

1 **Overture #2-1a**

2 **To Strengthen the Nonvoting Advisory Role of Commissioned**
3 **Ministers at Synodical Conventions**

4 WHEREAS, There are well over 10,000 Ministers of Religion—Commissioned who
5 serve in roles such as classroom teachers, early childhood teachers, educational
6 administrators, Deaconesses, camp directors, Directors of Church Music, Directors of
7 Christian Education, Directors of Christian Outreach, university professors, District and
8 Synodical staff, as well as in the foreign mission field; and

9 WHEREAS, Ministers of Religion—Commissioned are considered Advisory Members at
10 District and Synodical Conventions, with a representative voice, but no vote, along with
11 other Ordained Ministers not eligible for selection as a voting delegate under Bylaws
12 3.1.2.1(c) (p. 101 of the 2023 Handbook) with a representative voice, but no vote at
13 District and Synod conventions; and

14 WHEREAS, Various LCMS Districts (Pacific Southwest, California—Nevada—Hawaii,
15 and Northern Illinois) have incorporated methods of hearing the guidance of
16 Commissioned Ministers at their Conventions using a non-binding advisory poll of the
17 opinion of Commission Ministers, with results broadcast to the convention, prior to
18 regular delegate votes on appropriate, non-election, convention actions, as determined
19 by the Chair; and

20 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, has a legacy of promoting and
21 supporting the role of non-ordained, full-time church workers with the establishment of
22 Lutheran Colleges dating back to the 1800's, initially designed to train classroom
23 teachers, which has now been followed through the creating of specialized training
24 programs for other Commissioned ministry positions, as they have been established by
25 the Synod; therefore be it,

26 *Resolved*, That the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, develop a similar process
27 practiced by several LCMS District Conventions by which the voice of representative
28 Advisory Commissioned Ministers be used during Synod Convention Business,
29 incorporating a process of a non-binding poll, with results broadcast to the convention,
30 prior to regular delegate votes on appropriate, non-election, convention actions, as
31 determined by the Chair, and; be it finally,

32 *Resolved*, That this action be memorialized to the 2026 LCMS Convention.

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35 Submitted by

36 CNH District Board of Directors