



59th Convention of
Northern Illinois District LCMS

Convention Proceedings 2018

LCMS Northern Illinois District
March 9 and 10, 2018
Concordia University Chicago
River Forest, IL

1 Approved Proceedings of the 59th Convention
2 of the
3 Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
4 March 9 and 10, 2018
5
6

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

9 **CALL TO ORDER Friday, March 9, 2018**

10 President Dan Gilbert called the 59th convention of the *Northern Illinois District* at Concordia
11 University Chicago, in River Forest, Illinois, to order in the name of the Father and of the Son
12 and of the Holy Spirit at 10:30 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 delivered the President's Address.
20

21 President Gilbert introduced the following people: the Rev. Dr. John Sias, Secretary of the
22 Synod and the parliamentarian for the convention; the Rev. Dr. William Ameiss, President
23 Emeritus; and the Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe, Regional Vice-President of the Synod. It was
24 announced that the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of the Synod, would be joining us
25 later.
26

27 A number of announcements were made about convention practicalities.
28

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

30 Secretary James Kellerman presented the Credentials Report with 168 congregations
31 represented: 132 pastoral voting delegates, 131 lay voting delegates, 24 advisory delegates and
32 5 guests. The motion was adopted *viva voce*.
33

34 President Gilbert announced that a quorum was established.
35

36 Secretary Kellerman read and moved adoption of the proposed standing rules. The rules were
37 adopted with over $\frac{2}{3}$ in the affirmative and are attached as Appendix A.
38

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

42 **VOTING PROCEDURES**

43 The assembly received an orientation of the voting devices from the Elections Committee
44 (Committee III) chairperson Eric Kennaugh.

1 **ADJOURNMENT**

2 Following prayer led by President Gilbert, the convention adjourned for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

3
4 **CALL TO ORDER**

5 President Gilbert called the convention to order at 1:31 p.m. The session opened with a prayer
6 by the Rev. Marty Marks.

7
8 **CREDENTIALS REPORT**

9 Secretary James Kellerman presented the Credentials Report with delegates from 168
10 congregations: 148 pastoral voting delegates, 144 lay voting delegates, 30 advisory delegates,
11 and 5 guests. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

12
13 **DISTRICT STAFF**

14 District staff was introduced and thanked.

15
16 **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**

17 The chair announced that three individuals had been nominated in advance of the convention:
18 the Rev. Allan Buss, the Rev. B. Keith Haney, and the Rev. Kris Whitby. There were no
19 nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded, and adopted to ratify the ballot for
20 president.

21
22 After prayer led by Eric Kennaugh, the ballot was presented to the convention. Elected was
23 Allan Buss:

24			
25	<u>Allan Buss</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>152</u>
26	B. Keith Haney	107	132
27	Kris Whitby	35	

28
29 As President Elect, Allan Buss addressed the assembly.

30
31 **NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARY**

32 Vice-president Mark Schulz took the chair. It was noted that the following individuals had been
33 nominated to serve as vice-presidents:

- 34 North Region: Micah Greiner, Kristopher Whitby
- 35 South Region: Cory Estby
- 36 East Region: Steven Anderson
- 37 West Region: Ken Krause

38
39 No nominations were made from the floor. Nominations were closed.

40
41 By direction of the Committee for Convention Nominations, Mark Bestul nominated David Juhl
42 and James Kellerman for secretary. No nominations were made from the floor.

43
44

1 **ELECTION AND RANKING OF VICE-PRESIDENTS, ELECTION OF SECRETARY**

2 Elected Vice-President for the North Region was Kristopher Whitby:

3	Micah Greiner	73		
4	<u>Kristopher Whitby</u>	<u>206</u>		

6 Elected Vice-President for the South Region was Cory Estby by acclamation (voice vote).

8 Elected Vice-President for the East Region was Steven Anderson by acclamation (voice vote).

10 Elected Vice-President for the West Region was Ken Krause by acclamation (voice vote).

12 Ranking of the Vice-Presidents:

13	Steven Anderson	32		30	112
14	Cory Estby	62	71	84	<u>166</u>
15	Ken Krause	77	82	120	<u>170</u>
16	Kris Whitby	109	130	<u>162</u>	

18 The Vice-Presidents were ranked as follows:

19 1st Vice-President: Kris Whitby (on the third ballot for 1st Vice-President)

20 2nd Vice-President: Ken Krause (on the first ballot for 2nd Vice-President)

21 3rd Vice-President: Cory Estby (on the first ballot for 3rd Vice-President)

22 4th Vice-President: Steven Anderson

24 Elected secretary was James Kellerman:

25	David Juhl	37
26	<u>James Kellerman</u>	<u>245</u>

28 **DISTRICT MINISTRY PRESENTATION 1**

29 Mike Zimmer explained partnerships developing in the city. Mike Mast and Dan Gilbert
30 explained about Hispanic ministry. It was followed by a panel discussion about Hispanic ministry
31 that included Pastors Steve Maske, Jorge Mazariegos, Danny Tutwiler, Eric Gauss, Walter
32 Ramirez, and Alex Merlo.

34 **RECESS**

35 The assembly recessed at 2:55 p.m. The assembly reconvened at 3:10 p.m.

37 **OMNIBUS RESOLUTIONS**

38 Secretary Kellerman moved to adopt Omnibus B (to decline Overture 2-08, *To Allow Fall*
39 *Pastoral Conferences to Submit Overtures to the District Convention*). Voting delegates adopted
40 Omnibus B with 148 yes votes, and 30 no votes.

42 **DISTRICT MINISTRY PRESENTATION II**

43 Keith Haney and Mike Zimmer explaining the learning communities they are working with. Mike
44 Mast then spoke on ministry engagement. It was followed up by a conversation with Megan

1 Popp and Tony and Heather Appel. Then a video was shown highlighting the work of Megan
2 Popp at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Batavia, another video showing Tony and Heather Appel
3 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Des Plaines, and yet another one highlighting the Rockford
4 Partnership was shown.

5

6 **COMMITTEE I RESOLUTIONS**

7 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 1-01, *To Fund NID Life Task Force Events*.
8 Advisory delegates voted 17 yes and 1 no. Voting delegates adopted Resolution 1-01 with 225
9 yes votes, and 25 no votes.

10

11 A resolution, labeled 1-03, *To Clearly Confess God’s Will and Take Christian Action Regarding*
12 *the Sanctioning of an LGBTQ+ Club at Concordia University—Portland*, was made from the floor.

13 A statement was read from President Harrison, who said that since there was pending
14 movement on the matter, he asked for moderation in language of any resolution adopted by
15 the convention. A motion was made to table the motion until 9:20 on Saturday until President
16 Harrison can give his counsel on the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

17

18 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 1-02A, *To Encourage the LCMS Partner*
19 *Churches to Leave the Lutheran World Federation*. Advisory delegates voted 7 yes and 14 no.
20 Voting delegates declined Resolution 1-02A with 110 yes votes, and 137 no votes.

21

22 **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

23 Rev. Dan Gilbert made a special presentation to Tom Niermann, thanking him for his many
24 years of service as assistant to the president.

25

26 **COMMITTEE II RESOLUTIONS**

27 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-01, *To Grant the Board of Directors the*
28 *Authority to Realign Circuits*. Advisory delegates voted 11 yes and 3 no. Voting delegates
29 adopted Resolution 2-01 with 209 yes votes, and 32 no votes.

30

31 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-02, *To Allow Amendments to the District*
32 *Bylaws to be Adopted Provisionally*. Advisory delegates voted 17 yes and 1 no. Voting delegates
33 adopted Resolution 2-02 with 228 yes votes, and 17 no votes.

34

35 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-03, *To Clarify Some Language in the*
36 *District’s Bylaws*. Advisory delegates voted 17 yes and 1 no. Voting delegates adopted
37 Resolution 2-03 with 236 yes votes, and 8 no votes.

38

39 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-04, *To Divide Electoral Circuit 13 into*
40 *Two Visitation Circuits*. Advisory delegates voted 19 yes and 0 no. Voting delegates adopted
41 Resolution 2-04 with 238 yes votes, and 9 no votes.

42

43 Kris Whitby took over chairing the convention. A committee member moved adoption of
44 Resolution 2-05, *To Declare the Reverend Dan Gilbert, President Emeritus of the Northern Illinois*

1 *District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.* The motion was adopted by rising vote with
2 the common doxology.

3
4 Dan Gilbert resumed chairing the convention. A committee member moved adoption of
5 Resolution 2-06, *To Make the Term Limit For the Office of District President Five Terms.* A
6 motion was made to have the original overture 2-05 as a substitute resolution, hereafter
7 labeled as 2-06A. Advisory delegates voted 17 yes and 3 no to have the substitute motion.
8 Voting delegates agreed to debate the substitute resolution with 144 yes votes, and 104 no
9 votes. By a friendly amendment, the bylaw wording suggested by the Commission on
10 Constitutional Matters will be applied to the substitute resolution. A motion was made to close
11 debate: voting delegates voted 229 yes and 9 no. Advisory delegates voted 14 yes and 8 no.
12 Voting delegates adopted Resolution 2-06A with 131 yes votes, and 119 no votes.

13
14 The president called orders of the day.

15
16 **LCEF WELCOME**

17 The Rev. Bart Day, new president of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, spoke briefly. The
18 LCEF is sponsoring the evening’s reception.

19
20 **ADJOURNMENT**

21 Following prayer led by Vice-president Steven Anderson, the assembly adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

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23
24
25 **CALL TO ORDER Saturday, March 10, 2018**

26 President Gilbert called the assembly to order at 8:58 a.m.

27
28 President Elect Allan Buss led the opening devotion.

29
30 **CREDENTIALS REPORT**

31 Secretary James Kellerman presented the Credentials Report with delegates 332 registered
32 from 168 congregations: 150 pastoral voting delegates, 152 lay voting delegates were
33 registered, 30 advisory delegates and 5 guests. The report was adopted by unanimous consent.

34
35 **COMMITTEE I RESOLUTIONS**

36
37 Resolution 1-03, *To Clearly Confess God’s Will and Take Christian Action Regarding the*
38 *Sanctioning of an LGBTQ+ Club at Concordia University—Portland,* was taken up again.

39
40 The floor committee presented Resolution 1-03A, *To Confess the Truth in our Concordia*
41 *University Mission Field and to Encourage Godly Ecclesiastical Supervision.* Advisory delegates
42 voted 19 yes and 1 no to receive the substitute motion. Voting delegates voted 225 yes and 21
43 no to receive the substitute motion. Voting delegates voted 186 yes and 62 no to close debate.
44 Advisory delegates voted 12 yes and 8 no to adopt Resolution 1-03A. Voting delegates adopted

1 Resolution 1-03A with 160 yes votes, and 97 no votes. The following asked that their no votes
2 be recorded: the Rev. Mark J. Brockhoff, pastoral delegate of St. John Evangelical-Lutheran
3 Church of Schaumburg; the Rev. Charles Mueller, Jr., pastoral delegate of Trinity Lutheran
4 Church of Roselle; Tina Reitz, lay delegate of St. John Lutheran Church of Schaumburg; Emily
5 Pacyga, lay delegate of Tabor/Concordia Lutheran Church; the Rev. Philip Robarge, pastoral
6 delegate of Tabor/Concordia Lutheran Church.

7
8 The floor committee moved that Resolution 1-03 be expunged from the minutes. Approved by
9 voice vote.

10
11 Committee I was dismissed with thanks.

12
13 **NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

14 Vice-President Kris Whitby took over chairing the convention. Nominations were made by Mark
15 Bestul by direction of the Committee on Convention Nominations.

16
17 From the North Region: James Buckman, Micah Greiner, Jerry Hays, and Matthew Hoffmann
18 were nominated for Ordained Minister. David Gottschalk and Joel Moritz were nominated for
19 Commissioned Minister. Larry Goodwin, Paul Pasche, Chuck Schild, and Charles Traugott were
20 nominated for Layperson. There were no floor nominations. Nominations were closed.

21
22 From the South Region. Eric Brown and Ron Rock were nominated for Ordained Minister. David
23 Bremer and Sarah Gaffney were nominated for Commissioned Minister. David DeYoung,
24 Michael Dobbs, Ken Garst, and Will Strenge were nominated for Layperson. There were no floor
25 nominations. Nominations were closed.

26
27 From the East Region: Mark Birkholz and Ralph Tausz were nominated for Ordained Minister.
28 Ted Lams and Matt Tuomi were nominated for Commissioned Minister. Tim Eischen, Carlos
29 Ortiz, Daniel Sedory, and Matt Struve were nominated for Layperson. There were no floor
30 nominations. Nominations were closed.

31
32 From the West Region: Tim Bayer, John Prohl, Caleb Schauer, and Willis Schwichtenberg were
33 nominated for Ordained Minister. Dan Green, Betsy Karkan, and Jonathan Poppe were
34 nominated for Commissioned Minister. Carol-Joy Motisi, David Nessler, Lori Solyom, and
35 Michael Woolery were nominated for Layperson. There were no floor nominations.
36 Nominations were closed.

37
38 **NOMINATIONS FOR 2021 NID COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS**

39 Vice-President Kris Whitby continued chairing the convention. Nominations were made by
40 Mark Bestul by direction of the Committee on Convention Nominations.

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1
2 From the North Region: Mark Bestul, Micah Greiner, and Matthew Hoffmann were nominated
3 for Ordained Minister. Joel Moritz and Ardelle Pate were nominated for Commissioned
4 Minister. Laura Schmolt and Charles Traugott were nominated for Layperson. There were no
5 floor nominations. Nominations were closed.

6
7 From the South Region: Cory Estby and David Juhl were nominated for Ordained Minister.
8 David Bremer and Phaedra Serbus were nominated for Commissioned Minister. Michael Dobbs
9 and Will Strenge were nominated for Layperson. There were no floor nominations.
10 Nominations were closed.

11
12 From the East Region: Roger Gallup and Stephen Heuser were nominated for Ordained
13 Minister. Katie Laubenstein and Kathleen Gunia were nominated for Commissioned Minister.
14 Aaron Doehring and Mark Stern were nominated for Layperson. There were no floor
15 nominations. Nominations were closed.

16
17 From the West Region: John Prohl and Caleb Schauer were nominated for Ordained Minister.
18 Betsy Karkan and Jonathan Poppe were nominated for Commissioned Minister. Sonia Sanchez
19 and Michael Wooerly were nominated for Layperson. There were no floor nominations.
20 Nominations were closed.

21
22 **NOMINATIONS FOR CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO BOARD OF REGENTS**

23 Vice-President Kris Whitby continued chairing the convention. Nominations were made by
24 Mark Bestul by direction of the Committee on Convention Nominations.

25
26 Timothy Bayer, Gary Bertels, James Buckman, and Matthew Hoffmann were nominated for
27 Ordained Minister. Don Gillingham, Carl Lisius, and Virginia (Ginny) Terrell were nominated for
28 Commissioned Minister. Paul DeLassus, Alicia Dietrich, Mike Graf, and Dominic Salvino were
29 nominated for Layperson. There were no floor nominations. Nominations were closed.

30
31 President Gilbert resumed the chair.

32
33 **RECESS**

34 The assembly recessed at 10:17 a.m. The assembly reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

35
36 **CONVENTION ESSAY**

37 President Matthew Harrison led the Bible study/convention essay, "Joyfully Lutheran."

38
39 **ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

40 Vice-President Kris Whitby took over chairing the convention, with Elections Committee
41 chairperson Eric Kennaugh assisting.

42
43

1
2 For Ordained Minister from the North Region, Micah Greiner was elected:
3 James Buckman 38
4 Micah Greiner 69 105 132
5 Jerry Hays 66 71 69
6 Matthew Hoffmann 61 71 52
7
8 For Commissioned Minister from the North Region, David Gottschalk was elected:
9 David Gottschalk 143
10 Joel Moritz 89
11
12 For Layperson from the North Region Paul Pasche and Chuck Schild were elected:
13 Larry Goodwin 90 28
14 Paul Pasche 140
15 Chuck Schild 115 121
16 Charles Traugott 108 85
17
18 For Ordained Minister from the South Region, Ron Rock was elected:
19 Eric Brown 71
20 Ron Rock 168
21
22 For Commissioned Minister from the South Region, Sarah Gaffney was elected:
23 David Bremer 57
24 Sarah Gaffney 177
25
26 For Layperson from the South Region, David DeYoung and Michael Dobbs were elected:
27 David DeYoung 146
28 Michael Dobbs 134
29 Ken Garst 81
30 Will Streng 67
31
32 For Ordained Minister from the East Region, Mark Birkholz was elected:
33 Mark Birkholz 177
34 Ralph Tausz 53
35
36 For Commissioned Minister from the East Region, Ted Lams was elected:
37 Ted Lams 119
38 Matt Tuomi 110
39
40 For Layperson from the East Region, Daniel Sedory and Matt Struve were elected:
41 Tim Eischen 64
42 Carlos Ortiz 113
43 Daniel Sedory 129
44 Matt Struve 135

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For Ordained Minister from the West Region, Willis Schwichtenberg was elected:

Tim Bayer	57	67	
John Prohl	45		
Caleb Schauer	57	69	112
<u>Willis Schwichtenberg</u>	76	101	<u>129</u>

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

Dan Green	43		
<u>Betsy Karkan</u>	<u>163</u>		
Jonathan Poppe	30		

For Layperson from the West Region, Carol-Joy Motisi and Lori Solyom were elected:

<u>Carol-Joy Motisi</u>	<u>152</u>		
David Nessler	68		
<u>Lori Solyom</u>	<u>126</u>		
Michael Woolery	83		

ELECTION OF CIRCUIT VISITORS

The list of 2018-2021 Circuit Visitors as printed on page 8 of Today’s Convention Business with Rod Krueger’s name added for Circuit 2 was ratified with voting delegates voting 235 yes and 13 no. The list is attached as Appendix C.

ELECTION OF 2021 NID COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS

Vice-President Kris Whitby continued chairing the convention, with Elections Committee chairperson Eric Kennaugh assisting.

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

<u>Mark Bestul</u>	117	<u>144</u>	
Micah Greiner	48		
Matthew Hoffmann	71	97	

For Commissioned Minister from the North Region, Ardelle Pate was elected:

Joel Moritz	100		
<u>Ardelle Pate</u>	<u>134</u>		

For Layperson from the North Region, Laura Schmuldt was elected:

<u>Laura Schmuldt</u>	<u>141</u>		
Charles Traugott	81		

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

<u>Rev. Cory Estby</u>	<u>143</u>		
David Juhl	91		

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For Commissioned Minister from the South Region, Phaedra Serbus was elected:

David Bremer	107
<u>Phaedra Serbus</u>	<u>128</u>

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

<u>Michael Dobbs</u>	<u>150</u>
Will Streng	69

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

<u>Roger Gallup</u>	<u>123</u>
Stephen Heuser	95

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

<u>Katie Laubenstein</u>	<u>139</u>
Kathleen Gunia	85

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

Aaron Doehring	100
<u>Mark Stern</u>	<u>123</u>

For Ordained Minister from the West Region, John Prohl was elected:

<u>John Prohl</u>	<u>120</u>
Caleb Schauer	110

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

<u>Betsy Karkan</u>	<u>120</u>
Jonathan Poppe	112

For Layperson from the West Region, Michael Woolery was elected:

Sonia Sanchez	109
<u>Michael Woolery</u>	<u>121</u>

ELECTION OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO BOARD OF REGENTS

Vice-President Kris Whitby remained in the chair, with Elections Committee chairperson Eric Kennaugh assisting.

For Ordained Minister, Gary Bertels was elected.

Timothy Bayer	46
<u>Gary Bertels</u>	<u>123</u>
James Buckman	15
Matthew Hoffman	56

1
2 For Commissioned Minister, Virginia (Ginny) Terrell was elected.

3	Don Gillingham	83	99
4	Carl Lisius	42	
5	<u>Virginia (Ginny) Terrell</u>	108	<u>148</u>

6
7 For Layperson, Alicia Dietrich and Dominic Salvino were elected:

8	Paul DeLassus	61	
9	<u>Alicia Dietrich</u>	<u>168</u>	
10	Mike Graf	89	
11	<u>Dominic Salvino</u>	<u>139</u>	

12
13 **RECESS**

14 President Gilbert resumed chairing the convention. The assembly recessed at 12:07 p.m. The
15 assembly reconvened at 1:40 p.m. with an opening prayer led by Pastor Alex Merlo.

16
17 It was announced that Betsy Karkan was not eligible to serve on the Northern Illinois District
18 Board of Directors per Synod Bylaw 1.5.1.1. An election was to be held after Committee II
19 resolutions are completed.

20
21 **COMMITTEE II RESOLUTIONS**

22
23 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-07, *To Establish a Task Force on*
24 *Stewardship of District Resources*. An amendment was made in the first resolve to strike “the
25 current District President by May 15, 2018” and replace it with “the new board of directors.”
26 Advisory delegates voted 3 yes and 2 no to approve the amendment. Voting delegates
27 approved the amendment with 73 yes votes, and 64 no votes. A question was raised about the
28 voting devices, so a revote was taken. Voting delegates approved the amendment with 84 yes
29 votes, and 74 no votes. There still were problems with the voting devices. Voting delegates
30 approved the amendment with 121 yes votes, and 93 no votes.

31
32 The amended resolution went before the delegates. Advisory delegates voted 10 yes and 4 no.
33 Voting delegates adopted Resolution 2-07 as amended with 168 yes votes, and 45 no votes.

34
35 A committee member moved adoption of Resolution 2-08, *To Care for the Members of the Body*
36 *of Christ through Fraternal Communication*. Advisory delegates voted 13 yes and 2 no. Voting
37 delegates adopted Resolution 2-08 with 175 yes votes, and 38 no votes.

38
39 Committee II was dismissed with thanks.

40
41 **ELECTION FOR DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WEST REGION, COMMISSIONED MINISTER**

42 For Commissioned Minister from the West Region, Jonathan Poppe was elected:

43	Dan Green	82	
44	<u>Jonathan Poppe</u>	<u>118</u>	

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SYNOD Q & A

President Harrison answered questions.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Secretary Kellerman presented the final Credentials Report, noting that there were no changes.

CLOSING REMARKS

President Gilbert addressed the assembly with closing remarks.

ADJOURNMENT

Following prayer led by President Gilbert, the singing of the doxology, and the benediction, the convention adjourned sine die at 3:23 p.m.

Soli Deo Gloria

1 **APPENDIX A: Adopted STANDING RULES of the 2018 NID Convention**
2

- 3 1. ELECTRONIC DEVICES. Only recording devices approved by the president shall be permitted.
4 Mobile phones and pagers shall be kept in non-audible mode; vocal phone conversations
5 shall not be permitted.
- 6 2. CREDENTIALS. Delegates, guests and staff shall wear official badges during all convention
7 functions.
- 8 3. VOTING. Votes will normally be made with electronic keypads. At the discretion of the chair,
9 votes may be taken by voice, rising vote, voting cards, or standing counted vote.
- 10 4. Nominations from the floor shall be seconded and a majority vote shall add the nominee to
11 ballot.
- 12 5. MOTIONS - RESOLUTIONS - OVERTURES
- 13 a. Motions to amend a resolution or to offer a substitute resolution shall be submitted in
14 writing in triplicate.¹
- 15 b. Only voting delegates may make or second motions.
- 16 c. Floor Committee Resolutions
- 17 1. Omnibus A, B and C² resolutions shall be disposed of before taking up Floor
18 Committee resolutions.
- 19 2. Floor Committee representatives shall read only an *overture's resolving clauses*
20 unless, in the judgment of the committee, each *whereas clause* should also be read.
- 21 3. Floor Committee resolutions not taken up during the convention fall to the ground.
- 22 4. In connection with resolutions adopted during the convention, the Constitution
23 Committee shall be authorized to correct punctuation and grammar and to make
24 other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of
25 the delegates, including applicable modifications to section designations and cross
26 references in the bylaws.
- 27 6. DEBATE - DISCUSSION
- 28 a. Motions may be made from any microphone, however those speaking in favor of the
29 motion shall do so at the odd numbered microphones and those opposed shall speak at
30 the even numbered microphones.
- 31 b. Members seconding a motion need not go to the microphone nor be recognized by the
32 chair.
- 33 c. After recognition, a delegate shall state his or her name, congregation and location or
34 the administrative unit represented. If applicable, members shall preface remarks with
35 “I speak for/against the motion.”

¹ One copy each for the presiding officer, secretary, and parliamentarian.

² Prior to the convention, Floor Committees submitted certain overtures for Omnibus A, B and C consideration. The secretary consolidated them into one resolution for each category. The Floor Committees used Synod rules: A - when certain overtures should be presented first to a District Board or Committee (before asking the District Convention to take action); B - when certain overtures have been given adequate and appropriate response by a previous District or Synodical Convention, and C. - when the Floor Committee chooses to decline the overture.

- 1 d. Debate shall be limited to two (2) minutes per speech and twice to each motion, the
2 second time only after all who wish to speak have done so, except that Floor Committee
3 members have unlimited time provided Rule 6e does not apply. Extension of these
4 limits shall require a two-thirds vote.
- 5 e. If a substitute motion is moved and seconded, the framer shall have two (2) minutes to
6 speak for consideration and a Floor Committee member shall have two (2) minutes to
7 speak against consideration. Without further debate, delegates shall vote whether to
8 consider the substitute; a majority is required to adopt. If the substitute is subsequently
9 adopted, the original motion is not considered. If the substitute motion is (a) not
10 considered or (b) is considered and not adopted, the original motion is then
11 considered.³
- 12 f. The *previous question* (call the question) may only be made by a delegate who rises
13 solely for this purpose.

14 7. THE PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY AND A HIGHER AUTHORITY. The rules contained in the
15 current edition of *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the convention in all
16 cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the
17 Constitution and Bylaws of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, the Bylaws of the
18 Northern Illinois District, and these convention standing rules. Above all, the rules of
19 Christian love shall govern the convention.
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APPENDIX B: Adopted Agenda

- 1
2 **All events, unless otherwise noted, will be in the North Gym**
3 7:00 – 8:30 am Delegate/Vendor Registration - South Gym
4 7:30 am Continental breakfast available in the south gym (vendor area)
5 8:30 am Pre-service singing – Chapel of Our Lord
6 8:45 am Opening worship service – Chapel of Our Lord
7 *Convention Divine Service including welcoming new congregations and church*
8 *workers/ congratulating those with anniversaries and commemorating those*
9 *Called to Glory – Rev. Dan Gilbert/Michael Zimmer*
10
 - Preacher – Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe, Regional Vice-President
 - Presiding Minister – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President, NID
11
12 10:30 am Call to Order (North Gym) – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President
13 10:35 am Greetings from, Rev. Dr. Daniel Gard, CUC President
14 10:40 am District President’s Address – Rev. Dan Gilbert
15 11:00 am Introductions; Standing Rules; Adoption of Agenda
16 11:10 am Registration report – Rev. Dr. James Kellerman
17 11:15 am Committee 3 – Elections – Introduction to Electronic Voting Procedure and
18 Practice
19 11:30 am Lunch Prayer
20 11:35 am Lunch – CUC cafeteria
21 Caucuses of Advisory Ministers of Religion – Ordained ... Advisory Delegates to Synod’s 2019
22 Convention
23 1:25 pm Hymn sing - led by Dr. Steve Wentz
24 1:30 pm Prayer to open session – Rev. Martin Marks
25 1:35 pm Registration report – Rev. Dr. James Kellerman
26 1:40 pm Committee 3 – Elections
27
 - Ratification of Slate of Candidates for District President
 - Election of President
 - Response from President Elect
 - Floor Nominations for Vice-Presidents
 - Elect and Rank Vice-Presidents
 - Floor Nominations for Secretary`
 - Elect Secretary
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34 2:15 pm District Ministry I – *Dan Gilbert, Keith Haney, Mike Mast, Mike Zimmer*
35 2:55 pm Break
36 3:10 pm ABC Resolutions
37 3:20 pm District Ministry II – *Dan Gilbert, Keith Haney, Mike Mast, Mike Zimmer*
38 4:00 pm Committee 1 – Witness
39 4:30 pm Special Recognition – Rev. Dan Gilbert, President
40 4:35 pm Committee 2 – Mercy/Life Together
41 5:05 pm LCEF Welcome – Rev. Bart Day, President/CEO Lutheran Church Extension Fund
42 5:10 pm Close for evening
43 5:15-7:00pm President’s Reception (KCC / Cougar’s Den)
44 5:15 pm Floor Committee meetings as needed – rooms as noted in “Today’s Business”
45

1 **Saturday, March 10, 2018 (All convention sessions will be in the North Gym)**
2 7:00 - 8:00 am Break area will be set with coffee “and” – (south gym)
3 8:45 am Pre-devotion singing – led by Dr. Steve Wentz
4 9:00 am Convention Devotion – new District President
5 9:15 am Registration report – Rev. Dr. James Kellerman
6 9:20 am Committee 1 - Witness
7 9:50 am Committee on Nominations
8 • Presents slate of Nominations
9 • Floor Nominations
10 ✓ Board of Directors
11 ✓ 2021 NID Convention Nominations Committee
12 ✓ Concordia University Chicago Board of Regents
13 10:20 am Break
14 10:40 am Convention Essay - “Joy-Fully Lutheran” – Rev. Matthew Harrison, LCMS
15 President
16 11:25 am Committee 3 – Elections
17 • Election of Board of Directors
18 ✓ East Region elections
19 ✓ North Region elections
20 ✓ South Region elections
21 ✓ West Region elections
22 ✓ Ratification – Circuit Counselor elections
23 * Elect 2021 NID Convention Nominations Committee
24 * Elect Board of Regent members, Concordia University Chicago
25 12:00 pm Lunch – CUC cafeteria (Koehneke center)
26 2:00 pm Prayer to open the Session – Rev. Alex Merlo
27 2:05 pm Committee 2 – Mercy/Life Together
28 2:35 pm Open Q & A with Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President
29 3:20 pm Floor Committee time – if necessary
30 3:50 pm Registration (Final Report) – Rev. Dr. James Kellerman
31 3:55 pm Closing remarks – Rev. Dan Gilbert
32 4:15 pm Convention Closing
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34
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APPENDIX C
2018-2021 Circuit Visitors

- 1
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- 3
- 4 **Circuit 1-N:** Wayne Jahn, Redeemer, Waukegan
- 5 **Circuit 2-N:** Rod Krueger, Our Redeemer, Prospect Heights
- 6 **Circuit 3-N:** Mark Bestul, Calvary, Elgin
- 7 **Circuit 4-N:** Larry Tieman, Immanuel, Crystal Lake
- 8 **Circuit 5-N:** Jerry Hays, St. Peter, Schaumburg
- 9
- 10 **Circuit 6-W:** Jay Klein, Zion, Hinsdale
- 11 **Circuit 7-W:** Ron Weidler, Immanuel, Batavia
- 12 **Circuit 8-W:** Patrick Pinion, St. John, Burlington
- 13 **Circuit 9-W:** Rick Wagner, Roscoe
- 14 **Circuit 10-W:** David Andermann, Our Savior, Dixon
- 15
- 16 **Circuit 11-E:** Vernon Wendt, Messiah, Chicago
- 17 **Circuit 12-E:** Leonard Payton, St. John, Forest Park
- 18 **Circuit 13-E:** Valdas Ausra, Zion, Oak Lawn
- 19 **Circuit 14-E:** Elstner Lewis, St. Philip, Chicago
- 20
- 21 **Circuit 15-S:** Rod Serbus, St. John, Darien
- 22 **Circuit 16-S:** Steven Lange, Living Word, Orland Park
- 23 **Circuit 17-S:** David Daniel, Zion, Ottawa
- 24 **Circuit 18-S:** Eric Brown, Trinity, Herscher
- 25 **Circuit 19-S:** Michael Croon, St. Paul, Chicago Heights
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2 **APPENDIX D: Resolutions**
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4 **RESOLUTION: 1-01:** Funding NID Life Task Force Events
5 Referencing Overture 1-01
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the NID Life Task Force’s mission, summarized in its mission statement: “Affirming
8 God’s Will to create and sustain mortal life in the anticipation of Life in Christ, the Northern
9 Illinois District Life Task Force’s mission is to connect with church workers and their
10 congregations by presenting unique educational and outreach opportunities about the
11 reverence of life from conception through natural death.” ...and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the NID Life Task force’s work is an expression of the mission and confession of
14 Christ’s Church in our district, and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the NID Life Task Force has networked church workers and congregations, and
17 prepared and implemented workshops and other events each year since its inception, and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the NID Life Task Force and its work were not funded through our districts budget,
20 but through monies solicited from private donors, and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, in response to observed needs, the NID Life Task Force would like to provide greater
23 support and resources for churches and people in our district, therefore be it...
24

25 **RESOLVED**, that the District President and staff encourage congregations and individuals to
26 provide financial support to the NID Life Task Force, contributing to the present annual district-
27 wide goal of \$2,000 and be it further
28

29 **RESOLVED**, the NID Life Task Force give an annual report of its ministry, expenditures, and
30 needs to the NID Board of Directors, and be it further
31

32 **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors re-examine the need and funding for the NID Life Task
33 Force in response to the task force’s report.
34

35 **Action: Adopted without amendments**
36
37
38

39 **RESOLUTION 1-02A:** To Encourage the LCMS Partner Churches to Leave the Lutheran World
40 Federation
41 Referencing Overture 1-02
42

43 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) “is a global communion of 145 churches in
44 the Lutheran tradition, representing over 74 million Christians in 98 countries,” and it declares

1 of itself that its member churches “share a vision, purpose and values. We work to strengthen
2 our relationships and build an inclusive, respectful communion. We are on a common journey
3 of renewal shaped and enriched by the different contexts within which we live.”
4 (www.lutheranworld.org) Article III of the LWF Constitution states, “The Lutheran World
5 Federation is a communion of churches which confess the triune God, agree in the
6 proclamation of the Word of God and are united in pulpit and altar fellowship.” The LCMS is not
7 a member of the LWF. The LCMS is a member of the International Lutheran Council (ILC), which
8 is not a communion fellowship. However, the majority of ILC member churches are partner
9 churches of the LCMS with whom we share altar and pulpit fellowship; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, The July 7, 2017 Reporter article “Boards and Business: International, National
12 Mission” states, The Rev. Dr. Al Collver, director of Church Relations for the Synod, provided an
13 overview of two kinds of Lutheranism evident worldwide. He described the differences
14 between church bodies affiliated with the International Lutheran Council (ILC) and the more
15 liberal Lutheran World Federation – with its focus on women’s ordination, acceptance of the
16 LGBT lifestyle and using a higher critical approach to interpreting Scripture. Collver explained
17 that the ILC exists to encourage, strengthen and promote confessional Lutheran theology and
18 practice. Increasingly, he said, Lutheran church bodies in the Global South are seeking closer
19 ties with the ILC and the LCMS. He pointed out that the LCMS has 36 official partner churches
20 and 25 “allied church bodies,” which have some degree of partnership but do not yet have altar
21 and pulpit fellowship. An additional 14 “emerging church bodies” have made contact with the
22 LCMS to learn more about its doctrine and practice. Collver also noted that many large,
23 established church bodies are seeking a more equal partnership with the Synod and desire
24 theological education, financial expertise to better manage growing ministry institutions and
25 help with mercy work. “There is no time like the present to have a significant impact on world
26 Lutheranism,” said Collver; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS has remained faithful and continues to confess the truth of God’s Word as
29 its members subscribe unconditionally to the Book of Concord. As a result of its confessional
30 subscription (Article II of the LCMS Constitution), the LCMS has not joined the LWF. Sadly, the
31 LCMS has twelve partner churches with whom we are in full altar and pulpit fellowship who are
32 members of the LWF. They are as follows with the year they joined the LWF:

33 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana – 2004
34 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya – 1970
35 The Lutheran Church of Nigeria – 1973
36 India Evangelical Lutheran Church – 1970
37 Japan Lutheran Church – (Associate Member) 1999
38 Lutheran Church in Korea – 1972
39 Gutnius Lutheran Church (Papua New Guinea) – 1979
40 Lutheran Church in the Philippines – 1973
41 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia – 1963
42 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania – 1967
43 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia – 1994; and

44

1 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), has as its focus women’s ordination,
2 acceptance of the LGBT lifestyle, and using a higher critical approach to interpreting Scripture;
3 and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, The Word of God says, “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For
6 what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with
7 darkness?” (2 Cor. 6:14) and “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and
8 offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.” (Rom. 16:17); and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Jude reminds us, “have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them
11 out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear and hating even the garment stained by the
12 flesh.” (Jude 22-23). We must always deal with wayward brothers and sisters in the gentle
13 loving and firm manner because repentance rarely is resolved quickly as the Holy Spirit moves
14 at his own pace; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, these brothers and sisters in Christ sometimes have deep and long-standing
17 relationships with faithful orthodox believers who happen to be long-time members of these
18 now-heterodox fellowships; therefore be it
19

20 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District commend President Matthew Harrison, Dr. Albert
21 Colver III, and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) for reaching out to
22 church bodies that appreciate our Synod’s deep commitment to the Lutheran confessions and
23 that are looking to strengthen their own church bodies by entering into altar and pulpit
24 fellowship with us and being trained by our theological educators; and be it further
25

26 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District commend the current patient, pastoral efforts of
27 the CTCR to urge these church bodies to sever their historic ties with the LWF, even as we
28 acknowledge that their ongoing membership in the LWF cannot continue indefinitely without it
29 affecting their fellowship with our own Synod; and be it further
30

31 **RESOLVED**, that in Christian love, and faithfulness to our common confession, the LCMS
32 continue to encourage the

- 33 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana,
- 34 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya,
- 35 The Lutheran Church of Nigeria,
- 36 India Evangelical Lutheran Church,
- 37 Japan Lutheran Church,
- 38 Lutheran Church in Korea,
- 39 Gutnius Lutheran Church (Papua New Guinea),
- 40 Lutheran Church in the Philippines,
- 41 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia,
- 42 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania, and
- 43 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia

1 to leave the membership of the Lutheran World Federation as soon as possible; and be it
2 further

3
4 **RESOLVED**, that the Commission on Theology and Church Relations report to the Synod
5 regarding the progress of this encouragement as churches are able to respond; and be it further

6
7 **RESOLVED**, the Northern Illinois District in convention submit this resolution as an overture to
8 the 2019 Convention of the LCMS.

9
10 **Action: Declined**

11
12
13
14 **RESOLUTION 1-03A: To Confess the Truth in our Concordia University Mission Field and to**
15 **Encourage Godly Ecclesiastical Supervision**

16
17 **WHEREAS**, our Concordia University System (CUS) schools not only serve to train LCMS
18 students for vocations in the church and the world, but also provide unique opportunities to
19 share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with many who have never heard the Good News; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, today's culture hates Christ and His people, as He told us (John 15:18), and rejects
22 the clear teaching of Scripture that God's gift of human sexuality is to be enjoyed only in
23 lifelong monogamous marriage between a man and a woman (The 6th Commandment; Lev. 18
24 & 20; Matt. 19:4-12; Rom. 1:26-32; I Cor. 6:1-20; I Thess. 4:1-8); and

25
26 **WHEREAS**, every student who arrives on the campus of a CUS school, whether LCMS or not, is a
27 sinner in need of the forgiveness won for us by Christ's death and resurrection, and in need of
28 the clear proclamation of Law and Gospel, rightly divided; and

29
30 **WHEREAS**, we welcome these students; we value each individual as a unique creation of God;
31 and we show Christ's love for all by proclaiming the forgiveness of their sins, never by denying
32 the truth of His Word or the need of all people for the Gospel; we affirm that our "identity" is in
33 our baptism into Christ, not in our sinful nature (I Cor. 6:11); and

34
35 **WHEREAS**, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we
36 confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all
37 unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (I
38 John 1:8-10); and

39
40 **WHEREAS**, Concordia University Portland is denying its students a clear proclamation of the
41 Gospel promise that is for them, through its actions and proposed actions in support of
42 lifestyles contrary to God's Word, as posted on its web site at [http://www.cu-](http://www.cu-portland.edu/new/open-letter-our-community-updated)
43 [portland.edu/new/open-letter-our-community-updated](http://www.cu-portland.edu/new/open-letter-our-community-updated); and

44

1 **WHEREAS**, this issue is not new, but has existed for “three plus years” without being properly
2 addressed (<http://www.cu-portland.edu/campus-club-policy-questions-answers>); and
3

4 **WHEREAS**, although we commend all efforts, consistent with Matthew 18, that may have been
5 undertaken to resolve this issue privately in a God-pleasing manner, its public nature and its
6 negative impact on the church at large require prompt final resolution, with due pastoral care
7 for all involved; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, although we recognize the complexities of the higher education environment,
10 including government interference in it, we also recognize that when any CUS school fails to
11 uphold basic Christian teachings, the ability of all CUS schools to make a faithful confession and
12 preserve their First Amendment rights is threatened; this includes Concordia University Chicago
13 in the Northern Illinois District, given its common affiliation under the CUS; now, therefore, be
14 it
15

16 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District, meeting in convention, encourage the Rev.
17 Matthew Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, to continue his efforts,
18 together with Rev. Paul Linnemann, President of the Northwest District of the Lutheran
19 Church—Missouri Synod and the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Portland, Oregon,
20 to exercise godly ecclesiastical supervision to achieve a God-pleasing resolution according to
21 the Word of God and established procedures of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, to bring
22 forth fruits of repentance, so that students may hear the truth and that repentance and the
23 forgiveness of sins may be preached in the name of Jesus (Luke 24:47), and so that the first
24 objective of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod may continue to be a reality in our Synodical
25 union; and be it finally
26

27 **RESOLVED**, that such encouragement be given through our district president.
28

29 **Action: Adopted**
30

31 *This resolution stemmed from a motion made from the floor. A statement was read from*
32 *President Harrison, who said that since there was pending movement on the matter, he asked*
33 *for moderation in language of any resolution adopted by the convention. A motion was adopted*
34 *by voice vote to table the motion until 9:20 on Saturday until President Harrison can give his*
35 *counsel on the motion. In the next session the floor committee presented a substitute*
36 *amendment, Resolution 1-03A, To Confess the Truth in our Concordia University Mission Field*
37 *and to Encourage Godly Ecclesiastical Supervision. The resolution was adopted, with five people*
38 *asking their negative votes to be recorded. The convention adopted a motion to expunge the*
39 *original resolution, Resolution 1-03, from the minutes.*
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RESOLUTION 2-01: To Grant the Board of Directors Authority to Realign Circuits Referencing Overture 2-01

RATIONALE:

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

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

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

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

- 3. Powers.
 - a. The Board of Directors shall have such authority over and responsibility for the property of the district as is generally vested in and imposed upon the Board of Directors of a corporation.
 - b. The Board of Directors shall have the power to borrow money in the corporate name of the district, to issue and sell the district’s obligations and evidences of indebtedness, and to exercise such power within and without the State of Illinois.
 - c. The Board of Directors shall be legal representative and custodian of all properties and documents of the district, maintain an accurate inventory of all properties, legacies, and valuable documents, and provide for the adequate safekeeping of such documents and negotiable securities.

1 d. The Board of Directors shall have all powers necessary or incidental to the full exercise of the
2 foregoing powers and to the discharge of its duties in these Bylaws, the Bylaws of the Synod or
3 duties assigned to it by the district convention.

4 **e. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to reconfigure the circuits of the district,**
5 **including making adjustments in the organization of the regions, as long as the principles of**
6 **Bylaw I.C are observed and the Board has secured advice from all the circuit visitors and the**
7 **written consent of each circuit visitor of the circuits whose congregations would be affected**
8 **by the change. Such changes must be implemented in a timely manner so as not to interfere**
9 **with synod or district convention cycles.**

10 **e.f.** The Board of Directors shall in all actions be accountable to the district convention.

11
12 **Action: Adopted**

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16
17 **RESOLUTION 2-02:** To Allow Amendments to the District Bylaws to be Adopted Provisionally
18 Referencing Overture 2-02

19
20 **RATIONALE:**

21
22 Because all amendments to the district’s bylaws must be approved by the Synod’s Commission
23 on Constitutional Matters before they can be implemented, the procedure that our district has
24 followed is that proposed amendments to the bylaws are submitted to the Commission on
25 Constitutional Matters months in advance of the district convention; then, once tweaks have
26 been made and final approval granted, the amendments are brought before the district
27 convention for their approval. The downside of this procedure is that no last minute changes
28 can be made to resolutions presenting proposed amendments to our bylaws. Instead, such
29 resolutions have to be voted up or down without alteration.

30
31 The 2016 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod wisely recognized the flaw in
32 this procedure and revised the Synod’s bylaws to allow districts to make changes to their
33 bylaws at their convention on the provision that the revised bylaws will not go into force until
34 and unless the Commission on Constitutional Matters grants their approval. If the commission
35 decides that some additional tweaks need to be made before the bylaws can go into force, a
36 district’s board of directors is authorized to make the revisions.

37
38 Regardless of whether this procedure is stated explicitly in the district’s bylaws, the new
39 provisions of Synod’s bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 (b) still apply. Nonetheless, it is desirable that the district
40 bylaws reflect the language of the Synod’s bylaws as much as possible and that procedures
41 available to a district convention be stated in its bylaws. Therefore, be it

42
43 **RESOLVED:** That bylaw VI be amended to read as follows: Amendments to the bylaws may be
44 made by using one of two procedures:

- 1 1. Amendments may be made by conventions of the district.
2 a. They shall be presented in writing to a convention of the district.
3 b. They shall be specified as bylaw amendments and be considered by a convention
4 floor committee.
5 c. They shall be examined by the district Constitution Committee prior to presentation
6 to the convention to determine that they are not in conflict with the Bylaws of the Northern
7 Illinois District.
8 d. They shall be reviewed and approved by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of
9 the Synod prior to presentation to the convention to determine that they are not in conflict
10 with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
11 e. They shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present
12 and voting.

13 **f. If discussion at a district convention gives rise to a proposed amendment to the**
14 **bylaws that was not pre-approved by the Commission on Constitutional Matters, then the**
15 **procedure of Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 (b) shall apply. The district in convention may vote to**
16 **amend its articles or bylaws provided the resolution is contingent on approval of the**
17 **Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended articles or bylaws become effective**
18 **immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters.**
19 **Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not approve the adopted changes, the**
20 **district Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote may modify the amendments to comply with**
21 **the Commission on Constitutional Matters requirements.**

- 22
23 2. In exceptional circumstances and upon the direction of a convention of the district or Synod,
24 amendments may be made by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors of the district.
25 a. Such amendments to the bylaws shall be necessary to implement resolutions adopted
26 by a convention of the district or Synod.
27 b. Such amendments shall be drafted by the Secretary of the district and shall receive,
28 before presentation to the district board of directors, review and approval by the Constitution
29 Committee of the district and by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of Synod.

30
31 **Action: Adopted**
32
33
34

35 **RESOLUTION 2-03:** To Clarify some Language in the District Bylaws
36 Referencing Overture 2-03
37

38 **WHEREAS,** The Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters, in reviewing other proposed
39 bylaw changes, noted that our bylaws would be better served by cross referencing the Synod's
40 bylaws in the district's bylaw III.D.2.b, and
41

42 **WHEREAS,** An old reference to the Synod's Handbook in district bylaw V.B.5 needed to be
43 updated; therefore be it
44

1 **RESOLVED**, That the duties of the Constitution Committee in bylaw III.D.2.b be amended to
2 read as follows:
3 Embody in the District Bylaws such changes as are necessitated by convention actions of
4 the district or the Synod. **Changes to a district’s bylaws require either adoption by the**
5 **convention or an action of the board of directors consonant with LCMS Bylaw 7.1.2.**
6 And be it finally
7

8 **RESOLVED**, That bylaw V.B.5 be amended to read as follows: The convention shall ratify the
9 election of the circuit visitors in the manner set forth in the Handbook of the Synod (5.2.2 [g]-
10 **h)**
11

12 **Action: Adopted**
13
14
15

16 **RESOLUTION 2-04:** To Divide Electoral Circuit 13 into Two Visitation Circuits
17 Referencing Overture 2-09
18

19 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 3.1.2.a states that “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or
20 two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the
21 basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20
22 member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to
23 10,000”; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, The 2017 special district convention formed electoral circuits in such a way that they
26 would meet the requirements of Synod bylaws, but created some circuits that contain too
27 many congregations for one circuit visitor to effectively serve; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, The congregations that will form circuit 13 effective June 1, 2018 met on November
30 18th and agreed that it should be divided into two visitation circuits in the following way:
31

- | | |
|---|---|
| 32 Circuit 13 A | Circuit 13 B |
| 33 Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL | Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Burbank, IL |
| 34 Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL | Mount Greenwood Lutheran Church, |
| 35 Chicago, IL | |
| 36 Hope Lutheran Church, Countryside, IL | St. Peter Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL |
| 37 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hodgkins, IL | Faith Lutheran Church, Oak Lawn, IL |
| 38 Zion Lutheran Church, Summit, IL | St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oak Lawn, IL |
| 39 Grace Lutheran Church, Western Springs, IL | Zion Lutheran Church, Oak Lawn, IL |
| 40 | Grace Lutheran Church, Willow Springs, IL |
| 41 | Zion Lutheran Church, Lyons, IL |

42 therefore be it
43

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

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Action: Adopted

RESOLUTION 2-05: To Declare the Reverend Dan Gilbert, President Emeritus of the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Referencing Overture 2-04

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dan Gilbert has served The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for 40 years and the Northern Illinois District for 35 years with the past 12 years as our District President, and

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

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

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

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

Action: Adopted

RESOLUTION 2-06A: To Return to a Three-Term Limit for the Office of District President Referencing Overture 2-05

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

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

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

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

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

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

3
4 **RESOLVED**, that the District change its bylaws back to a three-term limit for District President;
5 and be it finally

6
7 **RESOLVED**, that the following change be made to the bylaws:

8 V. D. Limitation of Terms: No individual may hold the same elective office for more than
9 three consecutive terms of three years each, ~~with the exception of the President who~~
10 ~~may serve four consecutive terms of three years each. Service for a period of one-half~~
11 ~~or more of an expired term~~ Vacancy service for a period of more than one-half of a
12 term shall be counted as a full term for purposes of term limitations.

13 **Action: Adopted**

14
15 *A motion was adopted to have the original overture 2-05 as a substitute resolution, hereafter*
16 *labeled as 2-06A. By a friendly amendment, the bylaw wording suggested by the Commission on*
17 *Constitutional Matters will be applied to the substitute resolution. The amended substitute*
18 *motion was then adopted.*

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22 **RESOLUTION 2-07:** To Establish a Task Force On Stewardship District Resources
23 Referencing Overture 2-06

24
25 **WHEREAS**, it is our responsibility as God’s people to be good stewards of the gifts and
26 resources our Lord has given us, and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has seen
29 declines in both the number of congregations and in total membership in recent decades, and

30
31 **WHEREAS**, demographic data suggests that this decline will continue for some time, and

32
33 **WHEREAS**, it is our responsibility to plan for the future, and

34
35 **WHEREAS**, it is often helpful to have individuals examine organizational structure who are not
36 part of that structure, therefore be it

37
38 **RESOLVED**, that the new board of directors establish a Task Force to examine stewardship of
39 District resources, and be it further

40
41 **RESOLVED**, that said Task Force be composed of three members of the Board of Directors,
42 three laypersons not on the Board of Directors with experience and expertise in large

1 organizations and management, and three parish pastors and three Commissioned workers,
2 both with extensive familiarity with the District that do not hold office in the District, and be it
3 further

4 **RESOLVED**, that among the questions the Task Force should examine but not be limited to are
5 the following:

- 6 1. The need for a full time or part time District President
- 7 2. Ways in which volunteers and circuit visitors may be utilized to carry out the functions
8 currently done by District staff.
- 9 3. The stewardship of maintaining the current District Office Building.
- 10 4. The potential partnership in sharing resources with neighboring districts and, be it further

11
12 **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall issue a report to be communicated throughout the District
13 at least one year prior to the next District Convention, and be it finally

14
15 **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force recommendations be presented to the Board of Directors for
16 any actions the Board deems appropriate."

17
18 **Action: Adopted**

19
20 *An amendment was adopted to strike in the first resolve "the current District President by May*
21 *15, 2018" and replace it with "the new board of directors." The amended resolution was*
22 *adopted.*

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26 **RESOLUTION 2-08: To Care for the Members of the Body of Christ through Fraternal**
27 **Communication**
28 **Referencing Overture 2-07**

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31

32 **WHEREAS**, though many members, we are all one body in Christ (Romans 12:5); and
33 **WHEREAS**, we are gathered in over 200 congregations in our District, and over 6,000 in our
34 Synod; all of these congregations matter, and every member of the body of Christ matters; and

35 **WHEREAS**, an absent member is a missing member of the body of Christ and the loss is felt by
36 all of those in the body; and

37
38
39

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

44 **WHEREAS**, it sometimes happens that individuals fail to take the appropriate steps to transfer
their membership from one congregation to another; therefore be it

1
2 **RESOLVED**, that as a matter of Christian love for the individual concerned, for the prior
3 congregation and pastor, and for the receiving congregation, each pastor in the District seek to
4 follow these practices in dealing with members of another congregation of the Synod who
5 regularly attend services or seek pastoral care outside their home congregation:
6 1) to speak with the individual and ascertain why the individual is not attending services and
7 seeking pastoral care within the body of the home congregation;
8 2) to promptly notify the pastor of the home congregation to advise the home pastor of the
9 situation and determine if any disciplinary or other spiritual care situation exists, giving due
10 respect to the discipline of the home congregation if such exists;
11 3) where the individual cannot adequately be cared for by the home congregation (e.g., the
12 individual has moved a significant distance), to encourage the individual to transfer
13 membership to the receiving congregation;
14 4) if an individual seeks transfer of membership, to confirm that the individual is a member in
15 good standing of the home congregation, and to ensure that the individual properly requests
16 transfer from the home congregation prior to taking the individual into membership at the
17 receiving congregation; and be it finally,

18
19 **RESOLVED**, that the District President communicate the foregoing steps through appropriate
20 resources throughout the District.

21
22 **Action: Adopted**