



CNH
LCMS



Convention Workbook

John 15:1-3

Fruitful Branches

2025 District Convention

May 15-17, 2025 • Hilton Sacramento Arden West

HILTON SACRAMENTO ARDEN WEST
GROUND LEVEL

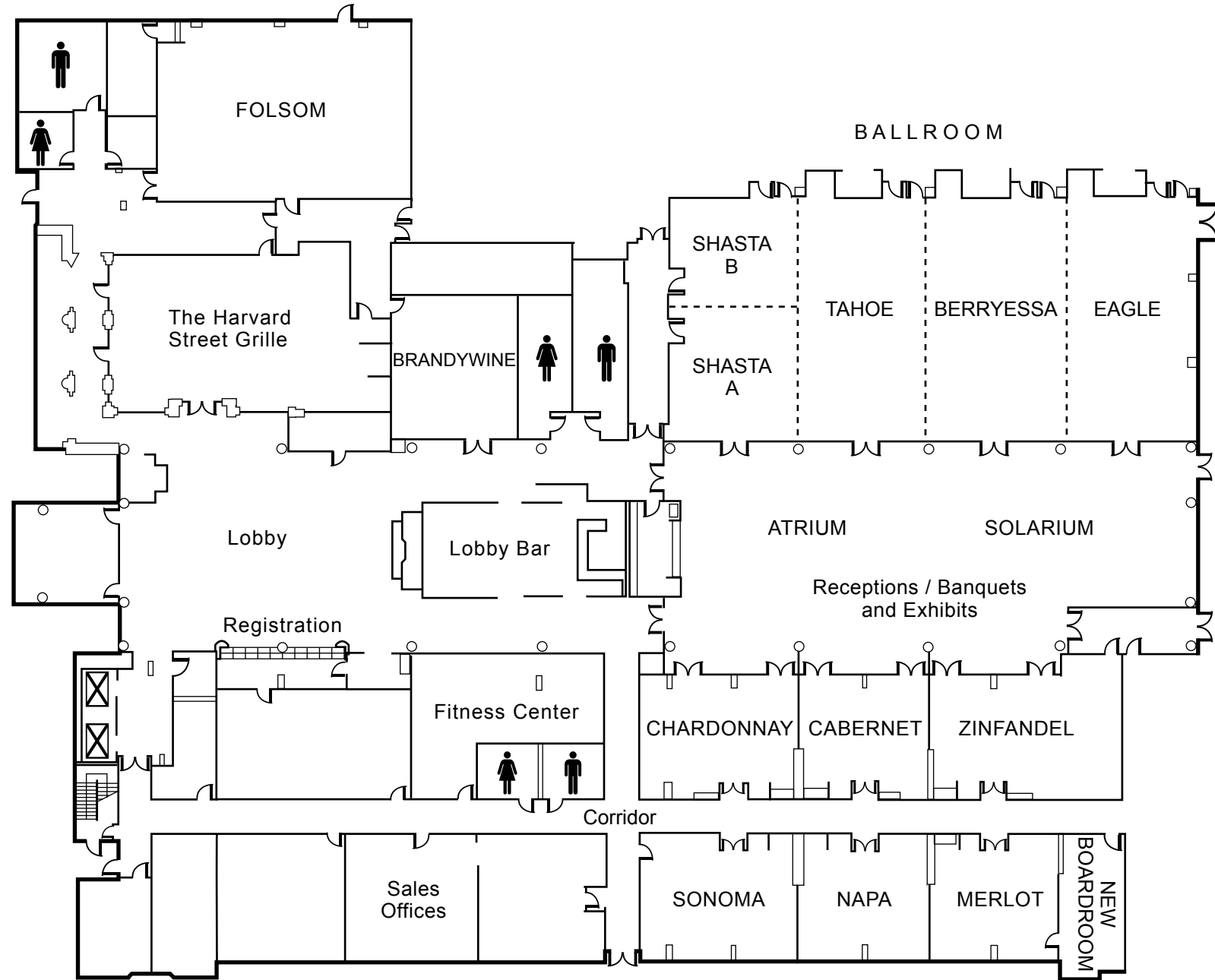


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PROPOSED SPECIAL STANDING RULES

1. The Chair shall see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
2. Resolutions of each Floor Committee shall be prioritized by number and shall normally be presented in sequence.
3. When recognized by the Chair, members of the convention shall state their name. They shall also state the congregation, District Committee/Board they represent.
4. A two-minute rule shall apply for all who speak from the floor and for the committee during debate.
5. Any voting delegate may call the question at any time so long as he/she addresses the chair for that purpose. A delegate may not speak for or against a resolution and then call the question. A 2/3 majority is required to close debate.
6. Voting will be accomplished by electronic devices
7. If a substitute motion is offered, the convention shall first decide by majority vote without debate whether or not to consider the substitute. The maker of a substitute motion, following a second will be given a maximum of two minutes to state the rationale for the motion before the delegates vote. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again before the house. (This is the so-called "Behnken rule" for dealing with substitute motions.)
8. Questions of privilege shall be addressed in writing to the Chair, or its appointee, instead of consuming convention time.
9. During the last two time slots for business, the President shall have the privilege of calling up for action resolutions that in his judgment must be acted upon by the convention before adjournment.
10. Resolutions not acted upon by the convention before adjournment die. The subject matter may be reintroduced at the next convention by means of an overture.
11. Preliminary minutes of the Convention proceedings will be made available to Convention Delegates within two weeks following the completion of the final session of the Convention. All corrections / concerns may be sent to the District Secretary within one week from the date the minutes are sent out. Formal approval of the minutes will be made by the District Board of Director at their June meeting.
12. The preface, preamble, and whereas sections shall be considered an integral part of the resolution or overture and, as such, subject to the same serious consideration and adoption in all its parts as the main motion itself.
13. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern parliamentary procedure.

2025 CNH District Convention Agenda

May 15 – 17, 2025

Thursday May 15

- 3:00 – 5:30pm Floor Committees Meet St. Matthew, Rocklin, CA
- 4:00pm Registration Opens *Hilton Sacramento Arden West*
- 5:00 Fellowship, Welcome, and Dinner at St. Matthew, Rocklin, CA
- 7:30 Opening Worship with Communion (St. Matthew, Rocklin, CA)
(In Memoriam for Called Workers– triennium)

Friday May 16

- 7:00am Breakfast (*on your own*)
- 7:30 Registration Opens
- 7:30 – 8:00 Floor Committees Meet
- 8:00 – 9:00 Open Hearings for Floor Committees
- 9:00 Delegate Orientation
- 10:00 Convention Opens
- 10:10 Opening Devotion
- 10:25 District President's Report, Part 1
- 10:50 Convention Business (Voting)
- 11:45 West Coast District Partnerships
- 12:00pm Lunch (Meal Package)
- 1:15 Greetings from Others
- 1:30 CNH Board of Director's Report
- 1:45 LCEF Report
- 1:55 Convention Business
- 2:15 Synodical President's Report
- 3:15 Q/A



- 3:30 Convention Business
- 3:55 District President's Report, Part 2
- 4:35 Convention Business
- 5:05 Closing Devotion
- 5:15 Break for Regional Caucus
Locations (TBD):
- Hawaii
 - Nevada
 - Northern
 - Pacific
 - Southern
- 6:15 – 7:00 Open Bar (ballroom)
- 7:00 District Banquet
Banquet Speaker: Rev. Jeff Cloeter

Saturday May 17

- 7:00am Breakfast (Meal Package)
- 8:00 Opening Prayer and Bible Study
- 8:30 Convention Business
- 9:15 Convention Essayist: Rev. Jeff Cloeter
- 10:15 Convention Business
- 11:15 Closing Worship Service and Installations of District Officers
- 12:00pm Convention Adjourned

Updated 3/31/25

CNH District Board of Directors

President: Rev. Michael Lange

First Vice President: Rev. Mitchell Gowen

Regional Vice Presidents:

Hawaii: Rev. Mark Zier

Nevada: (vacant)

Northern: Rev. Jason Bredeson

Pacific: Rev. Shiu Ming Lau

Southern: Rev. Eric Van Scharrel

Regional Lay Directors:

Mrs. Lana Wold

Mr. Stephen Streufert

Ms. Elisabeth Hovland

Ms. Joan Hilse

Mr. Don Young

Secretary: Rev. John Standley

Treasurer: Mr. Don Busse

Commissioned Minister: Dr. Christy Wood

Circuit Visitors

- 1 Rev. Lenny Szeto
- 2 Rev. Matthew Behrens
- 3 Rev. Calvin Waetzig
- 4 Rev. David Hardin
- 5 Rev. Daniel Schlensker
- 7 Rev. Andy Jones
- 8 Rev. Paul Schult
- 9 Rev. Allen Steinbeck
- 10 Rev. Joshua Brown
- 11 Rev. Mark Zier
- 12 Rev. Brian Cummins
- 13 (vacant)
- 14 Rev. Jim Beyer
- 15 Rev. Clarence Eisberg
- 16 Rev. Richard Rice
- 18 Rev. Robert Weller
- 19 Rev. Alan Sommer
- 20 Rev. William Abbott

District Committees

* = Chair

Constitutional Matters

Rice, Rev. Richard *
Maxner, Marilyn
Schneider, Rev. Don

DCE Advisory Team

de la Motte, Jennifer *
Geisler, Becca
Tougas, Julia
Mathison, Kevin
Wahlers, Joel

Disability Ministry Committee

Alvis, David
Bodine, Victoria
Byrd II, Rev. Otis
Flynn, Dianne*
Hammer, Fred
Hilton, Rev. Alan
Larson, Art
Mitchell, Sheila
Zimmerman, Elaine

Disaster Relief Awards Task Force

Arnold, Ken
Cummins, Rev. Brian *
Lancina, Deb
Lo, Denise
Markham, Rachel
Peacock, Lois
Zabell, Rev. Phil

Dispute Reconcilers

Back, Dr. Norman
Byrd II, Rev. Otis
Froh, Rev. Charles
Hertzberg, Laurie

District Accreditation Commission (DAC)

Davis, Melissa
Gaudi, David
Harger, Steve
Wahlers, Joel *
Wood, Christy

Early Childhood Directors Advisory Team (ECDAT)

Huang, Cynthia
Kennedy, Tania *
Waetzig, Lori

Human Care Committee

Arnold, Rev. Ron
Contreras, Susan
Harri, Marilyn
Hilse, Joan
Peacock, Lois (Parish Nurse representative)
Roberts, Dr. Carol (representing LSS-NorCal)
Zabell, Rev. Phil *

School Ministries Team

Anwyl, Evan
Cid, Jenny *
Knight, Julie
Lee, Jennifer
Wahlers, Joel
Mansfield, Erin
Mathison, Megan
Munsch, Dale
Kennedy, Tania

Student Aid and Recruitment

Berg, Peter
Fisher, Lori
Lo, Denise
Van Scharrel, Rev. Eric*

Updated 3/30/2025

CNH District Roster of Parishes

<u>City</u>	<u>Church Name</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Church Name</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>California</u>				<u>California</u>			
1 Antioch	St. Andrews	Southern	Voting	31 Daly City	Hope	Pacific	Voting
2 Arcata	LC of Arcata	Northern	Voting	32 Delano	LC of Our Saviour	Southern	Voting
3 Arroyo Grande	Peace	Southern	Voting	33 Dinuba	First	Southern	Voting
4 Atascadero	Redeemer	Southern	Voting	34 Dublin	St. Philip	Southern	Voting
5 Atwater	Holy Cross	Southern	Voting	35 El Cerrito	Grace	Pacific	Voting
6 Auburn	St. Paul	Northern	Voting	36 Elk Grove	Light o/t Valley	Northern	Voting
7 Bakersfield	Bethany	Southern	Voting	37 Exeter	Trinity	Southern	Voting
8 Bakersfield	Grace	Southern	Voting	38 Fair Oaks	Faith	Northern	
9 Bakersfield	LC of Prayer	Southern	Voting	39 Folsom	Mt. Olive	Northern	Voting
10 Bakersfield	St. John	Southern	Voting	40 Fremont	Prince of Peace	Pacific	Voting
11 Benicia	Benicia	Southern	Voting	41 Fremont	Mem'l Chapel f/t Deaf	Pacific	Voting
Fairfield	Trinity	Southern	Voting	42 Fresno	Peace	Southern	Voting
12 Berkeley	Bethlehem	Pacific	Voting	43 Fresno	Redeemer	Southern	Voting
13 Brentwood	Resurrection	Southern	Voting	44 Galt	Shepherd o/t Valley	Northern	Voting
14 Burlingame	Trinity	Pacific	Voting	45 Georgetown	Trinity	Northern	Voting
S. San Francisco	First	Pacific	Voting	46 Grass Valley	Grace	Northern	Voting
15 Burney	Faith	Northern	Voting	47 Hanford	First	Southern	Voting
16 Cameron Park	Light o/t Hills	Northern	Voting	48 Hayward	Good Shepherd	Pacific	Voting
17 Caruthers	Our Saviour's	Southern	Voting	49 Hayward	Oromo	Pacific	NCS
18 Chester	Our Savior	Nevada	Voting	50 Healdsburg	Good Shepherd	Northern	Voting
19 Chico	Redeemer	Northern	Voting	51 Lake Isabella	Shepherd o/t Hills	Southern	Voting
20 Chowchilla	Trinity	Southern	Voting	52 Lindsay	Mt. Olive	Southern	Voting
21 Citrus Heights	Messiah	Northern	Voting	53 Livermore	Our Savior	Southern	Voting
22 Clearlake	St. John	Northern	Voting	54 Lodi	Redeemer	Southern	Voting
23 Cloverdale	Grace	Northern	Voting	Valley Home	Saints John & Luke	Southern	Voting
24 Clovis	Emmanuel	Southern	Voting	55 Lodi	St. Peter	Southern	Voting
25 Colusa	Bethlehem	Northern	Voting	56 Lodi	Zion	Southern	Voting
26 Concord	First	Southern	Voting	57 Lompoc	Bethany	Southern	Voting
27 Concord	Holy Cross	Southern	Voting	58 Lompoc	Clear Promise	Southern	Voting
28 Corning	Mt. Olive	Northern	Voting	59 Los Gatos	Holy Cross	Pacific	Voting
Willows	First	Northern	Voting	60 Lucerne	First	Northern	Voting
29 Crescent City	Grace	Northern	Voting	61 Menlo Park	Bethany	Pacific	Voting
30 Cupertino	LC of Our Savior	Pacific	Voting	62 Merced	St. Paul	Southern	Voting

CNH District Roster of Parishes

<u>City</u>	<u>Church Name</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Church Name</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>California</u>				<u>California</u>			
63 Milpitas	Mt. Olive	Pacific	Voting	95 San Francisco	Christ for All Nations	Pacific	Voting
64 Modesto	Grace	Southern	Voting	96 San Francisco	Holy Spirit	Pacific	Voting
65 Monterey	Bethlehem	Southern	Voting	97 San Francisco	Shepherd o/t Hills	Pacific	Voting
66 Mountain View	St. Paul	Pacific	Voting	98 San Francisco	Zion	Pacific	Voting
67 Napa	St. John's	Northern	Voting	99 San Jose	Christ the Life	Pacific	Voting
68 Newman	St. James	Southern	Voting	100 San Jose	First Immanuel	Pacific	Voting
69 North Highlands	Zion	Northern	Voting	101 San Jose	Shepherd o/t Valley	Pacific	Voting
70 Oroville	Calvary	Northern	Voting	102 San Jose	Trinity	Pacific	Voting
Gridley	Grace	Northern	Voting	103 San Leandro	Hope	Pacific	Voting
71 Pacifica	Our Savior's	Pacific	Voting	104 San Lorenzo	Bethlehem Ethiopian	Pacific	Voting
72 Palo Alto	Trinity	Pacific	Voting	105 San Lorenzo	Calvary	Pacific	Voting
73 Paradise	Our Savior	Northern	Voting	106 San Luis Obispo	Zion	Southern	Voting
74 Paso Robles	Trinity	Southern	Voting	107 San Mateo	Grace	Pacific	Voting
75 Petaluma	St. John	Northern	Voting	108 San Rafael	LC of Resurrection	Pacific	Voting
76 Piedmont	Zion	Pacific	Voting	109 San Rafael	Trinity	Pacific	Voting
77 Pinole	Our Savior	Southern	Voting	110 Santa Clara	Redeeming Grace	Pacific	Pending Approval
78 Placerville	First	Northern	Voting	111 Santa Cruz	Messiah	Southern	Voting
79 Pleasant Hill	Faith	Southern	Voting	112 Santa Maria	Grace	Southern	Voting
80 Portola	St. Luke	Nevada	Voting	113 Santa Maria	LC of Our Savior	Southern	Voting
81 Rancho Cordova	Cordova	Northern	Voting	114 Santa Rosa	St. Luke	Northern	Voting
82 Red Bluff	St. Paul	Northern	Voting	115 Santa Rosa	St. Mark	Northern	Voting
83 Redding	Trinity	Northern	Voting	116 Seaside	Faith	Southern	Voting
84 Redwood City	Bridge City/Redeemer	Pacific	Voting	117 Sebastopol	Mt. Olive	Northern	Voting
85 Richmond	Mt. Zion	Pacific	Voting	118 Selma	St. Paul	Southern	Voting
86 Rocklin	St. Matthew	Northern	Voting	119 Sonoma	Faith	Northern	Voting
87 Rocklin	Holy Cross	Northern	Voting	120 Sonora	St. Matthew	Southern	Voting
88 Sacramento	Greenhaven	Northern	Voting	121 Soquel	Mt. Calvary	Southern	Voting
89 Sacramento	Peace	Northern	Voting	122 Stockton	St. Andrew's	Southern	Voting
90 Sacramento	Town & Country	Northern	Voting	123 Stockton	Trinity	Southern	Voting
91 Sacramento	Trinity	Northern	Voting	124 Susanville	St. Paul	Nevada	Voting
92 Salinas	Our Savior	Southern	Voting	125 Taft	Peace	Southern	Voting
93 San Francisco	Addis Kidan	Pacific	Voting	126 Terra Bella	Zion	Southern	Voting
94 San Francisco	Canaan	Pacific	Voting	127 Tracy	St. Paul's	Southern	Voting

CNH District

Roster of Parishes

<u>City</u>	<u>Church Name</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Church Name</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>California</u>				<u>California</u>			
128 Turlock	Good Shepherd	Southern	Voting	132 Watsonville	Trinity	Southern	Voting
129 Ukiah	Faith	Northern	Voting	133 Willits	St. John	Northern	Voting
130 Vacaville	Bethany	Northern	Voting	134 Woodland	St. Paul's	Northern	Voting
131 Visalia	Grace	Southern	Voting	135 Yuba City	First	Northern	Voting
<u>Hawaii</u>				<u>Nevada</u>			
136 Aiea	Our Savior	Hawaii	Voting	146 Battle Mountain	Christ	Nevada	Voting
137 Ewa Beach	Messiah	Hawaii	Voting	Winnemucca	Zion	Nevada	Voting
138 Hilo	Christ	Hawaii	Voting	147 Carson City	Bethlehem	Nevada	Voting
139 Honolulu	Good Shepherd	Hawaii	Voting	148 Carson City	Shepherd o/t Sierra	Nevada	Voting
140 Honolulu	Our Redeemer	Hawaii	Voting	149 Dayton	River of Life	Nevada	Voting
141 Kahului	Emmanuel of Maui	Hawaii	Voting	150 Elko	St. Mark	Nevada	Voting
142 Kaneohe	St. Mark	Hawaii	Voting	151 Fallon	St. John	Nevada	Voting
143 Kapaa	St. Matthews	Hawaii	Voting	152 Gardnerville	Trinity	Nevada	Voting
144 Wahiawa	Trinity	Hawaii	Voting	153 Hawthorne	Bethany	Nevada	Voting
145 Waikoloa	Waikoloa	Hawaii	Voting	154 Reno	St. Luke	Nevada	Voting
				155 Sparks	Our Savior	Nevada	Voting
				156 Yerington	Faith	Nevada	Voting

Blue = dual parish

156 Parishes; 162 active congregations

Status of CNH District Congregations in Transition

Church Name	City	State	Status
St. Paul	Artois	CA	Left CNH District & Synod, 5/2022
Shepherd of the Sierra	Coarsegold	CA	CNYC*
Faith	Daly City	CA	Merged w/ Hope, Daly City, 12/2024
St. Mark	Ferndale	CA	Transferred to English District, 9/2024
First	Greenville	CA	CNYC*
Grace	Hayward	CA	CNYC*
Immanuel	Jackson	CA	Merged w/ Zion, Lodi, 2/2024
Peace	Mill Valley	CA	CNYC*
First Trinity	Oakland	CA	CNYC*
Pilgrim	Oakland	CA	CNYC*
Grace	Pittsburg	CA	CNYC*
Grace	Round Mountain	NV	CNYC*
Bethel	San Francisco	CA	CNYC*
Grace	San Francisco	CA	CNYC*
St. Peter	San Leandro	CA	CNYC*
Rollingwood	San Pablo	CA	CNYC*
Resurrection	Santa Clara	CA	Merged w/ Redeeming Grace, Santa Clara, 8/2024
St. Mark	Sunnyvale	CA	Merged w/ Redeeming Grace, Santa Clara, 8/2024
Foothill	Valley Springs	CA	Merged w/ Zion, Lodi, 2/24
Trinity	Walnut Creek	CA	CNYC*
Trinity	Wasco	CA	CNYC*
Vineyard of Faith	Windsor	CA	CNYC*

*CNYC = Corporation Not Yet Closed

(These congregations are no longer worshipping; official closing paperwork is pending.)

Roster of Pastors

Last Name	First Name	Voting Status	Advisory Designation	Last Name	First Name	Voting Status	Advisory Designation
Abbott	William	V		Cleland	James	V	
Abraham	Stanley	V		Conrad	Daniel	A	M
Aldrich	Paul	V		Coyne	Jonathan	V	
Alvarado	Luis	A	EM	Crown	Stewart	V	
Anderson	Wayne	A	EM	Cummins	Brian	V	
Arnold	Ronald	A	EM	Cusson	Brad	V	
Asche	Stephen	V		Dabsu	Temesgen	V	
Bachman	Karl	A	EM	Debner	Adam	A	ASST
Balgeman	Frank	A	ASST	DeForest	Brennan	V	
Bass	David	A	EM	DeCol	Chris	A	EM
Becker	Stephen	V		Didanu	Berhanu	A	ASSC
Behrens	Matthew	V		Dirasse	Getabicha	A	EM
Beilstein	James	A	EM	Draeger	Harold	A	EM
Bell	Michael	A	CRM	Dube	Michael	V	
Benke	Michael	A	EM	Dubke	Dallas	V	
Berndt	Bruce	V		Duerr	Matthew	A	EM
Bestul	Dennis	A	ASSC	Eggebraaten	Jared	V	
Bestul	John	V		Eisberg	Clarence	V	
Betker	Bruce	A	EM	Ellis	William	A	EM
Beyer	Jim	A	EM	Erickson	Michael	A	EM
Beyer	Philip	V		Ettner	Dann	A	EM
Biar	Chad	V		Evans	Derek	V	
Blau	Timothy	V		Fantaye	Dereje	V	
Bliese	Karl	A	EM	Fennacy	Jim	A	ASST
Bokre	Dawit	V		Ferguson, Jr.	Paul	A	ME
Bothwell	James	A	EM	Ficken	David	V	
Bredeson	Jason	V		Fickenscher	Robert	A	EM
Brockman	Wayne	A	EM	Finger	Sylvan	V	
Brown	Joshua	V		Floyd	David	V	
Bugtong	Leonardo	A	EM	Flynn	Alan	A	EM
Burch, Jr.	Herbert	A	M	Fricke	Milton	A	EM
Byrd	Joseph	V		Froh	Charles	A	EM
Byrd II	Otis	V	ASSC	Garrity	Corey	V	
Cervantes	Jose	A	ASSC	Geach	John	A	EM
Chan	David	A	EM	Gebauer	Ethan	A	EM
Chan	Terrence	V		Geistlinger	Jack	A	EM
Chang	Corey	A	ASSC	Gerloff	Gary	V	
Chu	Bill	A	CRM	Glaspie	James	A	CRM

Key: A=Advisory; ASSC=Associate; ASST= Assistant; CH=Chaplain; CRM=Candidate; DP=District President; EM=Emeritus; M=Missionary; ME=Mission Executive; PR.EM=President Emeritus; TEA=Teacher; V=Voting;

Roster of Pastors

Last Name	First Name	Voting Status	Advisory Designation	Last Name	First Name	Voting Status	Advisory Designation
Glenn	Micah	V		Kliewer	Mark	A	EM
Gomez, Jr.	Andrew	V		Klotz	Gregory	A	EM
Gonzalez	Eloy	V		Knepper	Grant	V	
Gotfredson	Larry	A	EM	Koch	Mark	V	
Gowen	Mitchell	V		Kohlmeyer	Phillip	A	EM
Gross	John	A	EM	Koschmann	Andrew	V	
Hagebusch	Michael	A	EM	Kringel	Ray	A	EM
Halakhe	John	V		Krueger	Ed	A	EM
Harbaugh	Darren	V		Kuehn	Roger	V	
Hardin	David	V		Lai	Timothy	A	CRM
Harrell	Brenden	V		Lange	Jonathan	A	CRM
Hartman	Theodore	A	EM	Lange	Michael	A	DP
Heine	Mark	A	EM	Larsen	James	A	EM
Hempe	Kevin	V		Lau	Shiu Ming	V	
Hendricks	Dwayne	V		Lee	Khai	A	ASSC
Herrmann	John	A	EM	Lepper	George	A	EM
Hess	Russell	A	EM	Li	Freeman	A	CRM
Hilton	Alan	A	EM	Linehan	Nathan	V	
Hoff	Clinton	V		Ling	Timothy	A	EM
Hoffmann	Paul	A	EM	Mabry	Robert (Bob)	V	
Holt	Paul	A	EM	Mackereth	James	A	EM
Hosch	Edward	V		Mankin	Trevor	V	
Huber	Timothy	A	EM	Maschke	Jedidiah	V	
Hues	Daniel	V		Mason	Leroy	A	EM
Hurley	Tom	V		Matranga	George	A	EM
Huss	John	V		Matzke	Bruce	A	EM
Ista	Myron	V	EM	Merrick	Brandon	V	
Iwen	Jason	V		Metz	William	A	EM
Jacobsen	Scott	V		Meyer	John-Paul	A	EM
Jagow	Frederick	A	EM	Miller	Timothy	A	EM
Janke	Paul	A	EM	Milz	Norm	A	EM
Jones	Andrew	V		Mohr	Gary	A	EM
Jordan	Donald	A	EM	Molnar	S. Christopher	A	EM
Jow	Warren	A	EM	Moore	David	A	EM
Jung	David	V		Morales	Moises	A	ASSC
Junkin	Daniel	V		Morey	Jeffrey	V	
Karlen	Fred	V		Mueller	Jeffrey	V	
Klemsz	Scott	V		Mueller	John	A	EM

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Roster of Pastors

Last Name	First Name	Voting Status	Advisory Designation	Last Name	First Name	Voting Status	Advisory Designation
Muldowney	Brian	V		Rowe	Daniel	A	EM
Mundinger	Andrew	V		Rowland II	Robert	A	EM
Nagler	Stephen	A	CH	Russow	James	A	EM
Naito	Uchel	A	ASST	Sauer	David	A	ASSOC
Neff	Bruce	A	EM	Scharnitzke	Philip	A	CRM
Neider	Erik	A	CH	Schedler	Walter	A	EM
Ng	Christopher	A	ASSC	Scheer	Scott	V	
Nicholus	Robert	A	EM	Schepman	Timothy	V	
Noland	Martin	V		Scherer	Henry	A	EM
Norris Jr.	Thomas	A	ASSC	Schlensker	Daniel	V	
Oatman	Mark	V		Schmid	Michael	V	
Oliver	Harold	A	EM	Schmidt	Joshua	V	
Olson	N. Verner	A	EM	Schneider	Donald	A	EM
Padilla	Benseslado	A	EM	Schneider	Joshua	A	CH
Parsons	Jacob	A	CRM	Schrank	Benjamin	A	ASSC
Perry	Scott	A	TEA	Schufreider	Jeffrey	V	
Peters	Matthew	V		Schult	Paul	A	ASSC
Pevy	Jim	V		Schulz	Maynard	A	EM
Pierce	William	V		Sealey	Herman	A	ASST
Piescer	Michael		M	See	Soun	A	ASST
Piotter	Alan	A	EM	Self	Les	A	EM
Plath	William	A	EM	Seto	Lester	A	EM
Poganski	David	V		Shamburger	Marsh	V	
Prange	Anton	A	EM	Sharpe	Thomas	V	
Priest	Jonathan	A		Shaw	Vincent	A	CH
Prinz	David	A	EM	Simmons	Christopher	V	
Puscheck	John	V		Simpson	Andrew	V	
Putnam	Aaron	A	M	Sommer	Alan	V	
Rall	Bart	A	CRM	Sprague	Duncan	A	CRM
Reed	James	V		St. Pierre	Marvin	A	ASSOC
Rice	Richard	V		Standley	John	A	EM
Riley	Benjamin	A	CH	Steele II	Timothy	V	
Robb	Joseph	V		Steinbeck	Allen	A	CRM
Roberts	Robert	A	EM	Stephens, Jr.	Morris	V	
Rockemann	Joel	A	ASSC	Stohlmann	David	A	EM
Roma	Stephan	V		Sultze	Stuart	V	
Roschke	Paul	A	EM	Switzer	Matthew	A	CRM
Rose	David	A	EM	Szeto	Lenny	V	

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Roster of Pastors

Last Name	First Name	Voting Status	Advisory Designation	Last Name	First Name	Voting Status	Advisory Designation
Taye	Muluneh	A	ASSC	Whaley	John	A	EM
Teller	Nickolas	V		Whittaker	Mark	A	EM
Tesch	Philip	A	EM	Wikstrom	Mark	A	EM
Tesema	Tesfai	V		Willweber	Lloyd	A	EM
Tietjen	Walter	A	PR. EM	Windsor	Thomas	A	EM
Tomac	Steven	V		Woo	Daniel	V	
Toms	Richard	V		Woodrow	Joshua	A	ASSC
Truesdell	Daniel	V		Wrede	William	V	
Tuft	Jeffrey	V		Xiong	Doua	A	ASSC
Tyler	Marty	V		Young	Gregory	A	EM
Urena	Martin	A	CRM	Youngdale	Ronald	A	EM
Vallejo	Gabriel	A	EM	Zabell	Philip	A	EM
Vallejo	Juan	V		Zelt	Thomas	V	
Van Scharrel	Eric	V		Zerkel	Bradley	V	
Vang	Daniel	V		Zier	Mark	V	
von Schmidt	Aleksandr	V		Zimmerman	Theodore	A	EM
Waetzig	Kalvin	V		Zimmermann	James	A	EM
Weber	Jason	V		Zoch	Jonathan	V	
Weller	Robert	V		Zutz	Alfred	A	EM

Key: A=Advisory; ASSC=Associate; ASST= Assistant; CH=Chaplain; CRM=Candidate; DP=District President; EM=Emeritus; M=Missionary; ME=Mission Executive; PR.EM=President Emeritus; TEA=Teacher; V=Voting;

2025 ROSTER OF COMMISSIONED MINISTERS - Active Status

DCE - Director of Christian Education

DEA - Deaconess

DFM - Director of Family Ministry

DPM - Director of Parish Music

A - Administrator

T - Teacher

M - Missionary

ECD - Early Childhood Director

Sara	Agee	DCE
Evan	Anwyl	A
Corwin	Baden	T
Cara	Berg	T
Peter	Berg	A
Sarah	Berta-Somogyi	M
Sarah	Bishop	T
Heidi	Blank	T
Pamela	Boehle-Silva	DEA
Bethany	Bogle	T
Grace	Bradshaw	T
Elizabeth	Brose	T
Ellen	Burmester	T
Lani	Carson	T
Corey	Chang	DCE
Jenny	Cid	A
Morgan	Clifford	T
Joanne	Cook	T
Susan	Crutcher	T
Valerie	Dahl	T
Melissa	Davis	T
Jennifer	de la Motte	DCE
Clarence	DeLude	A
Paul	Duerr	T
Jane	Fairbank	A
Chole	Fletcher	T
Karen	Fujii	T
Mary	Garetson	T
R. David	Gaudi	A
Rebecca	Geisler	DCE
Betsy	Gewirz	T
Dawn	Godemann	T
Tamara	Golden	T
Nancy	Gowen	T
Amanda	Green	T
Rachel	Grenz	T
Carol	Halter	M/DEA

Kayla	McGowan	DCE
Lisa	McLaughlin	T
Kendra	McNatt	T
Courteney	Mecomber	T
Ryan	Melcher	T
Amy	Meyers	T
Roxanne	Mikelson	T
Gaye	Mockler	A
Matthew	Molinari	OTHER
Danika	Neal	T
Sharine	Neipp	T
Stephanie	Nelson	T
Mike (David)	Newton	T
Amanda	Parks	T
Mike (David)	Newton	T
Kari	Perna	T
Heather	Peyton	T
Zachary	Potratz	A
Kelly	Pudiwitr	T
Kristen	Ramirez	DCE
Cheryl	Rawlins	T
Joshua	Rempfer	A
Gayle	Renken	M
Ceres	Robinson	T
Taylor	Ruehs	T
David	Rueter	DCE
David	Schnurstein	A
Karen	Schroeder	DPM
Kristy	Schroppel	T
Tami	Seddon	A
Sarah	Selph	T
Maile	Sjostrand	T
David	Sleighter	T
Marla	Stein	T
Debi	Swenson	T
Mindy	Thews	T
Cynthia	Tillman	T

Steve	Harger	T	Matthew	Uffmann	T
Amy	Hoffman	T	Brian	Underwood	A
Eric	Hoffman	T	Matthew	Wahlers	T
Sarah	Hovatter	T	Joel	Wahlers	A
Cynthia	Huang	ECD	Kathryn	Weiss	T
Anna	Joslen	T	Lynn	Wheeler	T
Daniel	Junkin	T	Julie	Wilke	T
Andrea	Kaio	T	Brent	Williams	T
Zachary	Karges	T	Kelly	Williams (Engel)	T
Stephanie	Karolus	DCE	Diane	Wilson	T
Kyle	Klemp	A	Gina	Wilson	T
Heather	Klemp	T	Ashley	Wong	DCE
Jessica	Koen	T	Christy	Wood	A
Hannah	Krenz	T			
Jennifer	Lee	A			
David	Levy	DCE			
Dana (Lihau)	Lewis	ECD			
Brandon	Li	DPM			
Noelle	Madden	T			
Denise	Maier	T			
Mike	Mancini	A			
Jarvis	Manning	T			
Amanda	Manning	T			
Erin	Mansfield	T			
Leah	Martin	T			
Anna	Maschke	T			
Kevin	Mathison	DCE			
Megan	Mathison	T			

2025 ROSTER OF COMMISSIONED MINISTERS - Candidate Status					
DCE - Director of Christian Education			A - Administrator		
DEA - Deaconess			T - Teacher		
DFM - Director of Family Ministry			M - Missionary		
DPM - Director of Parish Music			ECD - Early Childhood Director		
Caleb	Akers	DCE	Marlys	Reisdorf	T
Bonniejo	Alle	T	Elisebeth	Rodriguez	T
Steven	Burke	DCO	Cyndi	Rothas	T
Melissa	Carr	DCE	Stacy	Sato	T
Marlys	Cartwright	T	Nathanial	Schober	DCE
Sharon	Connick	T	Arlene	Snyder	T
Katie	Dodd	T	Christine	Solheim	T
Melissa	Ebeling	T	Marla	Stine	T

Michelle	Esqueda	T
Anna	Foley	T
Madeline	Garrity	T
Michael	Hackbarth	T
Karen	Jacob	DCE
Sarah	Kramer	T
Natalie	Levey	T
Marybeth	Muldowney	DCE

Juliet	Thompson	DEA
Mary	Williams	DCE
David	Willweber	T
Marie	Willweber	T
Lindsey	Wilson	T
Rebecca	Wilson	T
Karen	Witte	T
Shelly	Worden	T

2025 ROSTER OF COMMISSIONED MINISTERS - Emeritus Status					
DCE - Director of Christian Education			LM - Lay Minister		
DEA - Deaconess			T - Teacher		
Patrice	Appold	T	Marv	Laurente	T
Vivian	Bauer	T	Marjorie	Luehrs	T
Mary	Beilstein	T	Norma	Lutzinger	T
Alice	Beltran	T	John	Mertes	LM
Susan	Bethke	T	Charlene	Milz	T
William	Bethke	T	Charlotte	Nale	T
Norma	Blank	T	Ruth	O'Keefe	T
Norm	Brauer	T	Myra	Patterson	T
Fred	Brauer	T	Lorine	Pelletier	T
Irene	Campbell	DEA	Marcy	Reginelli	T
Jill	Clapp	T	Ann Marie	Rehbein	DEA
Ken	Colyer	T	Celeste	Remmert	T
Anne	Devlin	T	Lindamarie	Rosier	T
Sandy	Eitel	T	Lydia	Schroeder	T
Edward	Eskilson	T	Jack	Senter	LM
Stephen	Glock	T	Laura	Simon	T
J R	Golden	T	Debra	Stanhope	T
Mary	Gundelach	T	Pam	Steiner	T
Ellen	Hackerd	T	Kathy	Stinson	T
Aenne	Hagenlocher	T	Ed	Stinson	T
Jackie	Haug-Schulz	DEA	Ruth	Tesch	T
William	Heinicke	T	Larry	Tietmeyer	T
Ruth	Heinitz	T	Janice	Williams	T
John	Heinitz	T	Sharon	Willweber	T
Dick	Homann	T	Donna	Woods	T
Gerald	Janssen	T	Emilie	Zimbrick	T
Arlene	Janssen	T	Charles	Zimbrick	T
Lonnie	Karges	A	Elaine	Zimmerman	T
Donald	Kell	T	Nora	Zinnel	T

Doris	Klein	T			
Charles	Klein	T			
Diane	Knott	T			
Roger	Kottwitz	T			
Dave	Kretzmann	T			
Randy	Kuchenbecker	T			
Marla	Kuefner	T			
Nancy	Kunert	T			

District President's Report

Dear Saints within the CNH District, blessed branches connected to the one true vine,

We are creatures formed by our own experience. Two years ago, when first wrestling with the passage that is our convention theme verse, I had in mind two different experiences from my own past that I thought could apply to this year's Convention theme: *"Fruitful Branches, Pruned for Growth."* The first was a memory from childhood, as I tended to the many tomato plants that were grown in the Lange family garden each year (as much as twenty or more). One job was to spot and pinch off the "suckers" from the plants. These were shoots off the tomato vine that would never flower or bear fruit. They were non-productive growth that needed to be removed. The second remembrance was from my attempts to prune and shape the trees and shrubs around our home each year. Kristi referred to my attempts as a *hack job*. I was overly focused on trimming, cutting, and discarding. My understanding of spiritual pruning and its purposes was incomplete. God does not discard his beloved as a throw away or dead wood; rather, he prunes with specific purpose that fruitfulness may not only be "good" but rather "better" or even "best."

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word I have spoken to you."

John 15:1-3

During the initial portion of my president's address and our time together, we will dig into this passage and its context with the assistance of Cindy Steinbeck, a trained LCMS DCE who has studied, written, and spoken on this subject from her long-term life experience with vines, vineyards, and their fruit. There are three important points I want to plant with you as we ready ourselves for this time of growth and alignment at our convention.

- "Already you are clean, because of the word I have spoken to you." Jesus does not leave his disciples, nor does he leave his church today in fear of being cut off and discarded. We are clean because of the word that calls us into faith and cleanses us from our sin.
- Branches that bear the fruits of faith are pruned. Why? Aren't they already bearing fruit? His desire is that they would bear even more fruit. He desires that which is "good" to become "better" or "best."
- Jesus is the true vine. His father is the vinedresser. Jesus continues to explain that the ability to bear fruit happens as the branches (us) abide in the vine (Jesus). We don't prune ourselves. The vinedresser does this. Fruit is borne when we are abiding in the vine.

I hope you will be blessed as we have a chance to grow together at this convention and encourage each other as "Faithful Branches Pruned for Growth."

People and Appreciation

We have had many “fruitful branches” who have walked alongside our CNH District in effective leadership over these past three years. *Thank you for being about the work* God has given us to do together as the people, leaders, professional workers, congregations, and institutions of the CNH District. “You are already clean” because of the identifying and redeeming word of Christ that has been spoken to you. You are clean because of his redemption at work in your life. You are resurrected with him each day as you rise to the newest of life. This truth is spoken to us in the word and worked by Jesus, the WORD. You bear the life-saving word to those gathered and those yet to be gathered, asking God that they would be drawn into the faith, confessing, bearing fruit, and learning to abide in Christ.

We praise God for our Circuit Visitors who have served sacrificially, not only their own congregations, but the needs of the greater church around them. They are the faithful first line representatives both to our pastors and to the leaders of the CNH congregations. Our CNH Board of Directors, under the leadership of our chairman, Rev. Mitch Gowen, is a blessing to my office. They have sought to provide an environment that allows the District as a whole to be fruitful. We thank God for our regional vice presidents and lay directors and all the members of our CNH Board of Directors who govern and advise ably and well, representing our congregations and engaging with my office so that we pursue a path aligned with Christ’s mission all together. We seek to abide in him, dear brothers and sisters. He has promised to abide in each of us.

I am blessed with the stability of our staff. Glenna Sanlis serves as the District President’s Administrative Assistant. She has served in the District for the past 12 years: with our former CNH CEF, CNH District Missions, and now in the President’s office. She is a valuable resource to me and to all of you.

Providing our district a stable operational foundation is Denise Lo, our Executive Director of Operations. She has served in the district office for 30 years steadily growing into her executive responsibilities. These include business and real estate management, Human Resources and General Operations. She carefully and faithfully manages God’s resources.

Mr. Joel Wahlers, Assistant to the President: Schools and Congregational Support, has served many years in our District as an administrator and called commissioned minister at St. John’s in Napa. We have learned and appreciate how we complement one another. Joel oversees our educational and commissioned ministry roster and pours into our congregational leadership, specifically in the areas of church governance and worker health. He was the primary leader for our Fall All Workers Conference.

Kathryn Plott is our bookkeeper and has worked with us for more than 12 years. She is a faithful and helpful servant, now serving part-time. There are two other part-time workers whom we are blessed to retain their services: Doug Benton, who has been managing online communication for 11 years, and Matt Newton, serving 8 years as the “InTouch” editor. They communicate clearly God’s abiding power, which enlivens his people.

We thank God for those who completed their time of service this triennium. Pastor Joseph Robb served as Executive Assistant to the President in Mission Leadership. He effectively did the work of connection, encouragement, and facilitated healthy relationships. He sought to challenge and give opportunity for God’s people to be in Mission. In the timing of his arrival,

just prior to the pandemic, we see God's wisdom in bringing Pastor Robb to us when he did! Joe now serves as the Senior Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries in Livermore, CA.

Support and adjunct who concluded their service during this triennium include Aldebaran Austin who was the Administrative Assistant for Missions and blessed us by maintaining our archives after the death of Rev. Karl Wyneken, our long-time archivist. John Whaley served as the director of Interim Ministries for three years early into this triennium. We thank God for his service to the church, even after his retirement from the district office. Ed Kwak was our LCEF representative for the first year of this triennium. Ed was a fine colleague during the time that he served and was truly God's gift to us, facilitating most of our re-branding process.

LINC Bay Area, its City Director, Rev. Aaron Putnam, and the LINC Bay Area Director of Mission, Rev. Dawit Bokre, have been pillars of support and strength this past triennium. They have intentionally come alongside my staff, most notably assisting in areas of mission vision and congregational clarity. They have recently offered the Mission Accelerator training and more. Aaron Putnam's divine call is held by the CNH District and is attached to LINC International to be the City Director in the Bay Area. Pastor Bokre is senior pastor at Good Shepherd in Hayward, CA. A close mission partnership is nurtured between LINC and the CNH District.

Three workers are new to our support staff since the prior convention. Silas Perez serves as our receptionist, Administrative Assistant in support of Education and Commissioned Ministers, and other video and communications responsibilities. Silas is a member of Good Shepherd in Hayward, CA, and intends to enroll and receive an EIT certificate for ordination at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Renee Lawrence also came on staff as the Administrative Assistant for Missions. She has recently stepped into other support responsibilities and worships at Our Savior in Livermore. Rev. Allen Steinbeck moved back home to his family's vineyard in Paso Robles more than a decade ago. After a few years, he realized he missed serving in the active pastoral ministry. He found a new calling in interim ministry and has served effectively and well in multiple places around our District. Early in this triennium, he assumed the responsibilities as the Director of Transitional Interim Ministries on the CNH staff. Pastor Steinbeck also serves transitional interims around our District.

Last, but not least, Rev. Paul Ferguson, Jr., entered our staff as the Assistant to the President in Strategic Mission Leadership. His presence has added a "get it done" spirit to our District staff. He can be counted on to speak plainly and with encouragement. His heart for the lost is an encouragement for God's church and his "straight talk" assists our staff and people towards a greater alignment under God's word. Coming from Rockwall TX and recently retiring as an Airforce reserve chaplain, Paul brings an organizational expertise that enhances our staff.

Triennium in Review and Looking Forward

During the 2022 Convention, we adopted a strategic ministry plan for our District to work at together. At the 2025 Convention, Mr. Joel Wahlers will be guiding us through a "highlights" overview of what was accomplished in the goals listed below. A more detailed report will be available to every delegate at the convention.

Please note the additional points of Vision for 2025-2028, which we hope will expand on our Strategic Ministry Plan. These points of emphasis into this next triennium will be placed as initiatives under the goals below. Our plan is to submit them for shaping by leaders around our District and for discernment, adjusting, and approval by our newly elected Board of Directors for this triennium.

CNH STRATEGIC MINISTRY PLAN

Mission Statement – We strengthen God’s people to serve and bear witness to Christ.

Vision Statement – A community of healthy and committed Christians who are focused, well-connected, and resourced to make disciples and reach the unreached.

Values

CHRIST’S MISSION

Focusing on intentionally seeking and saving the lost by proclaiming the Gospel and multiplying disciples. (Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 19:10)

UNITY

We are better when we focus and align ourselves to fulfill common goals. (John 17:20, Psalm 133:1)

COLLABORATION

Partners working together, using the unique collection of skills and talents in our diverse community of believers. (1 Corinthians 12)

INTEGRITY

We act according to Christian principles and strive for reliable follow-through. (Psalm 26:1-3, James 5:12)

TRANSPARENCY

We communicate with clarity and honesty all that we do within our community of believers. (Matthew 5:37, 2 Corinthians 8:21)

Goals

1. Connection and Collaboration: Promote a culture of God’s people working together to better carry out Jesus’ mission.
2. Leadership Development: Foster effective leadership in the CNH District through recruitment, retention and training of God’s people, both professional and lay.
3. Growing Ministries: Create and strengthen existing ministries to develop systems and practices that maximize effectiveness of churches, schools, and other mission organizations.

4. Worker Wellness: Provide efficient and effective resources for God's people to live healthy lives in all areas: physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.
5. Resources: Establish and facilitate a trusted clearinghouse of resources that meet stated ministry needs and make them readily accessible.

2025-2028 Proposed Focus

1. Equip Congregations and Schools to Serve More Effectively
 - Empowering with coaching resources and training
2. Encourage the Creation and Expansion of Gatherings
 - Multiply opportunities to start new or grow existing gatherings
3. Develop a Sustainable Leadership System
 - Identify, nurture and develop new leaders
4. Support Congregational Vision and Strategic Movement
 - Clarify Vision in all circumstances
 - Plant new ministries
 - Replant in changing communities
 - Revitalize with new vision
 - Partner with others to thrive
 - Bless and guide ministries into faithful conclusions when needed

Thoughts on Disaster Relief

This past triennium, we have experienced opportunities to engage a greater amount of partnership than ever before, even as the CNH and its neighbor to the South, the Pacific Southwest District (PSD), have experienced historically devastating fires. Our LCMS Disaster Relief and Response department continues to be a valuable partner for our District and remains a reliable way to contribute and respond to Disaster around the Synod and the world.

This past triennium has brought on the development of greater partnerships in disaster response and the need for refined organization. Notably, in the wake of the fires on Maui, the CNH was blessed by the organizational expertise of Lutheran Church Charities; the ability to facilitate the large amount of needed relief goods by Orphan Grain Train; and the providing for the purchase of gift cards from LCEF with no service fee. The team approach in logistics, crisis counseling, supply, and training for volunteers provided opportunities for a better coordinated response. *(It should be noted that the CNH District always works first and foremost in and through the local congregation[s] and asks these partners to do the same.)*

CNH congregations and individuals responded this past year generously to the PSD during the LA fires with both gifts and supplies. In addition, our congregations and many of you as individuals were attentive to the needs of our East Coast Districts in the aftermath of

two devastating hurricanes. Our CNH District Disaster Fund forwarded gifts to each of these Districts in addition to what you contributed. Thank you!

Congregations through their laity and pastors teamed together to respond to the Park Fire in the Northern Valley. We rejoiced to see this approach which strengthens our unified witness to those who have experienced great loss. Your CNH District will continue to facilitate Disaster response gifts both within our District and to the greater Synod during times of disaster, facilitating your gifts for designated purposes, and including in our request the opportunity to use for disasters “*where needed most.*” This designation allows us to respond quickly with grants to assist local congregations so that they have funds to walk beside those in need during the early days of a disaster. (*Please take note of the report on CNH disaster relief funds in the Financial Reports section.*) Each donation listed in the table was given in response to a disaster occurrence. While not all were designated for specific events, they were used to support the greatest need at the time they were received.

Rev. Phil Zabell continues to head up our disaster relief work, and Rev. Brian Cummins heads up our disaster relief task force. Denise Lo, our Executive of Operations, gives counsel to this group. An overture is submitted at this convention entitled: “To Establish a CNH Disaster Response Committee.” (This standing committee will assist and give direction to the regular and ongoing oversight of disaster response and the responsible disbursement of grants and funds.)

Missio Dei West Foundation

The following statement is the preamble of the Missio Dei West Foundation.

The purpose of the Missio Dei West Foundation is to provide long term funding for new and existing missions and congregations in the California-Nevada-Hawaii District (CNH) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and to provide long term housing solutions for CNH missions and ministries. Missio Dei West Foundation will seek highly efficient economic opportunities to support the purpose of the foundation.

Missio Dei West was formed at the end of our prior triennium, (early 2022) and exists to support the work of the CNH District, its missions, congregations and partners. Two of our former CNH congregations, upon closing, have entrusted their funds to the Missio Dei West, which manages and provides ongoing financial support to the CNH District and her partners as well as allowing ongoing fiscal support for ministries that were important to the congregation.

Directors of the Missio Dei West Board are in good standing at a congregation or mission station in the CNH. They have at least one of the following qualifications: a former officer in a CNH congregation, a former elder in a CNH congregation, an employee of a CNH congregation, or having a letter of recommendation from the pastor of a CNH congregation. The present Missio Dei West Board consists of Gloria Edwards, Mark Muenchow, Marilyn Maxner, Eric Van Scharrel.

Three different cycles of grant disbursements have gone out in this triennium, totaling more than \$220,000.00. The foundation has blessed the CNH District Mission Agency, LINC Bay Area and multiple other ministries that were important to the two contributing congregations.

LCEF

Matt Molinari has served as the LCEF District Vice President (DVP) since early 2023. He was formerly a DCE in three different locations during his years of church ministry. We are thankful for his presence as part of our CNH staff. His knowledge of our District and his “come alongside” mindset have been a blessing to our pastors, leaders, and congregations. Matt often speaks of a fourfold emphasis of LCEF: (Investments, Lending, Ministry Solutions and Real Estate Solutions). *LCEF’s purpose is to offer financial solutions designed to empower you as an LCMS member, church, school or organization. This financial partnership also strengthens ministries, advances mission-driven projects and helps share God’s love with future generations.*

In 2023 the CNH Board of Directors chose to invest together with the Pacific Southwest District and LCEF to fund a worker offering Real Estate Solutions to our churches and schools. Real Estate Solutions ultimately is in its ministry sweet spot when church and ministry sustainability meets Gospel impact upon individual souls. Josh Rhee is our specific West Coast staff partner in Real Estate Solutions. In 2024, LCEF reorganized and placed another staff person designated for Ministry Solutions on the West Coast. That is Chris Kunkel who serves the western region of the LCMS. Both Josh and Chris have been active in our region and with our congregations in this past triennium. Our CNH LCEF DVP, Matt Molinari or the CNH office is your starting point to access these unique services that are offered.

West Coast Partnerships

Our three LCMS West Coast Districts, (CNH: – California-Nevada-Hawaii; NOW: – Northwest; and the PSD: – Pacific Southwest) continue to nurture relationships that will enhance and support our whole life together as workers and congregations who have much in common and desire to be a blessing to our entire West Coast region. This relationship starts at the President’s office. We work hard at friendships, care and personal support for one another. We have a standing Zoom meeting each Monday morning where we exchange ideas, offer support, and most importantly lift one another in prayer. Our Executives also meet regularly with their counterpart for the purpose of building one another up and exchanging relevant ministry practices. We are intentional and proactive as we share in the following ministries we do together.

- Engage with Seminary Students: sharing vision and encouraging
- The Mission Training Center – A lay training theological and Missiological training for lay leaders in support of their pastoral leaders and congregations
- Training of new pastors – MAP West Coast: Ministry Applied Practice, our West Coast form of PALS
- Lutheran Educators Conference – done together with the PSD
- Continuing education for Transitional Interim Ministry: TIM (Three Rivers Conference)

- Partnerships in LCEF Real Estate Solutions and Ministry Solutions staff people
- Information and encouragement for Sabbaticals.
- And more ...

Mission Training Center

The CNH, NOW, and PSD Districts in partnership with Concordia University Irvine fund and sponsor the Mission Training Center. The following statement is taken from the Mission Training Center website:

MTC provides online theological instruction geared for lay members of congregations to help them deepen their knowledge of the Christian faith and develop their ability to serve alongside ordained clergy. MTC students serve in a variety of roles such as congregational board members, elders, deacons, Sunday School teachers, evangelists, etc. Frankly, anyone who is looking to serve apart from becoming an ordained minister is an ideal candidate for MTC classes.

Pastor Jonathan Priest was brought on as our Mission Training Center director in 2023. He has helped to give purpose, order and to expand the reach of the mission training center platform. His part-time call is extended by the CNH District.

Called Worker Supply

The supply of both ordained and commissioned workers continues to be a significant challenge. Our church body continues to age and to shrink in numbers. In contrast to this our Lutheran schools continue to experience opportunities for a resurgence in numbers and reach into a population of people increasingly far from the message of salvation. A report out of Concordia Plan Services indicates that from 2021-2030 over 2000 pastors will retire. We feel the effect of this reality in the challenge of putting together meaningful pastoral call lists for congregations. The commissioned worker shortage also creates a challenge locating rostered teachers who can serve in our schools.

1. We recognize as a District the importance of attending to the whole health of our workers to sustain the supply of workers God has gifted us.
2. We ask, seek, and knock, crying out to God to send workers into the harvest field.
3. In our congregations we ask God to give us eyes to see people who might be future workers and intentionally encourage these people to consider ministry vocations.
4. We pray that God would open affordable and quality pathways even beyond that which we have to bless our church with a supply of workers into the future.

Numbers of newly ordained pastors welcomed in this triennium include the following:

<i>Specific Ministry Pastors (Seminary Route)</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Residential Students MDiv General</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Cross Cultural Ministry Center (CMC)</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Colloquy</i>	<i>1</i>

Numbers of Newly Ordained during this triennium - 12
(down from 27 last triennium. Number included 10 SMP colloquy: route no longer open)

Students presently enrolled and for academic year 2025

<i>Specific Ministry Pastors (Seminary Route)</i>	6
<i>Upcoming 2025 academic year</i>	1
<i>Residential Students General Pastor</i>	3
<i>Upcoming 2025</i>	2
<i>Cross Cultural Ministry Center (CMC)</i>	3
<i>Upcoming 2025</i>	2-(4)
<i>ELIT</i>	<u>1</u>
<i>Anticipated for Ordination</i>	18-(20)
 <i>Commissioned Ministers enrolled</i>	 14

We are blessed with a fine District staff. Thanks for the opportunity to serve you together. I often tell the staff that all of us TOGETHER do the work of the District President's office on behalf of our congregation. Please read their reports following. I urge you to reflect upon and celebrate our mission statement as we ready ourselves for this triennium's convention.

"We strengthen God's people to serve and bear witness to Christ."

Mission Report

Rev. Paul Ferguson Jr.

Assistant to the President – Strategic Mission Leadership

Fruitful Branches: Rooted in Mission

The CNH District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has continued its intentional work to carry out the mission of “strengthening God’s people to serve and bear witness to Christ.” Over the past three years, this has been guided by the **CNH Strategic Ministry Plan**, which emphasizes evangelism, leadership development, and congregational health.

1 in Every One: Inspiring Local Innovation

A key focus in this triennium has been the “1 in Every One” initiative—a district-wide invitation for each circuit to discern how God might be leading them to launch new ministries or re-engage their communities in meaningful ways. District staff have come alongside this effort through direct visits, coaching, training, and encouraging congregations and circuits to be bold in both planting and revitalizing ministry opportunities. To date, two congregations have stepped forward and launched new ministry efforts through the support of this initiative, serving as early examples of how “1 in Every One” can turn vision into action and help congregations reconnect with their mission field.

At **Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit** in San Francisco, the congregation had long served a vibrant, multi-generational community with worship in both English and Cantonese, reflecting the cultural roots of many in the neighborhood. Over time, the church began noticing a growing number of Mandarin-speaking individuals and families moving into the area—many of whom were seeking connection, community, and hope. Sensing a clear opportunity to extend the love of Christ, church leaders began praying and discerning how best to respond. Through the encouragement and support of the “1 in Every One” initiative—which empowers congregations to explore new ministry opportunities—the church took a bold step of faith and launched a Mandarin-speaking worship service.

This new service now exists alongside their English and Cantonese offerings, creating a broader, more welcoming reach into the community. By listening to the needs around them and leaning into God’s call, Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit is now reaching more people with the Gospel, sharing the message of Christ in the heart languages of their neighbors.

At **Zion Lutheran Church** in San Luis Obispo, the congregation began to notice a growing need in their community: families were seeking reliable, values-based childcare in an environment that nurtured both academic and spiritual growth. Through prayer and conversations with local parents, Zion saw a clear opportunity to meet this need by opening a Christian preschool.

With encouragement and guidance from the “1 in Every One” initiative, the congregation moved forward in faith. In 2024, Zion officially launched their preschool, offering a safe, loving, and Christ-centered space for young children to learn and grow.

This new ministry not only supports families in San Luis Obispo but also serves as a powerful outreach tool, building relationships with those who may not yet be connected to a church. Zion is excited to continue this work, committed to providing high-quality Christian childcare for years to come—planting seeds of faith in the hearts of children and families throughout their community.

Spark Grants: Igniting Gospel Opportunities

Across the CNH District, congregations have embraced the opportunity to turn creative ministry ideas into reality through the use of Spark Grants—small grants designed to ignite big Gospel impact. These grants have helped bring to life a variety of ministry efforts, each one starting as a small spark of an idea.

Some circuits have hosted conferences, inviting outside speakers to equip and inspire their congregations. Others have joined together for overnight retreats, creating space for pastors and church workers to dive into God’s Word and enjoy meaningful fellowship across church boundaries.

Spark Grants have also fueled ministry to some of the most overlooked members of our communities. Nursing home ministries have been strengthened through the distribution of Portals of Prayer devotionals, bringing comfort and connection to residents through God’s Word.

Still others have used Spark Grant funds to support short-term mission efforts, both locally and globally, enabling members to serve and share the love of Christ in new and impactful ways.

From equipping leaders to reaching the isolated, Spark Grants are helping CNH congregations take faithful risks, try new things, and boldly share Jesus in their own neighborhoods and beyond.

Sustaining the Mission

Financial support for mission work has continued through multiple endowments, including the Missio Dei West Foundation, which helped fund disaster response, new ministry grants, and worker care. While some programs underperformed budget expectations due to vacant positions and deferred activities, core mission priorities have been sustained.

Strengthening Mission Leadership

A significant staff transition occurred in July 2024 when Mission Executive, Rev. Joseph Robb, accepted a call to Our Savior Lutheran in Livermore, CA. After a careful and prayerful search process, the District Board of Directors called Rev. L. Paul Ferguson, Jr., to serve as Executive Assistant to the President – Strategic Mission Leadership. Rev. Ferguson brings fresh insight, excitement and a heart for collaboration. His addition signals a renewed emphasis on supporting congregations through regional partnerships and leadership development.

Since July 2024, Rev. Ferguson made face to face visits to every Circuit Visitor in the CNH District, building relationships rooted in trust, encouragement, and shared mission. These in-person conversations have opened doors to meaningful partnerships with entire circuits and have allowed us to dream and discern together how God might be calling us forward.

In several congregations, he has had the joy of coming alongside leaders seeking clarity and direction, walking with them through Vision Clarity processes designed to help them ask the right questions: Who are we? Where is God leading us? How do we faithfully respond?

Through coaching, planning sessions, and strategic guidance, these congregations have begun to shape ministry strategies not just for today, but for the years to come—so that the Gospel can continue to be proclaimed in the unique places where God has planted them.

This work is a reminder that the mission field is not just “out there,” but right here in the communities we serve. And when congregations lean into that calling with courage and clarity, the impact is powerful and lasting.

A People of Prayer

Each month, the CNH District gathers on Zoom for a time of prayer—a simple yet powerful way to unite across miles and ministry contexts. Once a month, pastors, church workers, lay leaders, and members from all corners of the District come together to lift up the mission in prayer.

During these gatherings, we pray for local congregations within our District, international missions and missionaries, our synodical and district staff, and for our nation and civic leaders. It’s a sacred rhythm—a moment to pause, connect, and call upon the Lord of the Harvest to work in and through His people.

This is more than a meeting—it’s a reminder that we are one Church, united in Christ, and that everything we do begins with prayer. The invitation is open to everyone in the CNH District, and each gathering offers a chance to intercede, encourage, and be encouraged.

What a gift it is to bring our shared mission before God together, trusting Him to lead, guide, and provide.

Connected in Christ

In Fall 2024, the CNH District came together for a powerful moment of unity and encouragement through the All-Workers Conference, bringing together pastors, educators, DCEs, and ministry leaders from across California, Nevada, and Hawaii. For two days, hearts and minds gathered around a shared calling and a shared hope. The theme, “Connected in Christ – So the Next Generation Will Know” (Psalm 78), reminded everyone that while our ministry roles may differ, our mission is the same: to proclaim the Gospel so that future generations may know, love, and follow Jesus. From breakout sessions to shared meals, from worship to keynote messages, the conference emphasized the power of collaboration across generations and ministry settings. Stories were shared of teachers discipling students, pastors mentoring young leaders, and congregations supporting one another in fresh and faithful ways. It became clear that when ministry leaders are connected in Christ, the impact multiplies—not just for today, but for the generations to come.

The Conference was more than an event. It was a visible expression of unity, a space for rest and renewal, and a launching point for stronger mission partnerships across the District. The future is bright because we walk together, connected in Christ.

Moving Beyond Programming

Over the last triennium, ministry impact has extended beyond programming. Over the past few years, the CNH District has begun to intentionally shift away from a mindset of “more programming” and instead lean into authentic relationships, contextual ministry, and Spirit-led impact. For too long, churches—like many organizations—have been tempted to believe that the next great event, curriculum, or conference would be the answer to revitalization. But we’ve come to realize that the goal isn’t more activity—it’s deeper mission.

This shift has led us to ask better questions:

- What is God already doing in our communities?
- Who has He placed in our path?
- How can we walk alongside one another in meaningful ways?

In place of one-size-fits-all programs, we’ve focused on equipping leaders, fostering collaboration, and encouraging churches to pursue clarity of vision for their specific context. We’ve seen circuits gathering not just for formal events, but for shared retreats, prayer, and conversation. We’ve seen congregations taking bold, Spirit-led steps—not because a program told them to, but because God called them to.

We’re not opposed to programming; in fact, we recognize its value. However, we’ve learned that “plug-and-play” models rarely fit every context. Instead, we’re choosing to

lead with purpose over paperwork, focusing on ministry that is intentional, flexible, and shaped by the needs of the people we serve.

Ministry with People at the Center

Throughout these past three years, the District President and staff have engaged in pastoral care conversations, visited congregations, preached, supported church workers in crisis, and advised churches navigating change or conflict. These efforts reinforce the District's commitment not just to strategic planning, but to the personal, relational, and spiritual support of its leaders and congregations.

In all of this, the CNH District remains committed to faithfully stewarding its resources, encouraging local innovation, and supporting every congregation in bearing witness to Christ in their unique context.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to the next triennium, we are committed to continuing to walk alongside and care for our church workers, recognizing the importance of their well-being in the life of the Church. This season invites us to take an honest assessment of where we are—spiritually, missionally, and structurally—and to ask how we might more effectively partner together, not only as a District but also congregation to congregation. By deepening collaboration and building one another up, we strengthen our collective witness to the love of Christ in our neighborhoods, schools, and communities—no matter where in the CNH District we serve.

Education Report

Mr. Joel Wahlers
Assistant to the President - Education

The CNH District has a long history of quality Lutheran schools and early childhood centers. The Holy Spirit helps to assure that our schools make a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of families on a daily basis. Lutheran schools provide one of the best outreach and discipleship opportunities in the CNH District. Through successes and challenges, the Lord continues to bless the ministry of our Lutheran schools. Below are some statistics for CNH District schools:

Preschools – 46
Elementary Schools – 20
High Schools - 1
Students Served – 6500
Educators & Staff Servants – 940

I have been blessed by the dedication of administrators, teachers, and DCEs in the District who serve on action teams. We have a School Ministry Team, an Early Childhood Director Action Team, and a DCE Leadership Team. These groups of dedicated people have been instrumental in planning and organizing District events and activities. They have also been helpful in caring for and reaching out to other workers in our District.

Lutheran schools in the CNH District have faced a number of challenges in the past three years. Most schools not only survived the COVID 19 pandemic, but many of them thrived. The strength of our teachers and the strong relationships built over the years have only enhanced the reputation of our schools.

Another daunting challenge for many of our schools continues to be staffing. This is primarily due to a scarcity of rostered workers throughout the LCMS and a declining number of teacher candidates coming out of our Concordia University System. An added challenge for our schools is maintaining a synodically rostered staff (staff members who have a Lutheran Teachers Diploma or have gone through a colloquy program to get the theological training to be an effective Lutheran teacher). Only about 1% of our early childhood staff members are rostered in the LCMS. For elementary and high school, it is about 30% rostered (we currently have approximately 488 preschool teachers and 523 elementary/high school teachers). We encourage schools to develop a process to provide theological/spiritual training for their teachers. For early childhood educators, we have worked with the Pacific Southwest District to use their online training program titled “Making Jesus Real.” There is no cost for its use, and it gives some foundational instruction and training in what it means to be a teacher in a Lutheran preschool. For elementary or high school teachers, there are a variety of colloquy options (specific training in Lutheran doctrine and practice) that are available to use, as well as the Foundations of Lutheran Teaching, which is a course developed last year through a partnership between the three West Coast Districts, Concordia, and the Mission Training Center, designed to help more intensively train non-Lutheran educators in our schools.

CNH District Teachers	Commissioned	%	Non-Commissioned	%	Total
Early Childhood	8	2	480	98	488
Elementary	130	26	370	64	500
High School	8	35	15	75	23
	146	14	865	86	1011

Included as part of the educational programs in our District are the valuable contributions made by our DCEs and other youth leaders in a variety of churches. First of all, in almost every case where a DCE has a school connected to the church, they are very involved in the school ministry. This is one of the most effective ways our churches connect those youth directly to the church. However, DCEs in our District do so much more. They provide a variety of programs and support to youth in the congregations of the CNH District. This summer, over 250 of our District youth will be participating in the LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana. The DCEs also work together to provide District youth events throughout the year that connect youth and youth groups from throughout the CNH District. I am so appreciative of our DCE Leadership Team for their time and organization that make the different kinds of events possible. We currently have 38 DCEs or Youth Leaders in the CNH District.

During the past three years, there have been a number of strategic initiatives we have been working on to benefit the ministry of Lutheran schools and their congregations. We are working hard to not only serve and support all of our schools, but also make the District as a whole and its potential benefit more relevant to all of our schools. Here are some ways we are doing this, using the five goals of our District Strategic Ministry Plan.

Connection and Collaboration – Connection and collaboration is such a key goal due to the large and geographical expanse of our District. I have been trying to visit as many schools and early childhood centers as possible. Virtual meetings have helped, but it is so important to connect personally with all our educational institutions. We continue to intentionally develop opportunities for schools to collaborate more on mission efforts and other professional programs. This includes finding ways for church worker leaders to more effectively support one another. As a District, we provide opportunities to meet for annual workshops, conferences, in-services, and retreats. We also meet with as different groups in Zoom meetings and webinars.

Leadership Development – We are working on ways to systematically train and raise up potential leaders to take on school administrative roles. This involves helping schools and congregations identify those with leadership qualities and then provide them with training and other routes to develop their skills. As was shared previously, this also includes encouraging colloquy and other theological training through resources like CUENet, SLED, Making Jesus Real, Foundations of Lutheran Teaching, etc. New principals in our elementary and high schools are provided with mentors and other support.

Growing Ministries – We want to help schools and congregations have access to Board training, governance review, and strategic planning support from both within the District as well as nationally available resources. It has become clear that this is a significant need in many parts of our District. I have started to work with congregations and schools on governance review and board training. This is an area in which I have interest and experience. I currently work with three congregations. This past year, we have a new

preschool that has started as part of the ministry at Zion Lutheran Church in San Luis Obispo, CA.

Worker Wellness – Even though our teachers, administrators, and DCEs do an incredible job and can withstand the many challenges of ministry, it has been clear that this takes a toll on them as well as their families. We continue to check in on our workers and offer a variety of resources and services to help those in need. In 2024, we created a Church Worker Care Team to be available and care for our District workers. This group is made up of five fellow church workers (ordained and commissioned) to help serve as colleagues, provide a listening ear, and refer individuals to additional resources if they are needed. I am working with Paul Ferguson to survey our church workers to see what are the specific wellness needs of those working in CNH ministries.

Resources – We are working on more effective and comprehensive ways to make professional and human resources available to District schools. This includes better connecting the valuable professional and human resources we have within our District schools and churches. Connecting those who need specific support in certain areas with those who have experience and expertise is a valuable way to ensure effectiveness in this area and build a network of mutual support. In other words, resources do not always just come from the District Office to ministries. They can come from all those who make up the CNH District. I work closely with Education Executives from throughout the LCMS to collaborate and share valuable resources for our schools. I also serve on the Board of the California Association of Private School Organizations (CAPSO) to advocate for private schools in California and actively monitor legislation that could jeopardize our ministries. As a District and Synod, we provide access to the accreditation process through National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). This past year, eight of our schools went through this process – six elementary schools and two preschools.

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	<u>WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS</u>	<u>WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>SUPPORT, REVENUES, & OTHER ADDITIONS:</u>			
Support -			
District Congregations	\$ 1,479,608	\$	\$ 1,479,608
Assets from Disbanded Congregation	1,326,411		1,326,411
Synod		3,200	3,200
LCEF		120,128	120,128
Other	20,861	151,105	171,966
Revenues -			
Conventions, Conferences, and Workshops	101,021		101,021
Net Investment Return (Loss)	(72,164)	(190,788)	(262,952)
Agreements with LCEF	32,400		32,400
Other	21,116		21,116
Change in Value of Beneficial Interests in Charitable Trusts		(49,341)	(49,341)
Distributions from and Change in Value of Perpetual Trusts	1,772	(65,213)	(63,441)
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	383,134	(383,134)	-
	<u>3,294,159</u>	<u>(414,043)</u>	<u>2,880,116</u>
Total Support, Revenues, & Other Additions			
<u>EXPENSES AND LOSSES:</u>			
Program Services -			
World and National Missions	728,322		728,322
Preparing Church Workers	41,075		41,075
Congregational Services	382,434		382,434
Ecclesiastical Services	262,732		262,732
Support Services -			
Synodical Budget	142,373		142,373
Management and General	769,683		769,683
Total Expenses	<u>2,326,619</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,326,619</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Expenses and Losses	<u>2,326,619</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,326,619</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	967,540	(414,043)	553,497
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	<u>6,730,603</u>	<u>2,897,622</u>	<u>9,628,225</u>
NET ASSETS - End of Year	<u>\$ 7,698,143</u>	<u>\$ 2,483,579</u>	<u>\$ 10,181,722</u>

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	<u>WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS</u>	<u>WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>SUPPORT, REVENUES, & OTHER ADDITIONS:</u>			
Support -			
District Congregations	\$ 1,486,538	\$	\$ 1,486,538
Assets from Disbanded Congregation	754		754
Synod		14,750	14,750
LCEF		72,751	72,751
Other	93,761	650,007	743,768
Revenues -			
Conventions, Conferences, and Workshops	92,778		92,778
Net Investment Return (Loss)	213,897	101,643	315,540
Agreements with LCEF	32,400		32,400
Other	11,654		11,654
Change in Value of Beneficial Interests in Charitable Trusts		10,623	10,623
Distributions from and Change in Value of Perpetual Trusts	1,792	41,342	43,134
Gain on Sale of Fixed Assets	-		-
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	<u>373,888</u>	<u>(373,888)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Support, Revenues, & Other Additions	<u>2,307,462</u>	<u>517,228</u>	<u>2,824,690</u>
<u>EXPENSES:</u>			
Program Services -			
World and National Missions	778,839		778,839
Preparing Church Workers	51,750		51,750
Congregational Services	367,728		367,728
Ecclesiastical Services	268,143		268,143
Support Services -			
Synodical Budget	143,654		143,654
Management and General	839,694		839,694
Fund-Raising	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
Total Expenses	<u>2,449,808</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,449,808</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(142,346)	517,228	374,882
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	<u>7,698,143</u>	<u>2,483,579</u>	<u>10,181,722</u>
NET ASSETS - End of Year	<u>\$ 7,555,797</u>	<u>\$ 3,000,807</u>	<u>\$ 10,556,604</u>

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
<u>SUPPORT, REVENUES, & OTHER ADDITIONS:</u>			
Support -			
District Congregations	\$ 1,384,819	\$	\$ 1,384,819
Assets from Disbanded Congregation	656		656
Synod		-	-
LCEF		60,360	60,360
Other	209,782	227,149	436,930
Revenues -			
Conventions, Conferences, and Workshops	103,465		103,465
Net Investment Return (Loss)	213,315	54,210	267,525
Agreements with LCEF	32,400		32,400
Other	86,255		86,255
Change in Value of Beneficial Interests in Charitable Trusts		3,473	3,473
Distributions from and Change in Value of Perpetual Trusts	1,776	32,062	33,838
Gain on Sale of Fixed Assets	100,000		100,000
Net Assets Released from Restrictions (Note 12)	<u>296,722</u>	<u>(296,722)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Support, Revenues, & Other Additions	<u>2,429,190</u>	<u>80,532</u>	<u>2,509,722</u>
<u>EXPENSES:</u>			
Program Services -			
World and National Missions	668,830		668,830
Preparing Church Workers	36,563		36,563
Congregational Services	381,115		381,115
Ecclesiastical Services	302,569		302,569
Support Services -			
Synodical Budget	134,482		134,482
Management and General	761,161		761,161
Fund-Raising	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
Total Expenses	<u>2,284,720</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,284,720</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	144,468	80,532	225,000
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	<u>7,555,797</u>	<u>3,000,807</u>	<u>10,556,604</u>
NET ASSETS - End of Year	<u>\$ 7,700,265</u>	<u>\$ 3,081,339</u>	<u>\$ 10,781,604</u>

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 577,569	\$ 1,014,999
Operating Investments	4,396,296	4,364,275
Accounts and Interest Receivable	31,766	32,314
Prepaid Expenses	8,759	27,676
Contributions Receivable	70,555	44,687
Loans Receivable	1,170,553	845,533
	-	
Property and Equipment	2,832,686	2,590,786
Beneficial Interests in Charitable Trusts Held by Others	205,170	198,542
Endowment Investments	1,088,282	965,471
Beneficial Interests in Perpetual Trusts	<u>326,086</u>	<u>296,000</u>
Total Assets	\$ <u>10,707,722</u>	\$ <u>10,380,283</u>
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 112,271	\$ 134,416
Grants Payable	21,540	16,478
Deposits Payable	6,000	-
	-	
Deferred Revenue	<u>11,307</u>	<u>47,778</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>151,118</u>	<u>198,672</u>
Net Assets:		
Without Donor Restrictions (Note 11)	7,555,797	7,698,143
With Donor Restrictions (Note 12)	<u>3,000,807</u>	<u>2,483,579</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>10,556,604</u>	<u>10,181,722</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ <u>10,707,722</u>	\$ <u>10,380,394</u>

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 397,275	\$ 577,569
Operating Investments	4,384,744	4,396,296
Accounts and Interest Receivable	5,377	31,766
Prepaid Expenses	11,924	8,759
Contributions Receivable	48,250	70,555
Loans Receivable	855,553	1,170,553
Property and Equipment	2,780,551	2,832,686
Beneficial Interests in Charitable Trusts Held by Others	300,838	205,170
Endowment Investments	1,811,221	1,088,282
Beneficial Interests in Perpetual Trusts	<u>347,024</u>	<u>326,086</u>
Total Assets	\$ <u>10,942,757</u>	\$ <u>10,707,722</u>
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 91,274	\$ 112,271
Grants Payable	17,154	21,540
Deposits Payable	6,000	6,000
Deferred Revenue	<u>46,722</u>	<u>11,307</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>161,150</u>	<u>151,118</u>
Net Assets:		
Without Donor Restrictions	7,700,265	7,555,797
With Donor Restrictions	<u>3,081,339</u>	<u>3,000,807</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>10,781,604</u>	<u>10,556,604</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ <u>10,942,754</u>	\$ <u>10,707,722</u>

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	PROGRAM SERVICES				SUPPORT SERVICES		
	World and National Missions	Preparing Church Workers	Congregational Services	Ecclesiastical Services	Synodical Budget	Management and General	TOTAL
Salaries and Wages	\$ 179,315	\$	\$ 183,977	\$ 154,122	\$	\$ 278,242	\$ 795,656
Employee Benefits	61,446		70,406	47,561		96,067	275,480
Payroll Taxes	-						-
Subsidies, Grants, and Other Assistance	452,103	41,075	16,986		142,373	132,817	785,354
Building and Office Expenses	2,349		1,577	2,260			6,186
Communications, Publications, and Promotion	-						-
Conventions, Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings	10,603		55,529	28,431		66,005	160,568
Depreciation	892		10,216			104,356	115,464
Equipment Purchases (non-capital) and Maintenance	1,657			2,079		11,106	14,842
Information Technology						8,056	8,056
Insurance and Property Taxes	898					33,778	34,676
Interest						3,956	3,956
Professional Services			33,946	971		14,000	48,917
Staff Training and Development	-						-
Travel	13,268		8,158	18,803		253	40,482
Other	5,791		1,639	8,505		21,047	36,982
Total Expenses by Function	\$ <u>728,322</u>	\$ <u>41,075</u>	\$ <u>382,434</u>	\$ <u>262,732</u>	\$ <u>142,373</u>	\$ <u>769,683</u>	\$ <u>2,326,619</u>

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	PROGRAM SERVICES				SUPPORT SERVICES		
	World and National Missions	Preparing Church Workers	Congregational Services	Ecclesiastical Services	Synodical Budget	Management and General	TOTAL
Salaries and Wages	\$ 160,391	\$	\$ 194,674	\$ 165,751	\$	\$ 286,688	\$ 807,504
Employee Benefits	57,533		74,951	50,862		102,210	285,556
Payroll Taxes	-			-			-
Subsidies, Grants, and Other Assistance	518,416	51,750	13,567		143,654		727,387
Building and Office Expenses	1,682		1,003	2,105		154,939	159,729
Communications, Publications, and Promotion							-
Conventions, Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings	10,805		30,784	25,516		70,347	137,452
Depreciation	1,530		5,959			98,470	105,959
Equipment Purchases (non-capital) and Maintenance	2,367		1,110	104		12,140	15,721
Information Technology						9,645	9,645
Insurance and Property Taxes	834					73,921	74,755
Interest							-
Professional Services			34,535	255		21,804	56,594
Staff Training and Development							-
Travel	16,925		9,752	13,367		34	40,078
Other	<u>8,356</u>		<u>1,393</u>	<u>10,183</u>		<u>9,496</u>	<u>29,428</u>
Total Expenses by Function	\$ <u>778,839</u>	\$ <u>51,750</u>	\$ <u>367,728</u>	\$ <u>268,143</u>	\$ <u>143,654</u>	\$ <u>839,694</u>	\$ <u>2,449,808</u>

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	PROGRAM SERVICES				SUPPORT SERVICES		TOTAL
	World and National Missions	Preparing Church Workers	Congregation al Services	Ecclesiastical Services	Synodical Budget	Management and General	
Salaries and Wages	\$ 98,407	\$	\$ 185,716	\$ 173,029	\$	\$ 298,870	\$ 756,023
Employee Benefits	30,947		65,459	52,866		94,872	244,143
Subsidies, Grants, and Other Assistance	494,981	36,563	12,745		134,482		678,771
Building and Office Expenses	1,421			1,677		143,903	147,001
Conventions, Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings	19,814		24,591	26,333		922	71,661
Depreciation	1,530		-			109,319	110,848
Equipment Purchases (non-capital) and Maintenance	2,121		994	170		14,960	18,245
Information Technology						10,458	10,458
Insurance and Property Taxes	317					58,409	58,726
Professional Services			71,472	4,200		26,990	102,662
Travel	5,870		8,410	17,364		81	31,725
Other	26,255		1,068	13,567		13,567	54,456
Total Expenses by Function	\$ <u>681,663</u>	\$ <u>36,563</u>	\$ <u>370,455</u>	\$ <u>289,206</u>	\$ <u>134,482</u>	\$ <u>772,352</u>	\$ <u>2,284,720</u>

CNH Disaster Funds Summary

As of March 05, 2025 : \$645,801							
	Income			Disbursement			Reserved Balance
Description	2017- 2024	2025	Total	2017- 2024	2025	Total	
2017-Wildfire/Tubbs	305,813		305,813	161,263		161,263	144,550
2018-Mendocino/Carr	66,289		66,289	21,800		21,800	44,489
2018-Camp Fire	254,674		254,674	96,759		96,759	157,915
2023-Maui Fire	366,467	500	366,967	155,729		155,729	211,237
N. California Fire	139,028	6,167	145,195	30,684	26,902	57,586	87,609
Total	1,132,271	6,667	1,138,938	466,236	26,902	493,138	645,801

Please see the President Report's for Details.

Changes in District: Ordained 2022 – 2024

Changes 2022 – Ordained

Entered the District:

- **Cartwright**, Timothy C., (SED), Messiah, Ewa Beach, HI, August 21, by M. Lange.
- **Davis**, Richard J., (NOW), Emmanuel of Maui, Kahului, HI, March 27, by M. Lange.
- **Englehardt**, Marc T., (PSD), Prince of Peace, Fremont, CA, Associate Pastor, May 1, by M. Lange.
- **Evans**, Derek M., (IDW), Greenhaven, Sacramento, CA, October 8, by M. Lange.
- **Garrity**, Corey R., (STL), Redeemer, Redwood City, CA, August 13, by M. Lange (ordained August 13, by M. Lange).
- **Hartley**, William R., (NOW), St. Luke, Santa Rosa, CA, November 6, by M. Lange.
- **Hues**, Daniel J., (NOW), Emmanuel, Clovis, CA, January 22, by M. Lange.
- **Metz**, William E., (OK), August 19, pastor emeritus.
- **Moore**, David R., (MidS), February 25, pastor emeritus.
- **Rockemann**, Joel D., (STL), St. Paul's, Tracy, CA, August 20, by M. Lange (ordained August 20, by M. Lange).
- **St. Pierre**, Marvin F., (SMP - STL), St. John's, Bakersfield, CA, March 26, by E. Van Scharrel (ordained March 26, by E. Van Scharrel).
- **Schrank**, Benjamin J., (TX), St. John's, Bakersfield, CA, August 14, by M. Lange.
- **Steele II**, Timothy D., (FTW), Grace, Bakersfield, CA, July 9, by M. Lange (ordained July 9, by M. Lange).
- **Vang**, Daniel X., (N-WI), Mount Olive, Folsom, CA, May 15, by J. Bredeson.
- **Woodrow**, Joshua M., (MidS), Good Shepherd, Hayward, CA, February 27, by M. Lange.
- **Priest**, Jonathan P., (NOW), July 15, candidate.

Changes within the District:

- **Cervantes**, Jose, Trinity, San Jose, CA, June 12, by R. Weller.
- **Halakhe**, John H., First, Hanford, CA, April 2, by M. Lange.

Transferred to Other Districts:

Airey, Mark to Pacific Southwest; **Albertson**, Thomas J. (EM) to Rocky Mountain; **Austin**, Kevin to Pacific Southwest; **Duerr**, Mark A. (CAND) to Michigan; **Foley**, Kevin M. to Nebraska; **Hall**, Rodney N. (EM) to Pacific Southwest; **Hilken**, Dennis R. to Pacific Southwest; **Molyneux**, Daniel R. (EM) to Texas; **Ray**, Donald E. (CAND) to Northwest; **Toenjes**, Alan (Hal) to Indiana.

Inactive/Candidate or Emeritus:

Albertson, Thomas J. (EM); **Bliese**, Karl H. (EM); **Duerr**, Mark A. (CAND); Krueger, Edwin A. (EM); Milz, Norman W. (EM); **Molyneux**, Daniel R. (EM).

Deceased:

Clawson, Ronald A.; **Gundermann**, Milton W.; **Howen**, Russell H.; **Labrenz**, Paul E.; **Marozik**, John R.; **Mueller**, Theodore C.

Changes 2023 – Ordained

Entered the District:

- **DeForest**, Brennan T., (FTW), Redeemer, Chico, CA, July 17, by M. Lange (ordained July 8, by J. Bruss).
- **Hendricks**, Dwayne, R., (Eng), Lutheran Church of Prayer, Bakersfield, CA, August 6, by M. Lange.
- **Knepper**, Grant A., (NOW), Grace, Modesto, CA, January 22, by D. Deuel.
- **Mabry**, Robert (Bob) R., Colloquy, Good Shepherd, Honolulu, HI, August 13, by M. Gowen.
- **Mueller**, Jeffrey E., (NOW), Waikoloa, Waikoloa, HI, January 21, by M. Lange.
- **Percy, Jr.**, Herbert J., (PSD), September 21, candidate.
- **Shamburger III**, William (Marsh) M., (RMD), Holy Cross, Rocklin, CA, March 26, by M. Lange.
- **Simmons**, Christopher M., (NOW), Trinity, Paso Robles, CA, October 14, by M. Lange.
- **Tuft**, Jeffrey W., (SMP – STL), Calvary, Oroville, CA / Grace, Gridley, CA, February 11, by M. Lange (ordained February 11, by M. Lange).
- **Zerkel**, Bradley G., (MO), Messiah, Ewa Beach, HI, August 20, (TIM) by M. Gowen.

Changes within the District:

- **Berndt**, Bruce, E., Redeemer / Sts. John & Luke, Lodi, CA / Valley Home (Oakdale), CA, October 22, by M. Lange.
- **Dubé**, Michael S., Shepherd of the Valley, Galt, CA, October 21, by M. Lange.
- **Huss**, John A., Peace, Arroyo Grande, CA, March 19, by M. Lange.
- **Oatman**, Mark A., First, Placerville, CA, January 28, by M. Lange.
- **Perry**, Scott D., Prince of Peace, Fremont, CA, (teacher) August 13, by T. Zelt.
- **Peters**, Matthew D., Cordova, Rancho Cordova, CA, October 15, by J. Bredeson.
- **Pevy**, James A., Peace, Sacramento, CA, January 14, by J. Bredeson.
- **Priest**, Jonathan P., Director, Mission Training Center, June 3, by M. Lange.
- **Steinbeck**, Allen L., Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Santa Maria, CA, (TIM), July 2, by H. Oliver.
- **Wenholz**, Dennis A., Chaplain, Board for National Mission, LCMS, June 11, by M. Vernava.

Transferred to Other Districts:

Barklage, Richard C. to Northwest; **Cartwright**, Timothy C. (EM) to Nebraska; **Davis**, Richard J. (EM) to Northwest; **Deuel**, Daniel D. to Northwest; **Fajardo**, Magdiel U. to Kansas; **Kegley**, Noah A. to Northern Illinois; **Prill**, David J. to Missouri; **Scheuermann**, John H. to Southeastern; **Schuller**, Isaac S. to Texas; **Stringer**, Gregory S. (CAND) to Florida-Georgia; **Wenholz**, Dennis A. to Northwest.

Inactive/Candidate or Emeritus:

Barklage, Richard C (EM); **Chan**, David T. (EM); **Davis**, Richard J. (EM); **Eckert**, Stephen A., (EM); **Holt**, Paul V. (EM); **Jordan**, Donald A. (EM); **Schudde**, A. Mark (EM); **Tesch**, Philip C., (EM); **Whittaker**, Mark C. (EM).

Deceased:

Barnhart, Jerry W.; **Davidenas**, Eugene D.; **Gade**, Dean R.; **Ilten**, Philip H.; **Roberts**, Bradley D.; **Shoemaker**, David T.; **Werth**, Luther A.

Removed from the Roster:

Northend, William A.

Changes 2024 – Ordained

Entered the District:

- **Chang**, Corey, J., (STL), Hope, Daly City, CA, September 22 by M. Lange (ordained September 22 by M. Lange).
- **Cleland**, James S., (TX), Shepherd of the Sierra, Carson City, NV, August 11 by J. Brown.
- **Ferguson, Jr.**, Louis (Paul) P., (TX), CNH District Mission Executive, Livermore, CA, September 6 by M. Lange.
- **Glenn**, Micah A., (MO), Sierra Lutheran High School, Carson City, NV, (Head of School) August 4 by M. Lange.
- **Harrell**, Brenden M., (CIL), Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Santa Maria, CA, October 20, by M. Lange.
- **Hosch III**, Edward, (KS), Emmanuel of Maui, Kahului, HI, August 25 by M. Lange.
- **Hempe**, Kevin D., (STL), Our Savior's, Pacifica, CA, July 13 by M. Lange (ordained June 16 by R. Smith).
- **Hoff**, Clinton S., (PSD), Peace, Fresno, CA, September 29 by M. Lange.
- **Iwen**, Jason L., (FTW), Zion, Winnemucca, NV / Christ, Battle Mountain, NV, June 22 by M. Lange (ordained June 22 by M. Lange).
- **Linehan**, Nathan D., (STL), First, Yuba City, CA, June 2 by M. Lange (ordained June 2 by M. Lange).
- **Wrede**, William F., Bethany, Vacaville, CA, (TIM), July 7, by J. Whaley.
- **Zoch**, Jonathan R., (STL), Trinity, Gardnerville, NV, September 14 by M. Lange (ordained July 14 by M. Popovits).

Changes within the District:

- **Beyer**, Philip J., Good Shepherd, Healdsburg, CA, December 14, by M. Lange.
- **Garrity**, Corey R., Redeemer, Redwood City, CA, (Sr. Pastor) August 18, by P. Schult.
- **Robb**, Joseph E., Our Savior, Livermore, CA, January 14 by M. Lange.
- **Roma**, Stephan A., Redeeming Grace, Santa Clara, CA, October 27 by M. Lange.

Transferred to Other Districts:

Bramwell, Tyrel E. to English; **Dandy**, Jacob W. to Kansas; **Eckert**, Stephen A. (EM) to Kansas; **Engelhardt**, Marc T to Minnesota South; **Hartley**, William R. to Kansas; **Hausch**, Nathan A. to Pacific Southwest; **Knippa**, Colter A. to Pacific Southwest; **Newton**, Robert D. (EM) to Michigan; **Pledger**, Phillip M. (EM) to Indiana; **Rasmussen**, Christian J. to Southern; **Schedler**, Donald E. (EM) to Missouri; **Schudde**, A. Mark (EM) to Missouri; **Thompson**, Matthew E. (EM) to South Wisconsin; **Weeks**, Kyle T. to Michigan.

Inactive/Candidate or Emeritus:

Kliwer, Mark A. (EM); **Pledger**, Phillip M. (EM); **Roschke**, Paul N. (EM); **Schedler**, Walter J. (EM); **Steinbeck**, Allen L. (CAND); **Thompson**, Matthew E. (EM).

Deceased:

Haas, Mark W.; **Kruger**, Robert A.; **Miller**, Larry A.; **Sandberg**, Darrill D.

CNH District Commission Ministers - Roster Changes

Calls & Contacts Accepted 2022

Stephanie	Karolus	Gainesville, FL to Prince of Peace, Fremont, CA as DCE
Stephanie	Nelson	Orangevale, CA to Zion, Terra Bella, CA as Teacher
Jennifer	Cid	Prince of Peace, Fremont, CA to Our Savior, Livermore, CA as Vice Principal
Lynn	Ballantyne	Sierra Lutheran, Carson City, NV to Monroe, MI as a Teacher
Patrick	Maynard	San Antonio, TX to Sierra Lutheran High, Carson City, NV as Head of School
David	Stuckwisch	Appleton, WI to Sierra Lutheran High, Carson City, NV as Teacher
Daniel	Spiva	St. John's Bakersfield, CA to Alhambra, CA as Teacher
Cynthia	Spiva	St. John's Bakersfield, CA to Alhambra, CA as Principal
Lorian	Kuster	Our Savior, Aiea, HI to Saltlake City, UT as Teacher
Stephen	Dierker	Candidate to Concordia Irvine as Academic Advisor
Beverly	Schuller	Our Savior, Livermore CA, to Orange, CA as Teacher
Ellen	Hackerd	Emeritus to NOW District as Emeritus
Jennifer	Haller	Candidate to Memphis, TN as Teacher
David	Spurgeon	Candidate to Albuquerque, NM as DCE

Placements 2022

Brent	Williams	Concordia Irvine to St. John's Bakersfield, CA as Teacher
Leah	Martin	Concordia St. Paul to Prince of Peace, Fremont, CA as Teacher
Zachary	Potratz	Concordia Seward to Emmanuel, Kahului, HI as Teacher
Zachary	Reineke	Concordia Mequon to Sierra Lutheran High, as Teacher

Change in Roster Status 2022

Katie	Utecht	Active to Candidate Tsf to SD District
Lindsey	Wilson	Active to Candidate
Heather	Peyton	Active to Candidate
Arlene	Snyder	Active to Candidate
Jennifer	Haller	Active to Candidate
Maria	Stine	Active to Candidate

Removed from Roster 2022

None

Called to Glory 2022

Charles	Schlibe
Lydia	Schroeder

Calls & Contacts Accepted 2023		
Phyllis	Schroeder	ND District to CNH District as Emeritus
Heather	Peyton	Candidate to St. John's Bakersfield as Teacher
Amanda	Goodwin	Candidate to Peach Tree City, GA as Teacher
Dawn	Godeman	St. Peter, Lodi, CA to Omaha, NB as Teacher
Sina	Williams	St. Mark, Santa Rosa, CA to Centennial, CO as DCE
Megan	Clift	Emmanuel, Kahului, HI to
Matthew	Molinari	DCE St. Matthew, Rocklin, CA to LCEF District Vice President
Placements 2023		
Maile	Sjostrand	Concordia Irvine to Emmanuel, Kahului as Teacher
Taylor	Ruehs	Concordia Irvine to St. Peter Lodi, CA as Teacher
Matthew	Wahlers	Concordia Seward to Sierra Lutheran High, Carson City, NV as Teacher
Andrew	Kaufmann	Concordia Chicago to Zion, San Luis Obispo, CA as DCE
Change in Roster Status 2023		
Amanda	Goodwin	Removed from Roster to Candidate
Allan	Tong	Active to Candidate
Removed from Roster 2023		
None		
Called to Glory 2023		
Marilyn	Schinnerer	
Rodney	Mara	

Calls & Contacts Accepted 2024

Allan	Tong	Luth. Church of Holy Spirit, SF, CA to Las Vegas, NV as DCE
Patrick	Maynard	Sierra Lutheran High, Carson City, NV to Houston, TX, as Dir. of Admissions
David	Stuckwisch	Sierra Lutheran High, Carson City, NV to Northrop, MN as Principal
Sarah	McDow	Slidell, LA to St. Peter Lodi, CA as Teaher
Doug	Molin	Metairie, LA to St. Peter, Lodi, CA as Teacher
David	Sleighter	Seattle, WA to Our Savior, Livermore, CA as Teacher
Dorothy	Glenn	Candidate to Sierra Lutheran High, Carson City, NV as Deaconess

Placements 2024

Justine	Rollin	Concordia Irvine to St. John's, Napa, CA as Teacher
Joy	Dahl	Concordia Irvine to St. John's, Napa, CA as Preschool Director
Pacey	Hall	Concordia St. Paul to Our Savior, Aiea, HI as Teacher
Jacob	Jurchin	Concordia Seward to Emmanuel, Kahului, HI as Teacher
Julia	Tougas	Concordia Irvine to St. Matthew, Rocklin, CA as DCE

Change in Roster Status 2024

None

Removed from Roster 2024

None

Called to Glory 2024

Joel	Koerschen	CNH Education Executive
Stephen	Dinger	

CNH DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS'

CONVENTION REPORT

May 2025

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.

- **Core Principles:**
 - **Separation of Ends and Means:** Policy governance distinguishes between the organization's purpose (Ends) and the methods used to achieve it (Means).
 - **Board's Focus on the Ends:** The board's primary responsibility is to define and ensure the achievement of the organization's Ends, while delegating the implementation (Means) to the District President and staff.
 - **Executive Limitations:** The board defines the boundaries of what decisions and actions the District President can make.
 - **Governance Process:** The board establishes its own operating procedures, philosophy, accountability, and discipline.

Six years ago, the Board set out to accomplish the following:

The CNH District consists of well-equipped, healthy, and missionally committed leaders (both called and lay).

Congregations are the hands and feet of the District, therefore it is important to ensure leaders in congregations, schools and ministries have training opportunities and access to sufficient resources.

Congregations of the CNH District will have a positive mission direction.

Every congregation, school and ministry should be able to have a vision for the future. It is no secret that far too many ministries are struggling – some affected by COVID and others the cultural trend away from Sunday morning worship. Every congregation, school and ministry has a role in the larger church.

Basic congregational and support services are provided in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

The ability to do more with less is becoming a standard operational theme. As ministries enter an unknown, they should not have to do so without someone to walk beside them and resources that will help enable them to make decisions as they navigate their particular ministry path.

So, most people would ask, “what did the BOD do this past three years?”

The answer is in the reports you are reading from the various boards, agencies, staff members, District President and Partner Ministries.

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.

The District Secretary publishes the BOD Minutes after each meeting (March, June, September and December) – please take the time to read them and feel free to ask questions. Your Regional Vice-President and Lay Director are your representatives to the Board of Directors, and they are available to meet with your Circuit Forums or Winkels.

DDRC (District Disaster Response Coordinator) Report

73rd Convention

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

California-Nevada-Hawaii District

Rev. (em) Philip W. Zabell, KI6SMN, Chair
& CNH DDRC

Incidents Responded To:

While any given year may have multiple situations when disasters occurred within the CNH service area, the only ones listed are those located in areas where we had a contact person or a congregation.

2022:

While there were no incidents responded to, DDRC Phil did drive to Ft. Wayne to attend the annual LCMS Disaster Response Conference in late September. The reason for driving was to transport radio equipment for a special event amateur radio station W9E and accompanying materials for a booth set up for the conference. The purpose was to help create awareness of the communications tools available when the cell system and other regular means of communication are not available.

2023:

Early '23 brought a variation from our more typical type of disaster, wildfire. Due to a series of atmospheric rivers, our CA service area was inundated with rain bringing to a close a three year drought [droughts have been an issue also 2007-09 and 2012-16]. With the great volume of water in a short period of time flooding impacted the communities served by Trinity, Watsonville (the Rev Juan Vallejo) and Shepherd of the Hills, Lake Isabella (the Rev Daniel Schlensker).

Pastor & members of Trinity jumped to the task providing food and counsel to about 15 families in the community of Pajaro. Shepherd of the Hills was joined by members of the Lutheran Emergency Response Team (LERT) [Jim Hudgins] from St John, Bakersfield in sheet rocking some of the homes impacted in the community of Pond. Orphan Grain Train was instrumental in providing the supplies needed. The LERT team collaborated with God's Pit Crew in restoring the livability of the homes.

While other congregation service areas were also impacted by the flooding, these two were the only ones involving my coordination efforts.

All was well until August 8 on the island of Maui in Hawaii. That day a conflagration broke out driven by 60mph winds. 102 people lost their lives and over 2,000 homes were lost as the flames roared through Lahaina, Kihei, Kula, and Makawao. The highest volume of destruction was in Lahaina.

At the time Emmanuel, Kahului, was vacant but school principal Josh Rempfer and congregation leaders Leif Sjostrand, Russell Wilson and others immediately jumped to the task. I was able to help coordinate connection with Lutheran Church Charities which then played a central boots on the ground role providing LERT training in Kahului as well as at Our Savior, Aiea. Orphan Grain Train also played a key logistics role getting supplies to assist the survivors.

My focus was remotely participating in the Hawaii Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (HIVOAD) meetings so as to keep Emmanuel apprized of community developments and resources. The congregation is seeking to bring on staff a Long-term Disaster Response Coordinator to help the congregation be engaged in the fire related ministry opportunities. Unfortunately they have been unsuccessful to date even though the ministry opportunities will last for many years to come (the Camp Fire occurred in 2018 and the community still has a long way to go in the rebuilding process).

Following one of my avocations, I took the train to attend the LCMS Disaster Response Conference in St Louis. It takes two days by train. My second day out I began showing symptoms. By the time I got to STL the illness was in full bloom. Sure enough, it was COVID-19 as verified by a test done at the International Center. I spent the next 10 days in my hotel room.

2024:

The year was relatively quiet until the month of July. On the 2nd the Thompson Fire took 13 homes near Oroville followed on the 24th when the Park Fire began in Upper Bidwell Park on the outskirts of Chico, CA. By the time the danger was past 64 days later, a little over 400 homes had been lost but, thankfully, no loss of life. It is the fourth largest fire in CA's history.

Six congregations from Circuit 12 jumped to the task providing volunteers at the Local Assistance Centers (LAC) set up in Butte and Tehama Counties. Volunteers from Our Savior, Calvary, Redeemer, First Willows, St Pauls, and Trinity donated their time over the course of eight days. As surviving families made their way through the LAC attempting to bring order out of their chaos, the people at the "Lutheran Compassionate Care" booth offered words of hope, prayer, gift cards, Bibles, quilts/blankets, cleaning kits, and hygiene kits (the last few items were supplied by the North American Lutheran Church).

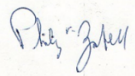
Since the fire I have continued to work with three of the families I met at the Butte LAC. Drawing on funding from Lutheran Social Services of Northern CA and hopefully some additional sources, I am trying to provide tools for survivors who not only lost their homes but also their means of making a living. If any funds are left after helping these families, I will be drawing on the Disaster Case Management (DCM) being provided by St Vincent De Paul to identify additional survivors who might have the need of tools either for personal or business.

Taking the train once again, this time I was able to fully participate in the LCMS Disaster Response Conference in STL. This not only allowed for the usual networking but also for the being brought up to speed on the ever evolving approach to disaster response. What doesn't change, however, is the objective of our bringing God's mercy to those whose lives have been turned upside down.

2025:

By God's grace there have been no major disasters despite the heavy rains. There has been some flooding along the Sacramento River due to releases from the Shasta and Oroville Dams, but as of this date no call outs.

Respectfully submitted,



CNH-District Disaster Response Coordinator
DDRC: KI6SMN WRYD996
530-520-1458

Camp Fire Unmet Needs Roundtable Financial Report (final):

The Camp Fire (2018) resulted in the loss of 85 lives and approximately 14,000 homes. This included the parsonage of the Rev Brandon Merrick as well as the sanctuary of Our Savior Lutheran in Paradise.

Whenever a major disaster hits a community, a Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) is typically formed by local community leaders, businesses, as well as community organizations such as the Church. In this case the LTRG adopted the name "The Camp Fire Collaborative" (CFC).

LTRGs are made up of a number of committees, each one focusing on a particular aspect to help the community start again amidst their new normal. Some committees deal with Disaster Case Management (DCM), some with restoring businesses, some with providing Spiritual Emotional Wellness (SEW), etc.

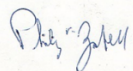
One of the committees which is part of the CFC is the Unmet Needs Round Table (UNRT). Beginning in 2019 I sat as part of the CFC-UNRT distributing \$25,000 which had come from CNH donors in support of the CF survivors.

Monthly CFC-UNRT Zoom meetings were held where people representing various donor resources would hear about the rebuilding needs of families who had been thoroughly vetted by their DCM. These were families who did not have insurance or were under insured who, if they could return to their property, had sufficient other resources to be able to make it day to day.

Here then is an accounting of how the CNH funds were distributed over the course of the past six years. It's a way for putting legs on the Gospel. This was God's mercy in action moved by the words of our LORD when he said, "Hungry and you fed me, naked and you clothed me, sick...."

Date Presented	Family of	Amount Requested	CNH Funds Committed
4/22/20	6 wanting to rebuild a 1,194 ft ² , 3br 2ba house	\$85,417	\$500
	3 seeking a 3br 2ba modular home	\$145,447	\$1,000
7/29/20	3 who have found a house to rehab	\$24,000	\$1,000
	2 seeking a 1,560 ft ² , 3br 2 ba mfg home	\$58,045	\$1,000
10/28/21	2 (grandmother & son) 988 ft ² 2br 1ba house	\$25,088	\$2,000
	2 (father & son) to make a mobile home livable	\$26,843	\$834
	2 building a 900 ft ² 2br 2ba house	\$103,375	\$1,000
	2 (mother & child) for tiny home + property infrastructure	\$108,340	\$2,000
1/27/22	1 older survivor to refurbish house in new community	\$9,775	\$1,775
2/24/22	1 older survivor for a solar powered tiny home 404 ft ²	\$65,463	\$1,000
	2 (mother & child) for solar powered tiny home 404 ft ²	\$65,061	\$1,000
8/25/22	3 to help owner finish interior using owner's labor	\$55,342	\$265
	1 to help elderly owner replace stolen materials	\$18,360	\$2,000
11/17/22	4 elderly vet to help qualify for Recover CA rebuild	\$34,900	\$1,000
	3 to provide gap funding for rebuild loan	\$36,060	\$1,000
	4 for funds to complete rebuild & move out of 24' tr trailer	\$73,712	\$1,000
4/27/23	2 a design via Hope Crisis Response Network, 2br 2ba	\$75,350	\$500
	2 gap funding to enable completion of house in progress	\$31,649	\$500
6/22/23	1 last HCRN build, 972 ft ² --completion time sensitive	\$70,000	\$3,000
1/25/24	3 doing own rebuild, this will enable completion	\$46,416	\$1,000
8/1/24	3 collaborating w Paradise HS on a 1br 1ba w loft	\$24,050	\$1,626

Respectfully submitted,



CNH-District Disaster Response Coordinator

DDRC: KI6SMN WRYD996

530-520-1458

Disaster Relief Awards Task Force

Pr. Brian K. Cummins, Chairman

Members of the Task Force:

Denise Lo, CNH Operations Executive and President's Representative

Lois Peacock – Human Care Committee Representative

Rachel Markham – Mendocino/Carr Fire Representative (Trinity, Redding)

Deb Lancina – Wildfire/Tubbs Fire Representative (St. Marks, Santa Rosa)

Ken Arnold – St. Johns, Napa

Rev (em) Phil Zabell - District Disaster Response Coordinator- Advisory Member

The basic responsibilities of the Task Force is to Develop a plan that is able to provide resourcing quickly and proactively to a congregation/ congregation(s) and church workers who find themselves in a place where they might offer relief support or may be in need quickly.

The Basic Guidelines:

1. Three Stages

- a. Recover - Initial Grants
- b. Renew – Help Through the Trauma
- c. Rebuild – Assist in the rebuilding

2. Priorities (Demonstrated Needs)

- a. Called Workers
- b. Church Staff
- c. Church Members
- d. Community

3. Current Stages of Fire Areas (2017-2024)

a. Tubbs Wildfire (2017) – Santa Rosa/Napa/Sonoma

- i. Currently in the Rebuild Stage
- ii. Total funds disbursed as of 12/31/24: \$161,263
- iii. Reserved Balance as 12/31/24: \$144,550

b. Mendocino/Carr Wildfires (2018) – Clear Lake/Redding

- i. Currently in the Rebuild Stage
- ii. Total funds disbursed as of 12/31/24: \$21,800
- iii. Reserved Balance as of 12/31/24: \$44,489

c. Camp Fire (2018) – Paradise/Chico

- i. Currently in the Renew/Rebuild Stage
- ii. Total funds disbursed as of 12/31/24: \$96,759
- iii. Reserved Balance as of 12/31/24: \$157,915

d. Kincade Fire (2019) – Sonoma County Currently Closed

e. Complex Fire (2020) – Northern California Currently Closed

f. Dixie, Caldor Fire (2021) - Butte, Lassen, Plumas, Shasta, Tehama and El Dorado counties Currently Closed

g. Maui Fire (2023) - Hawaii

i. Currently in Renew/Rebuild Stage

ii. Total funds disbursed as of 12/31/24: \$155,729

iii. Reserved Balance as of 12/31/24: \$210,677

h. Thompson/Park fire (2024) – Oroville, CA

i. Total funds disbursed as of 12/31/24: \$25,000

ii. Total funds disbursed as of 12/31/24: \$25000

iii. Currently closed

i. Northern California Fire Fund

i. Currently impacted Butte, Tehama, Shasta and Plumas counties.

ii. Total funds received as of 12/31/24: \$138,878

iii. Total funds disbursed as of 12/31/24: \$30,684

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Brian K. Cummins

Chairman of the Disaster Relief Awards Task Force

Report for the CNH-Human Care Committee

73rd Convention

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

California-Nevada-Hawaii District

Rev. (em) Philip W. Zabell, KI6SMN, Chair
& CNH DDRC

I became chair of the District Human Care Committee in June, 2007. Initially we met face to face, but most recently we now gather via Zoom. That saves me a five hour round trip for a typically two hour meeting.

After a personal check in from each attendee (after all if we can't show care for one another, how can we try to provide care resources for the District) one of the Committee members leads us in devotions followed by a reading of our mission statement:

The mission of the Human Care Committee is to challenge and engage congregations in proclaiming the Gospel through compassionate ministry to the human needs of all people.

This report covers the work of the Committee since the last District Convention, May 5-7, 2022, held in Newark.

Without the great committee I have to work with, there would be nothing to report. When we gather the one thing that always comes through loud and clear is that these people genuinely care about one another and have a passion for seeing God's mercy and care shown to others. It's all about putting legs on the Gospel which has been accomplished and made known to us through Jesus, the Christ. To Marilyn Harri, Susan Contreras, Lois Peacock, Joan Hilse and the Rev. Ron Arnold, I say thank you. Thanks is also due to those with whom we collaborate in the mission God has laid before us: Carol Roberts, PhD, President of Lutheran Social Services of Northern California. Without the cooperation and collaboration of this mission partner the visibility of God's mission of mercy would not be nearly so great among us.

I would be remiss were I not to also thank our dedicated staff at the District Ministry Center. Without their untiring support the Human Care Committee would not have been able to accomplish the ministry you will read about in the balance of this report.

2022:

Start the brainstorming process for the next human care training/offering to be made available to the District. Church worker and laity wellness as one of the target pursuits.

2023:

Discussion ensued about providing a resource to assist congregations for ministry in an uncharted environment. Ultimately the focus was to identify a resource that could guide those who want to help caregivers in practical ways. Martha Garmon was identified as a presenter to do an in person session at the DMC in February, 2024. The session would be titled "Caring for Caregivers."

2024:

On February 10, Martha Garmon helped equip attendees with meaningful ways to support those who are providing care for others. Drawing on her personal experience of caring for her husband as his life situation deteriorated due to dementia, Garmon shared what helped her provide that care as those around her provided support in word and action.

With the Caring for Caregivers event successfully completed, the Committee began to prepare for a presentation on trauma informed care (TIC) with 2/22/25 established as the date for a Zoom presentation. Another issue of concern was how to address the deterioration of civility in our country.

Along with disaster response content, the HCC had a booth at the All Worker Conference in Monterey in November.

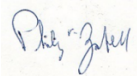
2025:

On February 22 Kate Hutchinson, M.S., of Lutheran Social Services of Northern CA led a two hour Zoom webinar titled, "Understanding Trauma." Excellent information was provided on how trauma affects an individual, modifying the way they think and its impact on the person's interactions with others. Attendees were provided with an introduction on helpful ways to understand and relate with those who have experienced trauma.

While trauma can relate to a specific incident (a death, wildfire, etc) it can also be from a generalized environment such as day to day life in a changing society. As the Committee moves forward discussion will ensue on how we might provide ongoing trauma resources to assist the people of the District.

Another area of exploration will be a revisiting of the Social Ministry Affirmations of 1971. Many of the issues addressed in that document are still present today.

If you would like to be an active instrument in Human Care in general or in disaster response, give me a call at 530-520-1458.



Rev. (em) Philip W. Zabell (KI6SMN), HCC Chair
DDRC: KI6SMN WRYD996
530-520-1458

CNH Transitional Interim Ministry Report

TIM Director, Pastor Allen Steinbeck

Since August 1, 2022, it has been my privilege to serve the congregations of the CNH District as the Director of Transitional Interim Ministry (TIM).

During the time between our 2022 Convention and today, 14 specially trained Transitional Interim Pastors (TIP's) have been called/contracted to serve 15 different congregations.

These men serve congregations during what we sometimes call the “in-between times” or a “liminal season” – hat time when a congregation transitions between regularly called pastors, and steps from one age/stage of its history into the next.

Every TIP's central purpose is to prepare a congregation to carry out its mission and ministry with its new pastor. This is accomplished through intentional work with the congregation,

1. Reviewing and clarifying its heritage
2. Recognizing its present strengths and weaknesses and potential for ministry
3. Developing and empowering leadership
4. Reaffirming its ties to the larger Church—especially the CNH District and Synod
5. Committing itself to possible new directions and new pastoral leadership

In addition to this, the TIP also provides the following services:

1. Ensure the integrity of Word and Sacrament ministry
2. Provide competent pastoral leadership to alleviate the fear of diminished ministry
3. Provide leadership to staff and lay leaders to build a greater sense of teamwork and shared vision
4. Work with the Congregation through the grief/change process in a positive and constructive manner so that any needed healing may begin and continue
5. Provide continuity during the “in-between time”
6. Prepare the Congregation to welcome its new settled pastor

St Paul says well what we are to be about together: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:4-7

If you'd like to read more, in addition to serving as a TIM pastor, my role as part-time CNH staff is best detailed as President Lange spelled it out for me:

Primary Tasks—TIM Director

1. Inform congregations to benefits of TIM.
2. Meet with congregations (if possible) before pastoral vacancy occurs (District Zoom accounts available if needed).
3. Maintain roster of TIM trained men and those able/willing to serve vacancies (working together with District President's Administrative Assistant).
4. Arrange meeting(s) between congregations and TIM pastors as needed.
5. Provide contract information to congregation and TIM pastor.
6. Provide feedback to District Office on vacancy status.
7. Follow-up with congregation and TIM pastor after 3 months, 6 months, etc.

Secondary Tasks—TIM Director

1. Coordinate with PSW & NOW Districts on annual Three Rivers Retreat.
2. Identify men as able toward TIM training.
3. Coordinate local/distance TIM training as needed.
4. Be informational resource for TIM to District.
5. Supply representation to National TIM committee as willing/able.

Pulpit Supply and non-TIM Vacancies

1. Maintain list of men available for pulpit supply (working together with District President's Administrative Assistant).
2. Discuss with congregations/pastors/Circuit Visitors the differences between TIM Pastors and Vacancy Pastors and simple Pulpit Supply.
3. Coordinate with District Office on status of vacancies (by regular meeting with President).

Miscellaneous

1. Attend District Administrative Staff Meetings as requested (by Zoom unless otherwise requested).
2. Attend annual Three Rivers Retreat.
3. Attend training events at District Office (Circuit Visitor gathering as requested)
4. Connect with LuTMA and PSD and NOW TIM Directors

Check out <https://www.cnh-lcms.org/transitional-interim-ministry> for further information.

District Committee on Constitutional Matters

Rev. Richard Rice – Committee Chair

The CNH District Committee on Constitutional Matters currently has three members: Rev. Richard Rice, Chair; Rev. Don Schneider, Vice-Chair; and Marilyn Maxner, Secretary. We are in need of replacing the chairperson who will be stepping down as of this convention. (If you know of someone who might be interested in assisting in this ministry contact the District President!)

Congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in order to be members of the Synod, need to operate under governance documents approved by the District. One of the tasks of the DCCM is to review these constitutions and bylaws and, once approved, forward them to the District Board of Directors for approval.

It has been our honor to serve the District and its congregations in this important area of work. It can be challenging, tedious, joyful, and exciting.

During this three-year cycle we have seen an ebb and flow of churches submitting governance documents. The committee has also developed new templates for the Constitution and Bylaws for both Traditional governance and Policy Based governance.

Some of the great joys is seeing the process come to fruition. It can take quite a while to go between the committee's reviews and a congregation's adoptions and changes. During the last three years the committee has forwarded to the Board of Directors eight approved constitution and bylaws.

DISABILITY MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

Dianne Flynn – Committee Chair

OUR MISSION: 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.

Since our Disability Ministry Task Force became a standing committee at the 2022 District Convention, we have kept very busy. We held a successful disability workshop in October 2023 at Zion in North Highlands, CA. Eleven organizations were represented with tables and speakers. A panel of eight shared their experiences dealing with loss of eyesight, hearing, and mobility. Spouses and parents shared their experiences in caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy.

In 2024, we created our "Come Build a Church" video, showing members with disabilities doing ministry in our District congregations. We updated our District website and continue to add to our Facebook page. Representatives spoke at LWML rallies and retreats and are preparing to hold a Mission Night at Faith Lutheran Church in Fair Oaks, CA.

In September 2024, we had our first District Disability Awareness Sunday and created resources for congregations to use. These include a sermon, children's message, and Bible Studies. We have been present at every Pastors' Conference, Workers' Conference and LWML Convention, sharing information and ministry resources at our DMC table. We continue to search for a contact person for each of our congregations.

Recently, we began a partnership with Joni and Friends, an international organization which is dedicated to encouraging, training, and supporting congregations in developing vibrant disability ministries. A current project of the organization is to collect and restore 15,000 wheelchairs that will be hand-delivered to underdeveloped countries, along with Bibles and the message of hope. Their Ministry Relations Manager is now a consultant on our committee and joins us at conferences and at this convention.

We are in the process of applying for a LWML District Grant to furnish "Special Needs Buddy Bags" to all congregations and schools in our District who request them. These would include noise-reducing headphones and sensory and fidget tools. Their purpose would be to help children and adults with special needs be more comfortable in a group worship or class setting and, therefore, more attentive to God's word. Please pray for the success of this project.

Mission Agency Report

Year End -- 2024

Update and overview of the Mission Agency's activities, challenges, and Strategic Direction moving forward into 2025 and beyond.

The majority of the Mission Agency's funding is allocated to two primary areas: The salary and benefits of the Mission Executive and Assistant to the Mission Exec, and, Legacy Missions that have been receiving funding for more than 5 years. We received our first grant from the new Missio Dei West Foundation which will help.

Challenges in Accountability with Mission Partners in 2024

This year presented some significant challenges in maintaining the level of engagement and accountability we strive for with our mission partners. The vacancy of the Mission Executive position created a gap in leadership, which impacted our ability to consistently oversee, communicate, and hold our mission partners accountable to the goals and objectives we set together at the December/January Zoom meetings with each partner group. While we have continued to support and collaborate with our partners, the absence of this position limited our capacity to foster the depth of relationship necessary for optimal collaboration.

In recent months, Paul Ferguson, Jr has personally made contact with all our mission partners to re-establish communication, build trust, and reaffirm our shared commitment to the mission. These conversations have been productive, and we are encouraged by the eagerness of our partners to strengthen our collaboration moving into 2025. With the Mission Executive position now filled and the increased focus on relationship-building, we will be in a stronger position to ensure accountability and mutual success in the coming year.

Strategic Support for the CNH District's Strategic Ministry Plan

Looking forward, the Mission Agency is committed to supporting the CNH District's strategic plan. To ensure the success of this ambitious initiative, we will focus on key areas where our resources and expertise can make a significant impact. Starting with 2026 grants, we will begin a comprehensive revamp of how we approach mission agency funding to better align with

these goals. Our new funding model will be structured to provide targeted support in the following areas:

1. Grants for Congregations

One of the primary ways we will continue to support the district's strategic goals is through grants for congregations. These grants are available to congregations committed to:

- Church planting and replanting.
- Forming strategic partnerships.

Clear eligibility guidelines will be re-emphasized to ensure funds are directed to initiatives that align with the district's vision and mission. This will ensure our resources are supporting efforts that directly contribute to the revitalization and growth of congregations throughout the district.

We will continue a required yearly check-in (Zoom or in-person) to see where they are, what tools and resources they may need and give them a chance to share what they are doing. This check-in is required to continue to receive funding. There are also required reports that must be submitted at designated points.

Here is a link to the various grants that are available: [Funding | CNH District](https://www.cnh-lcms.org/mission-funding-opportunities)
(<https://www.cnh-lcms.org/mission-funding-opportunities>)

2. Direct Support for Training and Resources

A critical component of the strategic ministry plan is the development of leaders and the equipping of congregations with the tools they need to thrive. In response, the Mission Agency will allocate funds for:

- Developing leadership training programs.
- Creating or using already established online training modules to provide accessible resources for congregational leaders.
- Supporting workshops, seminars, and mentorship programs that will empower congregational leaders to successfully carry out their ministry initiatives (Examples: FiveTwo, LCEF Ministry Solutions, collaborating across the West Coast Districts, etc)

This direct support will be pivotal in preparing our congregations and leaders for the work ahead, ensuring they have the knowledge and resources to embark on church revitalization, community outreach, and growth initiatives.

3. Strategic Investments

In addition to grants and training, we will also make strategic investments in congregations with the potential for long-term impact. We will prioritize:

- Congregations in high-growth areas or those using innovative approaches to community outreach.
- Supporting capital needs for church plants, facility improvements for replanting churches, and initiatives that promote partnerships, so as to not lose our foothold in key/vital ministry areas. To do this we will explore options for (outside funding and partnership opportunities) to help congregations meet their capital needs, ensuring that any investment made furthers the district's broader mission.

Implementation and Impact of These Initiatives in 2025 and Beyond

The implementation of this funding strategy will be a key focus for 2025, as we work with congregations to engage in revitalization efforts, community impact initiatives, and sustainable growth strategies. By the time we roll out these new initiatives in 2026, and the new funding model (3 years capped mission grant), we anticipate a strong foundation of support for congregations that are ready to take the next step in their mission work. While the mission grants are capped at 3 years, we will work to resource them with other agencies that may offer additional grants and support.

Our efforts in 2025 will be to ensure congregations are well-equipped and well-supported as they embark on their respective journeys of revitalization and outreach. We are excited about the impact this focus on strategic funding will have in the years to come.

As we close 2024, and look ahead to 2025 and beyond, we are encouraged by the steps taken to strengthen relationships with mission partners and better align our funding and support with the district's broader strategic goals.

Mission Training Center

Rev. Jonathan Priest - Director

1. MTC - What We Do

a. Training For Witness

MTC provides 17 theological and practical training courses for lay members of congregations to more effectively serve their local congregation and witness to their local community.

b. Building the Bench of Lay Leaders

Those who receive training through MTC serve as congregational elders, bible study leaders, spiritual caregivers, youth ministers, Sunday school coordinators and teachers, worship leaders, and more. In each area of service, MTC strives to train participants to be effective witnesses of the Gospel to the unchurched.

c. Need-Based Designed and Delivered Courses

MTC has the capacity to design and deliver new courses for congregations and LCMS schools to meet specific needs. For example, In 2024, at the request of President Mike Gibson, we partnered with the Education Executives of the three West Coast Districts and CUI to develop a series of 5 courses called *Foundations of Lutheran Teaching*. These courses help integrate non-Lutheran teachers and early childhood staff into their Lutheran School settings. Our pilot cohort of 14 participants will finish in May.

d. A Pipeline for Future Professional Church Workers

MTC also serves as the first step for laity who are considering whether to train as professional church workers, e.g. deaconesses, DCE's, pastors.

2. Who We Are - A Truly Synodical Partnership

a. MTC is a collaboration of three west coast districts (PSD, CNH, and NOW) with primary spiritual and financial oversight entrusted to the president of the Pacific Southwest District.

b. MTC has a Memorandum of Understanding with Concordia University Irvine outlining that MTC's curriculum and instructors are vetted and overseen by MTC's director, Rev. Jonathan Priest and the Chief Mission Officer of Concordia University Irvine, Rev. Dr. Steven Mueller.

c. MTC also oversees the instruction and delivery of 11 courses for the lay deacon program of the Southeastern District of the LCMS.

d. MTC employs two part-time staff persons.

i. Day-to-day operations are managed by Sonja Baumeister as Program Coordinator.

ii. Promotion, curriculum development, and recruitment of instructors are overseen by Rev. Jonathan Priest as Director.

e. MTC instructors are LCMS pastors, professors, and lay professionals who are selected based on experience, education, and geographical location to instruct MTC courses.

3. Courses & Enrollment

	2022	2023	2024	Totals
Unique Courses	24	21	25	70
Registrations	184	188	248	620
New Students	33	39	61	133
Unique Students	75	73	99	171*

* Some students crossed over years so the total is not equal to the sum of three years.

- a. During the triennium, MTC enrolled students living in 22 states and one foreign country. Students came from 14 LCMS Districts, two non-LCMS church bodies, one foreign language group, and one RSO.
- b. MTC meets the needs of students at a variety of life stages and vocations: stay at home parents, recently retired individuals, recent college graduates considering professional church ministry, pastors and congregational members in cohort, etc.

4. How We Train

- a. MTC's class content is delivered through *Canvas Free for Teachers*, a free online learning management system which enables students to access articles, videos, podcasts, and other content as well as upload assignments, take tests, and participate in online discussions with classmates. In addition to this content, students engage with their instructors in live video chat sessions over Zoom. Most MTC courses offer four or eight 2-hour weekly classes using this method.
- b. MTC courses are scheduled on weeknights or Saturday mornings to accommodate the work and family needs of our students.

5. New Initiatives - Maximizing the Potential of Online Training For Laity

- a. **New Online Presence**
In 2024 MTC rebuilt its online presence from the ground up with a new website and store.
- b. **Course Revision - Following the Standard Cycle**
 - i. Prior to Fall 2024 MTC courses followed a Winter-Spring-Fall cycle with *MTC 001 Old Testament* beginning in January. Courses now follow the traditional academic Fall-Winter-Spring cycle with *MTC 001* beginning in August.
 - ii. Course sequence was optimized for a wholistic 2-year formation process for interested laity. Year 1 courses focus on the formation of Christian identity. Year 2 courses focus on forming skills for Christian witness.

c. Foundations of Lutheran Teaching (FLT) - Integrating Non-Lutheran Teachers

In the fall of 2023, MTC was tasked by President Mike Gibson with developing a series of five courses which equip non-Lutheran educators in LCMS schools to integrate Lutheran belief and practice into their pedagogy. The pilot cohort of 14 participants began in 2024 and will complete their coursework in May 2025. FLT aims to foster a consistent Lutheran ethos, enhance teacher employability, and strengthen school-church unity. Through practical, application-focused asynchronous learning and live online workshops, the program includes an emphasis on spiritual self-care and serves as a stepping stone towards colloquy.

d. Just in Time Training - New Course Development & Delivery

MTC not only provides courses but can now collaborate with congregations to design and deliver courses tailored to meet their contextual needs.

- i. In Spring 2024 a congregation in Nebraska partnered with MTC to use MTC's Old Testament course content for their Sunday morning Bible study of over 40 attendees for 12 weeks.
- ii. In Fall 2024 a congregation in Oregon partnered with MTC to deliver an 8-week course in Church Administration for its entire board of directors, including having the instructor lead a capstone workshop on site.
- iii. In collaboration with an instructor, MTC designed *MTC 017 Congregational Life Cycle* to help laity discern the future direction for their congregation in kingdom mission.

6. Financial Support & Revenue

- a. MTC receives \$20,000 in financial support from each of the three west coast districts.
- b. The rest of MTC's revenue comes from course tuition: \$150 for 4-week courses and \$300 for 8-week courses. A minimum of five students is needed in each course in order to break even.

7. Where We're Headed

MTC is a lean operation focused on delivering substantive, made-to-order, just-in-time theological and practical training for the laity. As we look towards the next three years, we envision:

- a. The expansion of our successful *Foundations of Lutheran Teaching* program to additional LCMS districts.
- b. Developing new courses and methods of delivery in collaboration with local congregations and instructors to meet contextual needs.
- c. The development of a library of video and other training content for congregations to access via a subscription model,
- d. A badge system to help students identify and track completion of courses which enhance their role of service in the congregation, e.g. elder, teacher, worship leader, spiritual caregiver, etc.

CNH District

CIRCUIT REPORTS

Circuit # 1

Rev. Lenny Szeto – Circuit Visitor

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, San Rafael, CA

Currently served by Pastor Tom Hurley. The church is the farthest church north in Circuit 1. Resurrection has recently welcomed 6 new members, 5 by transfer and 1 by profession of faith. 2 more will be transferred from Peace Lutheran, Mill Valley after the transfer of assets to LINC is complete. The congregation celebrates communion every other week and worships 30-35 on a Sunday. The congregation is stable as long as the pastor is on a part-time salary.

Resurrection also has a strong partnership with a non LCMS Spanish speaking Christian Church that worships about 40 and uses their facilities. The Spanish pastor cares for the grounds, landscaping, maintenance, and janitorial maintenance.

Trinity Lutheran Church, San Rafael, CA

Currently served by Interim Pastor Ed Krueger. Trinity Lutheran was seeking pastoral candidates that would fit their specific profile. That became a major challenge and then Dave Levy their current DCE enrolled in Concordia Irvine's CMC nonresidential pastoral ministry program. With that change, Pastor Ed Krueger will be supervising him for a year or two. Upon completion of the program Dave Levy will be eligible to receive a call and perhaps called by Trinity to serve as their pastor. Trinity has a stable preschool. The congregation is also stable with about 40 worshipping on Sundays.

Peace Lutheran Church, Mill Valley, CA

Peace is a legacy church and members of the congregation voted unanimously to accept LINC proposal to plant a new church at the Peace site. Peace has dissolved and transferring assets to LINC. The last worship service was held in December of 2024.

Zion Lutheran Church, San Francisco, CA

Currently served by Pastor Lenny Szeto. Zion has a K to 8 school with a healthy enrollment of 155 and an enrollment waiting list for some grades. The church runs a Summer Day Camp that reaches over 100 kids every summer and offers many opportunities for youths to serve. About 25 to 30 youths volunteer to serve every summer. Both school and church ministries are stable and looking to call a DCE to grow the youth ministry. The congregation celebrates communion weekly, and worships 65-70 on a Sunday with children from the ages of 2 to seniors aged 90. Zion does not

livestream but has a weekly online service that averages about 300 views per week which includes viewers from South Africa, Germany, Singapore and other nations. Zion will be celebrating her 120th year anniversary in the fall.

Canaan Lutheran Church, San Francisco, CA

Currently served by Vacancy Pastor Bill Chu. Anthony Tin, youngest son of Pastor David Tin has enrolled in the SMP program. Pastor Chu is supervising Anthony as he serves and receives theological education. The congregation has a bilingual worship service that has seen its attendance increase from 30 to about 45. Canaan is resuming and expanding fellowship groups and attracting those who seek a conservative and formal style of worship.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, San Francisco, CA

Currently served by Pastor Shiu Ming Lau and Associate Pastor Chris Ng. The church has an English, Cantonese and Mandarin Speaking Ministry. The Cantonese speaking is served by Pastor Lau and the English speaking is served by Pastor Ng. The Mandarin speaking is served by Evangelist Pang who is under the supervision of the senior pastor. Holy Spirit Church is highly missional. In the near future, Pastor Lau is planning to do extensive mission work in Hong Kong with periodic extended stays. The church hosts annual Mission Conferences and sponsors mission trips to Asia and Mexico. The church also runs an annual Summer Day Camp that reaches 150 kids from K to 8th grade. Holy Spirit Church has a stable preschool and the church is also a member of CLIMB (Chinese Lutherans In Mission Building) and worships 250.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, San Francisco, CA

Currently served by SMP Pastor Otis Byrd who is under the supervision of Senior Pastor Chip Fox. While small, Shepherd of the Hills Church continues to be active in ministry. The church worships 13-15 per Sunday with a livestream attendance of 10-12. The congregation is involved with the Disability Ministry Committee and California Lutherans for Pro-Life. Shepherd of the Hills uses their parish hall to connect to the local community by allowing the AA Diamond Heights Homeowners group for meetings and other groups for children like: LEGO Summer Camps with Robotics, Minecraft and Coding for kids and teens in the SF Bay Area, LEGO Engineering, Roblox, and Scratch Coding Classes. The church contributes to various Relief programs after the fires and storms as well as to various missions and San Francisco/Marin Food Bank.

Addis Kidan Lutheran Church, San Francisco, CA

Currently served by Senior Pastor Tesfai Tesema and Associate Pastor Muluneh Taye. The congregation began with the partnership of formerly Bethel Grace Ministries now

known as Christ for All Nations. Addis Kidan is currently using the facility of the Bethel site. The church has an Ethiopian language worship service and is hoping to begin an English speaking service as well. The congregation worships about 80 per week which includes youth and children. The official membership consists of 70 people, while the total number of individuals, including children and youth, reaches approximately 110. The congregation is active during the week with 7 small groups, morning prayer sessions held Monday through Friday, men's and women's group held every other Saturday. In addition, the congregation holds a three-day prayer and fasting gathering every three months.

Associate Pastor Muluneh Taye has accepted a call to serve as the Church Planting Pastor for Redeeming Grace Lutheran Church of Sunnyvale and Santa Clara.

Christ for All Nations Lutheran Church, San Francisco, CA

Currently served by Pastor Terry Chan. The congregation transitioned from being two independent legacy congregations, Bethel and Grace to *Bethel and Grace Ministries*. Then they transitioned into one congregation presently known as *Christ for All Nations Church*. CFAN has a food pantry ministry that reaches the Cantonese / Chinese language speaking in the area. The church is in partnership with Addis Kidan Lutheran Church which is an Ethiopian ministry that uses the campus that Bethel Lutheran used to meet at. In addition, the congregation is in partnership with a Spanish Speaking Ministry who meets on their campus. CFAN is currently a smaller church and worships about 30 on a Sunday.

Hope Lutheran Church, Daly City, CA

Currently served by Pastor Daniel Woo and Associate Pastor Corey Chang. Hope has a Cantonese and English speaking ministry. Corey Chang was serving as a DCE at Hope for a number of years until he completed his studies at Irvine's CMC program. Shortly after, he was ordained and installed as the associate pastor at Hope. The church also has a preschool large preschool with a long enrollment waiting list.

After serving the vacancy at Faith Lutheran (Chinese) Church for almost 3 years. Hope Lutheran has also successfully merged with Faith Lutheran in South San Francisco. The members of Faith have transferred their membership to Hope including their assets. Hope is a growing congregation that worships about 200.

Circuit #2

Rev. Matt Behrens -- Circuit Visitor

Ongoing Mission & Ministry

- **Calvary, San Lorenzo** celebrated 75 years of ministry in 2024.
- **Good Shepherd, Hayward** and **Prince of Peace, Fremont** are both sponsoring ministry candidates who will begin classes this fall through the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology and Cross-Cultural Ministry Center, respectively.

Significant changes among our congregations:

- **Memorial Lutheran Chapel for the Deaf** now meets weekly on the Prince of Peace, Fremont campus.
- **St. Peter, San Leandro** dissolved and gave their assets to Missio Dei West for support of new mission work.
- **Bethlehem, Berkeley** has ceased independent worship and now worships with the community at Grace, El Cerrito.
- **Grace, Hayward** merged into Good Shepherd, Hayward.
- **Rollingwood Lutheran, San Pablo** has ceased worshipping, and is in process of dissolution.
- **Hope, San Leandro** is in process of merging into Good Shepherd, Hayward.

Circuit #3

Rev. Keven Waetzig – Circuit Visitor

Circuit 3 continues to be the greatest circuit in the CNH District. There is a real sense of camaraderie and love in connecting each month at the Circuit meetings for study, prayer, and lunch. Circuit 3 also gathers with spouses for January's Epiphany Dinner and June's Summer BBQ. Congregations in Circuit 3 continue to serve the central and San Joaquin valleys (and foothills) with a desire to connect others to Jesus Christ and one another for life...life now and life into eternity.

First the Great News:

- **St. Andrew's LC, Stockton** installed Rev. Brian Muldowney as Senior Pastor in January 2025. Rev. Dan Deuel had taken the Call to pastor Christ the King LC, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in October 2023. The installation for Rev. Muldowney marked a year long process of prayer and study facilitated by the semi-retired, Rev. Ron Youngdale working alongside Rev. Muldowney and the leadership of St. Andrew's.
- **Zion, Lodi** under the leadership of Rev. Matt Duerr continues a new model of church partnership which has a combined leadership of three congregations: Zion, Lodi; Immanuel, Jackson; Foothill, Valley Springs. With the announced retirement of Rev. Duerr, the leadership has extended a Call to Rev. Jason Weber, who has accepted the Call and will be installed at Zion, Lodi on March 30, 2025.

- **St. Paul's LC, Tracy, CA**, continues to keep the doors open and the lights on. In 2022, Rev. Joel Rockemann completed Concordia Seminary, St. Louis's requirement for his master's in theology degree through Concordia University, Irvine's Cross-Cultural Ministry Center (CMC) program. Rev. Rockemann was ordained and installed as Missions pastor on August 20, 2022, and has been leading an expanding English-Second-Language ministry as outreach into the community. St. Paul's parochial school, Bella Vista celebrated the retirement of Lori Waetzig after 40 years of work in the area of Lutheran Education. Mrs. Lisa Jackson and Mrs. Terri Asfour now lead BVCA Elementary and BVCA Preschool ministry. St. Paul's added a new full-time worship director, Mr. Stephen Finau, who was trained under the School of Young Leaders program via LINK Bay Area, with Rev. Aaron Putnam. Mr. Mengs Athsebha, a member of St. Paul's is studying for his theological degree. And finally, Rev. Paul Ferguson is leading a number of St. Paul's leaders through a 9 month next chapters visioning process.
- **Good Shepherd, Turlock** has experienced some big shifts with Rev. Ron Youngdale's retirement in February 2022. St. Louis Seminary graduate, Rev. Christian Pieper was placed and served as pastor for a brief time and in November 2024, took a pastoral Call to Iowa. God's provision is now at work with Rev. Mark Koch serving Good Shepherd as Transitional Interim Pastor. Rev. Koch was installed at Good Shepherd on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, and will serve a one year Interim ministry.
- **Grace, Modesto** installed Rev. Grant Knepper on Sunday, January 22, 2023. Rev. Knepper previously served in Hillsboro, Oregon.
- **St. Peter, Lodi**, is currently being served by Rev. Tim Blau, who is doing some excellent ministry of coordinating the connection of the parochial school with the church ministry.
- **Trinity, Stockton**, is being faithfully served by Rev. Jeff Morey who is making an impact in inner city ministry in Stockton. Rev. Morey's declining health is presenting some real challenges. Rev. Morey is working closely with a charter school in the area to help sustain the financial viability for Trinity.

The Challenging News:

- St. Paul, Merced, CA, as of this summer 2025, St. Paul, Merced will be experiencing a 4-year vacancy. Rev. Allen Steinbeck and Rev. John Mueller both have served as Interim Pastors alongside Rev. Xiong Doua who is leading a ministry among the Hmong people in Merced.
- Along with other circuits we face the challenge of supporting and encouraging congregations that find it hard to call and support a full-time pastor. St. James in Newman is currently being served by the faithful Rev. Daniel Junkin who completed the SMP program. St. John and Luke of Valley Home are being served by semi-retired Pastor Bruce Berndt, who also serves Redeemer in Lodi. Holy Cross of Atwater has been vacant for many years now.

Finally:

Circuit 3 pastors and congregations pray for the mission of God in the CNH District, for our President, Rev. Mike Lange and all the CNH staff. We call on the Spirit of God to bring wisdom, boldness, and guidance in our ever-changing fields of mission. To God be all glory and praise. In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Circuit #4

Rev. David Hardin – Circuit Visitor

Circuit #4 Congregations*

Messiah Lutheran Church -- Citrus Heights CA -- Rev. Morris Stephens, Jr, Pastor

Light of the Valley Lutheran Church – Elk Grove, CA -- Rev. Jay Reed, Pastor

Faith Lutheran Church -- Fair Oaks, CA -- Rev. Jared Eggebraaten, Pastor

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church -- Galt, CA -- Rev. Michael Dube, Pastor

Zion Lutheran Church – North Highlands -- Vacant

Greenhaven Lutheran Church -- Sacramento, CA – Rev. Derek Evans, Pastor

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

Town & Country Lutheran Church – Sacramento, CA – Rev. Trevor Mankin, Pastor

Trinity Lutheran Church – Sacramento, CA – Rev. Jason Bredeson, Pastor

Bethany Lutheran Church – Vacaville, CA – Rev. William Wrede, Pastor

St. Paul Lutheran Church – Woodland, CA – Rev. David Hardin, Pastor

First Lutheran Church – Yuba City, CA – Rev. Nathan Linehan, Pastor

*Data compiled from District Files

Circuit #5

Rev. Dan Schlensker – Circuit Visitor

Bethany Lutheran Church, Oildale, CA

On July 10, 2021 Steven Asche was ordained and installed by President Lange as the SMP for Bethany, Oildale. Bethany has been blessed abundantly by our Lord and has been able to help other churches in need through their Helping Hands Program including monetary gifts to assist sister churches in dealing with unexpected financial

issues. Bethany has participated in several **North of the River** Community Outreach Events, sharing the Love of Jesus with neighbors and held a Harvest Festival Carnival in their parking lot for the children of their neighborhood. Bethany, sponsored a booth at the NOR Christmas Outreach, and sponsored a family referred by the local grammar school to help them celebrate Christmas. Bethany shared their Pastor Steve with Lutheran Church of Prayer during their recent vacancy and has hosted Christmas and Spring Concerts sponsoring the Goldenaires Choir.

Grace Lutheran Church, Bakersfield, CA

After the departure of Pastor Kevin DeHope to Kansas, Grace has been blessed with Pastor Timothy Steele and his family from Texas. Grace has faced financial challenges with increased ministry expenses and a reduction in members and attendees. The Lord has provided remediation through a space-sharing project with an Anglican group, who now occupy parts of Grace's facility for their ministry activities. The brothers and sisters at Grace still organize a wonderful fund-raising Fall Faire, offering delicious Swedish meatballs and delightful bazaar.

Lutheran Church of Prayer, Bakersfield, CA

Lutheran Church of Prayer has seen tremendous recent growth in terms of congregational outreach and activities. Pastor Dwayne Hendricks was installed in mid-2023. LCoP has started an annual *Meet and Greet* gathering connecting with local fire and police departments, and their school has prospered since the pandemic. Although a few families move away, the past year has been a blessing as new connections have been made across the church and community.

Financially there have been ups and downs, but they will soon own their solar panels in their parking lot and will be able to sell the energy they do not use. The Lord is at work in, with, and through LCoP in Bakersfield.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Delano, CA

Our Savior's is being served pastorally by Lay Deacon, Jeff Ford. They are continuing to provide word and sacrament ministry in their community.

Peace Lutheran Church, Taft, CA

Peace has been without a called pastor for several years. St. John's, Bakersfield is providing guidance and word and sacrament leadership through its staff and elders.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Lake Isabella, CA

Shepherd of the Hills continues to provide word and sacrament ministry in the Kern Valley and to reach out to the community in helpful ways. Pastor Dan Schlensker, besides serving the congregation half time, also serves as a Kern County Sheriff's Dept. Chaplain. The congregation provides low-cost merchandise to the community through its periodic yard sales and provides school supplies to the community's kids through its fall School Supply Giveaway. The SOTH choir presented a Christmas concert last December without cost to people of the Kern Valley and plans another for near Easter.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Bakersfield, CA

St. John's Lutheran Church in Bakersfield continues to seek to LOVE God and others, LEARN to be and make disciples, and LEAD others to discover and live out their calling. A world away, our school in Tanzania continues to grow. We continue to invest in missions, sending teams near and far with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and God continues to be at work through our excellent K-8 school and children's center, reaching a wide cultural demographic of students. St. John's went through a pastoral transition in 2022 as Pastor Dennis Hilken departed and Pastor Ben Schrank accepted the call as Associate Pastor, while Pastor Marvin St. Pierre was ordained through the SMP program. In 2024, St. John's celebrated 120 years as a LCMS congregation in Bakersfield.

Zion Lutheran Church, Terra Bella, CA

Zion Lutheran Church in Terra Bella was grieved over the departure of Pastor Jacob Dandy to a congregation in Nebraska. Its school continues to minister to children from kindergarten to 6th grade. Pastor Lloyd Wilweber is serving Zion as an interim minister.

Circuit #7

Rev. Andy Jones -- Circuit Visitor.

The congregations composing our circuit in this triennium:

Benicia Lutheran
Faith Lutheran in Pleasant Hill
First Lutheran in Concord
Grace Lutheran in Pittsburg
Holy Cross Lutheran in Concord
Our Savior Lutheran in Livermore
Our Savior Lutheran in Pinole
Resurrection Lutheran in Brentwood
St. Andrew Lutheran in Antioch
St. Philip Lutheran in Dublin
Trinity Lutheran in Fairfield

Our circuit saw two major changes in this triennium.

1. Benicia Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran in Fairfield have formed a dual-parish congregation.
2. Grace Lutheran in Pittsburg held its final service in its building on Easter Sunday, 2024 (March 31). The congregation and Pastor Greg Klotz began attending services with Holy Cross in Concord. Grace maintained its legal status until early 2025 as Pastor Klotz retired. The congregation members are now transferring their membership to Holy Cross and in some cases other local congregations.

This seemed to work very well and may become an example other congregations could follow when closing.

Vacancy Changes and Struggles

Benicia Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran in Fairfield spent the entirety of the triennium in a vacancy. Benicia is currently being served by vacancy pastor Phil Kohlmeyer. Trinity was served briefly by intentional interim pastor Dave Moore, but are currently relying on pulpit supply and their elders. During the 2022-2025 triennium, several congregations were in vacancies. St. Philip in Dublin started the triennium in a vacancy (with Pastor Dann Ettner) that was filled in January of 2025 by Pastor Dave Ficken.

Our Savior in Livermore began a vacancy in September of 2022 when Pastor Kevin Austin accepted a call to Risen Savior in Chandler, Arizona. That vacancy was filled when Pastor Joseph Robb was installed in January of 2024.

Resurrection in Brentwood has been in a vacancy since October of 2023 when Pastor Dave Prill accepted a call to Alive in Christ in Columbia, Missouri. Resurrection has been served by two intentional interim pastors since then, Mark Whittaker, and currently Allen Steinbeck.

This meant for a brief period, there were five simultaneous vacancies in our circuit.

One of the greatest challenges for our circuit (and likely the district as a whole) is a lack of retired pastors who are available to serve in vacancy roles. Future vacancies will likely need to be served by active pastors already serving in a nearby congregation.

Other Updates:

The district's "One in Every One" initiative was not approached with the level of teamwork that was perhaps envisioned by the district. When we gathered to discuss this at our monthly *winkel* meetings, nearly every congregation had its own new ministry that it was moving ahead with. The best candidate for a ministry the whole circuit can support is through Our Savior Livermore's connections with Linda Patel's East Bay Hindu Outreach. We will continue to encourage congregations in the circuit to connect with Linda and her outreach training sessions.

The grade school at Our Savior Livermore, along with the preschools at First Concord, Faith Pleasant Hill, Resurrection Brentwood, and Benicia Lutheran have all seen ups and downs over the past three years, particularly as Covid-19 challenges abated. Each continue to serve the community with quality childcare and Christian education.

Circuit 7's monthly *Winkel* meetings have been joint meetings with Circuit 2 for the past two years, which we are looking to continue into the next triennium.

Circuit #8

Rev. Paul Schult – Circuit Visitor

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church -- Palo Alto, California -- Stewart Crown, pastor

As the saints of Trinity consider their upward call in Christ Jesus, they look ahead to the next three years, for they are about to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the congregation (June 2025), the centennial of the church building (December 2028), and the 60th anniversary of the education buildings (May 2028). For the next three years they will set aside certain months to thank the Lord of the Church for the work (past and present) that He has given us to do: missions, music (June 2026), education (June 2027), campus ministry, vicarage, etc., and they will pray with boldness that He will strengthen them for whatever opportunities that He sets before them. With an educational tenant having recently left, Trinity is presently evaluating how to best steward her buildings and property. In addition to the usual summer VBS, we have planned for “school-break VBS”, at Christmas, at Easter, or on other occasions. Our commitment to the daily bread needs of the community remain strong, for we continue to house a movable homeless shelter and to support the food and shelter needs of others. Though campus ministry at Stanford has become more of a challenge—students still gather for Word and Communion and monthly meetings—during the pandemic we were able to maintain ministries at five local residential care facilities, and they are blossoming today. Trinity has granted her pastor time to assist St. Paul Lutheran, Mountain View, in preaching and pastoral care as that next-door congregation prays that God grant to her the next shepherd of their souls. Also, Trinity has encouraged and funded her pastor’s teaching service in Sierra Leone. By the power of the Holy Spirit God blesses our common labors for the glory of His name and the honor of Christ Jesus.

Grace Lutheran Church -- San Mateo, CA. – Rev. Martin R. Noland, Senior Pastor

Membership Statistics remained nearly the same in this period. Baptized membership ca. 147 persons. Confirmed membership ca. 138 people. Average per Sunday attendance at 35 people. We had a total of 5 funerals in the period; 1 infant baptism; 1 adult baptism; 1 youth confirmation; and 4 adult confirmations. No weddings were performed.

Services and Bible Classes: We have one Sunday service at 9:00 AM, followed by adult Bible Class at 10:30 AM. All of our services are live-streamed and video-recorded, accessible via YouTube or our website. Pastor also teaches Bible Class on Tuesdays at 9:00 AM.

Event: Grace congregation’s 100th anniversary was celebrated with a worship service, then a luncheon that filled the parish hall on Sunday, October 9th, 2022. The Rev. Charles E. Froh, our former pastor, was the guest preacher. A centennial history booklet was distributed in early 2023.

Facilities: With the closing of our school due to CoViD factors at the end of Spring 2020, we have had excess facilities. Pastor Noland has asked the congregation to restart the school, at least the pre-school, but at the present we are renting out that excess space (excluding the sanctuary) to various non-religious groups for educational purposes: 1) “Welcome Amigos” Spanish immersion classes for preschoolers; 2) “A-Team” enrichment classes for homeschoolers; 3) “Peninsula Music Together,” for music teachers and their students; and 4) “Jeans Pod” enrichment classes for homeschoolers. Renting groups and their needs for space change annually. Some long-overdue maintenance to the sanctuary exterior, its windows, and its grounds was done during the triennium.

Planning: Pastor Noland has announced that he will retire at age 70, after Easter 2027. The congregational officers have begun discussing their options for pastoral ministry upon his retirement, including calling from the “field,” from the seminary, a dual parish arrangement, and other possibilities

Bethany Lutheran Church – Menlo Park, CA – Rev. Jon Coyne

2022- 2025 will be remembered in churches and schools as a time when the world was reemerging from the pandemic and we had to rebuild most programs. Littlest Angels Preschool was nimble and met the needs of the community with different shapes and sizes of classes each year. Public schools began free transitional Kindergarten, but our earlier focus on younger children allowed us to remain viable. Numerous schools closed and in Silicon Valley the number of life births shrank. Still, we give thanks to God for a vibrant community of families with 2-4 year old children we serve. The church began to encourage new programs even as we were restarting past programs. Some highlights were a Sunday dedicated to our members who were 90 years old or older. Thirteen of the possible seventeen church members were there on Sunday for the special celebration. Dinners Around the World focused on the food and cultures of other groups in our community. These ended with a time of prayer and singing.

Recently we embraced working with Trinity, Palo Alto and Redeemer/Bridge City, Redwood City serving the members of St. Paul, Mountain View during their vacancy.

In 2025 we look forward to continuing our monthly outreach called L.E.S.S. (Loving Everyone by Simply Serving). We will celebrate our 75th anniversary of the founding of the congregation later this year.

Bridge City Church / Redeemer School Redwood City (formerly Redeemer)

In 2024, Redeemer went through a “replant” putting together a strategic plan to better reach the people of our city for Christ. Pastor Corey Garrity was called to serve as Lead Pastor and lead the process. Pastor Paul Schult is focusing his work on the school ministry and helping set vision and strategy for the future. The congregation is growing again, effectively reaching new young families. The school has seen some decline in enrollment after the pandemic, from 200 to 160. Work is being done to improve marketing and admissions to keep enrollment more consistently close to 200.

The church has undertaken several renovation and major maintenance projects in the past three years - new sanctuary roof, hall and sanctuary and bathroom renovations.

We have a facility use agreement with a Southern Baptist Korean Mission church that uses our facilities for offices, worship and ministry programs.

International mission partners in Uganda and Poland continue to flourish, and new city mission partners are developing with McKinley Middle School, Verbo Church.

Pastor Hoffman continues to serve the Seniors Ministry and we are working to call a new staff person for youth and young adult ministry.

2026 will mark 100 years of ministry in Redwood City.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church – Pacifica -- Reverend Kevin Hempe was installed as the pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church (OSLC) in Pacifica on July 13th, 2024. As of the writing of this report, he has served at this location for eight months.

Before Rev. Hempe's installation, Rev. Charles Froh was serving as the church's vacancy pastor. He did this for over a year.

Before Rev. Froh, Rev. Magdiel Fajardo served as pastor for three years before taking another call to Wisconsin.

During pastor Hempe's time at OSLC pastor he has conducted one baptism and one funeral and has been asked to conduct a wedding in July.

He has two Bible studies per week, one on Tuesday evenings, and one on Sunday morning. Divine Service is celebrated each Sunday in a traditional, liturgical format from the Lutheran Service Book (LSB) and alternates between Divine settings 1, 2, & 3 every six weeks.

On average, there are 40 people in attendance each Sunday.

The church engages in one big outreach event each year, Pacifica's "Fog Fest". OSLC is the only church who purchases a booth at this three-day event. Volunteers make personalized keychains for anyone who stops by the booth, and this allows church members to get to know people, invite them to church, tell them about Jesus, or answer any questions they might have.

At Christmastime, OSLC partners with an inner-city mission in San Francisco called, "City Impact" wherein gifts are given to disadvantage kids, Jesus is proclaimed as God's gift to us, and hymns are sung to them.

Additionally, the women's Dorcas group collects food and coats for the homeless.

Finally, OSLC is being pressured by developers to build low-income housing on two acres of church property with the promise that it would generate passive income. To

date, voters are undecided as to whether they want to move forward with this plan or not.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mountain View -- Vacancy team - Pastor Jon Coyne - Administration, Pastor Stewart Crown - Pastoral Care, Pastor Paul Schult - Worship and preaching.

St. Paul is working through the next chapter in ministry as they prepare to call a new pastor. The Early Childhood Preschool closed in 2024. The congregation is working with an architect to build a parsonage on the property. St. Paul is the only congregation in the circuit that does not have a parsonage. Worship is at 11:00 am every week to allow the vacancy team to stay on a rotation for pastoral coverage - those three churches all worship at 9:00 or 9:30.

Worship continues to average about 30 people a week and the congregation continues to look forward to new opportunities to live out God's mission in the community. The leaders of the church have been working through a planning process to gain more clarity for future needs and opportunities. They have several facility use agreements that help with revenue. A helpful asset during this time is the presence of a church administrator who manages the day to day operations of the church office.

Trinity Lutheran Church - Burlingame and First Lutheran Church South San Francisco -- Served by Pastor Jeff Schufreider

Trinity continues to operate a strong Preschool and after school program that provides a great mission for reaching their community.

First Lutheran and Trinity continue to offer online worship services and are trying to find ways of bringing more people back to in person worship.

Both congregations have good facilities which serve them well.

Circuit #9

Rev. Alan Steinbeck – Circuit Visitor

Some of the Circuit 9 brothers may take issue with the claim in the first line of Circuit 3's report, but we'll graciously yield to those north and east of us ... this time around. The pastors and DCE of Circuit 9 gather on the second Tuesday of the month. Recently, we were also blessed by the presence and participation of a worship leader/musician. An Epiphany Gathering and a Summer BBQ Gathering are annual events. Invitees to these include all church workers (pastors, DCE, preschool directors, principal, musicians) and congregational leaders—and their families. We are eight congregations

up and down California's Central Coast continuing to shine Jesus and his words into the lives of those around us.

Some updates within the last triennium from south to north ...

- Clear Promise in Lompoc is a "house church" served by Pastor John Puscheck. They share a simple meal on Sundays followed by a time of celebration, worship, Word and prayer. Annual "mission" visits are made to Sri Lanka. Outreach into their own community takes place daily through their efforts at a pregnancy and parenting support center.
- Bethany Lutheran in Lompoc is served by Pastor Joseph Byrd. In addition to worship and Bible Study opportunity on Sundays, Bethany has an active group of quilters. Bethany also joins with other organizations in the Lompoc area, opening its doors to serve as a community warming site on rotating schedule during the winter months.
- Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Santa Maria celebrated the Installation of Pastor Brenden Harrell in October of 2024. Pastor Steve Eckert served them faithfully for over twenty years, until his retirement in June of 2023. TIM pastor Allen Steinbeck, who lives within the Circuit, served them in the in-between time. LCOS serves their surrounding community through Upward Bound Preschool (Director Diana Brown).
- Grace Lutheran in Santa Maria is served part-time by Pastor Jake Parsons. Grace Lutheran Nursery School served the surrounding community until its closing in 2024.
- Peace Lutheran in Arroyo Grande celebrated the Installation of Pastor John Huss in March of 2023. Pastor Mark Whittaker retired not long after that. Pastor Huss has fairly recently returned to serving full-time after fully recovering from an October 2023 cancer diagnosis and lengthy treatment. Together with our brothers and sisters at Peace we thank the Lord for his healing. The whole ministry there (congregation and preschool) was blessed by the regular and faithful service of retired pastor, Will Metz (and I'm told they really enjoyed his wife Becky). Peace Christian Preschool is a vibrant hub of activity, freely sharing Jesus all the time (Director Mrs. Doris Angel and dedicated staff). They have recently added a kindergarten class. They've also generously shared their co-director with a congregation to the north during a preschool startup phase in that place (more on that momentarily).
- Zion Lutheran in San Luis Obispo is served by Pastor Aleksandr von Schmidt. Zion is also blessed to be served by Andrew Kaufmann, DCE. They love regularly connecting with quite a number of Cal Poly students throughout the week and on Sunday mornings. Zion has very recently opened a preschool.

Sierra Day (on loan from Peace, Arroyo Grande) is their first director. In recent years, Zion has arranged and hosted annual “Reformation Weekend” events that are open to all.

- Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Atascadero has called Pastor James Cerdenola from the Philippines. Once immigration legal-work is finished up, he will be able to accept their Call. He is living among them already now and is a tremendous blessing not only to God’s people at Redeemer, but also to our whole Circuit.
- Trinity Lutheran in Paso Robles celebrated the Installation of Pastor Chris Simmons in October of 2023. Trinity was truly blessed by the fervent and servant-hearted TIM pastor Mark Schudde from September 2021 through mid-March, 2023. Retired Pastor Will Metz (seems like we just heard his name above!) jumped in to serve consistently between then and the Installation. Trinity extends the Gospel-footprint in the north county through their Preschool (Director Tiffany Valaau) and K-8th School (Principal Lisa Hopkins) and their dedicated staff. Trinity is blessed to have two part-time Worship Directors (Bryan and Stacy Widstrand). Efforts to secure a DCE Intern are underway.

In closing, to mimic Circuit 3’s final paragraph (and, in all seriousness), we in Circuit 9 also pray for God’s mission in the CNH District, for our President, Rev. Mike Lange, and for each of those who so ably serve alongside him as staff—true servants (and friends) they are. While none of us ever know what’s around the corner, we serve a Lord who always does. Therefore we, too, call upon him “to bring wisdom, boldness, and guidance in our ever-changing fields of mission.” In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Circuit #10

Rev. Josuha Brown – Circuit Visitor

Shepherd of the Sierra Lutheran Church is experiencing an exciting season of growth and engagement. Both the children’s and adult Sunday School classes are thriving, and their recent Christmas Eve celebration welcomed over 200 people. Weekly worship attendance continues to rise as the congregation journeys through the life of Christ, proclaiming the message of “Christ for You.” They rejoice in seeing God’s hand at work through Word and Sacrament.

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Sparks continues to experience steady growth, with a close-knit, family-like atmosphere. The Children’s Sunday School has grown significantly, and the church frequently hosts events designed to connect with the broader community. While navigating the challenges of an aging demographic, the congregation is financially healthy and committed to outreach and engagement in the Reno-Sparks area.

St. John's Lutheran Church in Fallon serves as a Gospel outpost in a rapidly growing rural town. With a core population of ranchers, farmers, and military families from the nearby Naval Air Base, the church balances tradition with a forward-looking mission. Their childcare center serves as the congregation's primary outreach, offering competitively priced, high-quality care to local families. Despite challenges familiar to many rural congregations, including an aging membership, the church remains financially stable and committed to its long-term mission in Fallon.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Reno continues to foster a strong presence in the community through vibrant worship, education, and service. With an average of over 300 in weekly attendance, the congregation is deeply involved in discipleship, intergenerational ministry, and leadership development. More than 30 active ministry groups serve both the congregation and the wider community, with ongoing efforts to support families, develop leaders, and reach those outside the church.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School in Carson City has remained steadfast in its mission to connect faith and learning. The school serves over 200 students from preschool through eighth grade, emphasizing both academic excellence and spiritual formation. A recent leadership transition brought renewed focus on growth and family engagement, with the school continuing to play a vital role in the church's outreach to the broader community.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Gardnerville continues its long legacy of ministry in the Carson Valley. The church maintains a strong emphasis on Bible-based teaching and a variety of ministries for children, youth, and adults. Their childcare center has become an important outreach, offering flexible and faith-based early childhood education to local families. Trinity's presence as a beacon of light and hope remains central to its identity and mission.

Together, the churches of Circuit 10 reflect a diverse yet united front, committed to faithful worship, sound doctrine, and community outreach. While each faces its own context and challenges, they share a common desire to bring the love and hope of Christ to northern Nevada and beyond.

Circuit #11

Rev. Mark Zier – Circuit Visitor

The 10 congregations across the islands of Hawaii along with the Palauan congregation lead by Pastor Uchel Naito under the umbrella of Good Shepherd continue to see God's hand of provision and blessing in the spreading of the Gospel. The Lord is good!

There have been changes in pastoral leadership for several of our congregations, but each continue to receive pastoral care and leadership by vacancy, Intentional Interim, and settled pastors. Since the last convention, two settled pastors were called to congregations that had been served by vacancy and Intentional Interim pastors for an extended time. Pastor Jeff Mueller was installed at Waikoloa on the big island on January 21, 2023, and Pastor Eddie Hosch at Emmanuel on Maui on August 25, 2024.

On August 20, 2023, Pastor Brad Zerkel was installed as the Intentional Interim at Messiah Ewa Beach on Oahu. Our Redeemer on Oahu has a vacancy pastor serving as Pastor Christian Rasmussen accepted the call to serve at St. Paul's in New Orleans. Christ Lutheran on the big island will be served by an Intentional Interim following my retirement at the end of May.

The pastors, DCEs and ministry leaders transitioned from meeting weekly using Zoom to in-person Winkels in the summer of 2022, although for some months the meetings are still held by Zoom for scheduling and economic reasons. Mutual support and encouragement are found as we share in worship or devotions, Bible study and prayer, discussions regarding best practices, and personal sharing. During this triennium at least three Circuit seminars were held, one at Our Savior (Aiea) on February 6, 2023, one at Our Redeemer (Honolulu) on February 3, 2024, and another at Good Shepherd (Honolulu) on January 25, 2025. Many ministry leaders and congregational members from all the Circuit congregations participated in one or more of these offerings.

The joint mission efforts of our Hawaiian congregations are facilitated through the Lutheran Mission Council of Hawaii (LMCH) which has established annual \$1000 grants for our Hawaiian congregations that are starting new mission outreach projects. Scholarships for Concordia students enrolled in a church worker program are also available. The annual meeting of LMCH functions as our Circuit Forum.

Circuit 11 also has thriving schools at Trinity, Our Savior, St. Mark and Emmanuel, as well as a vibrant preschool at Good Shepherd. The LWML women have continued to host Zoom conferences since the spring of 2021 and held a retreat on the big island in October 2024 that was open to all in the district. This was the first retreat since 2016 and was well attended. Pastor Jeff Mueller is the new LWML Zone Counselor, and his congregation is looking to form an LWML group.

We give thanks that our Lord continues to lead and provide many mission opportunities to each of our Hawaiian congregations. Please pray for us, as we pray for you.

Joyfully Presented by,
Pastor Mark Zier, Circuit Visitor

Circuit #12

Rev. Brian K. Cummins -- Circuit Visitor

The congregations composing our circuit are:

- ☐ Artois, **St. Paul** – Left the LCMS and became an Independent Lutheran Church
- ☐ Willows, **First** – (currently served by Pastor Sylvan Finger)
- ☐ Burney, **Faith** – (currently served by Pastor Emeritus Geta Dirasse)
- ☐ Chico, **Redeemer** – (currently served by Pastor Brennan DeForest)

- ☐ Colusa, **Bethlehem** – (currently vacant)
- ☐ Corning, **Mount Olive** – (currently served by Pastor Sylvan Finger)
- ☐ Red Bluff, **St. Paul** – (currently served by Pastor Dallas Dubke)
- ☐ Gridley, **Grace** – (currently served by SMP Pastor Jeffrey Tuft)
- ☐ Oroville, **Calvary** – (currently served by SMP Pastor Jeffrey Tuft)
- ☐ Paradise, **Our Savior** – (currently served by Pastor Brandon Merrick)
- ☐ Redding, **Trinity** – (currently served by Pastor Brian K. Cummins)

Circuit 12, is privileged to serve communities in the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta and Tehama, California. Some changes during the triennium: Grace Lutheran Church, Gridley and Calvary Lutheran Church, Oroville became a Dual Parish and Called and Installed SMP Pastor Jeffrey Tuft as their Pastor.

Since our last Convention, Circuit 12, suffered through wildfires in Butte County, Tehama County, and Shasta County. (Grace, Oroville; Redeemer, Chico; Our Savior, Corning; Our Savior, Paradise; Mount Olive, Corning; St. Paul, Red Bluff; and Trinity, Redding). We are blessed that there was not any serious damage done to our congregations and members.

Pastor Don Jordan of Redeemer Lutheran, and Walt Schedler of Bethlehem, Lutheran, retired.

Our churches support district and synod ministries, struggling fellow churches, RSOs, and the needs of God's people in our communities, our nation, and around the world. We are thankful for the spread of the saving Gospel in the far northern regions of California, and pray that, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we will continue to appreciate and engage the opportunities to connect people to Jesus Christ.

Circuit #14

Rev Jim Beyer -- Circuit Visitor

Circuit 14 – “The CNH Redwood Empire Circuit” consists of 12 congregations located in Sonoma, Napa, Lake and Mendocino Counties. It has been served by Rev Jim Beyer, emeritus, St Mark, Santa Rosa, this past triennium.

Circuit Focus on Mission Clarity and Collaboration - For the past two years our circuit's Pastors, Emeriti, and Congregational Lay Leaders have explored the options and opportunities of working collaboratively and collectively to develop partnerships between congregations and determine how we can share encouragement and resources with one another as we pursue the mission and ministry our Lord Jesus has given to His Church.

In June of 2023 the “New Day” Initiative was launched by St Luke, Santa Rosa, Interim Pastor, Rev Bill Hartley, and put before the circuit congregations a vision and strategy for creating a Sonoma County Classic Christian multi-site church approach for maximizing our God-given resources to fulfill the Great Commission. A handful of congregations have

explored merges, dual parish agreements, and shared pastor/staff arrangements. Steps forward were taken. The initiative lost steam when Hartley finished his interim and moved on to other significant ministry in Spokane and beyond.

But the seeds for a “new day” of fulfilling the great commission has emerged through the pastors, lay leaders and congregations of the circuit working together now with Dist Mission Exec, Rev Paul Ferguson, and Dir of Bay Area LINC, Rev Aaron Putnam and team, in a series of workshops and training that is helping us clarify the mission and create a mission blueprint.

And we are currently focusing on formulating four initiatives for maximizing resources and working together:

- Establishing a foundation of missional prayer in each congregation and a circuit wide prayer network
- Sustaining and revitalizing Word and Sacrament Ministry in our small and vacant congregations by training lay servant leaders. We are using seasoned veteran pastors, district staff, and the Mission Training Center, Rev Jonathan Priest, to provide that training.
- Providing training for evangelism ministry and witnessing that every member of our congregations can learn and employ as “everyday missionaries.”
- Bring the circuit congregational leadership together for mission clarification and engagement using facilitators Rev Paul Ferguson, Rev Aaron Putnam and the LINC team and Mission Accelerator training.

- Rev Jim Beyer, Emeritus, Circuit 14 Visitor

Faith Lutheran Church, Ukiah, CA -- Attendance at Faith Lutheran Ukiah remains about the same as three years ago, 20-25 on any given Sunday. We have gained a couple of members but also lost a couple. Attendance at Sunday school and mid-week studies (Thursday mornings and evenings) represent about 60 percent and 50 percent of the membership, respectively. Our volunteer for maintenance had a severe illness this past year and is unable to do much at this time. The rest of us will just have to take up the slack.

We now have a website which includes our basic beliefs and practices. I record the Sunday sermon each week and it gets posted on the site. It receives some traffic, including a new member who is unable to come to church but listens to it from the care home faithfully.

We have lay leaders ministering at two senior care facilities every week. They utilize the Portals of Prayer as the talking point. I am very proud of them, as this was initiated entirely on their own. I help them when needed.

Financially, we took a big hit the past 24 months with a lot of necessary upgrades and repairs to the sanctuary and parsonage. We are keeping our heads above water but the rising cost of property insurance could be a real problem soon. I continue to be the only paid person. Everyone else volunteers.

Lately, we have had an increase in visitors. Some have come back more than once, but how to transition them into communicant members remains a mystery to me. There seems to be a hesitancy to commit for whatever reason.

Most of my sermons lately emphasize the importance of reaching out to family, friends and neighbors with the gospel. I hope my people are getting more comfortable with it. We seem to have a culture, not only here but in the broader LCMS, that says, "That's the pastor's job." I hope that is changing. -- Pastor Stuart Sultze

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Napa, CA -- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (GSLC) exemplifies resilience, vibrancy, and profound dedication through its unwavering commitment to faith and meaningful community service. Despite its modest size, the congregation has demonstrated remarkable determination, notably evident during a prolonged pastoral vacancy lasting 27 months, Aug/2022 – Dec 2024. During this challenging period, volunteerism flourished as members courageously filled essential roles, including Worship Leaders, Lectors, Communion assistants, technical support, and various administrative responsibilities, ensuring consistently engaging and spiritually fulfilling worship experience.

The congregation's deep-rooted commitment to prayer and trust in divine direction significantly sustained its forward momentum, culminating in the joyful installation of Pastor Phil Beyer in December 2024. Pastor Phil's warmth, humor, genuine humility, extensive pastoral experience, and visionary approach have revitalized and inspired the community. His innovative initiatives, such as the Advent Soup Supper studies and the "Great Easter Family Reunion" featuring weekly watch parties, have notably enhanced community fellowship and deepened spiritual reflection through pivotal seasons such as Advent and Lent.

GSLC's outreach to spiritually curious individuals in the wider community has been significantly strengthened by the success of Little Lambs Preschool. With dedicated leadership, committed staff, and growing enrollment, this vital ministry continues to thrive, recently expanding services with an infant and toddler care program. Such adaptability underscores the congregation's keen awareness of and responsiveness to evolving community needs.

Further illustrating GSLC's dedication to compassionate and inclusive community engagement are their partnerships through Shared Ministries and regular hosting of AA meetings. The church's commitment to accessibility, offering worship services both in-person and online, effectively broadens its welcoming embrace, fostering a profound sense of connectedness and participation among congregants near and far.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church powerfully demonstrates what a committed, prayer-driven, and resilient congregation can achieve. With continued faithfulness and openness to God's guidance, the church is poised for an exciting future filled with even greater community impact. – Pastor Phil Beyer

St. John's Lutheran Church, Napa, CA -- St. John's Lutheran Church and School is led by Pastor Michael Schmid, Principal Dr. Christy Wood, and Director of Youth and Children's Ministry DCE Kevin Mathison, along with a team of dedicated and faithful teachers, aides, and staff. We are currently in the pastoral call process, seeking an associate pastor with a view toward a leadership transition as Pastor Schmid approaches retirement.

Our school is blessed with a strong enrollment and excellent staff. Our preschool director, Joy Dahl, recently completed the colloquy process, along with teacher Justine Rollin. We were saddened by the passing of our Comfort Dog, Aaron, last year, and we are working with Lutheran Church Charities to welcome a new comfort dog so we can continue this meaningful ministry. Our Mission Farm continues to provide fresh produce to the Napa Food Bank, contributing approximately 25,000 pounds annually.

We have been overjoyed by the number of school children who have been baptized in the past few years, as well as the junior high students who have participated in our confirmation program. At the same time, one of our primary focuses in the coming year is to enhance our outreach to the families in our school who are not yet connected to a worshipping community. -- Pastor Mike Schmid

St Mark Lutheran Church, Santa Rosa, CA -- St. Mark continues to move forward, overcoming challenges with the Lord's guidance. We've made significant changes in our administration and are currently in the process of calling our next Director of Christian Education (DCE). This year, our Sunday school has grown to 28 children, and our dedicated teachers are excited to welcome more support!

We are also collaborating with a professional graphic designer to refresh our brand and logo, aiming to create a distinctive identity in our community. The Lord is faithfully bringing new visitors to both of our worship services (contemporary and classic traditional). We know that the majority of our future members are non-Christians who live in our community. We know that the Lord is calling us to go out to them.

Our greatest challenge is ensuring that all of our members feel fully-equipped by the Holy Spirit to share their message of Jesus with others. In this next season of the church, we will be focusing on how to have authentic, spiritual conversations with people who do not yet know the Lord. -- Pastor Gary M. Gerloff

St. John's Lutheran of Petaluma, CA -- St. John's has been without a pastor since the end of September 2021. No vacancy pastor has been assigned or is expected to be assigned. Elders are currently taking turns leading the congregation through the Divine Service every Sunday but omitting the Service of the Sacrament with the hope of avoiding any confusion about the Office of the Keys and the proper administration of the Sacraments. For the services, the elders select one of the Divine Service settings, select the hymns and find a faithful sermon from an LCMS pastor to play for the congregation. We have made great use of an Apple iPad based liturgical music application called

Substitute Organ Services, created by Church Music Solutions. It allows us to have musical accompaniments for all Divine Service settings and all the LSB hymns.

On occasion, a local pastor is available to lead worship, preach and administer the Lord's Supper to us. The elders continue to check on our homebound members and see to their other duties.

St. John's has been worshipping in-person since February of 2021. Our average attendance has been between 10-20. St. John's has not and does not have any way to share its worship online. When St. John's was unable to meet in person, our former pastor emailed and mailed written sermons and devotionals to members. The elders shared links to other LCMS online services with members. St. John's is grateful to those congregations that were able to record and share liturgical services online, namely, Faith Lutheran Church of Capistrano Beach, CA and St. Paul Lutheran Church of Austin, TX, among others. Since returning to in-person worship, attendance has fallen by about 4-5 persons on average. Thus, we are at about 80% of our pre-shutdown attendance.

As of the end of February 2022, St. John's is currently in the call process and is awaiting the PIFS and SETS from the district. We submitted our nomination list to the district at the end of November 2021. St. John's is working with Faith Lutheran of Sonoma Valley, CA on calling a pastor together. A multi-congregation agreement has been drafted and is with the district for review.

St. John's is looking forward to what the Lord has in store for the congregation. We are praying that God will provide a faithful pastor to shepherd His flock, preach Christ crucified for sinners and administer His Holy Sacraments. –

Gary Nelson, Chairman of the Board of Elders, St John, Petaluma

Faith Lutheran Church, Sonoma, CA -- The 35 regularly attending members of Faith Lutheran Church Sonoma have been worshipping for over three years without a shepherd in our pulpit every Sunday. We've been blessed with a visiting Pastor (usually our Circuit Visitor, Rev. Jim Beyer) once a month to lead us and celebrate the Lord's Table. Recently, Pastor Jonathan Priest has also filled that role once monthly and has added Bible Study with a dozen attendees. Otherwise, we have four lay teams of worship leaders sharing God's Word and a message.

We have done well throughout this lengthy period. Experiencing some modest growth, a vibrant Council, flourishing Fellowship and worship with obvious love and goodwill. We are blessed with strong leaders, good music (guitar), faithful members and healthy tithing to sustain us. During Covid we were able to enlarge and rain proof our patio and continue to worship together outdoors. Undeniably, this experience strengthened our bonds and enhanced our worship.

We do long for a Pastor and are making strides in that direction and, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and ardent prayers, we are nearing a time.

In May of 2025 we hoping to a see a plan unfold to attain and share the regular pastoral services of Good Shepherd Lutheran's, Healdsburg, Pastor Phil Beyer. We are working collaboratively with Pastor Phil and with the lay leadership of GS-H. We will adjust our worship time to 12 noon so that Pastor Phil Beyer, Pastor at Good Shepherd, Healdsburg, can preach, lead worship and officiate Holy Communion at our services every Sunday after he has finished the same at GSLC earlier in the day. We hope to acquire one day of presence and pastoral leadership and ministry of Pastor Phil starting in September of 2025. Through Him, all things are possible. -- Ty Krauss, Head Elder FLC

PS - Our homebound are visited monthly by an elder, as are our sick or hospitalized. We are grateful to God for upholding us and providing for us through difficult years.

Harry Akre, Elder

St Luke Ev Lutheran Church, Santa Rosa, CA -- Retired Pastor Jim Bothwell, San Geronimo, has been serving as Interim Pastor for the past 9 months and is helping prepare us for developing a vision with specific goals in order to form a Call Committee within the next few months.

Our Emeritus Pastor, Rev Fred Jagow, Santa Rosa, continues to provide ministry and Holy Communion to our elderly, sick, hospitalized and shut-ins.

We are worshipping 45 to 50 people a Sunday and enjoy additional season worship in Advent, Lent and Holy Week. We also have on-line worship by live stream.

We have 3 Bible studies including Sunday, a newly formed LWML mission group, and several groups that rent our classrooms and gym throughout the year.

We sponsor a Boy Scout troop and house a non-profit organization and ministry, Our Village Closet, that supplies foster families with essential clothes and equipment for foster children free of charge. - Pastor Jim Bothwell

Grace Lutheran Church, Cloverdale, CA -- Grace is a warm, loving, connected community of faithful followers of Jesus. As a small church located in a small community our members are well connected both to the community at large as well as to each other. The church family is warm and naturally welcoming of visitors, new members are quickly assimilated.

Leadership is shared with a natural slow turnover which welcomes new talent and ideas. The officers are engaged and invest a lot of time and energy in moving Grace forward. Regular quarterly community outreach events featuring live music, food and craft/activities keep us visible in the community and have attracted quite a following. We enjoy a good reputation in the community and good interactions with the community's churches.

Worship holds to the Lutheran traditions with the support of solid worship teams, tech crews and musicians; youth and adult members regularly participate in helping lead the services. Preaching is good and music combines both traditional and

contemporary, services are broadcasted live on Facebook and the church has its own channel on YouTube.

Grace enjoys a strong and personal relationship with LC-MS Missionaries Britt & Micah Odemba, Kenya Africa. In addition to our missionaries we also support LWR Hygiene kits, Sock Packs for college students and homeless, food drives for the local food pantry, Operation Christmas Child and other community drives. Grace also supports a number of community and member college students through both periodic boxes of encouragement, (cards, gift cards and snacks) along with help in equipping dorm rooms.

As a church family we have just worked through the LCEF sponsored community profile and are digging deeper into understanding how to use social media in our promotions. Grace has updated its Constitution and By-Laws and is now awaiting ratification by the District. -- Pastor Fred Karlen

Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Sebastopol -- We are a 72-year-old congregation in west Sonoma County in the city of Sebastopol. Our current average every Sunday worship attendance is 22. We have an every Sunday Bible study group that averages 6. And our Sunday School averages 6 children in attendance. We use the Lutheran Service Book alternating the Divine Services each month. We celebrate Holy Communion every week. The Rev. James Bothwell, emeritus, San Geronimo, teams up with the Rev. David Rose, emeritus, Lakeport, and others Circuit Pastor emeriti to maintain our pastor-led services. Occasionally our worship is lead by a capable layman when no Pastor is available.

Our ministry of outreach is providing food and money for the Sebastopol Food Bank to care for the hungry and homeless. We provide space for a Samoan Christian congregation to gather to worship. And as a community service, we host an Alcoholics Anonymous chapter. -- Julie Reifsteck, Mt Olive Lay Leader,

St John Lutheran Church, Willits, CA -- Since Pastor Karl Bliese retired in December 2021 and relocated to Southern California, St. John Lutheran Church has been in a vacancy status. As of June of 2022, we are blessed to be served on a regular basis by our member and elder, Cory E. Paine began. Cory had in mind to apply for entrance into an LCMS program toward ordination. He qualified, made application for, and was received into the Concordia St Louis Seminary, SMP, Specialized Ministry Program in August 2024. He was installed as SMP Vicar at St John on September 1, 2024, with President Lange presiding. Circuit Visitor Jim Beyer has been assigned as the SMP vicarage supervisor/mentor. Vicar Cory, his wife Tabettha and sons have been an integral part of our congregation for the past three years. We are thrilled to support him on his journey towards pastoral ministry.

St. John Lutheran has experienced growth in various areas. Our church members have become increasingly involved, actively participating, leading, and serving in our

Brown Bag Lunch Ministry, Women's Guild, Shut-in Visitation, and Christian education programs for both children and adults. Our eldership, leaders, and members have also engaged in local community events, promoting traditional values and providing support. We have contributed to our local food bank, The Center for Life Choices, and senior support initiatives.

We have also seen an increase in involvement in catechism courses with individuals on the path to confirmation in the LCMS. Last year we had the blessing of four persons officially joining our congregation as members of the LCMS locally and internationally by either transfer in from other congregations outside the district or through local efforts. We have also had youth confirmation in 2024.

With the guidance of our Vicar and Elders, we offer two weekly Bible studies, with a total attendance of 25. Our classes meet in five-week interviews and focus on each book of the bible in series. We have also established a regular Sunday morning Children's Sunday School, with attendance ranging from 5 to 10 students.

Our regular Sunday morning attendance has grown from 20 since 2023 to approximately 37 on average over the past year. We are excited to welcome new faces each Sunday. Additionally, we offer seasonal midweek services such as Advent, Holy Week celebrations, Reformation Day, and other church-recognized holidays and feasts. Last year, we were thrilled to contribute to spreading the Gospel globally. We supported victims of disasters and weather-related events on the East Coast through our Lutheran Disaster Funds. We also increased our contribution to Operation Christmas Child from 100 to 125 boxes annually, with plans to further expand in the coming years.

St. John's has also developed a robust digital media plan for the coming years to help our community find us, understand who we are, and preach the Gospel in new ways. We began with Facebook and Instagram to build an audience, and our next step includes sharing short sermon snippets and positive messages about our traditions to encourage others to come and see.

One of our significant challenges this year is developing a strong music program. While we have collaborated with groups providing pre-recorded song selections, our goal is to find a pianist or organist for regular service and develop a small group choir to lead us in hymns and songs. We are considering a youth-focused music program to connect with children and young families in our community. - Vicar Cory Paine

First Lutheran Church, Lucerne, CA -- First Lutheran of Lake County, entered Vacancy status at the end of October 2021 when Pastor Chris DelCol retired and moved to another area of California. Pastor Chris continues to serve FLC offering sermons online and supplying written sermons read by a lay worship leader. First is also served occasionally by Pastor Emeritus David Rose, Lakeport, and Pastor Emeritus Jim Beyer, Santa Rosa. Most Sundays, however, see FLC Elder, Kurt Golchert, a retired LCMS Commissioned Teacher, designing and leading worship and presenting a sermon. He is assisted by a worship team of lay leaders. Mr Golchert also visits the sick and shut-ins members and offers Holy Communion.

The average Sunday worship attendance is 18-25. They have a well-attended spirited Bible Study before the worship service. And they have weekly fellowship together lunching in the parish hall after the worship. They have an excellent outreach ministry that gathers and distributes clothing and food to the needy in Lucerne. And they invite the homeless and hungry to come in one Sunday a month to have lunch and access their food and clothing ministries. The same are also invited to join in the worship service and all the fellowship activities of the congregation. -- Rev Jim Beyer, Circuit 14 Visitor

St John Lutheran Church, Clearlake, CA -- St John Lutheran Church has been faithfully and regularly served since 2018 by retired Pastor, Rev Bob Rowland, who makes the long trip up from Richmond each week on Sundays to provide worship and Sacrament ministry to the saints of the congregation. In October of 2024 Pastor Rowland sustained hemorrhaging in his right eye. This left Bob unable to drive and causes difficulties in seeing.

Currently, the worship attendance is 5 plus the Pastor. Circuit Visitor Jim Beyer is supplying pulpit presence once a month or less. The offices of President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Properties are maintained adequately. - Rev Jim Beyer, Circuit 14 Visitor

CIRCUIT #15

Rev. Clarence H. Eisberg – Circuit Visitor

The congregations of the Central Valley continue to find ways to deal with the changing culture and struggling to find ways to reach those who are spiritually lost

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Clovis. Rev. Ed Kruger recently retired but continues to serve another congregation in our district. Emmanuel Called Rev Dan Hues who has continued to lead the congregation in policy-based governance. The congregation continues their contemporary style worship. Recently several new families have join Emmanuel. Bothe Emmanuel and Redeemer are sharing a youth minister who is creating bible study and activities for both congregation's youth.

Each Sunday the worship style is led by members with musical gifts singing both contemporary Christians songs and traditional hymns. The congregation moved back to one service during the past two years with many members unable to attend on Sunday, while another ten families moved out of state. Rev. Pastor Hues Has completed his doctorate in outreach.

First Lutheran Church, Dinuba. The congregation has been going through a transition because of pastoral retirement. The congregation has been served by Vicar Travis Wright for the past five years. The congregation is being served by Lay reader Travis Wright. . The congregation has accomplished some needed renovation. Vicar Wright is helping the congregation to look at their long-term potential. He hopes to work

with LCEF in the evaluation process. The congregation worships between 15 and 30 each week with ministry options.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Exeter. The congregation's pastor, Rev. Joel Luckemeyer accepted a "call" to a congregation in Oceanside, Ca. The congregation has rented their preschool space to the Exeter School district. They are now being served by Vicar Zachery Stringham. The congregation continues to evaluate their future ministry. It is a time of rest and evaluation.

Grace Lutheran Church, Visalia. Grace, Visalia called Rev David Jung who has served for the past several years. Grace has a strong Lutheran school which is seeking to reevaluate their future ministry and financial objectives under the guidance of Pastor Jung and a talented committee new goals and Pastor Jung is serving as part time administrator. Grace Visalia also serves a large Lahu community. The **Lahu** ministry at **Grace** is led by Vicar Soun **see**. Soun **See** is presently a student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, and is on a path toward ordination.

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Lindsay. Mt. Olive is one of our smaller parishes and is being served by our SMP, Rev. Scott Scheere. He was ordained and serves the members of the congregation and community.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Caruthers. During the past several years after a pastoral vacancy, the congregation was served by a retired pastor and a Licensed Deacon. Rev Scott Jacobsen (SMP) had been serving at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fresno. Pastor Scott also completed the necessary course work and was ordained as an SMP minister. Our Savior Called Pastor Scott to be their pastor, and he was installed. He has brought stability and renewal to the congregation in a small rural community with potential for growth.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Selma. Over the past few years, the congregation was served by Rev. Mark Wikstrom until he retired, then by Deacon John Mertes. The congregation has contracted with Rev. Scott Jacobsen to serve as their pastor. The two congregations may have a future together as they seek to re-evaluate their community and outreach to a changing population.

First Lutheran Church, Hanford. First Hanford's pastor Gary Gerloff recently accepted a call to serve another parish in our District. For the past year the congregation has been served by Pastor Mark Wikstrom and Pastor Jim Fennacy. The congregation extended a call to Rev. John Halakhe, who was installed as their new pastor in April last year. As in all new situations, the congregation will seek renewed strength from pastoral leadership and member participation.

Peace Lutheran Church, Fresno. Peace has a large ministry to the Hmong community and has been served by Rev. Kai Lee for a number of years. The two congregations worship separately, each having their own leadership board, but at the same time share ministry together, using the same facility. Rev. Dennis Wenholtz accepted a call out of the District last year. Several retired pastors served during the vacancy Rev Clinton Hoff accepted the call and was installed this past year.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fresno. Under the guidance of Rev. Clarence Eisberg, the congregation has supported and mentored several men as Vicars, Deacons, who are now serving congregations in the Circuit as Ordained SMP pastors and Vicar. Under the leadership of Rev. Jim Fennacy, the congregation has an active Stephen's Ministry program. Pastor Jim also brings a musical talent to enhance our worship experience along with leadership from Michal Hembd our musician and choir director. Pastor Jim has been helping congregations in the circuit that are vacant, and he serves alongside Pastor Eisberg. The congregation has a large exposure to the community through their Community Center which serves a number of AA groups, service organizations and rents their facility to various community organizations.

Redeemer also serves several Hmong families as they work together to create a multiethnic ministry. Several adult baptisms were celebrated this past year. This year Redeemer, Emmanuel and Peace joined together for their first tri- men's spiritual retreat. This is the 5th year for the men's retreat but the first tri- men's retreat.

Circuit #16

Rev. Richard Rice – Circuit Visitor

Bethlehem Lutheran Church-Monterey CA -Rev. Joshua Schmidt, pastor

Bethlehem's mission is to "worship God as a loving community that grows in faith and shares the Gospel of Christ." This is done through celebrating the Divine Service together; supporting organizations such as I-HELP, Blue Zones, and the Chamber of Commerce; hosting twelve step programs, Concordia Seminary conferences, and supporting other local meeting needs; providing weekly chapel for two local nursing facilities; and living a life of comradery with God and each other.

In 2024, the Classical Christian Academy of Monterey Bay (CCAMB) became its own separate nonprofit entity and relocated. Upon their relocation, Bethlehem was able to start a new youth program, geared towards high school students and supported by the LWML with a gracious grant. Two out of three years, Bethlehem has supported a youth trip and hosts VBS every year. The church has gone through many transitions in staffing and leadership, even through these changes, preaching the Gospel in truth and purity has been retained as our core blessing. Membership is steadily growing and in July, 2025 we will begin our year-long Centennial Celebration!!!

Faith-Seaside CA-Rev. Darren Harbaugh, pastor

Faith recently celebrated her 60th anniversary. Thanks be to God!

Faith has Divine Service every Sunday and on most feast days. Evening Prayer is prayed during Advent and Lent.

In many regards, Faith is part military chapel. About a quarter of Faith's weekly attendance consists of service members and their families who are stationed at the Naval Postgraduate School and the Defense Language Institute. These families are in the area for 9 months - 2 years. It is a constant welcoming and farewell that local members of Faith have embraced.

Pastor Darren Harbaugh continues his service as an Air Force Reserve Chaplain at Travis AFB. Faith continues to support this ministry to airmen and their families on behalf of the congregation

Faith Community Center is completely paid off and Faith is now debt free. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

In addition to faithfully serving family and neighbor in their various vocations, the people of Faith also support many local mercy projects: a restoration home for women who are sex trafficking survivors, a food pantry, an emergency shelter for women and their families, a local residential facility and recovery program for men and women with substance abuse problems, among others.

Trinity, Watsonville -Rev. Juan Vallejo, pastor

Ministry in Watsonville continues to serve the community with worship services in two languages, weekly bible study, catechism class, confirmation class and early in the developing plans, a midweek contemporary youth service.

On special occasions and events, we have a bilingual service followed by food and fellowship. This gives the congregants the opportunity to interact, catch up, and strengthen their relationship as members of the body of Christ and Trinity.

One of the joys and challenges at Trinity has been the process of restructuring the administrative side of the church. Members at Trinity believed it was essential for the church leadership to reflect the members of the congregation and of the community. As of 2023 leaders of committees and of church council consist of both Latinos and Anglos. As you can imagine, this new change comes with challenges, but we are working through them.

During the last year, Trinity contracted with LCEF Real Estate Solutions with plans of a future church land lease to a developer for residential units. This will give Trinity long term financial stability and sustainability.

Trinity over the years has rented out space to a preschool and is now entering into a new agreement with a new owner.

"All praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever to the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!" Rev. 5:13

Lutheran Church of Our Savior-Salinas CA- Rev. Scott Klemsz, pastor

For the first time since the Covid lockdowns Lutheran Church of Our Savior seems to be blessed with new vigor and excitement for the work of the church.

This year, the congregation catechized a family of 7 and on Transfiguration Sunday their 5 children were baptized into the faith of the church. Four of their children are preparing for early communion and one is in first year confirmation. In addition, another family has started attending the church and we are setting a date to baptize their 2 children, a newborn and a four year old. Both of these families are new to the Lutheran faith.

We currently have four students in second year confirmation and two in first year confirmation. Our Sunday School has 15 active students divided into three classes. In addition, we will be sending seven youth to the National Youth Gathering and have raised nearly all the funds needed for the trip.

Volunteers and donors of the congregation provide pounds of pasta salad and over 100 sandwiches for the Salinas's Dorothy's Kitchen on a weekly basis. Dorothy's Kitchen serves the homeless in Salinas.

The congregation continues to have a thriving Preschool for 3 and 4 years olds. We are having challenges as our local schools are now offering preschool for local children.

The Divine Service is offered every Sunday using the Lutheran Service Book's four settings as they relate to the liturgical calendar.

All this activity might be surprising for a congregation that is small, but God continues to provide for us and our members through his gracious gifts. Rev. Scott Klemz

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Soquel. Stanley Abraham, pastor.

Mt. Calvary is in the process of expanding its outreach to unhoused people in the Santa Cruz area. Phase 1 will be to demolish the current dwelling units occupied by 6 unhoused persons presently living in the substandard, unpermitted dwelling cabins. These persons serve as caretakers for the congregation. The Mt. Calvary community is working with Just Places, a non-profit organization that builds straw bale houses as well as using other environmentally friendly building materials, to replace the current shelters. The process of tearing down the structures has begun. The new units will be larger and will be in conformity with the county code requirements. The first phase of the project is scheduled for completion by the summer of 2026.

Phase 2 of the project will include a common building for restrooms, laundry, and kitchen facilities. In addition, a 10-unit apartment will be built to accommodate very low income people with Section 8 housing vouchers. The completion date is yet to be determined, but construction will begin after the completion of Phase 1. Mt. Calvary will develop an intentional outreach program to the residents.

In January of 2022, Anthony Suarez-Abraham became a four-year vicar through the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center at Concordia University, Irvine. The placement was done through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Anthony withdrew from that program in June of 2024 and is no longer serving as vicar at Mt. Calvary.

The congregation has a membership of 30 with an average worship attendance between 20-25. There are two new worshippers who have shown interest in the ministry of the congregation.

The worship life of the Mt. Calvary congregation continues to gather for Word and Sacrament, celebrating the Eucharist weekly. It has an active choir of 8 to 10 members, singing both classical and contemporary music.

Mt. Calvary currently has staff in 4 part-time positions: administrator, organist, choir director, and pastor.

Pastor Abraham has served the congregation for 30 years. The congregation has formed an exploratory committee for options in pastoral service anticipating the retirement of Pastor Abraham in the not-to-distant future.

Messiah, Santa Cruz-Rev. Richard R. Rice, pastor

Messiah continues to experience the challenges and joys of the Misio Dei. Covid challenged the congregation and had a decline in attendance and membership. The challenge of Covid brought about an opportunity of migrating the Sunday Worship Service to be hybrid-both in person and on Zoom. Attendance is creeping back up, but Messiah is still at 60 per cent of what it was prior to Covid. Messiah

The worship life of the Messiah Lutheran church continues with weekly gathering for Word and Sacrament, celebrating the Eucharist weekly. Messiah has a talented organist for the liturgical worship services and a Praise Team band for leading contemporary worship services.

Messiah has a committed core of members. We are reconnecting with some former members. We also have a few visitors who have become regular attenders during this new year.

During the last year, the church entered into a partnership with our daughter corporation Lutheran Housing of Santa Cruz and LCEF Real Estate Solutions to evaluate a partnership with a developer to put housing on the property. This contract was cancelled since all the developers wanted to raze all the buildings on the property including the sanctuary. Messiah continues to study a way to leverage the stewardship of the beautiful property God has blessed us with to enable a community centered financial stable ministry in the future.

Circuit #18

Rev. Robert Weller – Circuit Visitor

The congregations of circuit #18 continue to serve our Lord in the South Bay from Milpitas to Cupertino. We currently have four pastoral vacancies in the circuit: Mt. Olive in Milpitas, Christ the Life in San Jose, Trinity in San Jose, and First Immanuel in San Jose.

Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Cupertino has begun *Agnus Dei Lutheran Classical Academy*. Additionally, LCOS continues to be the hub for a homeschooling group.

Shepherd of the Valley in San Jose and First Immanuel in San Jose have entered into a vicarage partnership program with Shepherd providing housing and First Immanuel providing the financial support for a vicar. The program had a vicar assigned for the 2024-2025 school year and the church's hope to continue the partnership.

Trinity Lutheran Church has brought in an interim minister, Pastor Eloi Gonzales from Texas. Pastor Gonzales will take Trinity through a time of self-reflection and visioning for what is to come for the congregation.

Redeeming Grace Lutheran Church is the completed merger of St. Mark in Sunnyvale and Resurrection in Santa Clara. Under the leadership of Pastor Steve Roma the church has also issued a call to Muluneh Taye as associate pastor with an eye towards mission work in the future.

Circuit #19

Rev. Alan Sommer -- Circuit Visitor

Circuit 19 in Northern California is blessed to be connected with Circuit 4, another Sacramento circuit, with joint worship services offered for Reformation, Ascension Day, and the like. Pastor Duane Bamsch served as Circuit Visitor since 2019, but recently accepted a divine call to serve at a congregation in Texas. Pastor Alan Sommer began serving as Circuit Visitor in February of 2025.

During the last triennium, **St. Paul, Auburn** celebrated her 75th anniversary (Oct. 2022) and due to declining membership and the financial obligations associated with maintaining a 6-acre campus, Pastor Poganski went from full-time to part-time status in 2024. Beyond that, Word and Sacrament ministry continues thanks to the Holy Spirit and His blessings in Christ our Lord. As always, we look forward to His guidance and encouragement as we endeavor to always preach Christ crucified and risen so that we may truly have new life through the forgiveness of sins and eternal life forever in heaven.

Light of the Hills, Cameron Park, is currently working through a self-study that will guide the congregation into mission and ministry in the years to come. Associate Pastor Kyle Weeks received a call to the Michigan District and left Light of the Hills in August of 2024, and the congregation is currently praying for guidance and planning staffing for the future. We are an outlet for the El Dorado County Food Bank, and the ministry we do around that has been growing for the last several years. Our mission statement is Creating Community in Christ, and we reach out into the communities around us with the good news of Jesus Christ. An outdoor prayer path is in development to provide a place of prayer for the congregation and community members.

“Find peace here.” This is what **Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Folsom** can promise all those who might find themselves in our midst. Located amongst several faith-based non-profits, our campus is used by some in order to provide care for many who seek their services—from the local food bank to recovery. As recipients of God’s peace in Christ Jesus, our vision is to build bridges and bring His peace into the lives of our family, friends, and neighbors. We are currently in the process of selling two acres of undeveloped property we own to the food bank in order to bless the community. Later this year, we’ll be partnering with an after school program that will provide care for many students in the local school district. God is providing us with opportunities to share His peace! Pray the Spirit of God invigorates us with love for our new neighbors.

Grace Lutheran, Grass Valley, is praying for God's leadership as they have just entered a period of vacancy with their Pastor, Rev. Duane Bamsch, accepting a call to serve in Texas. Your prayers are appreciated as they pray, study, and search for a new shepherd.

First Lutheran of Placerville is working to overhaul their ministry plan. A new mission statement has been established, and many of the pieces are nearing their launch. There is excitement with a new understanding of the resources God has placed in the congregation and an anticipation to see how this will unfold. Pastor Kevin Foley accepted a call to River of Life Lutheran Church in Omaha Nebraska and was installed there in May of 2022. Pastor Mark Oatman was called from congregations in the Bay Area and installed in February of 2023. The congregation is mourning the loss of retired Pastor Mark Haas who was called home last year. We celebrate that God continues to work through His people in Placerville.

Cordova Lutheran Church, Rancho Cordova, California continues to meet regularly for Sunday worship and Bible study, with called (part-time) Pastor Matt Peters leading worship two Sundays per month and overseeing pastoral duties in the congregation. Retired pastors Alan Flynn and John Standley typically lead worship and Bible study on the 2nd and 4th Sundays (respectively). Currently, we conduct Lenten services at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays, as many of our members no longer drive at night. Beyond Lent and Advent, we hold various in-person Bible studies or programs on Wednesdays. Head elder Michael Kuykendahl leads a Bible study on Zoom on Thursday evenings. The people of Cordova LC continue to be a warm and welcoming community of faithful believers, with wonderful participation in the sharing of the time, talent and treasures with which God has blessed them.

St. Matthew, Rocklin, is being led by God's Spirit through some exciting times of transition with Pastor Nathan Hausch accepting a call to serve St. Paul's in Pacific Beach in November of 2024 and Pastor Brad Cusson slated to retire in February of next year. By God's grace, we have been led to partner with Dr. Mark Zehnder in this transition process, whose guidance is invaluable. This process is proving to be a blessing as we intentionally remember who we are and our mission together, celebrating what God has done; even as we excitedly do the work to find the pastor God has chosen to partner with us in the next phase of our mission to *make disciples who make disciples* as we *Share Life, Create Friendships, and Inspire Hope*. And yes, we covet your prayers especially during this time! And finally, we are so very excited to host the upcoming dinner and opening worship of the CNH District in May. We pray that you are able to make it for a great dinner and as we worship our God together!

Circuit #20
Rev. William Abbott – Circuit Visitor
Congregation of Circuit #20*

Christ Lutheran Church – Battle Mountain, NV – Rev. Jason Iwen, Pastor

River of Life Lutheran Church – Dayton, NV – Rev. William Abbott, Pastor

St. Mark Lutheran Church – Elko, NV – Jacob Eisinger, Vicar

St. John Lutheran Church -- Fallon, NV – Rev. Chad Biar, Pastor

Bethany Lutheran Church – Hawthorne, NV – Jonathan Hudson, Deacon

Zion Lutheran Church – Winnemucca, NV – Rev. Jason Iwen, Pastor

Zion Lutheran Church – Yerington, NV – Rev. Steven Tomac, Pastor

*Data compiled from District Files

2025 CNH District Convention Prior Nominations and Elections

CNH District President Nomination Results

District Bylaw VI.C.d. The Secretary of the District shall tabulate nominations and report the names of all clergy receiving three or more nominations in the *Convention Manual*.

Name	Total Nominations	Status
Michael Lange	27	Accepted
Jason Bredeson	5	Respectfully Declined

CNH First Vice President Nomination Results

District Bylaw VI.C.d. The Secretary of the District shall tabulate nominations and report the names of all clergy receiving three or more nominations in the *Convention Manual*.

Name	Total Nominations	Status
Mitchell Gowen	21	Accepted
Jason Bredeson	5	Respectfully Declined
Robert Weller	3	Accepted

CNH District Circuit Visitor Elections

Elected by Circuit Forums (2022-2025)

#1	Rev. Lenny Szeto	#11	Rev. Daniel Truesdell
#2	Rev. Matt Behrens	#12	Rev. Brandon Merrick
#3	Rev. Calvin Waetzig	#14	Rev. James Beyer
#4	Rev. David Hardin	#15	Rev. David Jung
#5	Rev. Daniel Schlensker	#16	Rev. Richard Rice
#7	Rev. Andrew Munding	#18	Rev. John Bestul
#8	Rev. Paul Schult	#19	Rev. Alan Sommer
#9	Rev. Allen Steinbeck	#20	No Report
#10	Rev. Andrew Simpson		

For Review

Proposed Changes to Bylaws

of the CALIFORNIA--NEVADA--HAWAII DISTRICT

of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

ARTICLE I

MISSION STATEMENT

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

ARTICLE II

RELATIONSHIP TO THE SYNOD

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

ARTICLE III

STRUCTURE OF THE DISTRICT

III.A. The Board of Directors

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

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

3. The District Board of Directors shall:

- a. As a primary function, generate and adopt declarations of desired outcomes which will give long-term direction to the District and its President, staff, and committees.
- b. In addition to generating and adopting declarations of desired outcomes, address broad levels of issues in policies of purpose and governance or constraints, leaving lesser levels to the discretion of the District President.
- c. Through the District President, and he through his staff and the District Committees, coordinate the work of the District in accordance with the District Mission Statement, the Bylaws of the Synod, the Bylaws of the District, the District Convention Resolutions, and the declarations of desired outcomes.
- d. Except for assignments of its own work (policies) to committees, consultants, or officers, delegate authority only to the District President.
- e. Provide for an annual audit of the records of the District in such manner directed by the Synod and in accordance with its own policies.
- f. Provide for and oversee the bonding of all District fiscal officers and employees entrusted with the receiving and disbursing of funds, such bonds to be provided by a licensed bonding agency at District expense.
- g. Be empowered to review all activities of the District and its committees, and make binding decisions affecting them; this review may include, but is not limited to, the leadership, membership, purpose, or functions of any activity or Committee.
- h. Approve or disapprove the annual District Budget which the District President shall present.
- i. Be the authority to create and abolish Called positions and act as the Calling body on behalf of the District. The administrative details, including preparation of Call documents, may be delegated to the District President.
- j. Respond in a timely manner to any formal concern related to the Board's area of responsibility addressed to it by the President, Board members, committees authorized by the Bylaws or the Board, Circuit Forums, Circuit Pastors' Conferences, or Congregations of the District or organizations that are ancillary to the District or Synod..
- k. Appoint District Reconcilers as prescribed in the Synod Constitution and Bylaws.
- l. Be the custodian of all property, records, and legacies of the District.
- m. Establish and provide for the maintenance of a headquarters called the District Office, which shall be the official address of the District. All official records of the District shall be kept at the District Office; any exceptions shall require approval of the Board of Directors.
- n. Present reports of its actions at all District Conventions and, if desired, propose recommendations for consideration by the District Convention.
- o. Be responsible to the District for its actions and the actions of all District Officers, Committees, agents, and employees.
4. Members of the Board of Directors shall not serve as Chairs of District Committees; nor serve as members of the Nominating Committee; nor be on the District payroll.

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

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

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

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

d. Serve as Chair of the Board of Directors.

2. The Regional Vice Presidents shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

III.D. The Regional Directors

The Regional Directors shall:

a. Be lay persons.

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

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

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

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

III.E. Director-Commissioned Minister

The Director-Commissioned Minister shall:

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

b. Be elected at the regular Convention.

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

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

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

203 The District Secretary shall:

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

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

231 The Treasurer shall:

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

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

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

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

IV.B. Representation at Board of Directors Meetings

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

IV.C. Mandated Committees

1. MISSION

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

2. HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES

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

b. This Committee shall:

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

3. STEWARDSHIP

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

b. This Committee shall:

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

4 CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

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

b. This Committee shall:

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

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

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

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

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

5. ~~HISTORICAL/~~ARCHIVAL COMMITTEE

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

b. This Committee shall:

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

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

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

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

6. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

b. This Committee shall:

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

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

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

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

7. HISPANIC COUNCIL

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

b. This Committee shall:

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

IV.D. Special Committees

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

ARTICLE V **DISTRICT CONVENTIONS**

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

V.A. Delegates

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

V.B. Committee Appointments

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

V.C. Convention ~~Manual~~ Workbook

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

483 484 **V.E. Proceedings**

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

490 1.

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

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

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

500

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

504 ***VI.B. Term of Elected Officers***
505

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

512 ***VI.C. Pre-Convention Nominations for District President and First Vice-President***
513

514 Nominations for the Offices of President and First Vice-President shall be made in the following manner:

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

538 ***VI.D. Convention Floor Nominations***
539

540 Except for the Offices of President and First Vice-President, additional nominations for any elective office
541 may be made from the floor of the Convention, from the floor of the Caucus as appropriate, or by any
542 voting delegate; however, the prior consent of the nominee shall have been obtained and a brief
543 biographical sketch submitted to the District Secretary at the time the nomination is made.
544

545 ***VI.E. Teller Committee***
546

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

549 1.Election Procedure

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

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

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

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

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

560
561 ***VI.F. Order of Elections***
562

563 1. Election of the President

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

566
567 b. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates for President, whose names
568 appear on the slate published by the District Secretary.

569
570 c. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared President.

571
572 a. ~~If additional balloting is necessary, the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes shall be~~
573 ~~eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. In the~~
574 ~~event of ties for the smallest number, all those tied shall be eliminated.~~

575
576 3. Election of the First Vice President

577
578 a. In the first business session of the
579 Convention, the Teller Committee shall conduct the election for the office of First Vice President.

580
581 b. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates for First Vice President,
582 whose names appear on the slate published by the District Secretary.

583
584 c. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared First Vice President.

585
586 d. ~~If additional balloting is necessary, the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes shall be~~
587 ~~eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. In the~~
588 ~~event of ties for the smallest number, all those tied shall be eliminated.~~

589
590 4. Election of the Regional Vice Presidents and Regional Directors

591
592 a. The Regions shall caucus to nominate their Regional Vice Presidents and the Regional Director.
593 Each Region will submit to the Convention one nomination for Regional Vice President and one
594 nomination for Regional Director.

595
596 b. In the Regional caucus, the Teller Committee will facilitate the nomination of the Regional Vice
597 President as follows:
598

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VI.G. Ballots

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

VI.H Records of Elections

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

VI.I Procedures and Methods

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

650 **VI.J. Vacancies**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

697
698
699 **ARTICLE VII**

700 **REGIONS, CIRCUITS AND CIRCUIT FORUMS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VIII.C. Amendment by Synod Action.

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

VIII.D. Publication of Bylaw Revisions

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