

Convention Overtures

Overture #1-1

To Implement a Stronger Process for the Participation of Commissioned Ministers at future CNH District Conventions

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

WHEREAS, there are over 150 Commissioned Ministers of Religion serving within the California—Nevada—Hawaii District of the LCMS or enjoying Emeritus status; and

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

WHEREAS, various other LCMS Districts (Pacific Southwest and Northern Illinois) have incorporated the guidance of Commissioned Ministers in their Conventions using a non-counted advisory member vote, with results broadcast to the convention, prior to regular delegate votes on appropriate, non-election, convention actions, as determined by the Chair; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 CNH District Convention, resolved (#2-01) that the Board of Directors work with the District President to establish a procedure for Rostered Commissioned Ministers of Religion to have a stronger presence for their voice to be heard at the 2025 CNH District Convention, which was implemented through the work of a District Task Force representing various Commissioned Ministers of the District, and which is current in effect at this Convention on a trial basis; therefore, be it,

Resolved, that this process of having a preliminary advisory vote on appropriated, non-election, convention actions, as determined by the Chair, become a regular practice at all future California—Nevada—Hawaii District Conventions; and be it finally,

Resolved, that future Convention Planning Committees seek ample representation of rostered LCMS Commissioned Ministers in the planning of such conventions to ensure this as a continuing practice.

Submitted by

CNH District Board of Directors

Overture #1-2

To Live Responsibly in God's Creation

WHEREAS, In concern for God's creation, Christians identify with all human suffering and pursue compassionate ways of social improvement to alleviate that suffering; and

WHEREAS, God told humans to be good stewards of his creation and its vast resources and riches for us to use wisely and enjoy for a full and abundant life; and

WHEREAS, Each human has chemical, mechanical, biological, psychological, mental, and spiritual dimensions, and any one dimension affects all the others; and

WHEREAS, God created everything "good", through the fall into sin humans have brought into the world the evil that impoverishes and defaces God's creation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the church call on all believers to be alert to the destructive nature of evil in the endless variety of forms in which it appears; and be it further

Resolved, That we dedicate ourselves to combating the evils of depersonalizing, demonizing, and dehumanizing any human being; and be it further

Resolved, That we pledge ourselves to work to restore and preserve the life-sustaining qualities of the air, the earth, and the water, as God created them; and be it further

Resolved, That we support all efforts to exercise wise stewardship over all the things God has made; and be it further

Resolved, That we call on the church, as a corporate entity, to use in responsible ways all channels open to it to influence other structures and institutions and sensitize them to the task of improving the quality of life at all levels of society; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage participation on the part of God's people, as individuals, congregations, circuits, districts, and the Synod, in prayer, personal involvement, service, and sacrifice directed toward the relief of troubles in our world and preventing the causes of these troubles; and be it further

Resolved, That the California-Nevada-Hawaii District submit this approved resolution to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for consideration at its next convention in the summer of 2026; and be it further

Resolved, That the CNH District-LCMS, meeting in convention May 15-17, 2025, in Sacramento, CA, ask its Human Care Committee to study these issues in more depth and try to develop resources, materials, and trainings to assist individuals, congregations, circuits, and the District to live responsibly in God's creation; and be it finally

45 *Resolved*, That the final two resolves of this approved resolution not be included in the
46 resolution sent to LCMS for its consideration.
47

48
49 Submitted by the Human Care Committee of the CNH District-LCMS
50

51 Rev Philip W. Zabell, Chair
52

53 Rev Ronald L. Arnold, Comm. Member

Overture #1-3

To Promote Lives of Christian Service

WHEREAS, By virtue of our Baptism into Jesus Christ, we are committed to his ministry; and

WHEREAS, The three articles of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds teach that God is concerned about humans in our whole being and is creating, redeeming, and sanctifying us for a life of service to him and our neighbor; and

WHEREAS, The church has only one ministry, centered in Word and Sacraments which centers Christians to serve God and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, God expects us to develop wholesome human relationships; and

WHEREAS, The mission and ministry of Jesus Christ, as proclaimed by the church, needs to be brought to all people in, with, under, by, and through our words and deeds; therefore be it

Resolved, That we affirm that the church has a single ministry to the whole person; and be it further

Resolved, That we commit ourselves to work for the restoration of all people to the full and abundant life God created us to have; and be it further

Resolved, That our words and deeds truly reflect the image of God in which we were created; and be it further

Resolved, That we pledge ourselves to the ongoing work for the elimination of poverty and hunger, which rob God's people of joy, peace, and hope; and be it further

Resolved, That we support those programs in public or private sectors that seek to eliminate the causes of poverty and hunger; that work towards the availability of effective medical care for all; that sensitize legal, social, financial, governmental, and educational structures to provide justice and fairness for all; and be it further

Resolved, That we support a system of values that places importance: on people rather than things; on the person rather than on programs; on humans rather than on means; on needs rather than on economics; and be it further

Resolved, That we support programs and leaders working for the elimination of racist, separatist, discriminatory, and bigoted attitudes that tear apart the human family; and be it further

Resolved, That we call on Christians to always be working for understanding and reconciliation in all areas of their life; and be it further

46 *Resolved*, That we encourage participation of God's people, as individuals,
47 congregations, circuits, districts, and the Synod, in prayer, personal involvement, service,
48 and sacrifice directed toward the relief of troubles in our world and preventing the causes
49 of these troubles; and be it further

50
51 *Resolved*, That the California-Nevada-Hawaii District submit this approved resolution to
52 the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for consideration at its next convention in the
53 summer of 2026; and be it further

54
55 *Resolved*, That the CNH District-LCMS, meeting in convention May 15-17, 2025, in
56 Sacramento, CA, ask its Human Care Committee to study these issues in more depth
57 and try to develop resources, materials, and trainings to assist individuals, congregations,
58 circuits, and the District to live lives of Christian service; and be it finally

59
60 *Resolved*, That the final two resolves of this approved resolution not be included in the
61 resolution sent to LCMS for its consideration.
62
63
64

65 Submitted by the Human Care Committee of the CNH District-LCMS

66
67 Rev Philip W. Zabell, Chair

68
69 Rev Ronald L. Arnold, Comm. Member
70
71

Overture #1-4

To Establish a Stronger Framework for Connection and Collaboration Between Regional Vice Presidents (RVPs), Circuit Visitors (CVs), and Congregations in the CNH District

WHEREAS, Many congregations across the CNH District struggle with engagement, support, and trust in the district's resources and leadership; and

WHEREAS, The role of Regional Vice Presidents (RVPs) and Circuit Visitors (CVs) is to serve as the frontline of connection, fostering trust and collaboration between congregations and the district; and

WHEREAS, Establishing a structured, proactive approach to relationship-building and resource-sharing can strengthen the perception of the district as a valuable and approachable partner for congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the CNH District establish a structured strategy leveraging RVPs and CVs as the primary relational connection between congregations and the district; and be it further

Resolved, That the district define and communicate clear roles and expectations for RVPs and CVs, positioning RVPs as relational initiators and CVs as local ongoing support; and be it further

Resolved, That a biannual RVP and CV strategy meeting be implemented to align goals, share insights, and ensure consistency in messaging and support; and be it further

Resolved, That the CNH District provide quarterly check-ins with RVPs and CVs for feedback and to address emerging issues, strengthening ongoing relationships with congregations; and be it further

Resolved, that the CNH District implement an Initial Connection and Relationship Building plan whereby:

- RVPs initiate personalized outreach to congregations, conducting listening tours to understand their unique needs and challenges.
- CVs follow up on initial outreach by RVPs, deepening relationships and providing localized support through direct engagement; and be it further

Resolved, That the district develop a Resource Catalog highlighting coaching, church planting support, leadership training, and community outreach strategies, ensuring churches are aware of the resources available to them; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the CNH District launch quarterly workshops and webinars on relevant
35 topics such as church revitalization, community engagement, and leadership
36 development, available to all congregations; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the CNH District implement an early identification system for struggling
38 churches by establishing a dashboard for monitoring church vitality indicators (e.g.,
39 attendance trends, financial health, community engagement), with regular check-ins by
40 RVPs and CVs to proactively address emerging challenges; and be it further

41 *Resolved*, That struggling congregations be classified into three levels of need—
42 Encouragement Needed, Intervention Needed, and Revitalization Required—with
43 customized action plans developed accordingly; and be it further

44 *Resolved*, That the CNH District encourage cross-congregational collaboration,
45 including mentoring networks, shared mission initiatives, and pulpit/resource sharing, to
46 strengthen relationships and reduce isolation among congregations; and be it further

47 *Resolved*, That the CNH District establish a consistent communication and feedback
48 loop, including:

- 49 • An every other month RVP and CV newsletter highlighting success stories,
50 resource updates, and upcoming events;
- 51 • A structured feedback mechanism for congregations to provide input and request
52 district support; and be it further

53 *Resolved*, That the CNH District conduct quarterly strategy reviews to assess
54 engagement levels, resource utilization, and effectiveness in building trust and
55 collaboration between congregations and the district; and be it finally

56 *Resolved*, That this overture be adopted to ensure a stronger, more effective framework
57 of connection and collaboration between RVPs, CVs, and congregations, enhancing the
58 district's role as a supportive and engaged ministry partner.

59

60

Submitted by

61

CNH District Board of Directors

Overture #1-5

To Encouraging Ministry Sabbaticals to Church Workers and Ministries

WHEREAS, Ministry Sabbaticals serve to bless both the church worker and the ministry; and

WHEREAS, The Word of God points to the command for Sabbath rest, (Genesis 2:3 Exodus 20:8-11; Leviticus 25:4ff); and

WHEREAS, Many Christian denominations strongly encourage pastors to take sabbaticals, recognizing the importance of periodic rest and renewal for sustained ministry effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, A Ministry Sabbatical is a structured time for spiritual reflection, study, personal development, and rest for church workers; and

WHEREAS, There is historical precedent in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod going back to the first Synod President, C.F. W. Walther, who in 1859 took much needed ministry sabbatical to be refreshed and renewed; and

WHEREAS, Walther’s example of returning with renewed energy and great productivity blessed the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, Currently we are seeing a decrease of seminary graduates, DCE and Lutheran School teachers available to fill a growing number of calls and a growing number of church workers retiring; and

WHEREAS, A ministry sabbatical is an investment in a local ministry to reinvigorate the ministry and the church worker, strengthening it for future ministry; and

WHEREAS, Ministry Sabbaticals can help church workers combat burnout, refresh their perspective, and return to ministry with renewed energy and focus; and

WHEREAS, Even some in the business world have recognized the benefit of offering sabbaticals to retain good workers. Sabbaticals can also enable retention and longer service in churches; and

WHEREAS, Since COVID in 2019 we have seen higher expectations placed on Church Workers with decreased participation and a steady decline in many places, leading to discouragement and burnout among current church workers; and

WHEREAS, The need to continually cultivate longevity among current church workers is beneficial to the whole church; Therefore, be it

35 *Resolved*, That ministries study the benefits of ministry sabbaticals on their workers;
36 and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the District provide a template for a Ministry Sabbatical Policy Guideline
38 for ministries to adapt and adopt to their circumstances; and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That ministries be encouraged to set aside funding regularly to support their
40 church workers in taking a sabbatical; and be it further

41 *Resolved*, That districts work together to put together a list of available grants and
42 scholarships which help provide necessary funding for a Ministry Sabbatical; and be it
43 finally

44 *Resolved*, That Districts avail themselves of available resources within the LCMS,
45 including those provided by LCEF (through Grace Place Wellness), to explore and
46 promote healthier church workers and healthier ministries.

47

48

49

Submitted By

50

CNH District Board of Directors

1 **Overture #2-1**

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-counting advisory pre-vote,
17 with results broadcast to the convention, prior to regular delegate votes on appropriate,
18 non-election, convention actions, as determined by the Chair; and

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

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

31 *Resolved*, That this action be memorialized to the 2028 LCMS Convention.

32
33
34 Submitted by

35 CNH District Board of Directors

Overture #2-2

To Support and Clarify the Prior Approval Process

Rationale

Since the 2013 Convention, appointments to theological faculties at all universities and seminaries, as well as all college, university, and seminary presidential appointments, have been subject to the prior approval process. While the convention in 2013 amended the bylaws to delegate the responsibility for prior approval to specific groups (see bylaws referenced below) the bylaws did not, and still do not, stipulate how the process of prior approval should be carried out. Over time this has led to questions as to the standards used to evaluate candidates as well as the process utilized by the prior approval panels. In the hopes of building trust and relieving any undue criticism of the panels and the process, the following overture aims to increase transparency for the process and standards used by the panels as well as ensuring clear communication between the panels, the candidates, and the Synod.

Resolution

WHEREAS, one of the expressed purposes of Synod is to “recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth” (Art. III.3); and

WHEREAS, Synod has the responsibility to oversee that training; and

WHEREAS, Synod has designated that responsibility to the prior approval panels outlined in various bylaws (3.6.6.1, 3.10.5.7.3, 3.10.6.8.2, 3.10.6.9.2); and

WHEREAS, those panels have responsibility not only to work in behalf of the Synod but also are responsible to the Synod; and

WHEREAS, those under consideration for theological professorships and other such positions as require prior approval have ordinarily been ordained into the Office of Holy Ministry or have been commissioned and/or consecrated into an auxiliary office of the Church; and

WHEREAS, those under consideration for aforementioned positions have also been examined and approved for service on the roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, those individual members of Synod have, by virtue of their membership in the Synod, agreed to the confessional basis as outlined in Art. II, as well as recognize and affirm the validity of Bylaws 1.6–1.8; therefore be it

Resolved, That the District in convention give thanks to the Lord of the Church for using the Synod and its agencies to preserve and enlarge the workers of the harvest; and be it further

Resolved, That District in convention give thanks to those engaged in the various prior approval processes for being engaged in difficult and important work; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to do the
2 same; and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That District in convention memorialize the Synod to require that process used
4 by the various panel to carry out the responsibility entrusted to it by the Synod be made
5 transparent and publicly available; and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That District in convention memorialize the Synod to stipulate that unless those
7 under consideration by the prior approval panels are found to be in violation of their
8 ordination, commissioning, consecration, or installation vows that their approval be
9 assumed; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to stipulate
11 that if those under consideration are thought to be in violation, that the candidate be given
12 every opportunity to clarify their position to the panel; and be it finally

13 *Resolved*, That District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to stipulate
14 that if such a violation be found that the panel would, with the appropriate District
15 President as that individual's ecclesiastical supervisor, engage in the appropriate
16 processes to restore the erring brother or sister so that one deemed unworthy to teach at
17 one of the Synod's institutions not be permitted to remain on the roster or serve a
18 congregation and thus lead that congregation to err or become out of step with Synod.

19
20
21 Submitted by

22 Circuit #7 CNH District

Overture #2-3

To Condemn the Stone Choir Podcast (v.2)

WHEREAS, Two individuals began releasing episodes of the *Stone Choir* podcast on October 19, 2022 to tackle issues relevant to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that, in their judgment, the pastors and leadership of the LCMS were not addressing, leaving them to function as “the very stones” who must “cry out” because the clergy are silent (Luke 19:40); and

WHEREAS, These issues on which the pastors and leadership of the LCMS are accused by the *Stone Choir* hosts of remaining silent include the ostensible necessity of the reintroduction of racial segregation; the ostensible sinfulness of interracial marriage; the ostensibly pernicious nature of the Jewish race today; and the ostensibly fictitious nature of the Jewish Holocaust perpetrated by the National Socialists during World War II; and

WHEREAS, None of *Stone Choir’s* positions on these aforementioned issues are taught in Holy Scripture, and indeed their positions on these issues cause great offense to many Christians of good will; and

WHEREAS, The *Stone Choir* hosts are active on Twitter/X, and *Stone Choir* listeners are likely to be influenced not only by what they teach on the *Stone Choir* podcast, but also by what they post on Twitter/X; and

WHEREAS, On Twitter/X, the hosts, among other outrageously offensive behaviors, openly praise Adolf Hitler, call for the deportation of Jews, Muslims, and Blacks from the United States, and condemn as sin the practice of interracial marriage and adoption, causing great offense to Christian consciences; and

WHEREAS, Through their activity on the *Stone Choir* podcast and on Twitter/X, the hosts have sought to associate confessional Lutheranism with devotion to Adolf Hitler, opposition to the Jewish race, and a desire for segregation of Blacks from White society; and

WHEREAS, The hosts of *Stone Choir* have publicly denounced all pastors of the LCMS as “either apostate or derelict” and on their podcast and on Twitter/X have attempted to turn their listeners against their pastors; and

WHEREAS, the hosts of the *Stone Choir* podcast are not currently active members of any LCMS congregation and are therefore beyond the reach of church discipline; therefore be it

Resolved, That the California-Nevada-Hawaii District in Convention publicly condemn the *Stone Choir* podcast and its hosts for the offense they cause by their public devotion to Adolf Hitler, their stirring up of antipathy toward our Jewish and Black neighbors, their denunciation as sin of that which God has not called sin, and their open hostility toward the pastors and leadership of the LCMS; and be it further

47
48 *Resolved*, That the laity of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District be warned against the
49 *Stone Choir* podcast and its hosts, and that the pastors of the California-Nevada-Hawaii
50 District be encouraged to admonish members of their congregations whose approval of
51 *Stone Choir* and its hosts has become known; and be it further

52
53 *Resolved*, That pastors of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District who are found to be
54 promoting the *Stone Choir* podcast or its hosts be brought under a disciplinary process
55 by their ecclesiastical supervisor for the offense they cause thereby; and be it further

56
57 *Resolved*, That qualified pastors and teachers of the LCMS be encouraged to continue
58 to examine the claims and teachings of the *Stone Choir* podcast according to the norm of
59 the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, demonstrating from clear and firm
60 testimonies of the same how the *Stone Choir* podcast is in error; and be it finally

61
62 *Resolved*, that the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn the *Stone Choir*
63 podcast and its hosts and followers, to take action against pastors who promote the same,
64 and to repent of the sins for which God has allowed *Stone Choir* and its followers to arise
65 within the LCMS.

66
67
68
69 Submitted by;

70
71 Circuit #4, Sacramento
72 Circuit #19, East Sacramento
73

1 **Overture #3-1**

2
3 **To Accept Changes to CNH District Bylaws As Recommended by**
4 **Synod and District Commissions on Constitutional Matters**

5
6 WHEREAS, CNH District Bylaws are required to agree with the Bylaws and Constitution
7 of the LCMS (CNH District Bylaw Article II); and

8
9 WHEREAS, the CHN District Bylaws have recently been reviewed by the Synod's
10 Committee on Constitutional Matters (CCM) and have been found by that committee to
11 need a number of changes to be consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the
12 LCMS; and

13
14 WHEREAS, while many of the recommended changes are relatively simple to make,
15 there are still others that will require more time and study before they can be presented
16 to the District in Convention for consideration; and

17
18 WHEREAS, the District Secretary working with the District Committee on Constitutional
19 Matters (DCCM) has reviewed the report of the Synod CCM and has made many of the
20 changes recommended by that committee as current time restraints allowed; and

21
22 WHEREAS, The CNH District Secretary has submitted its recommendations to the CNH
23 District Board of Directors (BOD) and these recommendations have been approved by
24 the Board; therefore be it

25
26 *Resolved*, That the Voting Delegates of the 2025 CNH District Convention approve the
27 accompanying changes recommended by the DCCM and approved by the CNH District
28 BOD and direct that they be incorporated into the Bylaws of the CNH District by the
29 District Secretary and; be it further

30
31 *Resolved*, That the District CCM, District Secretary and the District Board of Directors
32 continue working to resolve the remaining issues with the CNH Bylaws as suggested in
33 Synod's CCM report and; be it finally

34
35 *Resolved*, That the CNH District BOD will present its report concerning the resolution of
36 the remaining issues to the next CNH District Convention.
37

38
39
40 Submitted by

41 CNH District Board of Directors

Revised
May 7th
2022
Approved
By
Convention

Bylaws

of the CALIFORNIA--NEVADA--HAWAII DISTRICT of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

ARTICLE I MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District is to challenge and assist congregations in their proclamation of the Gospel and ministry to all people.

ARTICLE II RELATIONSHIP TO THE SYNOD

The Constitution of the Synod is also the constitution of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District. The Bylaws of the Synod shall be primarily the bylaws of the District. Both the Bylaws of the Synod and those of the District serve the Gospel mission and ministry of the Lord.

ARTICLE III STRUCTURE OF THE DISTRICT

III.A. The Board of Directors

1. The District Board of Directors shall be comprised of 12 members: The First Vice President of the District, who shall serve as Chair of the Board, five Regional Vice Presidents, five Regional Directors, and one Director-Commissioned Minister. The Board will conduct regular meetings at least quarterly. The Board may also meet at other times for purposes consistent with the Bylaws at the call of the District President, the First Vice President, or any five members of the Board of Directors. Seven members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. In the event of the absence of the First Vice President, the ~~quorum present shall elect a regional Vice President to~~ next available Regional Vice President in the order of Succession shall serve as Chair Pro Tem. (The District President, the District Secretary, and the District Treasurer shall attend all regular meetings of the Board of Directors.)

2. Subject to limitations set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, and the statutes of the states in which the District operates, with regard to which the District intends to retain all authority and autonomy allowed a church under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the states in which the District operates. ~~All~~ operates, all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Board of Directors.

3. The District Board of Directors shall:

a. As a primary function, generate and adopt declarations of desired outcomes which will give long-term direction to the District and its President, staff, and committees.

b. In addition to generating and adopting declarations of desired outcomes, address broad levels of issues in policies of purpose and governance or constraints, leaving lesser levels to the discretion of the District President.

c. Through the District President, and he through his staff and the District Committees, coordinate the work of the District in accordance with the District Mission Statement, the Bylaws of the Synod, the Bylaws of the District, the District Convention Resolutions, and the declarations of desired outcomes.

d. Except for assignments of its own work (policies) to committees, consultants, or officers, delegate authority only to the District President.

e. Provide for an annual audit of the records of the District in such manner directed by the Synod and in accordance with its own policies.

f. Provide for and oversee the bonding of all District fiscal officers and employees entrusted with the receiving and disbursing of funds, such bonds to be provided by a licensed bonding agency at District expense.

g. Be empowered to review all activities of the District and its committees, and make binding decisions affecting them; this review may include, but is not limited to, the leadership, membership, purpose, or functions of any activity or Committee.

h. Approve or disapprove the annual District Budget which the District President shall present.

i. Be the authority to create and abolish Called positions and act as the Calling body on behalf of the District. The administrative details, including preparation of Call documents, may be delegated to the District President.

j. Respond in a timely manner to any formal concern related to the Board's area of responsibility addressed to it by the President, Board members, committees authorized by the Bylaws or the Board, Circuit Forums, Circuit Pastors' Conferences, or Congregations of the District or organizations that are ancillary to the District or Synod..

k. Appoint District Reconcilers as prescribed in the Synod Constitution and Bylaws.

l. Be the custodian of all property, records, and legacies of the District.

m. Establish and provide for the maintenance of a headquarters called the District Office, which shall be the official address of the District. All official records of the District shall be kept at the District Office; any exceptions shall require approval of the Board of Directors.

n. Present reports of its actions at all District Conventions and, if desired, propose recommendations for consideration by the District Convention.

o. Be responsible to the District for its actions and the actions of all District Officers, Committees, agents, and employees.

4. Members of the Board of Directors shall not serve as Chairs of District Committees; nor serve as members of the Nominating Committee; nor be on the District payroll.

95 ***III.B. The District President***

- 96
- 97 1. The District President shall be Chief Executive of the District.
- 98
- 99 2. The District President shall:
- 100 a. Be a Minister of Religion – Ordained and be on the roster of the Synod. ~~He must be a member of the~~
- 101 ~~District during his tenure.~~
- 102
- 103 b. Be a member of the District during his tenure.
- 104
- 105 c. Be a full-time executive.
- 106
- 107 d. Perform the duties and functions of office as prescribed in the Synod Constitution and Bylaws.
- 108
- 109 e. Provide vision and direction for the work of the District, and, in compliance with the policies of the
- 110 Board of Directors, be the overseer of the work of the District.
- 111
- 112 f. In consultation with the Board of Directors, appoint all District Committee Chairs, who shall be
- 113 directly responsible to the President.
- 114
- 115 g. In consultation with each duly appointed Committee Chair, appoint a sufficient number of members
- 116 to each Committee to ensure its proper functioning (except for the members of the Nominating
- 117 Committee, which are elected by the District Convention, as required by the Synod Constitution and
- 118 Bylaws).
- 119
- 120 h. Be responsible for the proper functioning of all District Committees.
- 121
- 122 i. In consultation with other staff professionals and Committee Chairs, and in compliance with the
- 123 fiscal limitations established by the Board of Directors, be responsible for the preparation of the annual
- 124 District Budget.
- 125
- 126 j. In consultation with the District Board of Directors, contract for service sufficient professional staff
- 127 personnel to assist the Committees in the performance of their tasks, such contracts to be time limited
- 128 and coterminous with each term of office of the District President and such personnel to report directly to
- 129 the President, who shall be responsible for their proper functioning.
- 130
- 131 k. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors: to provide reports summarizing his
- 132 activities; to report his perceptions of the progress of District programs; and to receive counsel from the
- 133 Board.
- 134
- 135 l. ~~Perform the duties and functions of office as prescribed in the Synod Constitution and Bylaws.~~
- 136
- 137

138 ***III.C. District Vice Presidents***

- 139
- 140 1. The First Vice President shall:
- 141 a. Be a minister of Religion – Ordained and be on the roster of the District.
- 142
- 143 b. Upon the request of the President, or as directed by the District Convention, advise, assist, or
- 144 represent the President.
- 145
- 146 c. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.

d. Serve as Chair of the Board of Directors.

2. The Regional Vice Presidents shall:

a. Be ministers of Religion – Ordained, be on the Roster of the District, and have membership in a congregation of their represented region throughout their service .

b. Upon the request of the President, or as directed by the District Convention, advise, assist or represent the President.

c. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.

d. Be selected regionally, by caucus, at the regular Convention for no more than two consecutive terms, with the slate presented for possible amendment and final ratification by the District Convention.

e. ~~Not be ranked.~~ Hold a position in the order of succession to the presidency as established by majority vote of the Conventions of the District.

f. Attend at least one meeting of each Circuit Forum in his region each year: to provide reports summarizing his activities and those of the Board of Directors; to report his perceptions of the progress of District programs; and to receive counsel from the Circuit Forum.

III.D. The Regional Directors

The Regional Directors shall:

a. Be lay persons.

b. Be members of District congregations and have membership in a congregation of their represented region throughout their service.

c. Be selected regionally, by caucus, at the regular Convention for no more than two consecutive terms, with the slate presented for possible amendment and final ratification by the District Convention.

d. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.

e. Attend at least one meeting of each circuit Forum in his/her region each year: to provide reports summarizing his/her activities and those of the Board of Directors; to report his/her perceptions of the progress of District programs; and to receive counsel from the Circuit Forum.

III.E. Director-Commissioned Minister

The Director-Commissioned Minister shall:

a. Be a minister of Religion – Commissioned and be on the roster of the District.

b. Be elected at the regular Convention.

c. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.

d. Attend at least one District Educators Conference each year: to provide reports summarizing his/her activities and those of the Board of Directors; to report his/her perceptions of the progress of District programs; and to receive counsel from the Educator's Conference.

199
200
201 **III.F. The District Secretary**
202

203 The District Secretary shall:

- 204 a. Be a minister of Religion – Ordained and be on the roster of the District.
205
206 b. Perform all customary duties required and expected of a Corporate Secretary.
207
208 c. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors, ~~record all proceedings,~~ and within
209 fourteen days publish minutes of the proceedings to all members of the Board of Directors, all District
210 Officers, all Committee Chairs, all Parish Pastors, and all Congregational Presidents of the District.
211 ~~Executive session proceedings shall not be recorded nor minutes taken~~ Minutes of Executive Session
212 proceedings shall not be taken.
213
214 d. Arrange for the preparation and publication of *The Convention* ~~Manual~~ Workbook and for its
215 distribution to all professional workers and congregations on the District roster and all designated
216 delegates at least 30 days before the opening of the District Convention.
217
218 e. Attend the District Convention and ~~record all~~ take minutes of its proceedings (assistants being
219 appointed by the President as necessary) and by July 1 following the District Convention publish the
220 *Proceedings of the District Convention* and arrange for its distribution to all professional workers and
221 congregations on the District roster, and all designated delegates.
222
223 f. In consultation with the District's Committee on Constitutional Matters, publish revisions of the
224 District Bylaws as needed and arrange for their distribution to all professional workers and congregations
225 on the District roster.
226
227 g. Perform such other duties as the president or the Board of Directors may assign.
228

229 **III.G. District Treasurer**
230

231 The Treasurer shall:

- 232 a. Be a lay person.
233
234 b. Be a member of a District congregation.
235
236 c. Administer the office in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the District Board of
237 Directors.
238
239 d. Ensure that the District President keeps an accurate account of and disburses District funds
240 according to instructions of the Board of Directors.
241
242 e. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors to monitor the financial health of
243 the District and to provide counsel to the Board of Directors.
244
245

246 **ARTICLE IV**
247 **THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES**
248

249 **IV.A. In General**
250

1. District Committees shall:
 - a. Act on their own initiative within their approved budget limitations, and in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, the Bylaws of the District, Resolutions of the Convention, and policies which have been adopted by the District Board of Directors.
 - b. On a timely basis submit to the District President and Board of Directors: proposed Plans of Action; projected costs; projected activities; lists of members; and minutes of meetings.
 - c. Determine their own need for professional staff support, such support to be provided as set forth in III.B.2.h above.
2. Committee Chairs shall:
 - a. Report directly to the District President, who is responsible for her/his proper functioning.
 - b. Annually provide the District President and Board of Directors with a comprehensive, written description of the progress of the Committee's programs.
 - c. Prepare a comprehensive, written report for submission to the regular District Convention.
 - d. Attend regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors, as required below (Article IV. B & C.).

IV.B. Representation at Board of Directors Meetings

1. Any Committee Chair may attend any regular meeting of the Board of Directors.
2. Any Committee Chair may be required by the District President or the Board of Directors to attend any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors.
3. Although Committee Chairs answer directly to the District President, they attend Board of Directors meetings to report and to give and receive counsel.

IV.C. Mandated Committees

1. MISSION

- a. This Committee is responsible for coordinating and promoting the mission plans of the District and supporting and encouraging the mission work of every congregation.
- b. This Committee shall operate according to the CNH District Mission Agency policies and procedures as adopted by the Board of Directors.
- c. ~~This Committee' shall coordinate with the Office of National Mission and, if applicable, the Office of International Mission.~~ This committee shall provide liaison for the Synod's Board for National Mission as well as coordination with the Office of National Mission. If applicable, this Committee will also work together with the Board for International Mission.

2. HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES

- a. ~~The Chair of this Committee may attend all regular meetings of the Board of Directors and any special meetings, or when required by the District President or the Board of Directors.~~

b. This Committee shall:

- i. Provide liaison for the Synod's Office of National Missions: as relates to its human care and domestic mercy efforts (Synod Bylaw 3.8.2 / 3.8.2.4).
- ii. Provide Circuit level assistance in the field of social welfare, especially in coordinating Circuit support for District-wide social welfare projects.
- iii. Be responsible for giving guidance to the District in the area of social ministry.
- iv. In consultation with the Congregation(s) or Circuit(s) involved, coordinate the work of specialized Human Care Ministries (although each may have its own guiding committee).
- v. Understand its tasks and function as being congruent with the Objectives of the Synod as set forth in Constitution Article III and mission and ministry emphases of the Synod (Bylaw 3.8.2.2 / 3.8.3.2), as well as resolutions of the District, as regard its area of work .

3. STEWARDSHIP

~~a. The Chair of this Committee may attend all regular meetings of the Board of Directors and any special meetings, or when required by the District President or the Board of Directors.~~

b. This Committee shall:

- i. Provide liaison for the Synod's Office of National Missions (Synod Bylaws 3.8.2.3 as regards stewardship work.
- ii. Assist and advise the local congregations in the development and promotion of an adequate stewardship program.
- iii. Promote special gifts and bequests of all kinds for all phases of the church's work, provided such activities ~~do not conflict directly~~ agree with the Articles of Incorporation of the District.
- iv. Understand its tasks and function as being congruent with the Objectives of the Synod as set forth in Constitution Article III and mission and ministry emphases of the Synod (Bylaw 3.8.2.4), as well as resolutions of the District, as regard its area of work.

4 CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

~~a. The Chair of this Committee may attend any regular meeting of the Board of Directors and shall attend any special meeting of the Board of Directors, or when required by the District President or the Board of Directors.~~

b. This Committee shall:

- i. Provide liaison for the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters.
- ii. Regularly review the Bylaws of the District, and draft proposed revisions which will keep them up to date with current practice.
- iii. Draft proposed revisions to the District Bylaws made necessary by changes in the Synod *Handbook* Constitution and Bylaws.

iv. Immediately after each Convention of the District, ~~draft revisions~~ incorporate changes made by the District in convention to its bylaws. ~~to the District Bylaws to conform to resolutions adopted by the Convention.~~

v. Review proposed revisions of the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws of District congregations to insure that they conform to the Bylaws of the Synod and District.

vi. Interpret the Bylaws of the District in cases of controversy. These opinions shall be binding unless overruled by the District Convention or by the Synod.

vii. Understand its tasks and function as being congruent with those of the Synod Commission on Constitutional Matters, but with regard to the governing documents unique to the District.

5. ~~HISTORICAL~~/ARCHIVAL COMMITTEE

~~a. The Chair of this Committee may attend any regular meeting of the Board of Directors and shall attend any special meeting of the Board of Directors, or when required by the District President or the Board of Directors.~~

b. This Committee shall:

i. Collaborate with the Concordia Historical Institute and provide ~~a regional representative for the Institute~~ an historian/archivist.

ii. Gather and ensure the safekeeping of records and articles of historical importance to the District and Synod and make them available to qualified researchers.

iii. Promote activities that stimulate historical interest and awareness in the District.

iv. Advise congregations and agencies in establishing and maintaining their own archives.

6. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

~~a. The Chair of this Committee may attend any regular meeting of the Board of Directors and shall attend any special meeting of the Board of Directors, or when required by the District President or the Board of Directors.~~

b. This Committee shall:

i. Be elected as part of each Convention's elections process, as ~~prescribed in~~ required by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws.

ii. Consist of one Minister of Religion-Ordained, one Minister of Religion-Commissioned, and two lay persons.

iii. Nominate at least two candidates for each of the following elective offices: Regional Directors, Director-Commissioned Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, and the (next Convention) *Nominating Committee* (see above).

iv. Obtain the prior consent of nominees and publish brief biographical sketches in the *Convention Workbook*.

7. HISPANIC COUNCIL

a. ~~The Chair of this Committee may attend any regular meeting of the Board of Directors and may attend any special meeting of the Board of Directors, or when required by the District President or the Board of Directors.~~

b. This Committee shall:

- i. Serve as liaison between Spanish language ministries and the District and its congregations.
- ii. Assist in recruiting Spanish language workers.
- iii. Assist Spanish language workers in their growth and development.
- iv. Assist and advise the District and its congregations in the development of Spanish language ministries.

IV.D. Special Committees

The District President may, by and with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, create ad hoc Committees as needed. These Committees and their Chairs have the same rights, privileges and accountability as the Mandated Committees.

ARTICLE V DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

The District shall meet in Convention triennially prior to June 1 of the year preceding the Convention of the Synod. Adjustments to the timing of the Convention may be needed due to extreme cases. Any Change would be determined by the District President in consultation and agreement with the District Board of Directors. In addition to provisions of the Synod Constitution and Bylaws regarding Conventions of the District, the following regulations shall apply:

V.A. Delegates

Congregations shall register the names (together with a brief biographical sketch) of the delegates and alternates with the District President at least three months prior to the opening of the Convention.

V.B. Committee Appointments

The District President shall announce the appointment of Convention Floor Committees in the pages of the official District publication at least one month prior to the opening of the Convention.

V.C. Convention ~~Manual~~ Workbook

1. Reports from The District Board of Directors, Circuits, and all Committees of the District, as well as others desiring to bring their work to the attention of the District Convention, shall ~~submit their reports and recommendations~~ be submitted to the District President for publication in the ~~Convention Manual~~ Workbook.

2. Overtures to the Convention may only be submitted by Congregations of the District, the District Board of Directors, Circuit Forums, Official District Conferences of Commissioned and/or Ordained Ministers, and Recognized Committees

3. All overtures and reports and recommendations shall be in the office of the District President at least ten weeks prior to the opening of the Convention.

454 4. The District President, at his discretion, shall have the right to withhold certain ~~unofficial~~ reports
455 submissions from publication in the *Convention Manual Workbook* referring them directly to the
456 appropriate Floor Committee as unpublished overtures and reports for its consideration. Overtures which
457 may subject the District to legal action or those that contain information which is materially in error or
458 contains any apparent misrepresentation of truth or of character will not be accepted for consideration by the
459 convention. (Synod Bylaw 3.1.6.2.b,c)

460 5. Overtures and ~~unofficial~~ reports received later than ~~two~~ ten weeks prior to the opening of the
461 Convention may be referred to the Convention at the discretion of the ~~District President~~ a committee
462 consisting of the President, the First Vice-President, and the Secretary

463 ~~V.C.2. One copy of the *Convention Manual* shall be supplied to each Minister of Religion—Ordained or~~
464 ~~Commissioned, to each congregation on the District roster, and to such others as the Board of Directors shall~~
465 ~~authorize.~~

466 6. The District President shall instruct the District Secretary to publish all the reports and overtures which
467 he supplies, together with the program of the Convention, an outline of the Convention essay, and the
468 District roster (this roster to include all congregations, all Ministers of religion - Ordained and -
469 Commissioned, all officers and Committees of the District and of the Convention). The *Convention Manual*
470 *Workbook* shall be made available by electronic means ~~mailed in time to reach the congregations~~ at least one
471 month prior to the opening of the District Convention. Hard copies of the *Manual Workbook* can be obtained
472 by request from the District Office.

473 474 **V.D. Convention Business**

475
476 1. All reports, resolutions, including those from Floor Committees, or other material not contained in the
477 *Convention Manual Workbook* shall be reproduced and distributed to the delegates prior to the opening of
478 the session in which these reports, resolutions, or other materials are to be discussed and considered.

479
480 2. ~~Except for overtures, memorials, petitions, or resolutions, no~~ No materials appearing in the
481 published *Convention Manual Workbook* shall be read in their entirety on the Convention floor except
482 for those allowed by the “Convention Standing Rules” as adopted by the convention.

483 484 **V.E. Proceedings**

485
486 The Secretary shall be responsible for publication of the *District Convention Proceedings* by July 1
487 following the Convention. The Proceeding will be posted to the District’s Website with a link sent to
488 Congregations and Convention Delegates on or before that date. A printed copy of the proceedings will be
489 made available upon request.

490 1.

491 ~~2. One copy of the *Proceedings* shall be supplied to each minister of Religion Ordained or~~
492 ~~Commissioned, each congregation on the District roster, and such others as the Board of Directors shall~~
493 ~~authorize.~~

494 495 496 **ARTICLE VI** 497 **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

498 499 **VI.A. Elected Officers**

500

501 The elected officers of the District are President, First Vice President, five Regional Vice Presidents, five
502 Regional Directors, Secretary, Treasurer, members of the Nominating Committee, and a Circuit Visitor for
503 each of the District's Circuits.

504 ***VI.B. Term of Elected Officers***

- 505
- 506 1. The term of office for all officers of the District shall be for three years.
- 507
- 508 2. The term of office for the President, First Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Circuit Visitors shall
509 be without limitation to reelection. All other positions shall have a limitation of two successive terms. More
510 than one-half of a term shall be considered a full term under limited tenure.
- 511

512 ***VI.C. Pre-Convention Nominations for District President and First Vice-President***

- 513
- 514 Nominations for the Offices of President and First Vice-President shall be made in the following manner:
- 515 a. The Secretary of the District shall mail nominating ballots to each voting congregation no later than
516 eight (8) months prior to the Convention.
- 517
- 518 b. Each voting congregation of the District is entitled to nominate two Ministers of Religion - Ordained
519 from the roster of the Synod as candidates for the office of District President and two Ministers of
520 Religion – Ordained from the roster of the District as candidates for the office of First Vice-President.
- 521
- 522 c. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by two officers of the voting congregation and shall be
523 returned to the Secretary of the District no later than six months prior to the opening date of the
524 Convention.
- 525
- 526 d. The Secretary of the District shall tabulate nominations and report the names of all clergy receiving
527 three or more nominations in the *Convention Manual-Workbook*.
- 528
- 529 e. From the pool of those clergy receiving three or more nominations, the Candidates candidates for
530 President and 1st Vice-President shall be the five receiving the highest number of nominating ballots
531 from the congregations. In the event of a tie for the fifth position among the candidates, all names
532 involved in the tie shall be listed as candidates, as prescribed by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws.
- 533
- 534 ~~f. Candidates for First Vice President shall be the five receiving the highest number of nominating~~
535 ~~ballots from the congregations. In the event of a tie for the fifth position among the candidates, all~~
536 ~~names involved in the tie shall be listed as candidates.~~
- 537

538 ***VI.D. Convention Floor Nominations***

539

540 Except for the Offices of President and First Vice-President, additional nominations for any elective office
541 may be made from the floor of the Convention, from the floor of the Caucus as appropriate, or by any
542 voting delegate; however, the prior consent of the nominee shall have been obtained and a brief
543 biographical sketch submitted to the District Secretary at the time the nomination is made.

544

545 ***VI.E. Teller Committee***

546

547 A Teller Committee and its Chair shall be appointed by the District President to facilitate the election of
548 officers.

549 ***1.Election Procedure***

550 A majority of all votes cast by a district convention shall be required in every election to all elective offices
551 and elective board positions. The following regulations shall apply:

552 (a) Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.

553 (b) In the election of the president and the vice-presidents, when a second or succeeding ballot is required
554 for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot.

555 (c) In other elections, when a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate
556 receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be
557 dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in
558 which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot.

559 (d) In every election balloting shall continue until every position has been filled by majority vote.

560

561 ***VI.F. Order of Elections***

562

563 1. Election of the President

564 a. In the first business of the session of the Convention, the Teller Committee shall conduct the
565 election for the office of President.

566

567 b. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates for President, whose names
568 appear on the slate published by the District Secretary.

569

570 c. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared President.

571

572 ~~a. If additional balloting is necessary, the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes shall be~~
573 ~~eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. In the~~
574 ~~event of ties for the smallest number, all those tied shall be eliminated.~~

575

576 3. Election of the First Vice President

577

578 a. In the first business session of the
579 Convention, the Teller Committee shall conduct the election for the office of First Vice President.

580

581 b. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates for First Vice President,
582 whose names appear on the slate published by the District Secretary.

583

584 c. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared First Vice President.

585

586 ~~d. If additional balloting is necessary, the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes shall be~~
587 ~~eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. In the~~
588 ~~event of ties for the smallest number, all those tied shall be eliminated.~~

589

590 4. Election of the Regional Vice Presidents and Regional Directors

591

592 a. The Regions shall caucus to nominate their Regional Vice Presidents and the Regional Director.
593 Each Region will submit to the Convention one nomination for Regional Vice President and one
594 nomination for Regional Director.

595

596 b. In the Regional caucus, the Teller Committee will facilitate the nomination of the Regional Vice
597 President as follows:

598

c. Nominations from credentialed Lay and Pastoral delegates from the Region are accepted from the floor of the Caucus. All those nominated and have agreed to serve will comprise the slate. Nominees will be allowed to make a brief introductory statement.

~~d. If no one has received a majority on the first ballot~~

e. In the Regional caucus, the Teller Committee will present the slate prepared by the Nominating Committee for the office of Regional Director; entertain nominations from the floor of the caucus as allowed in Article VI.D above. Upon closure of the slate, the caucus shall by ballot select its candidate. The Candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared nominated.

f. The Teller Committee shall submit to the Convention a final slate of candidates for the offices of Regional Vice President and Regional Director to be ratified by the Convention. As prescribed by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws, the Convention as a whole retains the right to amend the slate by majority vote.

g. The Teller Committee shall conduct the election (ratification) of the Regional Vice Presidents and Regional Directors.

5. Succeeding elections shall be conducted by the Teller Committee for the following offices:

a. For the Director-Commissioned Minister, for the Secretary, and for the Treasurer from the slate prepared by the Nominating Committee, supplemented by nominations from the floor. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.

b. For the (next Convention) Nominating Committee from the slate prepared by the Nominating Committee, supplemented by nominations from the floor. The candidates receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.

c. For Circuit Visitors from the slate published by the District Secretary. As prescribed by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws, the Convention as a whole retains the right to amend the slate by majority vote. ~~as prescribed by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws.~~

d. The teller shall conduct the election by majority for each position to determine the Order of Succession of the Regional Vice Presidents 2-6.

VI.G. Ballots

On all ballots, candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order. There shall be no indication of incumbency by special mark.

VI.H Records of Elections

All ballots in each election shall be preserved by the Chair of the Teller Committee until the close of the Convention and shall then be destroyed, as prescribed by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws.

VI.I Procedures and Methods

The committee shall be empowered to adopt procedures and methods that will ensure efficiency and accuracy, including the use of mechanical, electronic, or other methods of casting, recording, or tabulating votes.

650 **VI.J. Vacancies**

651
652 1. When the Office of President becomes vacant, or ~~when~~ should the President is ~~becomes~~ permanently
653 incapacitated, the Office shall be assumed by the First Vice President. If less than six months of the term
654 remains, he may serve out the term in a part-time capacity. If more than six months remains, he must be
655 willing to assume the position full-time. If he declines, ~~a new President shall be elected by the Board of~~
656 ~~Directors~~ the next Regional Vice President in the order of Succession established by the Convention will
657 assume the office of the President.

658 2. Whether the President is unable to serve because of prolonged illness or disability and whether his
659 incapacity is temporary or permanent shall be determined by the Board of Directors. If it is deemed by the
660 Board that the situation is temporary, the First Vice President shall immediately assume the duties of the
661 office of the President.

662 3. Should the office of First Vice President becomes vacant, ~~a new First Vice President shall be elected by~~
663 ~~the Board of Directors.~~ the position shall be filled by following the of Regional Vice Presidents order of
664 succession as established by majority vote of the District in Convention. The newly appointed Regional Vice
665 President who fills the resulting vacancy will assume the last position in the order of succession.

666 4. Vacancies in any other elected office of the District shall be filled by Presidential appointment by and
667 with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors. In the event any officer of the District shall become
668 incapable of service, it will be the duty of the Board to determine whether the situation is likely permanent or
669 temporary. According to their determination, the Board will take the appropriate action concerning that
670 person's service. ~~the Board of Directors shall relieve that person of his/her duties.~~

671
672 **VI.K. Delegates to the Synod Convention**

673
674 1. Election of the delegates and alternates (voting) shall be as prescribed in the Synod Constitution and
675 Bylaws.

676
677 2. Election of advisory delegates and alternates in the categories of Minister of Religion – Ordained and
678 of Minister of Religion – Commissioned shall be as prescribed in the Synod Constitution and Bylaws.

679
680 3. Selection of other District advisory representatives shall be as prescribed in the Synod Constitution
681 and Bylaws.

682
683 4. Selection of the District's youth representatives shall be made by a District Youth Task Force.

684
685 **VI.L Installation of Officers**

686
687 1. All District officers elected at the Convention shall be installed on July 1 following the Convention, or
688 as soon thereafter as practicable. The President shall designate the installing officer and the date, time, and
689 place of the installation.

690
691 2. The President and other District Officers leaving office shall continue to hold the authority and
692 responsibility of office until July 1 following the Convention. The incoming President and other District
693 Officers shall assume office on July 1 following the Convention.

694
695 3. Any expenses of the newly elected officers related to assuming office shall be the responsibility of the
696 District.

697
698
699 **ARTICLE VII**

700 **REGIONS, CIRCUITS AND CIRCUIT FORUMS**

701
702 1. The authority to determine Regional and Circuit divisions shall rest with the District Convention, as
703 prescribed by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws.

704
705 2. The purpose and function of each Circuit and Circuit Forum shall be as prescribed in the Synod
706 Constitution and Bylaws.

707
708 3. Within two months after each District Convention, each Circuit Forum shall meet and elect such
709 officers as it deems necessary to support the Circuit Visitor who was elected by the District Convention.

710
711 4. Each congregation or multi-congregation parish shall be represented at the Circuit Forum at least by the
712 pastor and one member designated by the congregation, as prescribed the Synod Constitution and Bylaws

713
714 Each Circuit Forum may submit overtures to the District Board of Directors as well as to Synod and
715 District Conventions, as prescribed by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws.

716
717 **ARTICLE VIII**
718 **AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

719
720 ***VIII.A. Amendments by Direct Convention Action***

721
722 Amendments to these Bylaws may be made by the District Convention provided:

723 a. The change is not contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

724
725 b. The proposed change is presented to the Convention in writing.

726
727 c. The proposed material is specified as a Bylaw amendment and is studied as such by a Convention
728 floor committee.

729
730 d. The change is adopted by a majority vote by the Convention.

731
732 *e. Changes proposed by the District are reviewed and approved in advance by the Synod's Commission*
733 *on Constitutional Matters (CCM). Further changes made without CCM approval will take effect only*
734 *after such approval.*

735
736
737 ***VIII.B. Amendment by Indirect Convention Action***

738
739 1. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be made when the District Convention shall have created new
740 entities without having established Bylaw provisions for them or when District Convention action
741 affecting these Bylaws has been taken without providing the necessary new texts.

742 2. Needed revisions to these Bylaws shall be drafted by the District Constitutional Matters Committee and
743 submitted to the next District Convention for approval, after first being reviewed and approved in advance
744 by the Synod's CCM. ~~Further changes made without CCM approval will take effect only after such~~
745 ~~approval.~~

746
747 3. In exceptional circumstances and upon the express direction of a convention of the District or of the
748 Synod, amendments may be made by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors.

749 (a) Such amendments to the Bylaws shall be necessary to implement resolutions adopted by a
750 convention of the District, or of the Synod.

(b) Such amendments shall be drafted by the District CCM and shall be approved by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matter.

VIII.C. Amendment by Synod Action.

When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendments may be made by a two-thirds majority of the District Board of Directors. Such amendments shall be drafted by the District Secretary and shall be reviewed in advance by the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters.

VIII.D. Publication of Bylaw Revisions

Whenever it becomes necessary to publish new editions of the Bylaws of the District (whether entirely or in substantial sections), the Secretary shall have responsibility for their publication.

Overture #3-2

To Establish a CNH Disaster Response Committee

Rationale:

When it comes to disasters it is not a matter of if, but when. While it is not possible to know the details of any given disaster beforehand, there are certain general preparations which can be initiated.

Our LORD, Jesus, the Christ, has commissioned us to bring Good News to this fallen creation (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 20:21-23; Acts 1:8). When words are accompanied by actions (Micah 6:8; James 1:23, 27; 2:8, 15-16, 18, 22, 26; 3:13, 17; Galatians 5:13) they become an effective means by which the Holy Spirit can bring Good News to those in need of hearing it.

Our Synodical motto is "Witness, Mercy, Life Together." When a disaster strikes an individual or community all three are needed. We give witness to the One whom we call LORD as we show God's mercy to the survivors and our lives are joined together in showing that mercy through the Christian actions Jesus, the Christ, describes in Matthew 25: 35-40.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 provides us with the image of how valuable it is to find ways to multiply our resources by working together. This is true especially when it comes to disaster response as disasters impact all in a community.

A District Disaster Response Committee would not only streamline the CNH District's response for assistance and grants but would also allow the CNH District to cover nominal costs for the Committee through the interest on Donations/Deposits up to 3 percent for relief expenses. The responsibilities of this Committee can be developed by the initial Committee with assistance and support from the CNH District President and/or staff.

Among the items the initial Committee might consider are:

- 1) Development of a written disaster plan for the District Ministry Center in Livermore
- 2) Development of a District-wide disaster plan connecting the District congregations
- 3) Identifying and developing a list of resources available whenever a disaster occurs
- 4) Holding quarterly meetings to ensure all plans are up to date
- 5) Developing quarterly exercises in coordination with the DDRC involving the District Circuits.

The purpose of these exercises would be to maintain proficiency and discover any anomalies needing attention. They would also provide an opportunity to keep the congregations alert to the need for disaster preparedness along with encouragement for the congregation to gather items which can be of help to disaster survivors.
(blankets/quilts, cleaning materials, diapers, personal hygiene items, storage tubs)

46 **Resolution:**

47
48 WHEREAS, with respect to both man-made and natural disasters it's not a matter of if
49 but when; and

50
51 WHEREAS, it is not possible to know the details of any given disaster beforehand but
52 there are certain general preparations which can be initiated; therefore be it

53
54 *Resolved*, that the CNH District in convention establish a Disaster Response Committee
55 of at least 5 and up to 7 members which can consist of the CNH DDRC as well as a one
56 pastor, one teacher, and the District Treasurer. Additional members to consider are a
57 communications specialist using amateur radio, law enforcement personnel, fire fighters,
58 nurses, EMTs, or people with a social work background.

59
60
61
62 Submitted by

63
64
65 Rev Philip W Zabell, KI6SMN
66 District Disaster Response Coordinator,
67 Circuit Visitor, Circuit 12,
68 Rev Brian Cummins