMS has held, and be it further
7

8 RESOLVED that all who teach or publicly advocate for positions contrary to the well-established positions of the
9 LCMS be called to repentance and to reform their actions immediately, and be it further
10

11 RESOLVED that those who wish to express dissent on these positions or deal with specific individuals who are
12 publicly teaching or advocating contrary to them be encouraged to use only the procedures for dissent,
13 admonition, or removal that our Synod has previously agreed to use in such situations, and be it further
14

15 RESOLVED that the LCMS Commission on Handbook be requested by the Northern Illinois District in convention to
16 review the existing procedures for allowing dissent to be properly expressed and bringing false teachers to
17 repentance and for removing those who refuse to repent or who refuse to call others to repentance, to determine
18 if any changes are needed to these procedures and if they are to recommend changes to the 2016 LCMS
19 Convention and be it finally
20

21 RESOLVED that in faithfulness to God’s Word and in Christian love the Northern Illinois District of the LCMS call the
22 Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker to repentance of his false and divisive doctrines and that this be communicated to him by
23 encouraging the District President to extend tender personal pastoral care and the NID President sending him this
24 resolution.
25

26
27 The 58th Convention of
28 The Northern Illinois District of
29 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
30 March 6-7, 2015
31

32 **Resolution 1-06 To Memorialize Synod to Restore the Right of Appeal for Church Workers in Serious**
33 **Cases of Discipline.**
34

35 Referencing Late Overture 1-09
36

37 WHEREAS, termination or suspension of membership in the Synod is a serious matter involving both the doctrine
38 and life of members, and should only be taken as a final step, following advice, counsel, encouragement, and,
39 when necessary, admonition regarding teaching and/or practice; and
40

41 WHEREAS, Synod By-Laws provide for the protection of members by including provisions for challenging the
42 decisions of ecclesiastical supervisors in these matters as well as provisions for restoration of membership that has
43 been suspended or terminated; and
44

45 WHEREAS, the lingering existence of unresolved charges is also a great burden upon the church workers
46 concerned, their congregations, and the church at large, and for the health and wellbeing of all, proceedings to
47 resolve such matters should not unduly be delayed or prolonged; and
48

49 WHEREAS, prior to the 2004 Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, there also existed a right of
50 appeal to the LCMS Presidium in matters of ecclesial supervision involving such serious disciplinary action, under
51 former Bylaw 2.27.2(b):
52

53 *b. If the District President declines to suspend the member or fails to act within 90 days after receipt of the
 written complaint, the complainant may present the written complaint to the Praesidium of the Synod,*

1 *which consists of the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Synod. If after investigation the*
2 *Praesidium concludes that the facts form a basis for expulsion of the member under Article XIII of the*
3 *Constitution, the Praesidium shall proceed in the same fashion as hereafter required of the District*
4 *President. If the Praesidium determines not to proceed, it shall in writing so inform the complainant and*
5 *the involved member, which shall terminate the matter.*

6 and

7
8 WHEREAS, in order to ensure fair and consistent treatment of all members of Synod in a Christian and fraternal
9 manner, and to ensure prompt resolution of disputes for the best interests of all concerned, it is appropriate that
10 this right of appeal be restored and granted to all parties; therefore be it

11
12 RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod request the Commission on
13 Handbook to review the existing bylaws and make the relevant and necessary changes to allow the right of appeal
14 to both the complainant and the involved member.

15
16
17 The 58th Convention of
18 The Northern Illinois District of
19 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
20 March 6-7, 2015

21
22 **Resolution 2-01 To Amend the Articles of Incorporation**

23
24 Referencing Overture 2-01

25
26 **Rationale**

27
28 The Synod in convention has urged all districts to consider amending their articles of incorporation to be
29 more in keeping with those of the Synod. In part, this is to ensure that the relationship between the district and
30 the Synod is clear to all parties concerned, including the state. That fact would be sufficient grounds to revisit the
31 district's article of incorporation, but there is an additional reason: The current articles of incorporation date back
32 to 1948 and refer to a governance structure that has not existed since well before 2000.

33
34 The Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has offered a template for the articles of
35 incorporation and requested that districts stick as closely to it as possible, at least as far as local law permits. The
36 articles of incorporation below has followed that request. All but the last paragraph follows the guidelines of the
37 CCM; the last paragraph was inserted because of the requirements of Illinois law. Therefore, be it

38
39 **RESOLVED** that the following be adopted as the Articles of Incorporation of the Northern Illinois
40 District:

41
42 Amended and Restated
43 **Articles of Incorporation**
44 of

45 The Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

46
47 Article I: Name, Duration, Registered Office, and Agent

- 48
49a. The name of this corporation shall be "The Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod."
50b. The period of duration of the corporation is perpetual.
51c. The address of the registered office of this corporation as of November 3, 2014 is 2301 South Wolf Road, Hillside IL
52 60162.
53d. The registered agent of this corporation is the Rev. Kenneth E. Krause, 2301 South Wolf Road, Hillside IL 60162.

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50a.
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Article II: Objectives

The objectives of this corporation shall be to carry out within the Northern Illinois District the objectives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Article III: Membership

The membership of this corporation is the congregations, and the ordained and commissioned ministers of religion of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who have affiliated with this district.

The voting power of this corporation resides in the congregations which are members of the corporation. These congregations exercise this voting power through the accredited pastoral and lay delegates of those same congregations of the Synod that have affiliated with this district.

Article IV: Meetings

This corporation shall have general meetings of its members in the years prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Special meetings may be called in such manner as may be provided by the Synod.

Article V: Officers and Board of Directors

The officers of this corporation shall consist of a president, vice-presidents as specified by the bylaws of this corporation, a secretary, a treasurer and such others as bylaws may identify.

The board of directors of this corporation shall be of the size and composition as shall be determined in the bylaws of this corporation.

The officers and members of the board of directors shall be elected at the general meetings of this corporation for such terms as shall be specified by the bylaws of this corporation and shall serve until their successors are duly elected and have qualified.

Article VI: Property

This corporation shall have power to acquire by gift, grants, demise, devise, bequest, purchase, or otherwise, property of every kind and description, real, personal, or mixed; to hold and use such property and deal with, or dispose of, any or all such property by sale, exchange, or gift, when necessary or expedient to carry out the objectives of the corporation; provided that all such property shall be acquired, dealt with, or disposed of in a manner not in conflict with the laws of the State of Illinois or the laws of any state in which said property is located.

Article VII: Constitution and Bylaws

The Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is also the Constitution of this corporation.

The Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall primarily be the Bylaws of this corporation. This corporation may adopt additional bylaws that are not in conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

Article VIII: Dissolution

In the event this corporation is dissolved or its existence otherwise terminates or is terminated, after the payment of the debts of the corporation, all right, title, and interest in and to its property, whether tangible or intangible and whether real or personal, shall thereupon automatically vest in or be transferred to the Synod, and this corporation covenants and agrees to execute and deliver to the Synod such documents and instruments and to

1 take such other and further actions as the Synod may deem reasonably necessary or desirable, in order to
2 evidence and give full effect to the foregoing. This provision may not be altered or deleted without the approval of
3 the Synod in convention or the Board of Directors of the Synod.

4b. If, however, on the date of such proposed dissolution, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a Missouri
5 Corporation, or its successor, is no longer in existence, the assets of the corporation may distributed to any other
6 Section 501(C)(3) organization as designated by the board of directors.
7

8 Article IX: Relationship to the Synod 9

10 This corporation, as part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, acknowledges its allegiance to the Synod
11 and to the convention of the Synod. It submits to the authority of the Synod and the convention. It accedes,
12 recognizes, and accepts the doctrine taught and practiced in the Synod (Art. II) and also the Articles of
13 Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws of the Synod, as currently in effect and as may hereafter be amended from
14 time to time.
15

16a. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the organizational documents of this corporation and the
17 Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, or Bylaws of the Synod, as may hereafter be amended from time to time,
18 the Articles, Constitution, or Bylaws of the Synod shall control and govern.

19b. This provision may not be altered or deleted without the approval of the Synod in convention or the Board of
20 Directors of the Synod.

21c. Neither The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod nor The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Incorporated is
22 responsible for the debts or other obligation of this corporation nor do they represent or endorse the fiscal
23 solvency of this corporation.
24

25 Article X: Amendments 26

27 Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a regularly called meeting of this
28 corporation by a majority of the voting delegates present at such meeting, provided such amendments are not
29 inconsistent with the Constitution or the laws of the United States or the State of Illinois or the Constitution or
30 Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and with prior approval of the Commission on Constitutional
31 Matters of the Synod.
32

33 These amended articles were adopted at a meeting of members entitled to vote on March ___, 2015 by the
34 affirmative vote of the members having not less than the minimum number of votes necessary to adopt such
35 amendment, as provided by 805 ILCS 105/110.20, the articles of incorporation, or the bylaws.
36
37

38 The 58th Convention of
39 The Northern Illinois District of
40 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
41 March 6-7, 2015
42

43 **Resolution 2-02 To Amend District Bylaws to Reflect the Change in Nomenclature from “Circuit 44 Counselor” to “Circuit Visitor”** 45

46 Referencing Overture 2-02
47

48 **WHEREAS** the 2013 Synod Convention changed the title of “Circuit Counselor” to “Circuit Visitor”
49 in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and
50

51 **WHEREAS** the amendment to the Synod Constitution was ratified by the requisite number of
52 congregations; and
53

1 **WHEREAS** the Handbook of Synod refers to the district convention’s role in electing circuit visitors
2 in 5.2.2.f, g, and h, but the District Bylaws refer only to 5.2.2.g; and
3
4 **WHEREAS** the bylaws of the Northern Illinois District states that “The affairs of the Northern Illinois
5 District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall be administered according to the
6 Constitution and Bylaws of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” in addition to the
7 district’s own bylaws (Northern Illinois District Bylaws I.A), be it therefore
8
9 **RESOLVED** that the wording be changed to reflect the new terminology of the Synod in the
10 following district bylaws:
11
12 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**
13
14 I.B.2: In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, the President represents the Synod in the
15 Northern Illinois District. The President shall supervise the doctrine and life of all rostered professional church
16 workers and congregations of the district. He shall also oversee the work of the district. In discharging his duties,
17 the President shall be assisted by the vice-presidents, the Secretary of the District, and the circuit ~~counselors~~
18 visitors.
19
20 I.D.1: The officers of the district shall be the President, four vice-presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the
21 circuit ~~counselors~~ visitors.
22
23 II.B.1.c: The officers of the district shall be the President, four vice-presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the
24 circuit ~~counselors~~ visitors.
25
26 II.B.3.a: The Secretary shall serve as the secretary at district conventions, at meetings of the Board of Directors,
27 and at meetings of the circuit ~~counselors~~ visitors. As such he shall keep an accurate, official record of their
28 proceedings.
29
30 II.B.5: The Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors
31
32 II.B.5.a: The circuit ~~counselors~~ visitors shall have such duties as are prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of
33 the Synod (*Handbook*, 5.2).
34
35 II.B.5.b: The circuit ~~counselors~~ visitors together with the District President, vice-presidents, and Secretary shall
36 meet at least twice each year at the call of the President and in the interest of the work and welfare of the Synod,
37 the district and its congregations.
38
39 III.C.1: Membership: Within three months after the Synod convention, the District Board of Directors shall appoint
40 a district roster of four reconcilers (no more than two of whom shall be pastors) from a list supplied by the circuit
41 ~~counselors~~ visitors of the district. The term of service shall be six years. They shall be people “of good reputation,
42 full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.” (Acts 6:3) Vacancies for an unexpired term shall be filled in the same manner
43 by the District Board of Directors within 30 days following the occurrence of the vacancy (*Handbook* of the Synod
44 1.10.10 and 1.10.10.1).
45
46 III.D.1: Membership: The Constitution Committee shall consist of a minimum of eight to a maximum of fifteen
47 members (ordained ministers, commissioned minister, and laypersons) who are to be appointed by the President
48 in consultation with the circuit ~~counselors~~ visitors for a term of three years. The District Secretary shall be an
49 advisory member of the committee.
50
51 IV.A.7: Other district executives shall be appointed by the Board of Directors from a slate of candidates solicited in
52 the manner provided in these bylaws and upon the recommendation from a nominating committee appointed by

1 the District President consisting of the District President, two vice-presidents and two circuit ~~counselors~~ visitors.

2 The district executives shall perform such duties as are assigned by the President.

3 V.A.1.a: President, vice-presidents, Secretary, and circuit ~~counselors~~ visitors.

4
5 V.B.2: The Committee for Convention Nominations shall nominate at least two candidates for each elective office
6 on boards or commissions, with the exception of the President, the vice-presidents, and the circuit ~~counselors~~
7 visitors.

8
9 V.B.5: The convention shall ratify the election of the circuit ~~counselors~~ visitors in the manner set forth in the
10 *Handbook* of the Synod (5.2.2 f, g, h).

11
12 V.C.2.b: The elections shall proceed according to the following order: President, vice-presidents, Secretary, Board
13 of Directors, circuit ~~counselors~~ visitors, all other elective offices.

14
15 V.C.2.d: For the election of the President, the vice-presidents, the Secretary, the circuit ~~counselors~~ visitors, and
16 board members, a majority of votes cast shall be required (*Handbook* of the Synod 4.7.3). For the election of
17 commissions and committees, a simple plurality shall be required.

18
19 V.E.7: When the office of circuit ~~counselors~~ visitors becomes vacant, the District President shall appoint a
20 successor.

21
22
23 The 58th Convention of
24 The Northern Illinois District of
25 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
26 March 6-7, 2015

27
28 **Resolution 2-03 To Realign Circuits 27 and 28 to Comply with Synod Guidelines**

29 Referencing Overture 2-11

30
31
32 **WHEREAS** Synod Bylaw 3.1.2 requires that each electoral circuit be composed of 7 to 20
33 congregations and 1,500 to 10,000 confirmed members, and

34
35 **WHEREAS** the closing of Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church in Circuit 28 has dropped the number
36 of congregations in that circuit to six, and

37
38 **WHEREAS** the joint Circuit Pastors' Conference of Circuits 27 and 28 recommends that Good
39 Shepherd Lutheran Church of Bourbonnais and St. Paul Lutheran Church of Bourbonnais
40 (Kankakee) be transferred to Circuit 28, and

41
42 **WHEREAS** only District conventions can set the membership of electoral circuits, therefore be it

43
44 **RESOLVED** that Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Bourbonnais and St. Paul Lutheran Church of
45 Bourbonnais be transferred from Electoral Circuit 27 to Electoral Circuit 28.

46
47
48 The 58th Convention of
49 The Northern Illinois District of
50 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
51 March 6-7, 2015

52
53 **Resolution 2-04 To Summarize Duties of Reconcilers**

1
2 Referencing Overture 2-09
3

4 **WHEREAS** the requirements and responsibilities of reconcilers are too many to summarize easily
5 and accurately, the Commission on Constitution Matters (CCM) of the LCMS
6 recommends that NID bylaw III C merely reference Synod’s bylaw therefore be it
7

8 **RESOLVED** that we replace current NID Bylaw III C with the wording suggested by the CCM:
9

10 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING
11

12 ~~1. Membership: Within three months after the Synod convention, the District Board of Directors shall~~
13 ~~appoint a district roster of four reconcilers (no more than two of whom shall be pastors) from a list supplied~~
14 ~~by the circuit counselors of the district. The term of service shall be six years. They shall be people “of good~~
15 ~~reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.” (Acts 6:3) Vacancies for an unexpired term shall be filled in the~~
16 ~~same manner by the District Board of Directors within 30 days following the occurrence of the vacancy~~
17 ~~(Handbook of the Synod 1.10.10 and 1.10.10.1).~~

18 ~~2. Duties: For all directives under which the reconcilers are to operate, see the Handbook of the Synod~~
19 ~~1.10.1 through 1.10.18.1.~~

20 ~~3. The limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply to reconcilers.~~

21 Reconcilers shall be chosen and function according to the Bylaws of the Synod (Synod Bylaw section 1.10)
22
23
24

25 The 58th Convention of
26 The Northern Illinois District of
27 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
28 March 6-7, 2015
29

30 **Resolution 2-05 To Amend the Bylaws for Greater Clarity**
31

32 Referencing Overture 2-10
33

34 **WHEREAS** the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the LCMS has recommended that the
35 Northern Illinois District amend its bylaws, therefore be it
36

37 **RESOLVED** that NID Article II A paragraph 2 read as follows (~~present/proposed~~ wording): “All
38 officers shall discharge the duties assigned to them in the Constitution and Bylaws of the
39 Synod and the Bylaws of the District.” And be it further
40

41 **RESOLVED** that NID Bylaw III D 2, sub-paragraph a, be amended to read (~~present/proposed~~
42 wording): “The Constitution Committee shall refer all such proposals to the Synod’s
43 Commission on Constitutional Matters for approval prior to presentation to the
44 convention in order to determine that they are not in conflict with the Constitution and
45 Bylaws of the Synod.” And be it further
46

47 **RESOLVED** that NID Bylaw VI 1 d be amended to read (~~present/proposed~~ wording): “They shall be
48 ~~examined~~ reviewed and approved by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the
49 Synod prior to presentation to the convention to determine that they are not in conflict
50 with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.” And be it finally
51

52 **RESOLVED** that NID Bylaw VI 2 be amended to read (~~present/proposed~~ wording): “Such
53 amendments shall be drafted by the secretary of the district and shall ~~be reviewed~~”

1 receive, before presentation to the district board of directors, review and approval by
2 the Constitution Committee of the district and the Commission on Constitutional
3 Matters of the Synod.”

4 The 58th Convention of
5 The Northern Illinois District of
6 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
7 March 6-7, 2015

8
9 **Resolution 2-06 To Allow More Flexibility in the Size of the Constitution Committee**

10 Referencing Overture 2-03

11
12 **Rationale**

13
14
15 During the past decade or so, the Constitution Committee has had around five or six members. During
16 that time, the district’s bylaws have sometimes stipulated that there should be at least five members and at other
17 times that there should be at least eight members (as the current bylaws prescribe). But when a greater number of
18 people has been prescribed for the committee, it has been difficult to find the requisite number of committee
19 members.

20
21 The real issue ought to be whether the committee is getting its work done, namely, getting a review of a
22 congregation’s constitution and bylaws back to it within four months, as Bylaw III.D.2.f requires. This has not been
23 a problem during the last triennium or the one before that.

24
25 Rather than require a minimum committee size that has never been attained, it is more reasonable to
26 allow for the committee to be smaller as long as it is getting its work completed in a timely manner. Therefore be it

27
28 **RESOLVED** that the wording of III.D.1 be changed to read as follows:

29
30 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

31
32 Membership: The Constitution Committee shall consist of a minimum of ~~eight~~ five to a maximum of fifteen
33 members (whether ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, ~~and or~~ laypersons) who are to be appointed by
34 the President in consultation with the circuit counselors for a term of three years. The District Secretary shall be an
35 advisory member of the committee.

36
37
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39 The Northern Illinois District of
40 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
41 March 6-7, 2015

42
43 **Resolution 2-07A To Promote Greater Participation in the Board of Directors**

44 Referencing Overture 2-05

45
46
47 **WHEREAS** the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod has historically maintained that both church
48 workers and lay people should have equal voice in running the affairs of the synod, and

49
50 **WHEREAS** the district and Synod benefit greatly from the various talents and experiences of all
51 believers, and
52

- 1 **WHEREAS** it is difficult to accommodate the great variety of schedules and responsibilities of the
2 many potential candidates for the Board of Directors, therefore be it
3
- 4 **RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors form an ad hoc committee to pursue various alternative
5 meeting formats (including electronic formats), publicize the results, and begin to
6 implement them no later than 2018; and be it further
7
- 8 **RESOLVED** that the convention urge the Board of Directors to conduct at least half of its meetings
9 outside normal business hours in the upcoming triennium (2015-2018); and be it finally
10
- 11 **RESOLVED** that the convention thank directors, past and present, for their service for the sake of
12 the Kingdom.
13

14
15 The 58th Convention of
16 The Northern Illinois District of
17 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
18 March 6-7, 2015
19

20 **Resolution 2-08A To Encourage Faithful Mission Work Throughout the District**

21
22 (Cf. Overtures 1-06 and 2-06)
23

24 **Rationale**

25
26 Mission work has taken place under a variety of paradigms. The Scriptures set up some parameters:
27 mission work leads ultimately to people gathered around the Word and Sacraments under the guidance of a pastor
28 (an under-shepherd under Christ). But how these people are gathered to form that congregation has differed from
29 time to time and place to place.
30

31 Even the Missouri Synod has employed a number of different mission paradigms over the course of its
32 history. In its early days, congregations started branch schools, each of which became the nucleus of a new
33 congregation. There was no need for direct involvement on the part of the district, since the mother congregations
34 were large and growing, and their daughter churches were viable within a year.
35

36 By the early twentieth century many of the mission churches that were being established were not
37 growing as quickly as their mother churches had in their early years. Often it took two or three churches or a whole
38 circuit to work together to start and support a mission church that would take years to become fully self-sufficient.
39 Then, after World War II, the country experienced several decades of rapid suburban growth. The most efficient
40 way to start a new mission was to buy land at a low price years before an area would be developed and then to
41 hire a church planter as soon the area began to be populated. No congregation or circuit could do all that, and so
42 the district stepped in. At the same time many of the inner-city churches found themselves bereft of members
43 who had moved to the suburbs even as they now had to serve an increasingly impoverished community that
44 required greater funds and mission ingenuity. Consequently, many of the inner-city churches turned to the district
45 for subsidy.
46

47 By the dawn of the twenty-first century the district was no longer in a position to buy up advance
48 properties, support new mission starts for several years, or subsidize older urban congregations. Thus, the district
49 stopped all mission subsidies and dropped all missionaries-at-large from the district payroll in 2006. For three
50 years thereafter the district supported Ablaze grants to local mission initiatives, but even this more limited model
51 could not be sustained. Instead, mission initiative has been returned to the congregations under the “New
52 Starts...New Believers” emphasis, albeit this time with the district providing training, coaching, and other non-
53 financial support.
54

1 Whether we like it or not, it is impossible right now to return to the post-World War II model of
2 supporting missions. The money is not there; the district receives less than half of what it did in its best years of
3 congregational mission support (in real dollars). Instead, congregations and individual members of those
4 congregations will have to shoulder the burden now. And they will have to do so in an environment that is
5 increasingly hostile to Christianity. But there is a hidden blessing in this: congregations and their members become
6 the focus point and hub of missions, and nobody can beat their effectiveness. Therefore be it
7

8 **RESOLVED** That the 2015 convention of the Northern Illinois District thank God for all efforts by
9 congregations, district staff, pastors, rostered church workers, and lay people to share
10 the gospel of Christ during the last triennium, including those things that seem to have
11 borne no fruit at the present time as well as those that have borne fruit; and be it
12 further
13

14 **RESOLVED** That the district encourage all its congregations and individuals to venture something
15 for the gospel, to try “One New Thing,” even if the effort bears no immediate fruit, since
16 we know that our labors are never truly in vain; and be it further
17

18 **RESOLVED** That the Northern Illinois District in convention acknowledge that the previous models
19 of mission work that were used in past decades, no matter how useful they may have
20 been at the time, are not financially feasible today and that the Northern Illinois District
21 in convention also affirm that the “New Starts...New Believers” emphasis seems the
22 most appropriate way for us to do mission work in the district at this time; and be it
23 further
24

25 **RESOLVED** That the congregations and the elected leaders of the district constantly petition our
26 Lord for wisdom in pursuing mission strategies; and be it finally
27

28 **RESOLVED** That the Board of Directors appoint an ad hoc committee to develop a strategy as to
29 how struggling congregations and ministries could be supported (financially and
30 otherwise) apart from the district budget.
31
32

33 The 58th Convention of
34 The Northern Illinois District of
35 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
36 March 6-7, 2015
37

38 **Resolution 2-09 To Encourage Cooperation amongst the Congregations of the Northern Illinois District**

39 Referencing Overtures 1-06, 2-06, and 2-07
40
41

42 **WHEREAS** St. Paul describes the church with the image of one body, saying, “just as the body is
43 one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one
44 body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or
45 Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:12-13, ESV),
46 and even going so far as to say, “The parts of the body that seem to be weaker are
47 indispensable” (1 Cor. 12:22, ESV); and
48

49 **WHEREAS** we have been gathered by God’s grace in the agreement of the teachings of God’s Word
50 in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, by which we have agreed to “walk together” in
51 love and this unity of the Spirit; and
52

- 1 **WHEREAS** the Christian church in the United States is generally finding a less welcome reception to
2 the gospel than she did a few decades ago, with most denominations (including our
3 own) declining or remaining stagnant in numbers; therefore be it
4
- 5 **RESOLVED** that pastors, lay people, and congregations as one body seek the Lord’s help to fight off
6 the natural apathy and fear that can arise as they see decline in the size of their own
7 church’s membership and the marginalization of Christianity in the West as a whole, but
8 trust in our Lord’s promise to preserve His church; and be it further
9
- 10 **RESOLVED** that larger or growing congregations do not despise smaller or struggling congregations,
11 and that smaller or struggling congregations do not envy or become bitter toward larger
12 or growing congregations; and be it further
13
- 14 **RESOLVED** that congregations in rural or urban areas band together for mutual support with sister
15 churches facing similar struggles, realizing that they alone are uniquely poised to
16 evangelize their communities in a way that others cannot; and be it further
17
- 18 **RESOLVED** that struggling congregations consider what projects they could undertake in
19 partnership with other congregations that they would not be able to do individually; and
20 be it further
- 21 **RESOLVED** that congregations with greater resources consider how they could assist in such
22 partnerships to the benefit of the confession of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in
23 such times; and be it further
24
- 25 **RESOLVED** that the Northern Illinois District mission and ministry facilitators consider the
26 development of these partnerships a priority in their work; and be it further
27
- 28 **RESOLVED** that this cooperation demonstrate, by the grace of our Lord, the love to which we have
29 been called, bearing with one another’s burdens and doing so not out of a desire for
30 self-gain, but for the sake of Christ’s church; and be it finally
31
- 32 **RESOLVED** that thanksgiving be given to our God for such partnerships already in existence and for
33 His continued blessings as we continue seeking further cooperation amongst the
34 members of His body.
35

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42 **Resolution 2-10A To Encourage Stewardship of the People’s Offerings for Mission Work**

43
44 Referencing Overture 2-06
45

46 **WHEREAS** A primary purpose of our work together as a Synod is to unite our resources for the
47 sharing of the Gospel through the proclamation of the Word and the administration of
48 the Sacraments; and
49

50 **WHEREAS** congregational unrestricted support for the work of the Northern Illinois District has
51 declined from over \$3 Million in 1990 per year to under \$2 Million per year in 2014; and
52

1 **WHEREAS** in 2013, 26% of the NID congregations did not provide any support for our work
2 together; and
3
4 **WHEREAS** the NID Board of Directors since 2005 in recognizing their fiscal responsibility,
5 implemented a budgetary goal of biblical, percentage allocation of congregational
6 support to be 30% to Synod, 30% to NID Missions, and 40% to NID administration and
7 overhead; and
8
9 **WHEREAS** a major portion of the 30% NID Mission expenditures is used for the support of district
10 personnel to help congregations develop and implement mission strategies in their
11 congregations; and
12
13 **WHEREAS** the District Board of Directors review the monthly operating statements with the
14 analysis of the 30%, 30%, 40% actual to budget in addition to the approval of a complete
15 annual independent audit; and
16
17 **WHEREAS** the District staff (including our mission advocate who welcomes invitations to speak to
18 congregations and circuits) has always been available to answer specific questions; and
19
20 **WHEREAS** our work together is of great importance and yet is complex because of our rapidly
21 changing environment and therefore requires a constant striving for clarity; and
22
23 **WHEREAS** the District Board of Directors approves the annual District Operating Budget as well as
24 all Mission Grant Awards and receives the NID Annual Mission Report that is published
25 and available to all on the District website; and
26
27 **WHEREAS** the NID has expended substantial resources for mission work in the New Starts...New
28 Believers efforts while acknowledging that God works where and when He wills through
29 the ministry of Word and Sacraments in congregations, therefore be it
30
31 **RESOLVED** That the 2015 convention of the Northern Illinois District thank God for the faithful
32 efforts of past and present Board of Directors and District staff to be good stewards of
33 the ministry resources God provides; and be it further
34
35 **RESOLVED** That all congregations commit to “One New Thing” so that through that “New Start”
36 there may be “New Believers”, as God grants the increase; and be it further
37
38 **RESOLVED** That all congregations be encouraged to faithfully report to Synod the requested
39 statistical information, and be it further
40
41 **RESOLVED** That the Board of Directors and District staff continue the mission efforts of New
42 Starts...New Believers and continue to improve communicating the efforts and results
43 through *The Northern Light*, Annual Report, NID Website, social media and other forms
44 of communication to encourage congregations and individuals to spread the Good News
45 of the Gospel to the lost; and be it finally
46
47 **RESOLVED** That the district in convention ask the District President and Board of Directors to hold
48 an annual forum for called church workers, lay people, and district staff to dialogue
49 about recent “New Starts...New Believers” activities and recent grants; and that this
50 forum will include opportunities for questions and feedback and will seek the guidance
51 of the Holy Spirit in future mission and ministry endeavors.
52
53

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6 **Resolution 2-11 To Continue the Appropriate Use and Review of the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP)**
7 **Program**

8
9 Referencing Overture 2-04

10
11 **WHEREAS** the 65th Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod voted overwhelmingly
12 (803-151) approval of Resolution 5-04B to encourage the ongoing use and review of the
13 Specific Ministry Pastor (hereafter SMP) program, and
14

15 **WHEREAS** the same vote called for districts and their presidents not to utilize the SMP program in
16 congregations which could reasonably be expected to support a residentially-trained
17 pastor or a commissioned minister, saying “*Resolved, That district presidents not*
18 *approve specific ministry sites which could reasonably be expected to support a general*
19 *pastor or sites where a minister of religion—commissioned could fulfill the duties pending*
20 *reception of the recommendations from the SMP Committee” (LC-MS 65th Convention,*
21 *Today’s Business, Issue 4, p. 366), therefore be it*
22

23 **RESOLVED** that the NID in convention affirm Resolution 5-04B from the 65th convention of the
24 Synod and, by such affirmation, encourage the Synod to continue its use and review of
25 the SMP program, and be it further
26

27 **RESOLVED** that the NID in convention thank the NID Praesidium for implementing this practice
28 since the 2013 Synod convention; and be it finally
29

30 **RESOLVED** that this district convention—in practicing the will of the Synod—encourage the district
31 Praesidium to continue to ensure that SMP candidates are not being placed in
32 congregations which could reasonably be expected to support a commissioned minister
33 or a residentially-trained pastor, until such recommendations from the SMP Committee
34 have been received.
35
36

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42 **Resolution 2-12B To Address Licensed Lay Administration of Word and Sacrament**

43
44 Referencing Overture 2-08

45
46 **WHEREAS** Article 14 of the Augsburg Confession says, “Our churches teach that no one should
47 publicly teach in the church or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly ordered
48 call” (Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions: A Reader’s Edition of the Book of Concord);”
49 and
50

51 **WHEREAS** in 1989 our Synod at Wichita adopted Resolution 3-05B, regularizing under particular
52 circumstances that the following be done by men who do not hold the Office of the
53 Public Ministry: composing and delivering sermons, leading public worship services, and

- 1 administering Holy Baptism and Holy Communion (1989 Convention Proceedings, 111-
2 113); and
3
4 **WHEREAS** there has been tension over this issue for the past 25 years; and
5
6 **WHEREAS** in 2007 the Synod established the “Specific Ministry Pastor Program” in which men are
7 trained, examined, certified, called, and ordained in order to preach the Gospel and
8 administer the Sacraments (Res. 5-01B, 2007 Convention Proceedings, 133 ff.); and
9
10 **WHEREAS** this program was designed to meet the objective, among others, of providing pastoral
11 ministry where full-time ministry cannot be maintained and does so without conflicting
12 with Article 14 of the Augsburg Confession; therefore be it
13
14 **RESOLVED** that the Northern Illinois District respectfully request the Synod to discontinue the new
15 licensing of laymen to preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments (1989 Res. 3-
16 05B); and be it further
17
18 **RESOLVED** that those who are currently licensed be encouraged to enroll in the regular or SMP
19 track leading to ordination; and be it further
20
21 **RESOLVED** that those who are currently licensed but not enrolled in the regular (i.e., residential
22 seminary) or SMP track discontinue publically preaching the Gospel and administering
23 the sacraments within three years of the adoption of this resolution by the Synod in
24 convention; and be it further
25
26 **RESOLVED** that an extension of the above deadline for those currently licensed can be granted by
27 the appropriate District President in extreme circumstance, and that upon consultation
28 with and the agreement of the President of the Synod; and be it finally
29
30 **RESOLVED** that the Northern Illinois District in convention submit this resolution as an overture to
31 the Synod for consideration at the 2016 convention of Synod.
32
33

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39 **Resolution: 3-01 Change NID Bylaw V C 2 g (4)**

40 Referencing Overture 3-01

41
42
43 Whereas the Commission on Constitutional Matters of Synod has recommended that the NID have a separate
44 ballot for the ranking of each vice president therefore be it

45
46 Resolved that NID Bylaw V C 2 g (4) be replaced with the following wording: “After the election of the vice-
47 presidents separate ballots requiring simple majorities to fill each position will take place to rank the vice-
48 presidents.”
49
50
51

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5
6 **Resolution 3-02 Change NID Bylaw V C 2 d**

7
8 Referencing Overture 3-02

9
10 Whereas the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the LCMS has recommended that the Northern Illinois
11 District amend its bylaw V C 2 d so that every election must be determined by majority vote, therefore be it

12
13 Resolved that NID bylaw V C 2 d be replaced with the following wording: “A majority of all votes cast by a district
14 convention shall be required in every election.”

15
16
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21
22 **OMNIBUS Resolutions:**

23
24 **Omnibus A** – Overture 1-08 To Seek Accountability for NID Mission Efforts by Re-Establishing a Board for Missions
25 (*Referred to the NID BOD for consideration and crafting of needed By Law changes.*)

26
27 **Omnibus B** – Overture 1-03 To Encourage the Synod to Increase Seminary Financial Assistance (*This issue has been*
28 *addressed by the LCMS national office with the establishment of the LCMS Joint Seminary*)

29