



BUILDING OUR HOUSE(S)
on the **ROCK**

CNH District Convention

May 5—7, 2022 | Newark, CA

Convention Supplement

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2022 CNH District Convention Agenda

May 5 – 7, 2022

Thursday May 5

- 2:00pm Registration Opens *Newark, CA Doubletree Hotel*
- 3:00 – 4:30 Floor Committees Meet
- 5:00 Fellowship, Welcome, and Dinner at Prince of Peace, Fremont, CA
- 7:30 Opening Worship with Communion (Prince of Peace)
(In Memoriam for Called Workers– triennium)

Friday May 6

- 7:00am Breakfast (*on your own*)
- 7:30 Registration Open
- 7:30 – 8:30 Floor Committees Meet
- 8:30 – 9:30 Open Hearings for Floor Committees
- 9:30 Delegate Orientation
- 10:15 Convention Opens
Opening Devotion
- 10:30 District President's Report, Part 1
- 11:15 West Coast District Partnerships
- 11:30 Convention Business (Voting)
- 12:00pm Lunch (Meal Package)
- 1:00 Greetings from Others
- 1:15 CNH Board of Director's Report
- 1:30 LCEF Report
- 1:40 Convention Business

- 2:00 Synodical President's Report
- 3:00 Q/A
- 3:15 Convention Business
- 3:40 District President's Report, Part 2 – (Strategic Ministry Plan)
- 4:20 "The Great Sending" (introduction)
- 4:30 Convention Business
- 4:50 Closing Devotion
- 5:00 Break for Regional Caucus
- 6:30 District Banquet
Banquet Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Newman – President, Texas District LCMS

Saturday May 7

- 7:00am Breakfast (Meal Package)
- 8:00 Opening Devotion
- 8:15 Convention Business
- 8:45 Convention Essayist: Rev. Dr. Michael Newman –President, Texas District
- 9:45 Convention Business
- 10:30 Greetings from Others
- 10:45 Convention Business
- 11:15 Closing Worship Service and Installations of District Officers
- 12:00pm Convention Adjourned



NOMINATIONS FOR DISTRICT OFFICES And Biographical Information

Regional Director – North (A)

Elisabeth A. Hovland (Circuit 14)

Faith, Ukiah, CA

Occupation: Retired secretary to high school principal, wife, mother and grandmother

District Offices: CNH LCMS Regional Director – North 2003-2006

Robert Ule (Circuit 14)

St. Mark, Santa Rosa, CA

Occupation (current and past): Corporate Real Estate Senior Manager for Facilities and Environment, Health, and Safety

Congregational Offices (current and past): St. Mark President, Vice President, Chair Board of Properties, Chair Board of Evangelism, Chair Board of Education, and President Our Savior Lutheran Church, Aiea, Hawaii

District Board Position (current and past): None

Armand Vattuone (Circuit 4)

Greenhaven, Sacramento, CA

Occupation: (current and past): Currently retired. Spent working years in wholesale sales, Lobbyist for California Chiropractic Association, worked for Chiropractic College from where I graduated with a degree in Chiropractic.

Congregational Positions: 2 terms as Congregational President. 6 years as Elder with 1 term as Head Elder.

Various committees including Call Committees

District Positions: Regional Lay Director CNH Northern Region 8 years ago.

Regional Director – Pacific (B)

Joan Hilse (Circuit 8)

Bethany Lutheran, Menlo Park, CA

Occupation: Retired. Previously an Electrical Engineer Manager at IBM and high school math teacher at Lutheran High in Los Angeles and Hong Kong International School.

District Offices: 2018-2022 Regional Director-Pacific Region.

Dan Hahn (Circuit 8)

Grace, San Mateo, CA

Occupation: Certified Financial Planner

Congregational Offices: President, Vice President, and Chairman of the Board of Elders, Evangelism, Adult Education, and headed a Pastoral call committee

District Offices: Representative at CNH LCMS District Convention in 1994 and 2022, Lay representative and Floor Committee at LCMS Convention 1995

Regional Director – Southern (C)

Don Young (Circuit 7)

Our Savior, Livermore, CA

Occupation: Product Planning, Marketing/Sales Executive in Auto Industry (General Motors/Saturn; Operations Executive in Technology Industry (Sun Microsystems and NetApp)

District Offices: 2020-2022 Regional Director – Southern

Regional Director – Hawaii

Lana Wold (Circuit 11)

Christ Hilo, Hi

Occupation: Retired Registered Nurse

Congregational Offices: Secretary, Evangelism Chair, Stephen Minister, Christ Care Leader

District Offices: Regional Director – Hawaii 2018-2022

Regional Director – Nevada

No Nominations Received

Treasurer

W. Lee Kucker

Grace, Modesto, CA

Occupation: Senior Vice President at Morgan Stanley 42 years (retired November 2021); Certified Financial Planner (CFP)

Ministry Positions: LHM’s National Leadership Council for SENT initiative; LHM Foundation Investment Committee; Cabinet for CONNECT initiative; President and board member for Oakdale, Union School Board, Rotary International, Medical Ambassadors International and Capstone Ministries-Kenya

Congregation position: Finance/Stewardship/Evangelism committees and Music Ministry; LHM “God Connects” teacher for new members and Co-leader of several study tours to Israel.

Donald Busse

Our Savior, Livermore, CA

Occupation: Retired Certified Public Account; President of the CNH District Church Extension Fund (2010-2016); Senior financial positions in several sales and marketing companies in the food industry; 10 years Coopers & Lybrand which merged into PricewaterhouseCoopers.

District Offices: CNH LCMS Treasurer (2021-Current)

Secretary

Rev. John M. Standley

Faith, Fair Oaks, CA

Occupation: Pastor Emeritus

District Offices: CNH District Secretary (2009-Current); Circuit 4 & 19 Chairman; Treasurer/Facilitator Fall Pastor’s Conference (2002-2009); St. Louis Seminary Representative for CNH District (2005-Present)

Congregations Served: Cordova, Rancho Cordova, CA (2000-2018)

Districts Served: California-Nevada-Hawaii

Board of Directors – Commissioned Minister

Jennifer Lee

Zion, San Francisco, CA

Occupation: Principal at Zion Lutheran School in San Francisco. CA. Teacher at Zion Lutheran since 2004, Called in 2012

Congregational Offices: Sunday School/VBS Teacher, Youth Group Leader, Church Wedding Coordinator, Member of leadership team to launch new family worship service, WASC Accreditation visits to support Lutheran & other Christian Schools,

District Offices: CNH District’s Schools Ministries Team (SMT) to support the role of the educational executive

Nominating Committee (One clergy; one commissioned minister; two laypersons)

Richard P. Fielitz

Holy Cross, Rocklin, CA

Occupation: Retired Past Chief of Staff – Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (DOI)

District Offices: Served at District Conventions for both California-Nevada-Hawaii and Rocky Mountain as delegate and on floor committees in CNH 2018 and Synodical Convention 2001.

Congregational Offices: Head Elder, President (multiple times at multiple congregations)

Dan Hahn

Grace, San Mateo, CA

Occupation: Certified Financial Planner

Congregational Offices: President, Vice President, and Chairman of the Board of Elders, Evangelism, Adult Education, and headed a Pastoral call committee

District Offices: Representative at CNH LCMS District Convention in 1994 and 2022, Lay representative and Floor Committee at LCMS Convention 1995

Clarence Eisberg (Clergy)

Redeemer, Fresno, CA

Occupation: Minister

District Offices; Circuit Visitor #15 conc, Chair of the District Youth Committee, Regional Vice President of the Southern Region

Congregations Served: Emmanuel, Fresno, CA; St. Paul, Merced, CA; Redeemer, Fresno, CA

Districts Served: CNH

Morris W. Stephens Jr. (Clergy)

Messiah, Citrus Heights, CA

Occupation: Pastor, Messiah, Citrus Heights, CA (2018- Present), Senior Administrative Pastor, Immanuel, Wahpeton, ND (2002-2014), District Board (Past) Chairman Division of Youth North Dakota District (2009-2012), Encounter Camp Director North Dakota District (2006-2014)

Education: Institution/Year Earned; Concordia, Seward, NE, BA Major: Behavioral Science, Minor: Biblical Languages 1998, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, MDIV Pastoral Ministry/Missions 2002

Circuit Position: Circuit 4 LLL Counselor 2018-2022, CA Southeast Circuit LWML Counselor ND

Community Positions: 5th & 6th grade Football Coach (2004-2006), 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach (2011-2012) ND, Summer Baseball Boys Coach (2-15-2016) CA

Synodical Convention Nominating Committee (Clergy)

Rev. Dr. Robert Newton

First Immanuel, San Jose, CA

Occupation: Pastor Emeritus; Seminary Professor; Parish Pastor; District President

District Offices: CNH District President (2003 -2018)

Congregations Served:

Rev. Martin R. Noland

Grace, San Mateo, CA

Occupation: Pastor, Grace, San Mateo, CA (2017-Present); Pastor, Trinity, Evansville, IN (2009-2017);

Director of Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, MO (2002-2008); Pastor, Christ, Oak Park, IL (1990-2002); Associate Pastor, St. John, Elgin, IL (1984-1986)

District Offices: LCMS Committee on Nominations (2016-2019); LCMS Committee on Convention Nominations (Jan 2016- July 2016); various minor committees for Northern Illinois District Pastoral Conference (1990-2002)

2022 Convention Exhibitors

Name of Organization	Address	City	State	Zip	Representative
Chime Master	PO Box 936	Lancaster	OH	43130	Steve Glaser
Concordia University Irvine	1530 Concordia West	Irvine	CA	92612	Rev. Bil Hood
Concordia Plans	1333 S. Kirwood Road	St. Louis	MO	63122	Brad James
Concordia Publishing House	3558 S. Jefferson Avenue	St. Louis	MO	63118	Elizabeth Pittman
Concordia Seminary	801 Seminary Place	St. Louis	MO	63105	Vicki Biggs
Disability Ministry Task Force	505 Ashwill Court	Rio Linda	CA	95673	Dianne Flynn
District Table (MA, Ed, LINC/Tesfai	2772 Constitution Drive	Livermore	CA	94551	Joe, Joel, Aaron, Tesfai
LCMS Foundation	1333 S. Kirwood Road	St. Louis	MO	63122	Brian Hyde
LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces	1333 S. Kirwood Road	St. Louis	MO	63122	Rev. Michael Beyer / Rev. Russell Dewell
Lutheran Church Extension Fund					Gail Kanneg
Lutheran Heritage Foundation	51474 Romeo Plank Rd	Macomb	MI	48042	Rev. Albert Chai
Lutheran Hour Ministries	660 Mason Ridge Center Dr	St. Louis	MO		Jason Fox
Lutheran Legacy Foundation	711 S. Main Street	Paris	IL	61944	Andrew Locke
LWML CNH	22865 Tuscan Avenue	Red Bluff	CA	96080	Martha Dubke

Overture # 1-01

**TO SET A GOAL OF ONE NEW MISSION/MINISTRY IN EACH
CIRCUIT BY THE 2025 DISTRICT CONVENTION**

- WHEREAS, the Strategic Mission Plan of the CNH District calls for (**need wording from the SMP**); and
- WHEREAS, the CNH District pivoted from District centric mission planting to congregational/circuit centric mission planting in 2006 (MAC program); and
- WHEREAS, there are mission and ministry opportunities and needs in every circuit of the CNH District; be it
- RESOLVED, that the Mission Agency develop and provide resources to help each Circuit and interested congregation evaluate and examine possible mission or ministry sites in their area; be it
- RESOLVED, that the Mission Agency provide training in mission/ministry planting; and further be it
- Resolved, that information on the CNH District Mission Grant and Loan System and other resources be made available to all Circuits and Congregations to assist the planting of the missions and ministries; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, that the CNH District set a goal of one new mission or ministry in each Circuit before the 2025 CNH District Convention.

Submitted by CNH District Board of Directors

#1-02

To Increase the number of students preparing for General Ordination by expanding the work of the Cross-cultural Ministry Center - CUI(CMC).

WHEREAS, God has greatly blessed the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and our global partner church bodies since 1839 with pastors educated and shaped by our wonderful Seminaries; and

WHEREAS, the seminaries of the LCMS are currently offering, beyond the residential Master of Divinity program, a variety of routes for pastoral formation which take into consideration the needs, desires, and context of the students, including the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT), Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS), Specific Ministry Pastors (SMP), SMP to General Pastor Certification (typically an 8 year program), the Residential Alternative Route, and the Cross-cultural Ministry Center (at CUI); and

WHEREAS, the congregations of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District – LCMS acknowledge that there is a growing need for well trained, general ordination pastors who are able to receive divine calls from congregations without restriction, provide supervision for other rostered church workers, supervise vicars, hold elected or appointed office on the district or national Synod level such as a Circuit Visitor, and vote as delegates at the Synodical conventions of the church; and

WHEREAS, pastors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are retiring in larger numbers than ever before and the number of men graduating from our seminaries is less than what is needed to replace these faithful servants and expand further mission and ministry; and

WHEREAS, most students in today's world of education expect that they will be afforded the opportunity to learn in a variety of educational methods (pedagogy) which include both online as well as in-person instruction; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Seminary St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne provide only residential, in-person, instruction for the general ordination route of the Master of Divinity; and

WHEREAS, it has become increasingly difficult and prohibitive for prospective LCMS seminary students to leave homes, family, employment, and ministry context to move cross-country to enroll in a four-year residential Master of Divinity program; and

WHEREAS, the Cross-cultural Ministry Center at Concordia University Irvine has, for 27 years, faithfully offered the only Master's-level degree in the LCMS with a hybrid model of online and in-person education leading to general ordination with certification through Concordia Seminary St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, enrollment in the Cross-cultural Ministry Center is currently limited by: 1) a cap on the number of students that can enroll in the program; 2) where those students are geographically located (typically LCMS Region 5-Western US); and 3) whether the student's ministry context is appropriately "culture crossing" enough to qualify for enrollment; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the California-Nevada-Hawaii District in convention give thanks to God for the faithful service of our seminaries and for all the various routes leading to ordination; therefore be it finally

RESOLVED, that the California-Nevada-Hawaii District memorialize the 2023 LCMS Convention to direct Concordia Seminary St. Louis to remove the current limitations for the Cross-cultural Ministry Center (number of students geographic allocations of students, and criteria for culture- crossing ministries) to enable more men to prepare for the pastoral ministry without having to leave their homes. Family, employment, and ministry context by way of its hybrid model of education (online and in-person).

Submitted by the CNH Board of Directors

#1-03

TO SEEK SOLUTIONS FOR THE CHURCHWORKER HOUSING CHALLENGE

- WHEREAS, the CNH District of the LCMS has seen a dramatic increase in cost of living (specifically housing costs); and
- WHEREAS many congregations no longer own parsonages or teacherages; and
- WHEREAS the CNH District is currently experiencing an increase in pastoral and commissioned minister vacancies; and
- WHEREAS calling congregations are struggling to offer housing options that would enable them to secure workers; Be it
- RESOLVED that the CNH District in Convention direct the President to create a Task Force to study solutions and options for congregations; and be it finally
- RESOLVED that the Task Force make its report no later than one year from the end of the District Convention.

Submitted by the CHN District Board of Directors

#1-04

MAKING THE CNH DISABILITY MINISTRY TASK FORCE A STANDING MINISTRY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS our Lord has made it clear that it is His Father's deepest desire that "[His] house will be filled," and to this end bids His messengers not to overlook those in society who are most over looked – the poor and people with various disabilities (Luke 14:21-23); and

WHEREAS people with disabilities that hinder their full participation in everyday society represent about 1 in every 5 persons; and

WHEREAS less than 10% of these with disabilities in the world are being effectively reached with the Gospel; and

WHEREAS for ten years the CNH District has had a functioning Disability Ministry Task Force to encourage congregations to make outreach to people with disabilities an intentional part of their total missional activity; and

WHEREAS the mission of this Task Force is *"to equip the Church to reach out, include, and encourage full participation of people with disabilities and their families in the life of Christ's Church"*;

WHEREAS such encouragement needs to be sustained among us until it becomes a fully established ministry emphasis; and

WHEREAS congregations need ongoing assistance in finding resources and existing models of ministry that will be helpful in developing a mature disability ministry of their own; and

WHEREAS the existing CNH District Disability Ministry Task Force is well positioned to offer such encouragement and resources, but can be enhanced in that role by being elevated to a standing ministry committee; THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the CNH District Disability Ministry Task Force be elevated to a standing ministry committee within the district administration; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED that its mission statement remain as stated above; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED that the current membership of the Task Force, who already serve at the behest of the CNH District President, constitute the membership of the new Disability Ministry Committee.

Submitted by: St. John's-Napa, St. Luke-Portola, Holy Cross-Los Gatos, Peace-Sacramento, and St. Peter's-San Leandro

#1-05

To celebrate the work of the Mission Training Center (MTC) and encourage congregations to make use of this excellent resource for their ministries

WHEREAS, the Mission Training Center (MTC) has, for 37 years, been training men and women in districts of the LCMS to serve in ministry alongside their pastors, and

WHEREAS, MTC has been a resource used by many districts to train Parish Ministry Assistants and Deacons, who served congregations as Licensed Lay Deacons, and

WHEREAS, MTC was effectively connected with the Northwest District-LCMS, and Concordia University, Portland until its closure, and

WHEREAS, the California-Nevada-Hawaii, Pacific Southwest, and Northwest Districts, in partnership with Concordia University Irvine, are now providing leadership and financial support for the continued work of MTC (based in PSD) to benefit congregations and districts across the Synod, and

WHEREAS, districts can no longer license deacons for congregation-based Word and Sacrament ministry because of a decision at the 2016 LCMS Convention, districts continue to support and certify the training of deacons, parish ministry assistants through the work of the Mission Training Center, supporting and equipping lay people to partner with their pastors for ministry and service within local congregations, outreach, church planting, and community service; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that individuals and congregations within the California-Nevada-Hawaii District renew their commitment to the Mission Training Center as a primary resource to prepare men and women for ministry in their congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the members of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District promote the use of MTC in their congregations, pray for the translation of MTC courses into other languages, and to become the go-to training platform with expanded offerings to host on-demand seminars and courses for elders, church treasurers, youth leaders, Sunday School teachers, etc. and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the California-Nevada-Hawaii District give thanks to God for the past, present, and future work of the Mission Training Center by standing in convention and singing the common doxology.

Submitted by: CNH District Board of Directors

#2-01

To Strengthen the Non-Voting Advisory Delegates Participation at Conventions

WHEREAS, Currently, there are 12,010 Ministers of Religion - Commissioned (Church Worker Update System - March 2021) who serve the mission and ministry of congregations, schools, child development centers, camps, Compassion centers, and mission work throughout the national and global mission fields; and

WHEREAS; The current structure of the Synod does not allow for a third category of voting delegates at district and Synod conventions (Synod Handbook: Article IX, Article XII.10.b); and

WHEREAS; The Synod highly values commissioned ministers for their eagerness to serve the Lord and His Church (2019 Resolution. 9-17, "To Study Voting Privilege in the LCMS" p.201 of 2019 LCMS Convention Proceedings); and

WHEREAS; Ministers of Religion – Commissioned are considered Advisory Members with representation, voice but no vote at conventions of districts and Synod, along with "those ordained ministers not eligible for election as a voting delegate" under Bylaw 3.1.2.1(d) ••.(p,101 Handbook 2019) with representation, voice, but no vote at conventions of districts and Synod; and

WHEREAS; At least one other district (Northern Illinois) utilizes the voice and guidance of their commissioned workers in district convention through a non-counted advisory member vote; and

WHEREAS; this honors the bylaw and structure of the Convention while allowing the Nonvoting Advisory Delegate voice to be heard and their vote recognized; therefore, be

Resolved, That the CNH District enable Nonvoting Advisory Delegates to provide a preliminary vote during its regular convention, and be it further

Resolved, That the results of the advisory vote be published prior to the delegate vote; and be it further

Resolved, That this become effective with the next District Convention in 2025, and be it finally

Resolved, That the CNH District in convention memorialize the Synod in Convention to pass a like-minded resolution.

Submitted by the CNH District Board of Directors

Required Change to the Articles of Incorporation

From Synod Secretary John Sias

(4) Relationship and asset disposition language in district governing documents

Bylaw 1.5.3.6 states requirements for relationship and asset disposition language to be included in the governing documents (normally in the Articles of Incorporation, but if such do not exist, in such other suitable document as may control) of all agencies of the Synod, including the districts. Many districts have already addressed this. If your district's articles do not contain the required language, now is the time to act to get them in order. The CCM report in the 2019 *Proceedings*, on p. 93, lists districts that were not, as of the date of the report, in compliance: "Six districts are not in compliance because they have neither the required relationship or dissolution language in their Articles of Incorporation, namely, the Atlantic, English, Rocky Mountain, SELC, South Eastern, and Texas Districts (the last of which has filed a request with the Board of Directors for an exemption under Bylaw 1.5.3.6). **Five districts are in partial compliance, having the necessary dissolution language but not the necessary relationship language, namely, the California/Nevada/Hawaii, New England, Nebraska, Northwest, and Southern districts.** Districts are reminded that when they amend their articles, this requires advance approval by the CCM and the changes must after adoption be deposited with the state in which they are incorporated. The form of articles to be adopted should also be checked ahead of time with competent counsel, to ensure that the state will accept the articles as they are to be adopted.

1.5.3.6 Notwithstanding anything in the Bylaws to the contrary, the Articles of Incorporation or other governing documents of each agency shall provide:

(a) That all provisions of its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the Synod in convention;

#2-02

To Amend the CNH District Articles of Incorporation

- WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.6 states requirements for relationship and asset disposition language to be included in the governing documents; and
- WHEREAS, The CNH District is in compliance with the Relationship language in its Articles of Incorporation; and
- WHEREAS The CNH District is not currently in compliance with relationship language required by the Synod; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That pending advice of legal counsel and after approval by the Synod Committee on Constitutional Matters, the following section be added to the CNH District Articles of Incorporation;

1.5.3.6 (a) All provisions of these Articles of Incorporation and associated Bylaws are subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention.

Submitted by the CNH District Board of Directors

#2-05

**To Accept Changes to CNH District Bylaws As Recommended by
Synod and District Commission on Constitutional Matters**

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the DCCM has submitted its recommendations to the CNH District Board of Directors (BOD) and these recommendations have been approved by the Board; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Voting Delegates of the 2022 CNH District Convention approve the changes recommended by the DCCM and approved by the CNH District BOD and direct that they be incorporated into the Bylaws of the CNH District by the District Secretary and; be it further

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

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

Submitted by the CNH District Board of Directors

See Attached CNH Bylaws with Proposed Changes

[MM1]

Bylaws

Revised
June 2018
Approved
By
Convention

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 and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are also the Constitution and Bylaws of the California Nevada Hawaii District of the same.~~ 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 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 *Handbook 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 corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Board of Directors.

3. The District Board of Directors shall:

- 45 a. As a primary function, generate and adopt declarations of desired outcomes which will give long-
 46 term direction to the District and its President, staff, and committees.
 47
- 48 b. In addition to generating and adopting declarations of desired outcomes, address broad levels of
 49 issues in policies of purpose and governance or constraints, leaving lesser levels to the discretion of the
 50 District President.
 51
- 52 c. Through the District President, and he through his staff and the District Committees, coordinate the
 53 work of the District in accordance with the District Mission Statement, the Bylaws of the Synod, the
 54 Bylaws of the District, the District Convention Resolutions, and the declarations of desired outcomes.
 55
- 56 d. Except for assignments of its own work (policies) to committees, consultants, or officers, delegate
 57 authority only to the District President.
- 58 e. Provide for an annual audit of the records of the District in such manner directed by the Synod and
 59 in accordance with its own policies.
 60
- 61 f. Provide for and oversee the bonding of all District fiscal officers and employees entrusted with the
 62 receiving and disbursing of funds, such bonds to be provided by a licensed bonding agency at District
 63 expense.
 64
- 65 g. Be empowered to review all activities of the District and its committees, and make binding
 66 decisions affecting them; this review may include, but is not limited to, the leadership, membership,
 67 purpose, or functions of any activity or Committee.
 68
- 69 h. Approve or disapprove the annual District Budget which the District President shall present.
 70
- 71 i. Be the authority to create and abolish Called positions and act as the Calling body on behalf of the
 72 District. The administrative details, including preparation of Call documents, may be delegated to the
 73 District President.
 74
- 75 j. Respond in a timely manner to any formal concern related to the Board's area of responsibility
 76 addressed to it by the President, Board members, committees authorized by the Bylaws or the Board,
 77 Circuit Forums, Circuit Pastors' Conferences, or Congregations of the District or organizations that are
 78 ancillary to the District or Synod..
 79
- 80 k. Appoint District Reconcilers as prescribed in the Synod Constitution and Bylaws Handbook. [MM2]
 81
- 82 l. Be the custodian of all property, records, and legacies of the District.
 83
- 84 m. Establish and provide for the maintenance of a headquarters called the District Office, which shall be
 85 the official address of the District. All official records of the District shall be kept at the District Office;
 86 any exceptions shall require approval of the Board of Directors.
 87
- 88 n. Present reports of its actions at all District Conventions and, if desired, propose recommendations for
 89 consideration by the District Convention.
 90
- 91 o. Be responsible to the District for its actions and the actions of all District Officers, Committees,
 92 agents, and employees.
 93
- 94 4. Members of the Board of Directors shall not serve as Chairs of District Committees; nor serve as
 95 members of the Nominating Committee; nor be on the District payroll.

96 **III.B. The District President**

- 97
- 98 1. The District President shall be Chief Executive ~~Officer~~ of the District.
- 99
- 100 2. The District President shall:
- 101 a. Be a Minister of Religion – Ordained and be on the roster of the Synod. He must be a member of the
- 102 District during his tenure.
- 103
- 104 b. Be a full-time executive.
- 105
- 106 c. Provide vision and direction for the work of the District, and, in compliance with the policies of the
- 107 Board of Directors, be the overseer of the work of the District.
- 108
- 109 d. In consultation with the Board of Directors, appoint all District Committee Chairs, who shall be
- 110 directly responsible to the President.
- 111
- 112 e. In consultation with each duly appointed Committee Chair, appoint a sufficient number of members
- 113 to each Committee to ~~insure~~ ensure its proper functioning (except for the members of the Nominating
- 114 Committee, which are elected by the District Convention, as required by the Synod Constitution and
- 115 Bylaws Handbook.²).
- 116
- 117 f. Be responsible for the proper functioning of all District Committees.
- 118 g. In consultation with other staff professionals and Committee Chairs, and in compliance with the
- 119 fiscal limitations established by the Board of Directors, be responsible for the preparation of the
- 120 annual District Budget.
- 121
- 122 h. In consultation with the District Board of Directors, contract for service sufficient professional
- 123 staff personnel to assist the Committees in the performance of their tasks, such contracts to be time
- 124 limited and coterminous with each term of office of the District President and such personnel to report
- 125 directly to the President, who shall be responsible for their proper functioning.
- 126
- 127 i. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors: to provide reports summarizing
- 128 his activities; to report his perceptions of the progress of District programs; and to receive counsel
- 129 from the Board.
- 130
- 131 j. Perform the duties and functions of office as prescribed in the Synod Constsitution and Bylaws
- 132 Handbook.³
- 133
- 134

135 **III.C. District Vice Presidents**

- 136
- 137 1. The First Vice President shall:
- 138 a. Be a minister of Religion – Ordained and be on the roster of the District.
- 139
- 140 b. Upon the request of the President, or as directed ~~by the Board of Directors or~~ by the District
- 141 Convention, advise, assist, or represent the President.
- 142
- 143 c. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.
- 144
- 145 d. Serve as Chair of the Board of Directors.
- 146
- 147 2. The Regional Vice Presidents shall:

- 148 a. Be ministers of Religion – Ordained, ~~and~~ be on the Roster of the District, and have membership in a
149 congregation of their represented region throughout their service .
150
151 b. Upon the request of the President, or as directed ~~by the Board of Directors or~~ by the District
152 Convention, advise, assist or represent the President.
153
154 c. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.
155
156 d. Be ~~elected~~ selected regionally, by caucus, at the regular Convention for no more than two consecutive
157 terms, with the slate presented for possible amendment and final ratification by the District Convention.
158
159 e. Not be ranked.
160
161 f. Attend at least one meeting of each Circuit Forum in his region each year: to provide reports
162 summarizing his activities and those of the Board of Directors; to report his perceptions of the progress of
163 District programs; and to receive counsel from the Circuit Forum.
164
165

166 ***III.D. The Regional Directors***

167
168 The Regional Directors shall:

- 169 a. Be lay persons.
170
171 b. Be members of District congregations and have membership in a congregation of their represented
172 region throughout their service.
173
174 c. Be ~~elected~~ selected regionally, by caucus, at the regular Convention for no more than two consecutive
175 terms, with the slate presented for possible amendment and final ratification by the District Convention.
176
177 d. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.
178
179 e. Attend at least one meeting of each circuit Forum in his/her region each year: to provide reports
180 summarizing his/her activities and those of the Board of Directors; to report his/her perceptions of the
181 progress of District programs; and to receive counsel from the Circuit Forum.
182

183 ***III.E. Director-Commissioned Minister***

184
185 The Director-Commissioned Minister shall:

- 186 a. Be a minister of Religion – Commissioned and be on the roster of the District.
187
188 b. Be elected at the regular Convention.
189
190 c. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.
191
192 d. Attend at least one District Educators Conference each year: to provide reports summarizing his/her
193 activities and those of the Board of Directors; to report his/her perceptions of the progress of District
194 programs; and to receive counsel from the Educator’s Conference.
195
196

197 ***III.F. The District Secretary***

198
199 The District Secretary shall:

- 200 a. Be a minister of Religion – Ordained and be on the roster of the District.
201
202 b. Perform all customary duties required and expected of a Corporate Secretary.
203
204 c. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors, record all proceedings, and within
205 fourteen days publish minutes of the proceedings to all members of the Board of Directors, all District
206 Officers, all Committee Chairs, all Parish Pastors, and all Congregational Presidents of the District.
207 Executive session proceedings shall not be recorded nor minutes taken.
208
209 d. Arrange for the preparation and publication of *The Convention ~~Manual~~ Workbook* and for its
210 distribution to all professional workers and congregations on the District roster and all designated
211 delegates at least 30 days before the opening of the District Convention.
212
213 e. Attend the District Convention and record all of its proceedings (assistants being appointed by the
214 President as necessary) and by July 1 following the District Convention publish the *Proceedings of the*
215 *District Convention* and arrange for its distribution to all professional workers and congregations on the
216 District roster, and all designated delegates.
217
218 f. In consultation with the District’s Committee on Constitutional Matters, publish revisions of the
219 District Bylaws as needed and arrange for their distribution to all professional workers and congregations
220 on the District roster.
221
222 g. Perform such other duties as the president or the Board of Directors may assign.
223

224 ***III.G. District Treasurer***

225
226 The Treasurer shall:

- 227 a. Be a lay person.
228
229 b. Be a member of a District congregation.
230
231 c. Administer the office in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the District Board of
232 Directors.
233
234 d. Ensure that the District President keeps an accurate account of and disburses District funds
235 according to instructions of the Board of Directors.
236
237 e. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors to monitor the financial health of
238 the District and to provide counsel to the Board of Directors.
239
240

241 **ARTICLE IV**
242 **THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES**

243
244 ***IV.A. In General***

- 245
246 1. District Committees shall:
247 a. Act on their own initiative within their approved budget limitations, and in accordance with the
248 Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, the Bylaws of the District, Resolutions of the Convention, and
249 policies which have been adopted by the District Board of Directors.
250

- 251 b. On a timely basis submit to the District President and Board of Directors: proposed Plans of Action;
252 projected costs; projected activities; lists of members; and minutes of meetings.
253
254 c. Determine their own need for professional staff support, such support to be provided as set forth in
255 III.B.2.h above.
256
257 2. Committee Chairs shall:
258 a. Report directly to the District President, who is responsible for her/his proper functioning.
259
260 b. Annually provide the District President and Board of Directors with a comprehensive, written
261 description of the progress of the Committee's programs.
262
263 c. Prepare a comprehensive, written report for submission to the regular District Convention.
264
265 d. Attend regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors, as required below (Article IV. B &
266 C.).
267
268

269 ***IV.B. Representation at Board of Directors Meetings***

- 270
271 1. Any Committee Chair may attend any regular meeting of the Board of Directors.
272
273 2. Any Committee Chair may be required by the District President or the Board of Directors to attend any
274 regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors.
275
276 3. Although Committee Chairs answer directly to the District President, they attend Board of Directors
277 meetings to report and to give and receive counsel.
278

279 ***IV.C. Mandated Committees***

- 280
281 1. **MISSION**
282
283 a. This Committee is responsible for coordinating and promoting the mission plans of the District and
284 supporting and encouraging the mission work of every congregation.
285
286 b. This Committee shall operate according to the CNH District Mission Agency policies and
287 procedures as adopted by the Board of Directors.
288
289 b.c. This Committee' shall coordinate with the Office of National Mission and, if applicable, the Office
290 of International Mission.
291
292 2. **HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES**
293
294 a. The Chair of this Committee may attend all regular meetings of the Board of Directors and any
295 special meetings, or when required by the District President or the Board of Directors.
296
297 b. This Committee shall:
298 i. Provide liaison for the Synod's ~~Board for~~ Office of National Missions.
299
300 ii. Provide Circuit level assistance in the field of social welfare, especially in coordinating Circuit
301 support for District-wide social welfare projects.
302

303 iii. Be responsible for giving guidance to the District in the area of social ministry.

304
305 iv. In consultation with the Congregation(s) or Circuit(s) involved, coordinate the work of specialized
306 Human Care Ministries (although each may have its own guiding committee).

307
308 ~~v.~~ Understand its tasks and function as being congruent with the Objectives of the Synod as set forth in
309 Constitution Article III and mission and ministry emphases of the Synod, as well as resolutions of the
310 District, as regard its area of work ~~those prescribed in the Synod Handbook.~~⁵
311

312 3. STEWARDSHIP

313
314 a. The Chair of this Committee may attend all regular meetings of the Board of Directors and any
315 special meetings, or when required by the District President or the Board of Directors.

316
317 b. This Committee shall:

318 i. Provide liaison for the Synod's ~~Board for~~ Office of National Missions.

319
320 ii. Assist and advise the local congregations in the development and promotion of an adequate
321 stewardship program.

322
323 iii. Promote special gifts and bequests of all kinds for all phases of the church's work, provided such
324 activities do not conflict directly with the Articles of Incorporation of the District.

325
326 ~~iv.~~ Understand its tasks and function as being congruent with the Objectives of the Synod as set forth in
327 Constitution Article III and mission and ministry emphases of the Synod, as well as resolutions of the
328 District, as regard its area of work ~~those prescribed in the Synod Handbook.~~⁶
329

330 4 CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

331
332 a. The Chair of this Committee may attend any regular meeting of the Board of Directors and shall
333 attend any special meeting of the Board of Directors, or when required by the District President or the
334 Board of Directors.

335
336 b. This Committee shall:

337 i. Provide liaison for the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters.

338
339 ii. Regularly review the Bylaws of the District, and draft proposed revisions which will keep them up to
340 date with current practice.

341
342 iii. Draft proposed revisions to the District Bylaws made necessary by changes in the Synod *Handbook*.

343
344 iv. Immediately after each Convention of the District, draft revisions to the District Bylaws to conform
345 to resolutions adopted by the Convention.

346
347 v. Review proposed revisions of the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws of District
348 congregations to insure that they conform to the Bylaws of the Synod and District ~~and to state law~~.

349 ~~v.~~

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

352

353 vii. Understand its tasks and function as being congruent with those of the Synod Commission on
354 Constitutional Matters, but with regard to the governing documents unique to the District ~~prescribed in~~
355 ~~the Synod Handbook.~~⁷

356
357 **5. HISTORICAL**

358
359 a. The Chair of this Committee may attend any regular meeting of the Board of Directors and shall
360 attend any special meeting of the Board of Directors, or when required by the District President or the
361 Board of Directors.

362
363 b. This Committee shall:

364 i. Collaborate with the Concordia Historical Institute and provide a regional representative for the
365 Institute.

366
367 ii. Gather and ensure the safekeeping of records and articles of historical importance to the District
368 and Synod and make them available to qualified researchers.

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

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

371
372 **6. NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

373
374 a. The Chair of this Committee may attend any regular meeting of the Board of Directors and shall
375 attend any special meeting of the Board of Directors, or when required by the District President or the
376 Board of Directors.

377
378 b. This Committee shall:

379 i. Be elected as part of each Convention's elections process, as prescribed in the Synod Constitution
380 and Bylaws Handbook.⁸

381
382 ii. Consist of one Minister of Religion- Ordained, one Minister of Religion- Commissioned, and
383 two lay persons.

384
385 iii. Nominate at least two candidates for each of the following elective offices: Regional Directors,
386 Director-Commissioned Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, and the (next Convention) *Nominating*
387 *Committee* (see above).

388
389 iv. Obtain the prior consent of nominees and publish brief biographical sketches in the
390 *Convention Manual*. Workbook.

391
392 **7. HISPANIC COUNCIL**

393
394 a. The Chair of this Committee may attend any regular meeting of the Board of Directors and may
395 attend any special meeting of the Board of Directors, or when required by the District President or the
396 Board of Directors.

397
398 b. This Committee shall:

399 i. Serve as liaison between Spanish language ministries and the District and its congregations.

400
401 ii. Assist in recruiting Spanish language workers.

402
403 iii. Assist Spanish language workers in their growth and development.

404
405 iv. Assist and advise the District and its congregations in the development of Spanish language
406 ministries.

407
408 ***IV.D. Special Committees***
409

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

413
414 **ARTICLE V**
415 **DISTRICT CONVENTIONS**
416

417 The District shall meet in Convention triennially prior to June 1 of the year preceding the Convention
418 of the Synod. In addition to provisions of the Synod *Handbook*⁹ Constitution and Bylaws regarding
419 Conventions of the District, the following regulations shall apply:

420
421 ***V.A. Delegates***
422

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

425
426 ***V.B. Committee Appointments***
427

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

430
431 ***V.C. Convention Manual***
432

433 1. The Board of Directors and all Committees of the District, as well as others desiring to bring their
434 work to the attention of the District Convention, shall submit their reports and recommendations to the
435 District President for publication in the *Convention Manual*. Workbook. These reports and recommendations
436 shall be in the office of the District President at least ten weeks prior to the opening of the Convention. The
437 District President, at his discretion, shall have the right to withhold certain overtures and unofficial reports
438 from publication in the *Convention Manual* ~~Workbook~~, referring them directly to the appropriate Floor
439 Committee as unpublished overtures and reports for its consideration. Overtures and unofficial reports
440 received later than two weeks prior to the opening of the Convention may be referred to the Convention at
441 the discretion of the District President.

442
443 2. One copy of the *Convention Manual* shall be supplied to each Minister of Religion – Ordained or
444 Commissioned, to each congregation on the District roster, and to such others as the Board of Directors shall
445 authorize.

446
447 3. The District President shall instruct the District Secretary to publish all the reports and overtures which
448 he supplies, together with the program of the Convention, an outline of the Convention essay, and the
449 District roster (this roster to include all congregations, all Ministers of religion - Ordained and -
450 Commissioned, all officers and Committees of the District and of the Convention). The *Convention Manual*
451 Workbook shall be mailed in time to reach the congregations at least one month prior to the opening of the
452 District Convention.

453
454 ***V.D. Convention Business***
455

- 456 1. All reports, resolutions, including those from Floor Committees, or other material not contained in the
457 *Convention Manual* shall be reproduced and distributed to the delegates prior to the opening of the session
458 in which these reports, resolutions, or other materials are to be discussed and considered.
459
- 460 2. Except for overtures, memorials, petitions, or resolutions, no materials appearing in the published
461 *Convention Manual* shall be read in their entirety on the Convention floor.
462

463 ***V.E. Proceedings***
464

- 465 1. The Secretary shall be responsible for publication of the *District Convention Proceedings* by July 1
466 following the Convention.
467
- 468 2. One copy of the *Proceedings* shall be supplied to each minister of Religion – Ordained or -
469 Commissioned, each congregation on the District roster, and such others as the Board of Directors shall
470 authorize.
471

472
473 **ARTICLE VI**
474 **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**
475

476 ***VI.A. Elected Officers***
477

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

481 ***VI.B. Term of Elected Officers***
482

- 483 1. The term of office for all officers of the District shall be for three years.
484
- 485 2. The term of office for the President, First Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Circuit Visitors shall
486 be without limitation to reelection. All other positions shall have a limitation of two successive terms. ~~One-~~
487 ~~half or more~~ More than one-half of a term shall be considered a full term under limited tenure.
488

489 ***VI.C. Pre-Convention Nominations for District President and First Vice-President***
490

- 491 Nominations for the Offices of President and First Vice-President shall be made in the following manner:
- 492 a. The Secretary of the District shall mail nominating ballots to each voting congregation no later than
493 eight (8) months prior to the Convention.
494
- 495 b. Each voting congregation of the District is entitled to nominate two Ministers of Religion - Ordained
496 from the roster of the Synod as candidates for the office of District President and two Ministers of
497 Religion – Ordained from the roster of the ~~Synod~~ District as candidates for the office of First Vice-
498 President.
499
- 500 c. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by two officers of the voting congregation and shall be
501 returned to the Secretary of the District no later than six months prior to the opening date of the
502 Convention.
503
- 504 d. The Secretary of the District shall tabulate nominations and report the names of all clergy receiving
505 three or more nominations in the *Convention Manual*.

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e. Candidates for President shall be the five receiving the highest number of nominating ballots from the congregations. In the event of a tie for the fifth position among the candidates, all names involved in the tie shall be listed as candidates, as prescribed by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws Handbook.¹⁰

f. Candidates for First Vice-President shall be the five receiving the highest number of nominating ballots from the congregations. In the event of a tie for the fifth position among the candidates, all names involved in the tie shall be listed as candidates, ~~as prescribed by the Synod Handbook~~.¹⁰

VI.D. Convention Floor Nominations

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

VI.E. Teller Committee

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

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.

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.

2. 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.

3. Election of the Regional Vice Presidents and Regional Directors

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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 according to the process used for nomination of First Vice President. as follows:

i 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.

~~b.~~ ii If no one has received a majority on the first ballot, 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.

c. In the Regional caucus, the Teller Committee will present the slate prepared by the Nominating Committee for the office of Regional Director; and 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.

d. 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.

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

4. 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 Handbook.¹¹

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 Handbook.¹²

VI.I. Vacancies

- 610 1. When the Office of President becomes vacant, or when the President is incapacitated, the Office shall
611 be assumed by the First Vice President. If less than six months of the term remains, he may serve out the
612 term in a part-time capacity. If more than six months remains, he must be willing to assume the position
613 full-time. If he declines, a new President shall be elected by the Board of Directors.
- 614 2. When the office of First Vice President becomes vacant, a new First Vice President shall be elected by
615 the Board of Directors.
- 616 3. Vacancies in any other elected office of the District shall be filled by Presidential appointment by and
617 with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors. In the event any officer of the District shall become
618 incapable of service, the Board of Directors shall relieve that person of his/her duties.

619
620 ***VI.J. Delegates to the Synod Convention***

- 621
622 1. Election of the delegates and alternates (voting) shall be as prescribed in the Synod Constitution and
623 Bylaws Handbook.¹³
- 624
625 2. Election of advisory delegates and alternates in the categories of Minister of Religion — Ordained and
626 of Minister of Religion — Commissioned shall be as prescribed in the Synod Constitution and Bylaws
627 Handbook.¹⁴
- 628
629 3. Selection of other District advisory representatives shall be as prescribed in the Synod Constitution
630 and Bylaws Handbook.¹⁵
- 631
632 4. Selection of the District's youth representatives shall be made by a District Youth Task Force, ~~as~~
633 ~~prescribed in the Synod Handbook~~.¹⁶

634
635 ***VI.K. Installation of Officers***

- 636
637 1. All District officers elected at the Convention shall be installed ~~prior to~~ on July 1 following the
638 Convention, or as soon thereafter as practicable. The President shall designate the installing officer and the
639 date, time, and place of the installation.
- 640
641 2. The President and other District Officers leaving office shall continue to hold the authority and
642 responsibility of office until July 1 following the Convention. The incoming President and other District
643 Officers shall assume office on July 1 following the Convention.
- 644
645 3. Any expenses of the newly elected officers related to assuming office shall be the responsibility of the
646 District.

647
648
649 **ARTICLE VII**
650 **REGIONS, CIRCUITS AND CIRCUIT FORUMS**

- 651
652 1. The authority to determine Regional and Circuit divisions shall rest with the District Convention, as
653 prescribed by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws Handbook.¹⁷
- 654
655 2. The purpose and function of each Circuit and Circuit Forum shall be as prescribed in the Synod
656 Constitution and Bylaws Handbook.¹⁸
- 657
658 3. Within two months after each District Convention, each Circuit Forum shall meet and elect such
659 officers as it deems necessary to support the Circuit Visitor who was elected by the District Convention.
- 660

661 4. Each congregation or multi-congregation parish shall be represented at the Circuit Forum at least by the
662 pastor and one member designated by the congregation, as prescribed the Synod Constitution and Bylaws
663 Handbook.¹⁹

664
665 5. Each Circuit Forum may submit overtures to the District Board of Directors as well as to Synod and
666 District Conventions, as prescribed by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws Handbook.²⁰

667
668
669 **ARTICLE VIII**
670 **AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

671
672 **VIII.A. Amendments by Direct Convention Action**

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

- 674 a. The change is not contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
675
676 b. The proposed change is presented to the Convention in writing.
677
678 c. The proposed material is specified as a Bylaw amendment and is studied as such by a Convention
679 floor committee.
680
681 d. The change is adopted by a majority vote by the Convention.

682
683 ~~e.~~ Changes proposed by the District are reviewed and approved in advance by the Synod's Commission
684 on Constitutional Matters (CCM).

685
686
687 **VIII.B. Amendment by Indirect Convention Action**

688
689 1. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be made when the District Convention shall have created new
690 entities without having established Bylaw provisions for them or when District Convention action
691 affecting these Bylaws has been taken without providing the necessary new texts.

692
693 ~~2.~~ Needed revisions to these Bylaws shall be drafted by the District Constitutional Matters Committee and
694 submitted to the next District Convention for approval, after first being reviewed and approved in advance
695 by the Synod's CCM. Further changes made without CCM approval will take effect only after such
696 approval.

697
698 **VIII. C. Amendment by Synod Action**

699
700 ~~1. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be made when action taken by the Synod's Convention shall have set~~
701 ~~them at variance with the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws.~~

702
703 ~~2. Needed revisions to these Bylaws shall be drafted by the District Committee on Constitutional Matters~~
704 ~~and submitted to the next District Convention for approval.~~

705
706 **When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly**
707 **directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendments may be made by a two-thirds**
708 **majority of the District Board of Directors. Such amendments shall be drafted by the District**
709 **Secretary and shall be reviewed in advance by the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters.**

710
711 **VIII.D. Publication of Bylaw Revisions**

712

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

All references are to the *2019 Handbook of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*, which contains the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the Articles of Incorporation of Synod.

- ~~1. Page 46, Bylaw 1.10.10, District Reconcilers.~~
- ~~2. Page 190, Bylaw 4.7, District Nominations, Elections and Appointments, Nominating Committee.~~
- ~~3. Pages 187-189, Bylaw 4.4, District Presidents.~~
- ~~4. Pages 136-137, Bylaw 3.8.2, Board for National Missions.~~
- ~~5. Pages 136-137, Bylaw 3.8.2, Board for National Missions.~~
- ~~6. Pages 140-142, Bylaw 3.9.2, Commission on Constitutional Matters.~~
- ~~7. Pages 190-191, Bylaw 4.7.2, District Nominations, Elections, and Appointments.~~
- ~~8. Pages 185-187, Bylaw 4.2, District Conventions.~~
- ~~9. Page 179, Bylaw 3.12.2, Nominations of President and Vice Presidents.~~
- ~~10. Page 195, Bylaw 5.2, Circuit Visitors.~~
- ~~11. Page 188, Bylaw 3.12.4, Nominations and Elections: Committee on Elections.~~
- ~~12. Page 99, Bylaw 3.1.2, National Conventions: Voting Delegates.~~
- ~~13. Page 101, Bylaw 3.1.3, National Conventions: Nonvoting Advisory Delegates.~~
- ~~14. Page 102, Bylaw 3.1.4, National Conventions: Other Advisory Representatives.~~
- ~~15. Page 103, Bylaw 3.1.4.6, National Conventions: Other Advisory Representatives.~~
- ~~16. Page 24, Bylaw 1.3.2, Synod Relationships: congregation, National, District, Circuit.~~
- ~~17. Pages 24-25, Bylaw 1.3.2 and 1.3.6, Synod Relationships: Congregation, National, District, Circuit; page 195, Bylaw 5.3, Circuit Forums; and page 196, Bylaw 5.4, Circuit Convocations.~~
- ~~18. Page 195, Bylaw 5.3.2, Circuit Forums.~~
- ~~19. Page 196, Bylaw 5.3.5, Circuit Forums.~~

Former Footnote 4 referenced Board for National Missions in connection with our Mission Committee. By 2018 that footnote was gone, and our Mission Committee (IV.C.1., Mandated Committees: Mission) has no footnote to the *Handbook* but only references the CNH policies and procedures. Because that footnote is no longer there, footnotes 5-10 need to be renumbered by taking one away from each, *i.e.*, 5 becomes 4, 6 becomes 5, etc.

#2-06

TO STUDY THE VALUE OF THE CURRENT MINISTRY CENTER

- WHEREAS, the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of the LCMS sought to expand and centralize the primary office for staff and district ministries by relocating from Grace Lutheran Church, San Francisco to their current offices in Livermore; and
- WHEREAS, the current CNH District offices are larger than necessary for the current mission; and
- WHEREAS, the CNH District of the LCMS has experienced changes in both staffing and the way ministry is conducted and
- WHEREAS, the District's primary mandate in its Bylaws is, "to challenge and assist congregations in their proclamation of the Gospel and ministry to all people;" and
- WHEREAS, the district is utilizing new means of ministry and care for congregations (i.e.; electronic); therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the CNH District in Convention direct the President to establish a task force to study if the current office meets both the present and future needs of the District in direct relation to it's primary mandate; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, that the Task Force give recommendations to the District Board of Directors as to possible solutions to best maximize ministry and stewardship for the sake of the Church in preparation for the 2025 District convention.

#3-01

To Consider Re-alignment of Objectives 1 & 2 for Synod Constitution Article 3

WHEREAS, in Scripture there is clear teaching about the mission and witness of the church given by our Lord Himself (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8), and

WHEREAS, in Scripture there is no official structure for the church or church bodies given, and

WHEREAS, the church is blessed when the mission of God is first in the hearts of its people, and a primary focus on official structure providing defense against schism, sectarianism, and heresy is, while noble, a departure from our first love, and

WHEREAS, Article III of the Constitution of the LCMS states:

The Synod, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, shall—

1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3–6; 1 Cor. 1:10), work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;
2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;...

WHEREAS, this is not the original order of our objectives but was shifted in the year 1917 when the Constitution was rewritten and the order was changed without specific convention attention to the order of Article 3

WHEREAS there has been a demonstrated deterioration in Mission outreach for the past fifty years

WHEREAS, a priority of “bold witness” applies to both those already gathered in the worshipping church and those who are yet to come to faith in Christ and will not impede an emphasis on bringing this witness with sound and pure doctrine.

RESOLVED, that the CNH District in Convention take note of and apply this priority and word and action

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the CNH memorialize the Synod in its 2023 Convention to return the “bold witness” and the mission of God to its rightful place as the first objective of a church of Christ dedicated to unity of the true faith which proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ into all the world.

Submitted by the CNH District Board of Directors

#3-02

**TO DELAY CONSIDERATION OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
SYSTEM RESTRUCTURING**

WHEREAS, the 2019 Convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod called for a Task Force to study and propose a reorganization of the Concordia University System, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force was organized and has proposed such a reorganization , and

WHEREAS, this proposal is built around the theology of the Two Kingdoms that distinguishes between the practical matters of an institution (Kingdom of the Left Hand) and the theological principles that form its foundation (Kingdom of the Right Hand), and

WHEREAS, this proposal allows the leaders in the Synod as those responsible for Kingdom of the Right Hand issues to exert influence that could hamper the leaders of the universities (their presidents and Board of Regents) in their ability to manage their Kingdom of the Left Hand responsibilities, and

WHEREAS, the proposal provides a significant voice of influence for leaders in the Synod over the institutions with virtually no accountability for the impact of that influence,

WHEREAS, this proposal is dependent upon an interpretation of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution that provides the leadership of the Synod with a significant protection from financial liability that is still under consideration by the courts, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the CNH District memorialize to the 2023 LCMS Convention to delay action on the recommendations of the Task Force, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Task Force would study and report on the closures of the three universities in the past five years before forming a new proposal.

Submitted by: River of Life – Dayton / CNH Board of Directors

#3-04

TO TRAIN GENERAL ORDAINED MINISTERS BY DISTANCE EDUCATION

WHEREAS, there is an increasing number of congregations who are unable to support a pastor and his family on a full time basis, and,

WHEREAS, the seminaries of the Synod have been unable to satisfy the requests from the congregations of the Synod for seminary graduates to serve them as ordained pastors, and

WHEREAS, there is a need for seminary training to address the variety of ministry contexts in which the LCMS is engaged in ministry, and

WHEREAS, there is an increasing gap between the need for general pastors to serve the ministry needs of the church and those who are available to fill such needs, and

WHEREAS, the LCMS has a history of variety in its training of ordained ministers (the practical seminary and the theological seminary of the 20th century), and

WHEREAS, academic training has taken advantage of technology to offer distance education and it has become a standard of delivering training in many contexts in our culture, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide training to those already serving ministries in other capacities, and

WHEREAS, the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center has provided many ordained ministers who are serving effectively across the Synod, and

WHEREAS, there is the opportunity for the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center and the Districts of the Synod to work together to identify ministry settings and candidates and to provide for their training while they serve alongside ordained ministers, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the CNH District memorialize the 2023 Synod Convention to identify the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center as a means to train general pastors for the Synod, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the seminaries of the Synod be encouraged to study how

to train general pastors by distance education, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the seminaries and the Districts of the Synod consider how they can work together to provide more general pastors for the mission of the Gospel.

#3-05

To Address the Lutheran Teacher Shortage and Low Teacher Salaries by Initiating a Student Debt Assistance Program for LCMS Commissioned Minister - Teacher

WHEREAS; our Lutheran Schools struggle to find rostered teachers to serve in the classrooms of our High Schools, Elementary Schools, and Child Development Centers¹; and

WHEREAS; research has shown that a primary reason for this is the lower salary offered for teachers within the Lutheran school systems; and

WHEREAS; Concordia Plans reported in 2021 that 27% of LCMS workers have student debt that averages \$46,000 per student; and

WHEREAS; The reality of Student Loan Debt is an important part of the decision to seek employment outside the Lutheran school; and

WHEREAS; it is a value that we fill our schools with rostered workers⁴; then be it

Resolved, That a National Lutheran Teacher Student Debt Assistance Program be developed that recognizes the service of Lutheran Teachers through Student Loan Debt Forgiveness, and be it further

Resolved, That a committee comprising of members of the Education Department of the Concordia University System, LCMS School Ministry, Concordia Plans, The Foundation, and the Council of Presidents develops the loan forgiveness process, and be it further

Resolved, That a special, designated offering to establish this program be taken during the National Lutheran Schools Weeks of 2024, 2025, and 2026, and be it further

Resolved, That reports of this work be provided through regular communications of the Synod, and be it finally

Resolved, that the California-Nevada-Hawaii District memorialize the Synod in Convention to adopt the National Lutheran Teacher Student Debt Assistance Program.

Submitted by CNH District Board of Directors

#3-06

**TO RECONSIDER THE USE OF LICENSED LAY
DEACONS IN WORD AND SACRAMENT MINISTRY**

WHEREAS, there is an increasing number of congregations who are unable to support a pastor and his family on a full time basis, and,

WHEREAS, the seminaries of the Synod have been unable to satisfy the requests from the congregations of the Synod for seminary graduates to serve them as ordained pastors, and

WHEREAS, Licensed Lay Deacons served effectively in the Synod from 1989-2016 (with a short pause), and

WHEREAS, the Synod has changed its position on the use of Licensed Lay Deacons in Word and Sacrament ministry a number of times during these years, and

WHEREAS, the Synod has affirmed its position that Word and Sacrament ministry must be carried out under the office of the Ministry, and

WHEREAS, the number of congregations facing shared ministry or potential closure continues to increase, and

WHEREAS, the present technological resources available to congregations make supervision of Licensed Lay Deacons by Ordained Ministers more accessible and effective, and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod affirms the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit calls people to faith in Jesus Christ and sustains them in that faith, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Synod in Convention establish a Task Force to reconsider the use of Licensed Lay Deacons in Word and Sacrament ministry within its congregations, and be it further

RESOLVED, that members of the Task Force specifically include Districts that have historically made extensive use of Licensed Lay Deacons in Word and Sacrament ministry, and be it further

RESOLVED, any use of Licensed Lay Deacons in Word and Sacrament ministry must occur under the direct supervision of an Ordained Minister, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the appointed Task Force study the document, Workers for His Harvest, submitted by the Northwest District Board of Directors following the 2016 Synod Convention, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the California-Nevada-Hawaii District in convention submit this resolution to the 2023 Synod Convention.

Submitted by the CNH District Board of Directors

#3-07

To Recognize and Thank the LCMS for the Strengthened and Expanded "Soldiers of the Cross" COVID-19 Response Initiative

WHEREAS; The Pandemic of 2020 shuttered schools in the middle of the school year, furloughed workers and caused others to pivot towards a digital presence for which they were unprepared; and

WHEREAS; Many of our teachers and school workers were without the additional tuition or budget income needed to support the immediate response to the transition and additional regulations that were placed upon them through the Centers for Disease Control and the Executive orders of local, state, and national government; and

WHEREAS; The need for compassionate support and financial assistance was great; and

WHEREAS; The Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod (LCMS) and The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) worked together to identify funds for immediate assistance for all who served in Lutheran ministries; and

WHEREAS; Many of our school and child development workers who were both rostered and lay benefited from this generous act of compassion; and

WHEREAS; As of September 2020 more than \$1,516,847 was awarded to 902 workers; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that on behalf of the workers of our Lutheran churches, schools, and centers the California-Nevada-Hawaii District in Convention publicly thank God for the generosity of His people, The LCMS, and the LCEF for supporting all who serve in our schools and child care centers.

Submitted by the CNH District Board of Directors

#3-08

To create a third pathway for general pastoral colloquy for members of LCMS congregations who have graduated with an accredited Masters of Divinity Degree from a Non-LCMS Seminary.

WHEREAS, God's Word call us to pray for additional workers in the harvest, "When he (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest;" (Matthew 9:36-37, ESV); and

WHEREAS, pastors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are retiring in larger numbers than ever before and the number of men entering our seminaries is less than what is needed to replace these faithful servants and expand further mission and ministry; and

WHEREAS, the congregations of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District – LCMS give thanks to God and celebrate the various alternate routes to ordination and pastoral ministry available in the LCMS, such as Specific Ministry Pastors (SMP), there is a growing need for general ordination pastors who are able to receive divine calls from congregations without restriction, provide supervision for other rostered church workers, supervise vicars, hold elected or appointed office on the district or national Synod level such as a Circuit Visitor, and vote as delegates at the Synodical conventions of the church; and

WHEREAS, there are pathways by which pastors, from church bodies outside the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, who meet specific criteria may secure admission to the ministerium of LCMS as general ordination pastors through Colloquy. This admission may be provided through a "colloquy" (discussion, interview) with the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry; and

WHEREAS, The Policy Manual for Admission to the Pastoral Ministry of The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod by Colloquy: Bylaws and Policies states that applicants for Colloquy must fit into one of two categories (the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry is responsible for the final determination of the category in each individual situation):

- Active Pastors from Other Christian Church Bodies: Men who, at the time of application are in good standing and in active service as pastors in another Christian Church body/denomination may apply for colloquy.

- Men who have prepared for pastoral ministry but, at the time of application, are not in active service as pastors: Such applicants must be graduates of a program of study that leads to ordination, from an accredited institution, with no fewer than 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of required academic credit. Applicants with prior pastoral service must provide the date (month and year) and the reason (e.g. retirement, resignation, dismissal) their active service ended. Such an applicant also must have been a communicant member in good standing in a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for at least two years immediately prior to the time of application. This category does not apply to LCMS members who while members of LCMS congregations have obtained Master of Divinity degrees outside the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, Men who have been long-time members in good standing in a congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, but are graduates of programs of study leading to ordination from an accredited institution outside the Lutheran Church-Missouri (meeting all the necessary academic credit requirements), are not afforded the same opportunity to apply for Colloquy, but must enroll in the Residential Alternative Route Program (requiring a two year residential academic program at one of our two seminaries and a one year vicarage) before becoming a general ordination pastor in the LCMS; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that because the need for additional pastors is so significant for the present and future mission and ministry of the congregations of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, that the California-Nevada-Hawaii District memorialize the 2024 LCMS Convention to create a third pathway for general pastoral colloquy that provides the opportunity for long-time members of LCMS congregations who have graduated from programs of study leading to ordination from outside the seminaries of the LCMS (satisfying all the necessary academic credit requirements) to become general ordination pastors by way of the Colloquy process, without enrolling in the Residential Alternative Route Program.

Submitted by the CNH District Board of Directors