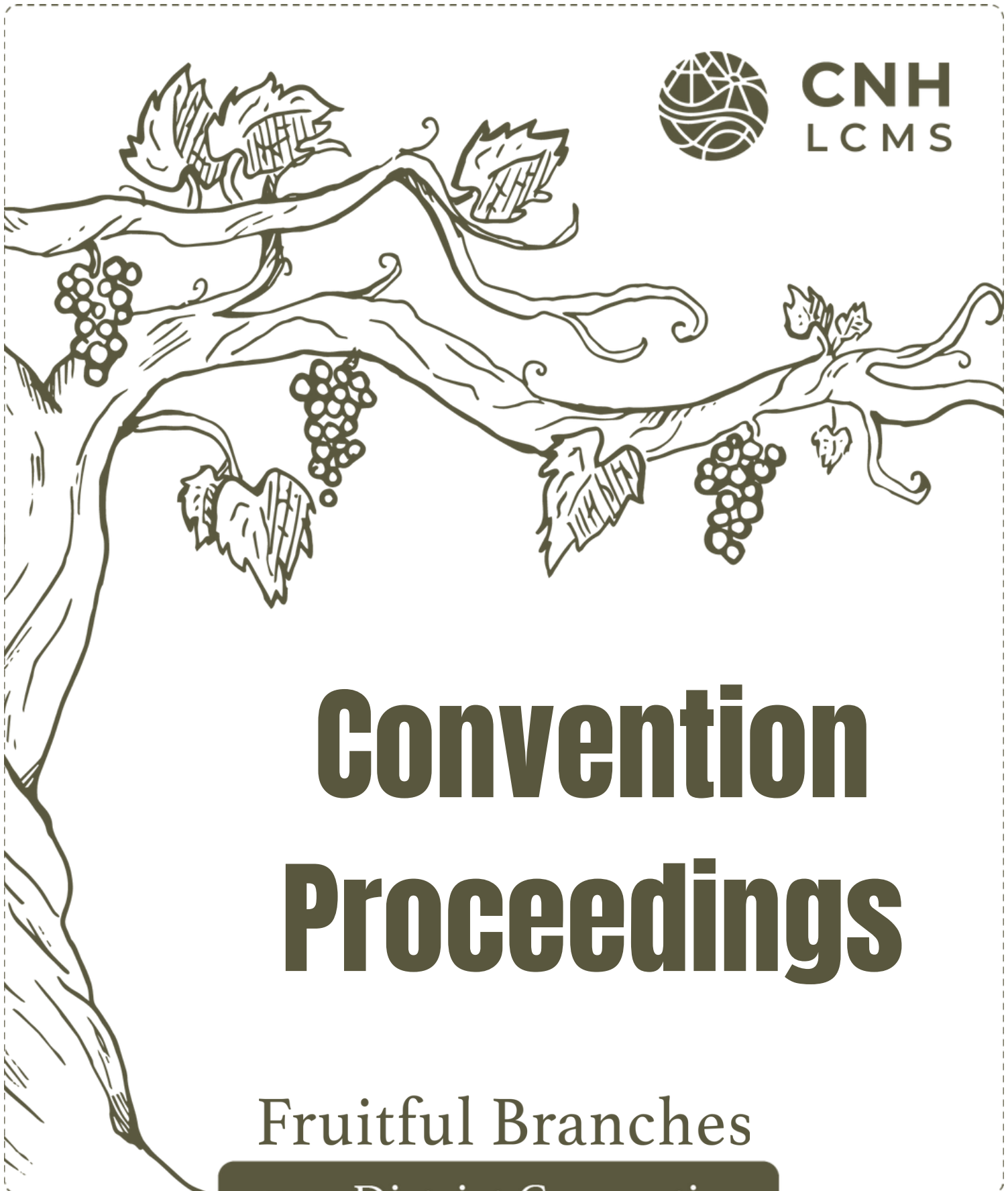




CNH
LCMS

A detailed line drawing of a vine with several large, lobed leaves and three clusters of grapes hanging from it. The vine is thick and gnarled, with smaller tendrils extending from it.

Convention Proceedings

Fruitful Branches

2025 District Convention

May 15-17, 2025 • Hilton Sacramento Arden West

2025 CNH District Convention

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Convention Minutes

The minutes of the 2025 CNH District Convention were approved by the Board of Directors on June 7th, 2025

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Voting – Pastors

First Name	Last Name	Congregation Name	Congregation City
Rev. William	Abbott	River of Life	Dayton, NV
Rev. Stanley	Abraham	Mt. Calvary	Soquel, CA
Rev. Paul	Aldrich	Zion	Piedmont, CA
Rev. Dr. Stephen	Becker	Trinity	Wahiawa, HI
Rev. Matt	Behrens	Calvary	San Lorenzo, CA
Rev. Bruce	Berndt	Redeemer / Sts. John & Luke	Lodi / Valley Home, CA
Rev. John	Bestul	Our Savior	Cupertino, CA
Rev. Philip	Beyer	Good Shepherd	Healdsburg, CA
Rev. Chad	Biar	St. John's	Fallon, NV
Rev. Timothy	Blau	St Peter	Lodi, CA
Rev. Dawit	Bokre	Good Shepherd	Hayward, CA
Rev. Jason	Bredeson	Trinity	Sacramento, CA
Rev. Joshua	Brown	St. Lukes	Reno, NV
Rev. Joseph	Byrd	Bethany	Lompoc, CA
Rev. Otis	Byrd	Shepherd of the Hills	San Francisco, CA
Rev. Dr. Terry	Chan	Christ for All Nations	San Francisco, CA
Rev. James	Cleland	Shepherd of the Sierra	Carson City, NV
Rev. Stewart	Crown	Trinity	Palo Alto, CA
Rev. Brian	Cummins	Trinity	Redding, CA
Rev. Bradley	Cusson	St. Matthew	Rocklin, CA
Rev. Temesgen	Dabsu	Grace	El Cerrito, CA
Rev. Brennan	DeForest	Redeemer	Chico, CA
Rev. Michael	Dubé	Shepherd of the Valley	Galt, CA
Rev. Dr. Dallas	Dubke	St. Paul	Red Bluff, CA
Rev. Jared	Eggebraaten	Faith	Fair Oaks, CA
Rev. Clarence	Eisberg	Redeemer	Fresno, CA
Rev. Derek	Evans	Greenhaven	Sacramento, CA
Rev. David	Ficken	St. Philip	Dublin, CA
Rev. Sylvan	Finger	First / Mount Olive	Willows / Corning, CA
Rev. David	Floyd	Faith	Pleasant Hill, CA
Rev. Gary	Gerloff	St. Mark	Santa Rosa, CA
Rev. Eloy	Gonzalez	Trinity	San Jose, CA
Rev. Mitchell	Gowen	Our Savior	Aiea, HI
Rev. Darren	Harbaugh	Faith	Seaside, CA
Rev. David	Hardin	St. Paul's	Woodland, CA
Rev. Brenden	Harrell	Our Savior	Santa Maria, CA
Rev. Kevin	Hempe	Our Savior's	Pacifica, CA
Rev. Clinton	Hoff	Peace	Fresno, CA
Rev. Eddie	Hosch	Emmanuel	Kahului, HI
Rev. Thomas	Hurley	Resurrection	San Rafael, CA

First Name	Last Name	Congregation Name	Congregation City
Rev. Jason	Iwen	Zion / Christ	Winnemucca / Battle Mountain, NV
Rev. Scott	Jacobsen	Our Saviour's / St. Paul's	Caruthers / Selma, CA
Rev. Andrew	Jones	First	Concord, CA
Rev. David	Jung	Grace	Visalia, CA
Rev. Daniel	Junkin	St. James	Newman, CA
Rev. Fred	Karlen	Grace	Cloverdale, CA
Rev. Scott	Klemsz	Our Savior	Salinas, CA
Rev. Grant	Knepper	Grace	Modesto, CA
Rev. Dr. Mark	Koch	Good Shepherd	Turlock, CA
Rev. Andrew	Koschmann	Holy Cross	Los Gatos, CA
Rev. Dr. Shiu	Lau	Holy Spirit	San Francisco, CA
Rev. Trevor	Mankin	Town and Country	Sacramento, CA
Rev. Dr. Jedidiah	Maschke	Bethlehem	Carson City, NV
Rev. Brandon	Merrick	Our Savior	Paradise, CA
Rev. Brian	Muldowney	Saint Andrews	Stockton, CA
Rev. Andrew	Munding	Holy Cross	Concord, CA
Rev. Dr. Martin	Noland	Grace	San Mateo, CA
Rev. Mark	Oatman	First	Placerville, CA
Rev. Matthew	Peters	Cordova	Rancho Cordova, CA
Rev. James	Pevy	Peace	Sacramento, CA
Rev. Dr. David	Poganski	St. Paul	Auburn, CA
Rev. John	Puscheck	Clear Promise	Lompoc, CA
Rev. Jay	Reed	Light of the Valley	Elk Grove, CA
Rev. Joe	Robb	Our Savior	Livermore, CA
Rev. Steve	Roma	Redeeming Grace	Santa Clara, CA
Rev. Eric Van	Scharrel	St. John's	Bakersfield, CA
Rev. Daniel	Schlensker	Shepherd of the Hills	Lake Isabella, CA
Rev. Michael	Schmid	St. John's	Napa, CA
Rev. Josh	Schmidt	Bethlehem	Monterey, CA
Rev. Paul	Schult	Bridge City	Redwood, CA
Rev. Marsh	Shamburger	Holy Cross	Rocklin, CA
Rev. Tom	Sharpe	St. Matthew	Sonora, CA
Rev. Christopher	Simmons	Trinity	Paso Robles, CA
Rev. Alan	Sommer	Light of the Hills	Cameron Park, CA
Rev. Morris	Stephens	Messiah	Citrus Heights, CA
Rev. Stuart	Sultze	Faith	Ukiah, CA
Rev. Lenny	Szeto	Zion	San Francisco, CA
Rev. Richard	Toms	Trinity	Georgetown, CA
Rev. Juan	Vallejo	Trinity	Watsonville, CA
Rev. Daniel	Vang	Mt. Olive	Folsom, CA

First Name	Last Name	Congregation Name	Congregation City
Rev. Aleksandr	von Schmidt	Zion	San Luis Obispo, CA
Rev. Kal	Waetzig	St. Paul's	Tracy, CA
Rev. Jason	Weber	Zion	Lodi, CA
Rev. Robert	Weller	Shepherd of the Valley	San Jose, CA
Rev. Daniel	Woo	Hope	Daly City, CA
Rev. Bill	Wrede	Bethany	Vacaville, CA
Rev. Doua	Xiong	St. Paul	Merced, CA
Rev. Dr. Thomas	Zelt	Prince of Peace	Fremont, CA
Rev. Mark	Zier	Christ	Hilo, HI
Rev. Jonathan	Zoch	Trinity	Gardnerville, NV

Voting – Lay Delegates

First Name	Last Name	Congregation Name	Congregation City
Mrs. Lynne	Abraham	Mt. Calvary	Soquel, CA
Mr. David	Aikins	Peace	Arroyo Grande, CA
Mr. James	Anderson	Grace	Visalia, CA
Mr. Bruce	Betts	Mount Olive	Folsom, CA
Mr. Randy	Brandt	St. Lukes	Reno, NV
Mr. Kent	Campbell	First	Concord, CA
Mr. Juan	Cervantes	Trinity	San Jose, CA
Ms. Linda	Cruz	Zion	North Highlands, CA
Mr. DeAl	Dankers	St. John's	Fallon, NV
Mrs. Colleen	Eisberg	Redeemer	Fresno, CA
Mr. Rick	Fielitz	Holy Cross	Rocklin, CA
Mr. Moe	Finn	Faith	Fair Oaks, CA
Mr. Ronald	Frye	Saint James	Newman, CA
Mrs. Gloria	Garing	Trinity	Watsonville, CA
Mr. Robert	Geiger	Good Shepherd	Turlock, CA
Mr. Roosevelt	George III	Christ for All Nations	San Francisco, CA
Mr. Mick	Goodenough	Our Savior	Salinas, CA
Mr. Jim	Goodwin	Grace	Modesto, CA
Mr. Christopher	Grenz	Saint Andrews	Stockton, CA
Mr. Daniel	Grove	Our Savior	Aiea, HI
Mr. Dan	Guerra	Faith	Pleasant Hill, CA
Mr. Stephen	Gustafson	Trinity	Palo Alto, CA
Mr. Daniel	Hahn	Grace	San Mateo, CA
Mr. Steve	Hajik	St. John	Willits, CA
Mrs. Jill	Hardin	St. Paul's	Woodland, CA
Ms. Joan	Hilse	Bethany	Menlo Park, CA
Mr. Douglas	Houston	Our Savior	Paradise, CA

First Name	Last Name	Congregation Name	Congregation City
Mr. Patrick	Hovland	Faith	Ukiah, CA
Mrs. Tammy	Ista	Calvary	Oroville, CA
Mr. Chris	Koch	Redeeming Grace	Santa Clara, CA
Mr. Jacy	Krogh	Redeemer	Chico, CA
Mr. Daniel	Lahl	St Philip	Dublin, CA
Mr. Michael	Liebe	Holy Cross	Concord, CA
Mr. Yal	Lim	Saint Mark	Kaneohe, HI
Ms. Sandy	Lindquist	Shepherd of the Valley	Galt, CA
Mr. Gerald	Luehrs	Calvary	San Lorenzo, CA
Mr. Jon	Malone	St. Matthew	Sonora, CA
Ms. Lisa	Mancini	Bridge City	Redwood City, CA
Mr. Tom	Matthews	Town and Country	Sacramento, CA
Ms. Marilyn	Maxner	Bethlehem	Monterey, CA
Rev. Ralph	McCoy	Benicia	Benicia, CA
Miss Becky	McFarland	Zion	Piedmont, CA
Mr. Randy	Moehnke	St. Paul's	Tracy, CA
Rev. E. Gabriel	Molina	Shepherd of the Hills	Lake Isabella, CA
Mr. Brian	Morris	Light of the Hills	Cameron Park, CA
Mr. Jeff	Mosley	St. John's	Bakersfield, CA
Mr. Gary	Nelson	St. John's	Petaluma, CA
Mr. Bill	Quinn	Our Saviour's	Caruthers, CA
Mr. Gary	Reynolds	Peace	Sacramento, CA
Mr. Robert	Richardson	St. Paul's	Reff Bluff, CA
Mr. Larry	Ristow	Our Savior	Cupertino, CA
Mrs. Deanna	Sako	Christ	Hilo, HI
Mr. Sam	Sandusky	Light of the Valley	Elk Grove, CA
Mrs. Shirley	Schallon	Grace	Cloverdale, CA
Mrs. Paula	Schweiger	St. John's	Napa, CA
Mr. Soonafailouola	Sefo	Good Shepherd	Hayward, CA
Mr. August	Selby	Zion	San Luis Obispo, CA
Mr. Stephen	Shelby	Trinity	Sacramento, CA
Mrs. Devon	Shumer	Bethany	Vacaville, CA
Mr. Edward	Smith	St. Paul	Auburn, CA
Mr. Michael	Southern	Our Savior	Santa Maria, CA
Ms. Kathy	Spenhoff	Holy Cross	Los Gatos, CA
Ms. Elise	Spleiss	Messiah	Citrus Heights, CA
Mr. Donald	Spuhler	Trinity	Georgetown, CA
Mrs. Jennifer	Stager	Trinity	Wahiawa, HI
Mr. Stephen	Streufert	Our Savior	Sparks, NV
Mr. William	Swift	First	Placerville, CA
Mr. Anthony	Tin	Canaan	San Francisco, CA
Mr. Ben	Torres	Faith	Seaside, CA
Ms. Daina	Vitols	Resurrection	San Rafael, CA

First Name	Last Name	Congregation Name	Congregation City
Mr. Bryan	Widstrand	Trinity	Paso Robles, CA
Mr. Darren	Wong	Holy Spirit	San Francisco, CA
Mrs. Karen	Wong	Shepherd of the Hills	San Francisco, CA
Mrs. Lisa	Woo	Hope	Daly City, CA
Mr. A Pao	Xiong	Peace	Fresno, CA
Mr. Don	Young	Our Savior	Livermore, CA
Mr. Scott	Zittel	Trinity	Redding, CA
Mr. Jaren	Zurakowski	St. Mark	Santa Rosa, CA

Advisory Delegates

First Name	Last Name	Congregation Name	Congregation City
Ms. Patrice	Appold	St. John's	Bakersfield, CA
Rev. Bill	Chu	Canaan	San Francisco, CA
Mrs. Jennifer	Lee	Zion	San Francisco, CA
Mrs. Kayla	McGowan	Our Savior	Aiea, HI
Ms. Kendra	McNatt	Prince of Peace	Fremont, CA
Ms. Danika	Neal	Sierra Luth High School	Carson City, NV
Rev. Jonathan	Priest	West Portal	San Francisco, CA
Rev. Aaron	Putnam	LINC Bay Area	Hayward, CA
Dr. Dave	Rueter	Our Savior	Livermore, CA
Rev. Muluneh	Taye	Redeeming Grace	Santa Clara, CA
Mr. Lynn	Wheeler	St. John's	Bakersfield, CA

Emeritus

First Name	Last Name
Rev. Ron	Arnold
Rev. Jim	Beyer
Dr. Steve	Christopher
Rev. Dann	Ettner
Rev. Alan	Flynn
Rev. Ted	Hartman
Rev. John	Herrmann
Rev. Mick	Ista
Rev. Paul B	Janke
Rev. Ed	Krueger
Rev. Walter	Schedler
Rev. Philip W	Zabell

Staff

First Name	Last Name
Mr. Doug	Benton
Rev. Mike	Lange
Mrs. Renee	Lawrence
Mrs. Denise	Lo
Mr. Matt	Molinari
Mr. Silas	Perez
Mrs. Glenna	Sanlis
Rev. Allen	Steinbeck
Mr. Joel	Wahlers

Guests/Visitors

First Name	Last Name
Mr. David	Alvis
Mrs. Sharron	Arnold
Mr. Steve	Biggs
Mr. Donald	Busse
Mrs. Karen	Busse
Vicar Luther	Cameron
Mrs. Lynnette	Campbell
Mr. Casey	Carlson
Rev. Jeff	Cloeter
Vicar Jacob	Eisinger
Mrs. Kristine	Ficken
Rev. Michael	Frese
Mrs. Kathy	Gibson
Rev. Dr. Mike	Gibson
Rev. Dr. Jamison	Hardy
Mrs. Katie	Harrell
Rev. Dr. Matthew	Harrison
Mrs. Marty	Hartman
Mrs. Yolanda	Hempe
Mrs. Lalita	Hoff
Mrs. Elisabeth	Hovland
Mrs. Kristi	Jacobsen
Mrs. Eunah	Jung
Mrs. Michelle	Junkin
Mrs. Carolyn	Koch
Mrs. Judy	Koschmann
Mrs. Kristi	Lange
Mrs. Janice	Lau
Mrs. Kalia	Lo
Ms. Shelia	Mitchell
Rev. Dr. Scott	Murray
Mr. David	Nunley
Mrs. Debbie	Oatman
Vicar Cory	Paine
Mr. Robert	Payne
Mrs. Jenny	Quinn
Mr. Ted	Sanlis
Mrs. Carolyn	Schedler
Mr. Eric	Schmitt
Mrs. Beth	Schult
Mr. Luther	Skov

First Name	Last Name
Ms. Linda	Soto
Rev. Dr. Douglas	Spittel
Rev. John	Standley
Mrs. Lois	Standley
Mrs. Melanie	Streufert
Mrs. Marcia	Swift
Mrs. Julie	Szeto
Mrs. Jeanette	Vallejo-Garcia
Rev. Dr. Michael	Von Behren
Mrs. Olga	von Schmidt
Ms. Lana	Wold
Ms. Lisa	Woodrow
Rev. Joshua	Woodrow
Mrs. Sue	Xiong
Mrs. Khou	Xiong
Mrs. Kathleen Nacis	Zabell
Mrs. Susan	Zelt
Mrs. Victoria	Zittel

In Memoriam 2022 - 2024

First Name	Last Name	Birth & Death Years	Where Served
Ordained			
Milton	Gundermann	1927 - 2022	St. Mark, Kanehoe, HI, 1967 - 1992
Ronald	Clawson	1935 - 2022	In retirement, moved to the CNH District, Elk Grove, CA
Russell	Howen	1932 - 2022	Christ, Martinez, CA, 1966 - 1997; Benicia, Benicia, CA, 1976 - 1981
Paul	Labrenz	1936 - 2022	Bethlehem, Oakland, CA, 1967 - 1972; St. Paul, Chicago Park, CA, 1972 - 1984; Grace, Grass Valley, CA, 1972 - 1998
John	Marozik	1935 - 2022	Grace, Pittsburg, CA, 1960 - 1965; St. Paul, Merced, CA, 1970 - 1977; Faith/Bethany/Immanuel, Yerington/Hawthorne/Ely, NV, 1982 - 1986; and St. Paul's, Susanville, CA, 1986 - 1998
Theodore (Ted)	Mueller	1940 - 2022	St. Luke, Santa Rosa, CA, 1979 - 2005; Served as interim at Lutheran Church of Arcata, Arcata, CA, 2006 - 2007; Vineyard of Faith, Windsor, CA, 2007 - 2008; St. John, Petaluma, CA, 2008 - 2010; Mt. Olive, Sebastopol, 2011 - 2012.
Bradley	Roberts	1958 - 2022	St. Paul, Selma, CA, 1986 - 1990; Our Savior, Lemoore, CA, 1991 - 1995
David	Shoemaker	1938 - 2023	Shepherd of the Valley, San Jose, CA, 1983 - 2000.
Dean	Gade	1937 - 2023	St. John, Willits, CA/Shepherd of the Valley, Laytonville, CA, 1984 - 1991.
Eugene (Gene)	Davidenas	1942 - 2023	Christ, Hilo, HI, 1998 - 2002; Missionary-at-Large, CNH District, 2002; Immanuel, Jackson, CA/Foothill, Valley Springs, CA, 2011 - 2020.
Jerry	Barnhart	1938 - 2023	Mt. Olive, Lindsay, CA, 1991- 1992; Our Savior, Pinole, CA, 1992 - 1995; and Calvary, San Lorenzo, CA, 1995 - 2000.
Luther (Lu)	Werth	1939 - 2023	Served as interim pastor at Our Savior, Livermore, CA, 2013 - 2015.
Philip	Ilten	1935 - 2023	In retirement, moved to the CNH District, Arroyo Grande, CA
Darrill	Sandberg	1935 - 2024	First, South San Francisco, CA, 1978 - 1998; and Trinity, Georgetown, CA, 2008 - 2015
Mark	Haas	1949 - 2024	He served as a principal at Bethlehem, Berkeley, CA, 1972 - 1978, and at Good Shepherd, Hayward, CA, 1978 - 1983. After his ordination on March 16, 1986, Pastor Haas served at Peace, Sacramento, CA, 1986 - 2006, and First, Placerville, CA, 2006 - 2016.
Larry	Miller	1938 - 2024	Peace, Arroyo Grande, CA, 1966-75; Trinity, Gardnerville, NV, 1981-2000.
Robert	Kruger	1938 - 2024	St. Paul, Artois, CA/First, Willows, CA, 1970 - 1979; Grace, El Cerrito, CA, 1979 - 1982; and served as Executive Director of Lutheran Care for the Aging, San Francisco, CA, 1982 - 1986.
Theodore (Ted)	Iverson	1933 - 2025	Redeemer, Fresno, CA, 1960 - 1974; Bethlehem, Monterey, CA, 1974 - 1978; he served the CNH District office from 1978 - 2009 in various capacities: Business Manager; Administrative Services Director for Missions; Interim Services Director for Evangelism and Stewardship; and President of the CNH District Church Extension Fund.
Commissioned Ministers			
Charles	Schliebe	1926 - 2022	Teacher, Trinity, Paso Robles, CA, 1981 - 1988; Lay Minister, Trinity, Paso Robles, CA, 1988 - 2006.
Joel	Koerschen	1949 - 2024	Served as teacher and principal at schools in Colorado, Utah, Texas, and California. From 1988 - 2018, he served as the Director of Education for the CNH District.

The 73rd Convention of the CNH District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

A gathering of convention delegates and guests was held on Thursday, May 15th, 2025 at St. Mathew Lutheran Church in Rocklin, CA.

The evening's worship service was hosted by St. Matthew with pastors assisting from Sacramento Circuits 4 and 19. Synod President Matthew Harrison offered the message based on the convention theme, "Fruitful Branches – Pruned for Growth."

A dinner featuring barbecued pulled pork preceded the worship service. Many thanks to St. Matthew, the Hospitality Committee, and the Convention Planning Committee for their work.

First Session Friday May 16th, 2025

1. ORIENTATION

District Secretary, Rev. John Standley, welcomed delegates to the convention at 9:00am and offered comments about convention procedures including a review of the Convention's Standing Rules.

The Election Buddy App was used this year for voting. Silas Perez, the Administrative Assistant for the District's Office of Education, offered an overview of the system and helped with log-in instructions. Silas, as well as others, were available throughout the convention to assist the delegates.

2. CONVENTION OPENING

At 10:04 am, President Michael Lange welcomed convention delegates and guests and offered opening remarks based on the convention theme, stating, "*Already you are pruned for growth.*"

Distinguished Synod guests, President Matthew Harrison and Regional Vice-President Scott Murray were introduced, as well as the previous CNH President, Robert Newton. It was noted that former President Walter Tiejen was not able to attend; a video presentation will be shown later during the convention.

Mike introduced his wife, Kristi, with thanks for the love and support she provides for him.

The President continued with introductions of the District Board of Directors, the Convention Planning Committee, and the Audio-Visual team. Special thanks went out to the President's Administrative Assistant, Glenna Sanlis, and to St. Matthew Lutheran Church for their help with the pre-convention activities.

3. OPENING DEVOTION

Reverend Daniel Woo from Hope Lutheran Church in Daly City delivered the convention's opening devotion. Rev. Woo based his words on Psalm 51, verses 1-12. We, like King David, need forgiveness. Like him, we keep silent. Sin separates us from God. Confession allows the process of repentance and forgiveness. *"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow".* (ESV)

In Rev. Woo's words, "Confession takes the garbage out." From the Psalm, Pastor Woo shared King David's words, *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit."* (ESV). Daniel closed his devotion with prayer.

4. DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S REPORT – PART ONE

President Lange talked about his family's long-time relationship with the Steinbeck's, owners of the Steinbeck Family Vinyards. He spoke of his continued friendship with Cindy and Allen Steinbeck. In preparation for his presentation, Mike worked with Cindy in putting together several video clips taken on location at Steinbeck Vineyards.

Clip #1 – Mike is with Cindy among the grapevines. Cindy talks of the Convention theme, "Fruitful Branches" (John 15:1-3) and how it relates to the vineyard and the Vine Dresser. This setting was the basis for her book, "Father's Vineyard."

Clip #2 – Pruning and grafting make the vine more fruitful. We are the buds that are grafted into the Vine (Root), which is Christ. The root of the grapevine is resistant to disease. The vine is our home. What is it that distracts us from our home? What are the delusions that we run to? Where do we find sustenance? Christ is our Root in which we find sustenance. President Lange stated, "already you will never be closer to Christ than you are in your Baptism".

Clip #3 – God pruned Christ. He was wounded, suffered, and died for our salvation. We too are wounded, dead to self for our salvation. Both were wounded – Christ and us. *"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."* (1 Pet. 2:24 ESV) We are cut from the old, grafted into the new. Mike noted, "It's never *not*, when it comes to closeness to Christ."

Clip #4 – Pruning gets us to the best. Pruning helps us produce the best fruit. Pruning takes that which could be good, to allow for that which is the best. Pruning is a process with purpose – Greater Fruitfulness! There are no bad buds. We are pruned to be better and best. In closing, President Lange added, *"Let your spiritual toes feel the vineyard floor. Recognize the forgiveness that you are treading upon...the refuge of our pruning journey."* God prepares you for fruitful growth.

Video Clips will be available for a time on the District's website.

5. CONVENTION BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Standing Rules

The Chair asked for a motion to adopt the Convention Standing Rules. A motion was made to adopt the Standing Rules. The motion was seconded. The Convention Standing Rules were approved by a show of hands.

2. Floor Committee Three – Structure

Resolution #3-1 – “To Accept Changes to CNH District Bylaws As Recommended by Synod and District Commissions on Constitutional Matters.”

The Chair of Floor Committee Three, Rev. Stewart Crown, presented the Resolve statements of the Resolution. The committee moved to approve the Resolution; the motion was seconded. While the Election Buddy App was being loaded, Secretary Standley asked to speak to the Resolution. Rev. Standley briefly explained the reasons behind the changes as well as the lengthy process that was followed to seek approval of the changes through the Synod Commission on Constitutional Matters and the District Board of Directors.

The Chair asked for discussion, hearing none and seeing that the Election Buddy App was not cooperating, **the motion was approved by a show of hands.**

3. Introduction to the Election Process

Convention Teller, Rev. Robert Weller, explained the election process. Nominations from the floor will be accepted for all elections except for the President and 1st Vice-President. All floor nominations must have prior approval from the person being nominated. A brief biography must be submitted to the Secretary, preferably well before the nomination. Nominations for the Regional Vice-President and the Regional Lay Delegates will be made at the respective caucuses.

4. Registration Report

The Chair of the Registration Committee, Rev. Mark Oatman offered his report.

Pastoral Delegate	88
Lay Delegates	75
Total Voting Registered	163
Advisory and Guests	104
Total Registered	267

5. Election of the District President

The original slate included Rev. Michael Lange and Rev. Jason Bredeson. For personal consideration, Rev. Bredeson has declined the nomination.

The election was carried out through the Election Buddy App. **Rev. Michael Lange was elected with 95% of the voting delegates.**

6. Election of the 1st Vice-President

Rev. Mitchel Gowen, Rev. Jason Bredeson, and Rev. Robert Weller were nominated for the position of 1st Vice-President. For personal consideration, Rev. Bredeson has declined the nomination.

Since Rev. Weller was included on this ballot, the position of Teller was transferred to Rev. Stephen Becker for this election.

The Election was carried out through the Election Buddy App. **Rev. Mitchell Gowen was elected with 56% of the voting delegates.**

7. Election of the District Secretary

Rev. Morris Stephens, Jr. and Rev. Jared Eggebraaten were previously nominated for the position of District Secretary. There were no nominations from the Convention Floor.

The Election was carried out through the Election Buddy App. **Rev. Jared Eggebraaten was elected with 72% of the voting delegates.**

8. Election of the District Treasurer

Mr. Donald Busse's name has been submitted through the Nominating Committee. No nominations were made from the Convention Floor.

The Election was carried out through the Election Buddy App. **Mr. Donald Busse was elected with 100% of the voting delegates.**

9. Election of the Nominating Committee

Positions available for the Nominating Committee and nominations received are as follows:

One Clergy --	Rev. Stewart Crown Rev. Joseph Robb
One Commissioned	Mrs. Kayla McGowan Ms. Sara Agee
Two Laity	Rick Fielitz Dan Hahn

Election Results:

Clergy --	Rev. Joseph Robb --	67%
Commissioned --	Mrs. Kayla McGowan --	56%
Laity --	Mr. Rick Fielitz --	50%
	Mr. Dan Hahn --	50%

6. WEST COAST PARTNERSHIPS

President Lange introduced Rev. Dr. Mike Gibson, President of the Pacific Southwest District, and Rev. Dr. Mike Von Behren, President of the Northwest District. Together, these three Mike's have formed the West Coast Partnership of the LCMS.

President Gibson noted that the three Presidents meet most every Monday on Zoom. He stressed that it is important to know that you have those that walk beside you. Rev. Gibson talked about the MAP Program (Mission Applied Practice). This is a three-year program where District Executives, District Presidents, and pastors new to the District meet to share and grow.

President Von Behren offered the words of Phil. 1:3-5 as he expressed his thanks for the partnership. *"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."*(ESV). He went on to speak about the three District's joint partnership in the MTC (Mission Training Center) which offers online ministry training. The MTC is based at Concordia Irvine.

President Lange invited all Vice-Presidents to join together on the stage for a prayer before lunch.

7. LUNCH BREAK

Registration Report

The Chair of the Registration Committee, Rev. Mark Oatman offered his report.

Pastoral Delegate	88
Lay Delegates	75
Total Voting Registered	163
Advisory and Guests	104
Total Registered	267

8. GREETINGS FROM OTHERS

During the course of today's session, several individuals and organizations presented video presentations and greetings. The following is a list of those videos in the order they were presented.

- Mission Training Center (MTC) – Rev. Jonathon Priest
- Lutheran Women's Missionary League -- Roxan Schwab
- Concordia University System – Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy
- The Center – Rev. Dr. Robert Newton

9. CNH BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

1ST Vice – President Mitch Gowen spoke about the work of the Board of Directors. From his report in the Convention Handbook, the Chairman stated, "For almost 30 years, the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of the LCMS has operated under Policy-

Based Governance. This form of governance differs from the way many churches and organizations are structured by defining the framework for decision-making and operations through setting policies, followed and administered by the District President, rather than actual hands-on administration by the Board of Directors.”

“While most Boards are able to point to things like, ‘we painted the building, we hired an administrative assistant, we created a new ministry, and we balanced the budget’ – the CNH BOD can’t say that. Instead, we would say, ‘we made sure the vision and resources were available to make sure the building got painted, an administrative assistant was hired, a new ministry was started, and the budget was balanced.’ The difference being – the BOD’s job is not to do those things – but rather to make sure the District President and staff have a vision, achievable outcomes, and the resources to accomplish it.”

10. INTRODUCTION OF STAFF

President Lange introduced the District’s Staff:

- Rev. Paul Ferguson, Jr. --Assistant to the President - Strategic Mission Leadership
- Doug Benton --Communications Assistant
- Matt Molinari -- LCEF District Vice President
- Joel Wahler – Assistant to the President - Education
- Kathryn Plott – Bookkeeper
- Renee Lawrence – Administrative Assistant – Office of Missions
- Glenna Sanlis -- Administrative Assistant – Office of the President
- Denise Lo – Operations Executive
- Silas Perez -- Administrative Assistant – Office of Education
- Rev. Allen Steinbeck – Director of Transitional Interim Ministry
- Matt Newton – In Touch Editor

11. LCEF REPORT

LCEF Vice President Matt Molinari referred to his full report in the Convention Workbook. Matt talked briefly about the work of LCEF in the CNH District, noting that it is all made possible through investments. He noted that he is working closely with LCEF Real Estate Solutions on several projects in the CNH District.

One of those projects is with Trinity Lutheran Church in Watsonville which will provide housing for farm workers. At the end of his presentation, Matt invited Rev. Joe Robb to come up to lead a prayer for the work at Watsonville.

12. CNH DISABILITY MINISTRY COMMITTEE

President Lange introduced Diane Flynn, who serves as the Chair of the District’s Disability Ministry Committee. The committee was authorized by the 2022 Convention.

A video showing some of the activities of the Disability Ministry Committee was viewed by the committee.

13. DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE

The President called for the Chair of the Disaster Response Committee who was not in the Convention Hall, but in the parking lot, showing people the Disaster Response trailer. The trailer is fully stocked with all the material and equipment needed for disaster response. It was noted that the convention was “on the air” by way of Amateur Radio, which is at times during a disaster, the only line of communication. The committee has been very active during the past triennium with fires and storms in our District.

14. CONVENTION BUSINESS

1. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made to approve the Convention Agenda. The motion was seconded and approved by a show hands.

2. Floor Committee Three -- Structure

Resolution # 3-2 -- To Establish a CNH Disaster Response Committee

The Chair of Floor Committee Three, Rev. Stewart Crown, was called forward to present the resolution. Stewart read the body of the resolution and moved the question on behalf of the committee. The motion was seconded. During discussion there was a question concerning the cost to the District. The President advised that the cost has been estimated at no more than a thousand dollars. Hearing no discussion, **the vote was taken by Election buddy and approved by 95%.**

3. Floor Committee Three -- Structure

Resolution #3-3 -- To Consider Recommendations for Circuit #13

Rev. Crown presented the resolution and moved to accept on behalf of the committee. The motion was seconded. Seeing no request for discussion, President Lange sensed that a hand/voice vote would be acceptable. **The Resolution was approved by majority.**

4. Commissioned Ministers Polling

President Lange noted that new Standing Rule #13 allows for a group of our Commissioned Ministers to share their opinion on orders of business as they come to the floor. The results of the polling will be shared before delegate voting takes place.

15. SYNOD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Lange invited Synod President Matthew Harrison to the podium. President Harrison began by mentioning that the anniversary of the Augsburg Confession was coming soon. He stated that the Augsburg Confession tells us who we are and what we should be as a church. President Harrison offered some historical notes on the Confession. He stated, “Luther’s confession is our confession.” “We will stand before the judgement seat of Christ.” He then worked through the first eleven articles of the Augustana, offering brief commentary on each.

Article One – Who is God?

Article Two – What is Man? What is Sin? – Original Sin.

Article Three – Who is Christ? – We affirm the Ecumenical Councils of the Church.

Article Four – Justification – Saved by Grace, through faith. Declared not guilty!

Article Five – The Preaching Office – How is faith appropriated?

Article Six – We believe in Good Works – God doesn't need our works, our neighbors do.

Article Seven – There is a Church – Ceremonies are not necessary.

Article Eight – Church's Will – What the Church is.

Article Nine – Baptism – Baptism now saves us.

Article Ten – Sacrament of the Altar – Close / Closed / Close(d) – Pastoral Discretion

Article Eleven – Confession – Speak Forgiveness

Matthew went on to say that as followers of Christ, we are not missing anything. We don't need to be anything but what we are.

The President went on to speak of the many activities that are taking place in our Synod:

- National Missions – 70 Church Plants now in process. National Missions is “Rockin’ and Rollin’”, reaching out to Districts asking, “What do you need.”
- President Harrison spoke of church plants that are now in progress.
- The Executive position for Black Ministry Council is now the All-Nations Council.
- The Life Ministry Council is a blessing, assisting over 500,000 women, children, and men in crisis pregnancy situations.
- Disaster Response Council is actively working with local congregations. The Council Worked with Pacific Southwest District during the recent fires.
- School Ministries – Genesis Project – New School Start-ups
- Concordia Plans – Investigating the possibility of providing Property Insurance to congregations.
- National Lutheran Ministries – Bolivia, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Canada –Working to pull together our global partners – Ordaining three missionaries this week in Rome. We have a Church Plant in Rome!
- Commission on Theology and Church Relations – Working on a number of issues including a response to Rome.
- Rosters and Statistics reports that 36% of our members are adult converts. Half of our congregations have fewer than 50 people in church on a Sunday. Our churches are smaller than they used to be. Dual parishes are the reality of our future.
- Information / Situation / Relationship of Texas / Ann Arbor
- Synod Finances – Good!

After offering a prayer concerning the tornado damage in St. Louis and Concordia Seminary - St. Louis, President Harrison opened a time for Questions and Answers.

Several questions were brought forward by Delegates and Advisory members.

- Demon Possession in Madagascar
- Alternate Routes to Ordination to allow more men to serve
- Preparing men for Alternate Routes without adding an asterisk (comparison of one route to another)
- Church life expectancy after a certain point according to Rosters and Statistics.
- Has the President sent congratulations to Pope Leo? What does he see as the future relationship with Catholicism?

(Secretary's note – The President's answers were candid and in-depth. As such I do not feel that short of a word for word verbatim, I could accurately do justice to his presentation.)

President Harrison thanked President Lange for his work in our District and Synod and noted that President Lange is well thought of by the Praesidium. In closing, Matthew offered the Benediction. President Lange thanked President Harrison for his presentation and for joining us in Convention.

16. CONVENTION BUSINESS

1. In Memoriam

A video was shown In Memory of the CNH District church workers who were called to be with their Lord Jesus during this past Triennium. The video featured pictures and information on each worker.

2. Floor Committee One – Mission Within the District

Resolution #1-1 – “To Implement a Stronger Process for the Participation of Commissioned Ministers at future CNH District Conventions”

Rev. Alan Sommer was introduced as Chair of Floor Committee #1. Alan noted that the Floor Committees may have changed some of the wording in the Overtures from what was in the Workbook. He directed the delegates to the District Website for the updated Overtures. Alan asked Danika Neal, Commissioned Minister and member of the Floor Committee, to introduce the Resolution, reading both the Whereas statements as well as the Resolves.

The Committee moved to adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded. The Chair opened the floor for discussion. There was a “friendly amendment” offered to change the word “counted” in line 18 to “binding”. The amendment was accepted.

After further discussion, there was an amendment to strike all words in lines 12-15 beginning with the word “along” in line 12, and ending with the word, “conventions” in line 15. The amendment was moved and seconded. There was concern raised that there are other Advisory members that are not included in this Resolution. The Chair suggested that this should be considered further at another time.

There was no discussion on the amendment. Polling of the Commissioned Ministers was positive. The amendment to the Resolution was approved by a hand/voice vote.

Moving to the main motion and hearing no further discussion, the chair called for the vote on the resolution as amended. **The resolution passed with 83% of the votes cast.**

17. DISTRICT PRESIDENTS REPORT – PART TWO

President Lange stated that part two of the President's report would begin with messages from staff. A video was shown featuring some of the activities of the CNH Mission Agency.

Following the video, President Lange introduced the Executive Director of LINC – Bay Area, Aaron Putnam. Pastor Putnam talked about the activities of LINC – Bay Area. He stated that their mission is to “raise up leaders where they serve.” Aaron showed photos on the screen of several of these local missionaries that are currently working in local mission fields.

Joel Wahlers serves as the Assistant to the President for Education. Joel talked about the schools in the CNH District. He offered several statistics that can be found in his report in the Convention Workbook. Joel says that adequate staffing continues to be a major challenge, this is especially true for rostered staff. Joel shared a video featuring CNH school staff that came out of District Schools. He stressed that the way to help with the teacher shortage is to raise up students within our congregations to pursue one of the many ways available to become a Lutheran School Educator.

Joel offered background material regarding the District's Strategic Ministry Plan (SMP) that was passed at the 2022 District Convention. Joel worked through the components that make up the SMP. These are Mission, Vision, Values, Goals, and Strategic Initiatives. Together, Joel and the President went on to share some examples of how these components work together to serve the District.

President Lange followed by saying, “Where do we go from here.” He then offered this Mission Statement --- “We strengthen God's people to serve and bear witness to Christ.” Mike went on to lay out a path forward to bring that Mission Statement to life. This includes raising up leaders, supporting individual congregation's visions, working with Real Estate Solutions, and seeing congregations partnering together to enhance their ministries.

18. CONVENTION BUSINESS

1. Floor Committee Two – Mission and Action Beyond

Resolution #2.1 -- To Strengthen the Nonvoting Advisory Role of Commissioned Ministers at Synodical Conventions

The Chair of Floor Committee Two, Rev. Brian Cummins, introduced the Resolution by reading the Resolves. The committee offered the motion which was seconded. The Convention Chair opened the floor for discussion.

A friendly amendment was offered to strike wording in line 10 beginning with the words “along with” and all words to the semi-colon in line 13. The committee accepted the change.

The Commissioned Ministers poll was taken with 100% agreeing to the Resolution as amended. **The vote was taken on the resolution as amended. The result was 82.6% in favor.**

2. Resolution #2.2 -- To Support and Clarify the Prior Approval Process

Rev. Brian Cummins introduced the Resolution by reading the last Whereas and the Resolves. The Resolution was moved by the Committee and received a second. The Convention Chair opened discussion.

President Harrison spoke against the Resolution. There were several friendly amendments requesting grammar changes. The Chair suggested that this would all be corrected in the final draft. Rev. Andrew Jones stated that the Resolution was essentially seeking greater transparency in the process.

The polling of our Commissioned Ministers indicated approval. **The Resolution was approved with 85%.**

19. FRIDAY'S CLOSING DEVOTION

Rev. Berhanu Didanu, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Mercy Holistic Ministry, offered today's closing devotion.

Pastor Berhanu's remarks were based on Psalm 107 verses 1-9. He noted that Mercy Holistic Ministry speaks to the needs mentioned in verse 9 of the Psalm – *"For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things".* (ESV)

Mercy Holistic Ministry seeks to offer the "good things," both spiritual and material. "God fills and satisfies us, so that we can fill and satisfy others." Rev. Didanu closed with prayer.

20. REGIONAL CAUCUS

Convention Delegates were released to their Regional Caucus to participate in the nominations of their Regional Vice-Presidents and Lay Directors. Both slates will be presented to the Convention tomorrow for election.

21. FRIDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

Delegates and guests gathered for a time of fellowship followed by the Banquet.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. John M. Standley
CNH District Secretary

The 73rd Convention of the CNH District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Second Session Saturday May 17th, 2025

1. SECOND SESSION OPENING

President Michael Lange opened the session at 8:03 am. After the President offered greetings and opening remarks, he introduced Rev. Calvin Waetzig for the morning devotion.

2. MORNING DEVOTION

Pastor Waetzig opened the devotion with prayer and the singing of the hymn, “Holy, Holy, Holy. Calvin referenced his message for the morning to Psalm 24, *“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; (Ps. 24:1 NIV).* Rev. Waetzig worked through the Psalm, adding commentary along the way.

In conclusion, Calvin led the assembly in Luther’s Morning Prayer followed by the Lord’s Prayer, prayers for the convention, the church, and the world around us. He ended with the Benediction.

3. VIDEO

A joint video presentation from Ft. Wayne and St. Louis Seminaries was shown. Information was shared concerning recent tornado damage at the St. Louis campus. Several trees were uprooted, and stained-glass windows in the chapel of Timothy and Titus were damaged.

4. REGISTRATION REPORT

Registration Chair, Rev. Mark Oatman reported the following for the Saturday Session.

Pastoral Delegate	89
Lay Delegates	75
Total Voting Registered	164
Advisory and Guests	104
Total Registered	238

5. CONVENTION BUSINESS

1. Election of the Commissioned Minister – Board of Directors

Mrs. Christy Wood’s name was put forward by the Nominating Committee. The Convention Chair asked for nominations from the floor, hearing none, nominations were closed.

The election was carried out by Election Buddy. **Christy received 100% of the votes cast.**

2. Election of the Regional Vice-Presidents

The following list of nominees was submitted by the Regional Caucuses:

Rev. Robert Weller (Pacific)

Rev. John Standley (Northern)

Rev. Eric Van Scharrel (Southern)

Rev. Dan Truesdell (Hawaii)

Rev. William Abbott (Nevada)

The Convention Chair asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, and sensing no dissension, he asked if the delegates would approve by a raise of hands. The response to his request was positive. The vote was taken, and **the slate was elected.**

3. Election of the Regional Lay Delegates

The following list of nominees was submitted by the Regional Caucuses:

Gabriel Molina (Southern)

Lisa Mancini (Pacific)

Bill Swift (Northern)

Deanna Sako (Hawaii)

Marsha Egbert (Nevada)

The Convention Chair asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, and sensing that there was no dissension, he asked if the delegates would approve the slate by a raise of hands. The response to his request was positive, and **the slate was elected.**

4. Election for position in the Line of Succession to the Office of the President following the 1st Vice-President

First Round

Rev. William Abbott (Nevada)

Rev. Eric Van Scharrel (Southern)

Rev. John Standley (Northern)

Rev. Dan Truesdell (Hawaii)

Rev. Robert Weller (Pacific) -- 54.8%

Second Round

Rev. William Abbott (Nevada)

Rev. Eric Van Scharrel (Southern)

Rev. John Standley (Northern) – 50.6%

Rev. Dan Truesdell (Hawaii)

Third Round

Rev. William Abbott (Nevada)

Rev. Eric Van Scharrel (Southern) – 54.8%

Rev. Dan Truesdell (Hawaii)

Fourth Round

Rev. William Abbott (Nevada)

Rev. Dan Truesdell (Hawaii) – 51.3%

Final Results -- Line of Succession to the Office of the President following the 1st Vice- President

#2 - Rev. Robert Weller (Pacific)

#3 - Rev. John Standley (Northern)

#4 - Rev. Eric Van Scharrel (Southern)

#5 - Dan Truesdell (Hawaii)

#6 - Rev. William Abbott (Nevada)

5. Floor Committee One – Mission Within the District

Resolution #1-6 – “Affirming the CNH District’s Strategic Ministry Plan and Executive Summary Direction for the 2025–2028 Triennium”

Floor Committee One Chair, Alan Sommer, came to the podium to introduce the Resolution. Alan read the final Whereas and the Resolves. The Committee moved the Resolution for approval. The motion was seconded. President Lange called for discussion; hearing none, he called for the polling of the Commissioned Ministers which was in favor of the motion. The Chair received permission to use a hand / voice vote.

The Resolution was approved.

6. Resolution #1-5 -- To Encouraging Ministry Sabbaticals to Church Workers and Ministries

Committee Chair, Alan Sommer, read the Whereas statements as well as the Resolves. The Committee moved the Resolution for adoption. The motion was seconded. President Lange called for discussion; hearing none, he called for the polling of the Commissioned Ministers, which was in favor of the motion. The Chair asked for and received permission to use a hand/voice vote. **The Resolution was approved.**

7. Resolution #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

Rev. Sommer read the Whereas statements and Resolves. The Committee moved the Resolution for adoption. The motion was seconded. President Lange called for discussion. Mike spoke to the rationale for the Resolution. There was a question regarding the need for the resolution. The President responded that it was a way to offer direction to the Board. It would allow prospective candidates for office to know what they can expect if elected.

President Lange called for the polling of Commissioned Ministers. The poll indicated that they were in favor of adoption. Once again, the Convention Chair asked if this was something that could be accomplished by a hand/voice vote, the assembly agreed. **The Resolution was approved.**

8. Resolution #1-2 -- To Live Responsibly in God's Creation

Committee Chair Alan Sommer read the Whereas statements as well as the Resolves. The Committee moved the Resolution for adoption. The motion was seconded.

President Lange asked to remove the words in line 25, *"try to develop resource materials,"* and to replace them with, *"to identify resources."* There was also a friendly amendment to add a scripture reference (Micah 6.8) on line #15 after the words "God's word."

There were comments made concerning the depth of and reason for the Resolution. Rev. Stan Abraham spoke in favor of the Resolution.

Rev. Eric Van Sharrel called for the question to end debate. President Lange advised that the motion to end debate would require a 2/3 majority vote. The vote was taken by a raise of hands. The result was a clear indication to end discussion and move to the vote.

President Lange moved to the main motion. The polling of our Commissioned Ministers resulted in a 63% no vote on the main motion. **The response of the Voting delegates resulted in a 62.8% no vote on the main motion. The motion was defeated.**

6. CONVENTION ESSAYIST

Jeff Cloeter is the Senior Pastor of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri. Jeff is the author of *"Loved & Sent"* and blogs at sixthgen.com. He is married to Bobbi and father to Bella, Joshua, Emily, and Jacob.

Rev. Cloeter began by noting that things have changed; the last five years have been different. He said, *"We face a unique time that requires us to flex 'new muscles,' or old muscles that must be flexed to new degrees."* He continued with the introduction of those muscles:

#1 Relational Muscle – Jeff used a quote that he heard from Young Life Student Ministry. The quote states, *"You have to earn the right to be heard."* Along with that, he offered Acts 2:46-47 – *"And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved"* (ESV). Titles, like Reverend, don't carry the weight they once did. Today the shift has gone from positional authority to relational authority. *"Earn the right to be heard."*

#2 Collaborative Muscle – Rev. Cloeter stated, *"I believe that the future of the Church is multi-congregational."* In times past, congregations could "compare and compete." Lutherans would move from one church to another. Jeff noted that that time is past – "we're on the same team." The future of the church needs a "collaborative muscle."

“And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one; ²³ I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, (John 17:22-3 NAS)

“What is the first step you can take to collaborate?”

#3 Apprenticeship Muscle – The question we must ask is, who is next? There is an old saying, *“I can do the work of ten people, or I can train ten people to do the work.”* Apprenticeship is intentional, it is an investment.

#4 Naming Muscle – *“We must hone the ability to name reality accurately.”* We love to live in days past. “I remember when the church was full, I remember ---”. There is comfort in the good ol’ days. Things have changed; they’re not like they used to be. Today is where we live, we need to be able to name it rather than deny it. Rev. Cloeter asked, “Can you name the reality?” “Can you develop a response?”

#5 Sacrificial Muscle – *John Daly, the Golfer said, “That’s why I never get injured. You can pull a muscle, but you can’t pull fat.”* Western Christianity had priority and influence in society. It is easy to become lax, spoiled. Our Lord invites us, *“take up your cross and follow me.”* Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, *“When God calls a man, he bids him to come and die.”* Sacrificial love is the most powerful witness. The church is strongest when she sacrifices the most. “What are you willing to sacrifice?”

#6. Pentecostal Muscle – It tells us to Pray before Planning. It means Spirit over strategy. Psalm 85 – the psalmist prays, *“Revive us again, O Lord of our salvation.”* This is the Pentecostal Muscle. Rev. Cloeter noted that we are at a critical moment in the history of the church – a time of seismic change. Our muscles only have meaning when connected to the head, which is Jesus Christ. He is perfectly suited for this age.

Following his presentation, there was a time of question and answer.

7. CONVENTION BUSINESS

1. Video Orphan Grain Train

President Lange noted the work of the Orphan Grain Train within the CNH District. A video was presented from Orphan Grain Train highlighting their activities in our District and throughout the Synod.

2. Introduction of Pastors new to our District during this past Triennium

The names and assignments of pastors that came into to the District during this past triennium were read by President Lange and acknowledged by assembly.

3. Floor Committee One – Mission Within the District

Resolution #1-3 -- To Promote Lives of Christian Service

Committee Chair, Rev. Alan Sommer, introduced Resolution #1-3 reading both the Whereas statement and the Resolves. The committee moved for the adoption of the Resolution. The motion was seconded. President Lange called for discussion.

There was a friendly amendment to change the word “develop” to “utilize” in line #27. The change was accepted. There was a second amendment to change the word “fairness” in line #20 to “mercy”. The Convention Chair called for a vote on the change

due to the difference in meaning between the two words. The motion was accepted by a hand/voice vote.

The poll of the main motion by our Commissioned Minister showed 87% approval. **The vote on the motion as amended was approved by 67.5%.**

The assembly offered their appreciation for the work of the Floor Committees.

4. Installation of the District President

Preceding the Order of Installation of the District President, the Hymn “Go My Children” was sung by the assembly.

After the hymn, Synod President, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison installed Rev. Michael Lange as the President of the CNH District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod for his third term.

9. Installation of the CNH District Officers

President Lange installed the elected District Officers:

1st Vice-President

Regional Vice-Presidents

Board - Lay Directors

Board - Commissioned Minister

Secretary

Treasurer

Members of the Nominating Committee

8. Closing Worship

1st Vice-President, Rev. Mitch Gowen, introduced Pastor Dawit Bokre. Dawit offered a message of hope based on the Aaronic Benediction. At the close of Dawit’s message, the Doxology was sung twice, once with the melody alone, next with harmony.

Following the singing of the Doxology, President Lange closed the 73rd Convention of the California – Nevada – Hawaii District of the Lutheran Church Missouri.

Respectfully Submitted

**Rev. John M. Standley
CNH District Secretary**

2025 CNH District Convention Election Results

President: Rev. Michael Lange
First Vice-President: Rev. Mitchell Gowen
Secretary: Rev. Jared Eggebraaten
Treasurer: Mr. Donald Busse
Commissioned Minister: Dr. Christy Wood

Regional Vice Presidents (*#s indicate Line of Succession, following the 1st VP*)

Hawaii – Rev. Dan Truesdell (#5)
Nevada – Rev. William Abbott (#6)
Pacific – Rev. Robert Weller (#2)
Northern – Rev. John Standley (#3)
Southern – Rev. Eric Van Scharrel (#4)

Regional Lay Directors

Hawaii - Deanna Sako (Christ, Hilo)
Nevada - Marsha Egbert (Bethlehem, Carson City)
Pacific - Lisa Mancini (Bridge City, Redwood City)
Northern - Bill Swift (First, Placerville)
Southern - Gabriel Molina (Shepherd of the Hills, Lake Isabella)

CNH District Circuit Visitor Elections

Elected by Circuit Forums

#1 Rev. Lenny Szeto
#2 Rev. Matt Behrens
#3 Rev. Calvin Waetzig
#4 Rev. David Hardin
#5 Rev. Daniel Schlensker
#7 Rev. Andrew Munding
#8 Rev. Paul Schult
#9 Rev. Allen Steinbeck
#10 and #20 Rev. Andrew Simpson
#11 Rev. Daniel Truesdell
#12 Rev. Brandon Merrick
#14 Rev. James Beyer
#15 Rev. David Jung
#16 Rev. Richard Rice
#18 Rev. John Bestul
#19 Rev. Alan Sommer

Nominating Committee

Rev. Joe Robb, (Our Savior, Livermore, CA)
Kayla McGowan (Our Savior, Aiea, HI)
Daniel Hahn (Grace, San Mateo, CA)
Rick Fielitz (Holy Cross, Los Gatos, CA)

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WHEREAS, there are 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, Ministers of Religion—Commissioned are considered Advisory Members at District and Synodical 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 binding 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 currently in effect at this Convention on a trial basis; therefore, be it,

Resolved, that this process of having a preliminary advisory poll on appropriate, non-election, convention actions, as determined by the Chair, becomes 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

ACTION: X Adopted Defeated Recommitted X Amended

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1 **Resolution #1-3**

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3 **To Promote Lives of Christian Service**

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

7 WHEREAS, The Creeds teach that God is concerned about humans in our whole being
8 and creates, redeems, and sanctifies us for a life of service; and

9 WHEREAS, The church's ministry, centered in Word and Sacraments, leads Christians
10 to serve God and neighbor in wholesome relationships; and

11 WHEREAS, The mission of Jesus Christ must be expressed through our words and
12 deeds; and

13 WHEREAS, We believe that the Gospel is the only hope for changing sinful human
14 hearts; therefore be it;

15 Resolved, That we affirm the church's single ministry to the whole person; and be it
16 further

17 Resolved, That we commit to working for the restoration of all people to abundant life;
18 and be it further

19 Resolved, That we advocate for the alleviation of poverty and hunger, promoting justice
20 and fairness mercy for all; and be it further

21 Resolved, That we support values prioritizing people over things, persons over
22 programs, and human needs over economics; and be it further

23 Resolved, That we work to eliminate racist and discriminatory attitudes and promote
24 reconciliation; and be it further

25 Resolved, That we encourage God's people at all levels to engage in prayer, service,
26 and sacrifice to address world troubles; and be it further

27 Resolved, That the CNH District Human Care Committee ~~develop~~ utilize resources to
28 assist the people and ministries of the CNH District in living lives of Christian service.
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ACTION: X Adopted Defeated Recommitted X Amended

Resolution #1-4 (REVISION 1 5/12/2025)

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;

WHEREAS, a structured strategy leveraging RVPs and CVs as the primary relational connection between congregations and the district would be of great benefit; and

WHEREAS, That defining and communicating clear roles and expectations for RVPs and CVs, and positioning RVPs as relational initiators and CVs as local ongoing support would facilitate such structure; therefore be it

Resolved, that the CNH District implement an Initial Connection and Relationship Building plan; 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 finally

Resolved, That the CNH District establish a consistent communication and feedback process.

Submitted by

CNH District Board of Directors

ACTION: X Adopted Defeated Recommitted Amended

Resolution #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, DCEs, Lutheran School teachers and Commissioned Ministers available to fill a growing number of calls and to replace a growing number of retiring church workers; 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 the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen higher expectations placed on Church Workers with decreased participation and a steady decline in ministry settings, 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 Lutheran Church Extension Fund (through Grace Place
46 Wellness), to explore and promote healthier church workers and healthier ministries.

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Submitted By

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CNH District Board of Directors

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ACTION: X Adopted Defeated Recommitted Amended

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Resolution 1-6

Affirming the CNH District's Strategic Ministry Plan and Executive Summary Direction for the 2025–2028 Triennium

WHEREAS, the CNH District adopted the Strategic Ministry Plan (SMP) to guide its ministry efforts, organized around key goals: Connection and Collaboration, Leadership Development, Growing Ministries, Worker Wellness, and Resource Stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the SMP has provided a strong and effective foundation for strategic action across the District; and

WHEREAS, through prayerful visioning and evaluation, District leaders identified key strategic focus areas to help congregations, schools, and ministries respond faithfully to emerging needs and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the strategic focus outlines four critical areas of intentionality for the next triennium:

1. Movement Forward for Ministries: Equipping congregations and schools with clear pathways, coaching support, strategic partnerships, and realistic expectations to pursue sustainable ministry growth in their unique contexts;

2. Cultivating and Expanding Gatherings: Encouraging the creation of new gatherings and the strengthening of existing ones, reflecting the diversity of the District's communities in language, culture, and ministry style;

3. Leadership Development: Accelerating the identification, equipping, and support of diverse leaders — lay and professional, across generations — through mentorship networks, experiential training, and leadership mapping;

4. Mission Ventures: Supporting missional communities, schools, and nonprofits, with a goal of establishing at least six new mission outposts and two fully constituted LCMS churches

WHEREAS, these four initiatives are intended to overlay — not replace — the existing Strategic Ministry Plan, providing focused and flexible direction that builds on the SMP's goals while allowing for Spirit-led innovation and responsiveness; Therefore be it

Resolved, that the 2025 CNH District Convention affirms the Strategic Ministry Plan (SMP) as the continuing foundational guide for the District's ministry efforts; and be it further

Resolved, that the four strategic focus areas — Movement Forward for Ministries, Cultivating and Expanding Gatherings, Leadership Development, and Mission Ventures

— be utilized as guiding emphases for the CNH District’s work during the 2025–2028 triennium; and be it further

Resolved, that the CNH District Board of Directors, together with the District staff and leadership, be encouraged to utilize the SMP and the four crucial areas overlay to prioritize efforts, allocate resources, and encourage bold, prayerful ministry initiatives across the District; and be it finally

Resolved, that the CNH District commit itself to a posture of flexibility, innovation, collaboration, and faithful reliance on the Holy Spirit leading through the Word of God as it moves forward in mission together.

Submitted By

CNH District Board of Directors

ACTION: X Adopted Defeated Recommitted Amended

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

WHEREAS, Ministers of Religion—Commissioned are considered Advisory Members at District and Synodical Conventions, with a representative voice, but no vote, ~~along with other Ordained Ministers not eligible for selection as a voting delegate under Bylaws 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, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, has a legacy of promoting and supporting the role of non-ordained, full-time church workers with the establishment of Lutheran Colleges dating back to the 1800's, initially designed to train classroom teachers, which has now been followed through the creating of specialized training programs for other Commissioned ministry positions, as they have been established by the Synod; therefore be it,

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

CNH District Board of Directors

Page 35 of 59

Resolution #2-2a

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

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

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

4 *Final Resolved, Whereas* The CUS (Concordia University System) Web page (cus.edu)
5 which includes the Prior Approval Protocol for Regents; for Theology Faculty; and the
6 Selection of a College or University President be expand to include protocols for LCMS
7 Seminary.

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10 Submitted by

11 Circuit #7 CNH District
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14 ACTION: X Adopted Defeated Recommitted Amended

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

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- 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.

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201 **III.F. The District Secretary**
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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**

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

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

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

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

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

VI.F. Order of Elections

1. Election of the President

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

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

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

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

3. Election of the First Vice President

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

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

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

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

4. Election of the Regional Vice Presidents and Regional Directors

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

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

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.

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Convention Exhibitors

Name of Organization	City	State	Representative
Benicia Lutheran Church	Benicia	CA	Rev. Phil Kohlmeyer
CNH Disability Ministry Committee	Rio Linda	CA	Dianne Flynn; Fred Hammer
CNH Disaster Response & Human Care Committee	Livermore	CA	Phil Zabell; Marilyn Harri; Susan Contreras
Concordia Historical Institute	St. Louis	MO	Kristi Lange for Kristen Muehler
Concordia Plans	St. Louis	MO	Kim Hoover; Casey Carlson
Concordia Publishing House	St. Louis	MO	Cheryl Kelso
Concordia Seminaries	Ft. Wayne/ St. Louis	IN / MO	Tim Puls (CTSFW); Vicki Biggs (CSL)
Concordia University Irvine	Irvine	CA	Rev. Dr. Steve Mueller
District Table (Mission Agency; Education Department)	Livermore	CA	Renee Lawrence; Joel Wahlers
Five Two Network	Buchanan Dam	TX	Rev. Derrick Hurst; Randy Larson
Hmong International Mission	Circle Pines	MN	Rev. Dr. Fungchatou Lo; Kalia Lo
LCMS Foundation	St. Louis	MO	Brian Hyde
LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces	St. Louis	MO	Rev. Dann Ettner
Lutheran Bible Translators	Concordia	MO	Kyla Rodriguez
Lutheran Church Extension Fund	Lincoln	CA	Matt Molinari
Lutheran Heritage Foundation	Macomb	MI	Rev. Al Chai
Lutheran Hour Ministries	St. Louis	MO	Londa & Luther Skov
LWML CNH	Lockeford	CA	Roxan Schwab; Bev Vietor
Orphan Grain Train	Roseville	CA	Tom Watson
St. Philip Lutheran Church	Dublin	CA	Rev. Dave Ficken
The Center	Frankfort	MI	Dr. Robert Newton

2025 Convention Acknowledgements

Convention Logo:

- Conceptual Design: Anna Molinari, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Rocklin, CA
- Final Production Development: Matt Molinari, District VP, Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Convention Planning Committee:

Hospitality

- Kristi Lange
- Bill Swift
- Marcia Swift

Audio-Visual (including filming, film editing, and streaming)

- Rev. Josh Woodrow
- Doug Benton
- Matt Molinari
- Silas Perez

Registration

- Renee Lawrence
- Denise Lo
- Glenna Sanlis

Advisors

- Rev. John Standley
- Rev. Paul Ferguson, Jr.
- Rev. Mike Lange
- Joel Wahlers

Host of Thursday evening fellowship meal:

- The staff of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Rocklin, CA

Preparations for the Thursday evening worship service:

- Rev. Brad Cusson, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Rocklin, CA
- Rev. Marsh Shamburger, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Rocklin, CA
- Dr. Marco Mejia, Worship Arts Director, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Rocklin, CA
- Circuits 4 and 19 pastors

Closing worship:

- Rev. Mitch Gowen, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Aiea, HI
- Rev. Dawit Bokre, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hayward, CA
- Nancy Gowen, pianist, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Aiea, HI

Keyboard provided by:

- Rev. Jim Pevy, Peace Lutheran Church, Sacramento, CA

For facilitation of ElectionBuddy:

- Silas Perez, CNH District staff, Livermore, CA

Floor Committee Chairs:

- Mission within the District: Rev. Alan Sommer
- Mission and Ministry (Synod): Rev. Brian Cummins
- Structure: Rev. Stewart Crown
- Elections: Rev. Rob Weller
- Registration: Rev. Mark Oatman
- Nominations: Rev. Clarence Eisberg

Gold-level sponsorship:

- Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- Five Two Network, Buchanan Dam, TX
- Lutheran Church Extension Fund, St. Louis, MO
- The Center, Frankfort, MI