



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

CNH District Convention

May 5—7, 2022 | Newark, CA

Convention Proceedings

2022 CNH District Convention

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Convention Minutes

The minutes of the 2022 CNH District Convention were approved by the Board of Directors on June 11th, 2022

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Voting – Pastors

First Name	Last Name	Congregation Name	Congregation City
Rev. William	Abbott	River of Life	Dayton, NV
Rev. Stanley	Abraham	Mt. Calvary	Soquel, CA
Rev. Paul	Aldrich	Zion	Piedmont, CA
Rev. Dr. Kevin	Austin	Our Savior	Livermore, CA
Rev. Matt	Behrens	Calvary	San Lorenzo, CA
Rev. John	Bestul	Our Savior	Cupertino, CA
Rev. Philip	Beyer	St Mark	Elko, NV
Rev. Chad	Biar	St. John's	Fallon, NV
Rev. Dawit	Bokre	Good Shepherd	Hayward, CA
Rev. Jason	Bredeson	Trinity	Sacramento, CA
Rev. Joseph	Byrd	Bethany	Lompoc, CA
Rev. Dr. Terrence	Chan	Christ for All Nations	San Francisco, CA
Rev. Brian	Cummins	Trinity	Redding, CA
Rev. Brad	Cusson	St. Matthew	Rocklin, CA
Rev. Dr. Richard	Davis	Emmanuel	Kahului, HI
Rev. Dan	Deuel	St. Andrews	Stockton, CA
Rev. Dallas	Dubke	St. Paul	Red Bluff, CA
Rev. Mathew	Duerr	Zion	Lodi, CA
Rev. Jared	Eggebraaten	Faith Lutheran	Fair Oaks, CA
Rev. Clarence	Eisberg	Redeemer	Fresno, CA
Rev. Sylvan	Finger	First & Mount Olive	Willows / Corning, CA
Rev. David	Floyd	Faith	Pleasant Hill, CA
Rev. Gary	Gerloff	St Mark	Santa Rosa, CA
Rev. Mitch	Gowen	Our Savior	Aiea, HI
Rev. Darren	Harbaugh	Faith	Seaside, CA
Rev. David	Hardin	St Paul	Woodland, CA
Rev. Dan	Hues	Emmanuel	Clovis, CA
Rev. Thomas	Hurley	Resurrection	San Rafael, CA
Rev. John	Huss	Mount Olive	Milpitas, CA
Rev. Andrew	Jones	First Lutheran	Concord, CA
Rev. David	Jung	Grace	Visalia, CA
Rev. Fred	Karlen	Grace	Cloverdale, CA
Rev. Noah	Kegley	St. Paul	Mountain View, CA
Rev. Mark	Kliewer	Zion/Christ	Winnemucca/Battle Mountain, NV
Rev. Colter	Knippa	Zion	North Highlands, CA
Rev. Dr. Shiu	Lau	Holy Spirit	San Francisco, CA

First Name	Last Name	Congregation Name	Congregation City
Rev. John-Paul	Meyer	Holy Cross	Rocklin, CA
Rev. Dr. Martin	Noland	Grace	San Mateo, CA
Rev. Tom	Norris	Bethany	Menlo Park, CA
Rev. Mark	Oatman	St. Peter's - Grace	San Leandro - Hayward, CA
Rev. Christian	Pieper	Good Shepherd	Turlock, CA
Rev. Dr. David	Poganski	St. Paul	Auburn, CA
Rev. David	Prill	Resurrection	Brentwood, CA
Rev. Christian	Rasmussen	Our Redeemer	Honolulu, HI
Rev. Jay	Reed	Light of the Valley	Elk Grove, CA
Rev. Richard	Rice	Messiah	Santa Cruz, CA
Rev. Steve	Roma	Resurrection	Santa Clara, CA
Rev. Walter	Schedler	Bethlehem	Colusa, CA
Rev. John	Scheuermann	Trinity	Gardnerville, NV
Rev. Daniel	Schlensker	Shepherd of The Hills	Lake Isabella, CA
Rev. Michael	Schmid	St. John's	Napa, CA
Rev. Mark	Schudde	Trinity	Paso Robles, CA
Rev. Jeffrey	Schufreider	First/Trinity	South San Francisco/Burlingame, CA
Rev. Isaac	Schuller	First Immanuel	San Jose, CA
Rev. Paul	Schult	Redeemer	Redwood City, CA
Rev. Thomas	Sharpe	St. Matthew	Sonora, CA
Rev. Andrew	Simpson	Our Savior	Sparks, NV
Rev. Morris	Stephens	Messiah	Citrus Heights, CA
Rev. Stuart	Sultze	Faith	Ukiah, CA
Rev. Lenny	Szeto	Zion	San Francisco, CA
Rev. Muluneh	Taye	Addis Kidan	San Francisco, CA
Rev. Nickolas	Teller	Our Savior	Pinole, CA
Rev. Dr. Philip	Tesch	Cordova	Rancho Cordova, CA
Rev. Mathew	Thompson	Trinity	San Jose, CA
Rev. Dan	Truesdell	Saint Mark	Kaneohe, HI
Rev. Marty	Tyler	Grace	Crescent City, CA
Rev. Juan	Vallejo	Trinity	Watsonville, CA
Rev. Eric	Van Scharrel	St. John's	Bakersfield, CA
Rev. Aleksandr	von Schmidt	Zion	San Luis Obispo, CA
Rev. Kalvin	Waetzig	St. Paul's	Tracy, CA
Rev. Kyle	Weeks	Light of the Hills	Cameron Park, CA
Rev. Robert	Weller	Shepherd of the Valley	San Jose, CA
Rev. Dennis	Wenholz	Peace	Fresno, CA
Rev. Mark	Whittaker	Peace	Arroyo Grande, CA
Rev. Dr. Tom	Zelt	Prince of Peace	Fremont, CA
Rev. Mark	Zier	Christ	Hilo, HI

Advisory Pastors

First Name	Last Name	Congregation Name	Congregation City
Rev. Aaron	Putnam	LINC Bay Area	Hayward, CA
Rev. Adam	Debner	Our Savior	Cupertino, CA
Rev. Allen	Steinbeck	Intentional Interim, St. Paul	Merced, CA
Rev. Berhanu	Didanu	St. Paul	Woodland, CA
Rev. Brian	Muldowney	Saint Andrews	Stockton, CA
Rev. Christopher	Ng	Holy Spirit	San Francisco, CA
Rev. Doua	Xiong	St Paul -Hmong Outreach	Merced, CA
Rev. Ed	Krueger	Trinity	San Rafael, CA
Rev. John	Puscheck	Clear Promise	Lompoc, CA
Rev. Joshua	Schneider	Our Redeemer	Augusta, GA
Rev. Joshua	Woodrow	Good Shepherd	Hayward, CA
Rev. Michael	Dube	Shepherd of the Valley	Galt, CA
Rev. Nathan	Hausch	St. Matthew	Rocklin, CA
Rev. Otis	Byrd	Shepherd of the Hills	San Francisco, CA
Rev. Phillip	Kohlmeyer	Benicia	Benicia, CA
Rev. Richard	Toms	Trinity	Georgetown, CA
Rev. Scott	Jacobsen	Our Saviour	Caruthers, CA
Rev. Dr. Tesfai	Tesema	Addis Kidan	San Francisco, CA
Rev. William	Pierce	St. Matthews	Kapaa, HI

Voting – Lay Delegates

First Name	Last Name	Congregation Name	Congregation City
Sonya	Adler Abbott	River of Life	Dayton, NV
Peter	Bauer	Trinity Evangelical	San Rafael, CA
Vicki	Benke	St. Luke's	Reno, NV
Gregory	Bennett	Prince of Peace	Fremont, CA
Linda	Blauser	Light of the Valley	Elk Grove, CA
Jim	Bollinger	Good Shepherd	Turlock, CA
Norma	Byrd	Shepherd of the Hills	San Francisco, CA
Otis	Byrd III	Christ For All Nations	San Francisco, CA
Linda	Cruz	Zion	North Highlands, CA

First Name	Last Name	Congregation Name	Congregation City
DeAl	Dankers	St. John's	Fallon, NV
Robert	Dottery	First	Concord, CA
William	Ernst	Trinity	Paso Robles, CA
Gedyon	Feleke	Addis Kidan	San Francisco, CA
Richard	Fielitz	Holy Cross	Rocklin, CA
Moe	Finn	Faith	Fair Oaks, CA
Gloria	Garing	Trinity	Watsonville, CA
Charles	Gibbs	Zion	San Luis Obispo, CA
Ken	Grolle	St. Paul	Mountain View, CA
Paul	Hagen	St. Paul	Red Bluff, CA
Daniel	Hahn	Grace	San Mateo, CA
Steve	Hajik	St John	Willits, CA
Andrew	Hall	St. Paul's Woodland	Woodland, CA
Rebecca	Harbaugh	Faith Lutheran	Seaside, CA
Jim	Hillmann	St. Mark	Sunnyvale, CA
Joan	Hilse	Bethany	Menlo Park, CA
Doug	Hoskins	Redeemer	Fresno, CA
Brian	Jacobson	Zion	Piedmont, CA
Dan	Jaynes	Faith	Ukiah, CA
Ken	Jensen	Peace	Arroyo Grande, CA
Robert	Johnston	Bethany	Vacaville, CA
Doug	Klinchuch	St. John's	Bakersfield, CA
Chris	Koch	Resurrection	Santa Clara, CA
Matthew	Kretzmann	Town & Country	Sacramento, CA
Cameron	Kruse	Saint Mark	Kaneohe, HI
W. Lee	Kucker	Grace	Modesto, CA
Michael	Liebe	Holy Cross	Concord, CA
Sandy	Lindquist	Shepherd of the Valley	Galt, CA
Gerald	Luehrs	Calvary	San Lorenzo, CA
Angus	MacFeeley	Good Shepherd	Honolulu, HI
Lisa	Mancini	Redeemer	Redwood City, CA
Marilyn	Maxner	Bethlehem	Monterey, CA
Doug	McCay	Our Savior	Pinole, CA
Timothy	Morgan	Messiah	Santa Cruz, CA
Melissa	Muller	Resurrection	San Rafael, CA
Gary	Nelson	St. John's	Petaluma, CA
David	Nunley	Trinity	Sacramento, CA
Sal	Pagano	St. John's	Napa, CA
Stephen	Paul	Light Of the Hills	Cameron Park, CA
Herb	Percy	St Mark	Santa Rosa, CA
Silas	Perez	Good Shepherd	Hayward, CA

First Name	Last Name	Congregation Name	Congregation City
Nelda	Peterson	Our Redeemer	Honolulu, HI
Robert	Pierce	Shepherd of The Hills	Lake Isabella, CA
Robert	Potts	St. Paul	Auburn, CA
Theodore	Randolph	Holy Spirit	San Francisco, CA
Stuart	Rawling	St. Paul	Merced, CA
Chuck	Ray	Resurrection	Brentwood, CA
Robert	Rist	Bethlehem	Colusa, CA
Larry	Ristow	Our Savior	Cupertino, CA
Ron	Roberts	Mount Olive	Milpitas, CA
Lawrence	Rogers	Greenhaven	Sacramento, CA
Craig	Santos	St. Andrew	Stockton, CA
David	Shoenhair	Grace	Visalia, CA
Nolan	Sinats	Benicia	Benicia, CA
Janelle	Smith	St Matthew	Sonora, CA
Kathy	Spenhoff	Holy Cross	Los Gatos, CA
Elise	Spleiss	Messiah	Citrus Heights, CA
Donald	Spuhler	Trinity	Georgetown, CA
Merle	Stolz	Trinity Evangelical	Redding, CA
Stephen	Streufert	Our Savior	Sparks, NV
Anthony	Suárez- Abraham	Mount Calvary	Soquel, CA
Rod	Thompson	St. Paul's	Tracy, CA
Amy	Thyr	St. Luke	Santa Rosa, CA
Matthew	Wallace	Grace	Cloverdale, CA
Lawrence	Weissahn	Our Savior	Salinas, CA
Peter	Williams	First Immanuel	San Jose, CA
Fiona	Wohlman	Trinity	Gardnerville, NV
Lana	Wold	Christ	Hilo, HI
Donald	Young	Our Savior	Livermore, CA

Alternate Lay Delegates

First Name	Last Name	Congregation Name	Congregation City
Kent	Campbell	First	Concord, CA
Jane	Kettner	Grace	Crescent City, CA
Shirley	Schallon	Grace	Cloverdale, CA
Yongcheng	Zhao	Holy Spirit	San Francisco, CA

Emeritus Pastors

First Name	Last Name
Rev. Ron	Arnold
Rev. Michael	Benke
Rev. Jim	Beyer
Rev. Dr. Hal	Draeger
Rev. Dann	Ettner
Rev. Robert	Fickenscher
Rev. Alan	Flynn
Rev. Ted	Hartman
Rev. Russ	Hess
Rev. Paul	Holt
Rev. Gary	Mohr
Rev. Dr. Robert	Newton
Rev. Dr. Walter	Tietjen
Rev. John	Standley
Rev. Ted	Zimmerman

Staff

First Name	Last Name
Shelly	Alba
Aldebaran	Austin
Doug	Benton
Edward	Kwak
Rev. Mike	Lange
Denise	Lo
Rev. Joe	Robb
Glenna	Sanlis
Joel	Wahlers

Guests

First Name	Last Name
Evan	Anwyl
Sharron	Arnold
Pilar	Buckley
Don	Busse
Karen	Busse
Lynnette	Campbell
Christine	Chan
Gail	Davis
Berhanu	Didanu
Marjorie	Duerr
Colleen	Eisberg
Barbara	Ettner
Dianne	Flynn
Rev. Michael	Gibson
Carol	Hack Broome
Jeff	Haggard

First Name	Last Name
Rev. Dr. Matthew	Harrison
Marty	Hartman
Donna	Herzog
Eunah	Jung
Rita	Konda
Kristi	Lange
Rev. Dr. Paul	Linnemann
Gloria	Mohr
Rev. Dr. Scott	Murray
Rev. Michael	Newman
Priscilla	Newton
Paula	Nunley
Debbie	Oatman
Tanya	Peterson
Nalani	Pierce
Tim	Quill
Lee	Rohlf
Mary	Rupprecht
Ted	Sanlis
Jessica	Sauer
Paul	Sauer
Carolyn	Schedler
Martha	Scheuermann
Olga	Schmidt
Ashton	Shoenhair
Lois	Standley
Barbara	Stolz
Melanie	Streufert
Marcia	Swift
William	Swift
Julie	Szeto
Ione	Tietjen
Kimi	Wenholz
Alan	Zacharias
Sue	Zelt
Beth	Zier
Elaine	Zimmerman

Convention Exhibitors

<u>Name of Organization</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Chime Master	Lancaster	OH	Steve Glaser
Concordia University Irvine	Irvine	CA	Rev. Bil Hood
Concordia Plans	St. Louis	MO	Brad James
Concordia Publishing House	St. Louis	MO	Elizabeth Pittman
Concordia Seminary	St. Louis	MO	Vicki Biggs
Disability Ministry Task Force	Rio Linda	CA	Dianne Flynn
"District Table (Mission Agency, Education, LINC Bay Area)	Livermore	CA	"Joe Robb, Joel Wahlers, Aaron Putnam, Tesfai Tesema"
LCMS Foundation	St. Louis	MO	Brian Hyde
LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces	St. Louis	MO	Rev. Michael Beyer Rev. Russell Dewell
Lutheran Church Extension Fund	St. Louis	MO	Gail Kanneg
Lutheran Heritage Foundation	Macomb	MI	Rev. Albert Chai
Lutheran Hour Ministries	St. Louis	MO	Jason Fox
Lutheran Legacy Foundation	Paris	IL	Andrew Locke
Lutheran Social Services of No. CA	Concord	CA	Jerry Metzker
Mission Training Center	Irvine	CA	Mark Siegert
LWML CNH	Red Bluff	CA	Martha Dubke

In Memoriam – 2017-2022

Pastors	
Ken Behnken (1927 - 2017)	Peace, Mill Valley ('68-'80), Faith Capistrano Beach ('80 - '90)
Thomas Slater (1951 - 2018)	Hope, Fortuna
Frederick Behrmann (1924 - 2019)	First, Concord ('61-'80), United, Manteca ('80-'89)
Charles Brehmer (1937 - 2019)	St. John, Bakersfield ('92 - '99)
William Faust (1936 - 2019)	Calvary, Oroville ('60 - '65), St. Paul, Woodland ('67 - '86), Hospital Chapain, Reno ('86 - '00)
Richard Grammes (1933 - 2019)	
James Kramer (1948 - 2019)	Trinity, San Jose ('86 - '11)
James Mueller (1943 - 2019)	First, Concord ('81 - '08)
Isidro Sandate (1926 - 2019)	First Immanuel, San Jose ('97 - '00)
Robert Visser (1920 - 2019)	St. Peter, Lodi ('61 - '77), Citrus Heights ('77 - '85), (Mission) Mt. View ('50), (Mission) St. Luke, Sunnyvale ('58)
Everett Garwood (1946 - 2020)	River of Life, Dayton, ('01-'20), Faith, Yerington ('08 - '20)
Lance Jennings (1948-2020)	
David Tin (1931 - 2020)	Zion, San Francisco ('81 - '95), Canaan, San Francisco ('95 - '20)
James Tyler (1928 - 2020)	Bethany, Bakersfield ('90 - '14)
Gary Bell (1948 - 2021)	Benicia, Benicia ('99 - '10)
Richard Brewer (1932 -2021)	Faith, Pleasant Hill ('58 - '98)
Don Herman 1928 - 2021)	First, Placerville ('55 - '93)
Henry Lai (1936 - 2021)	Concordia, Union City ('88 - '93), First Trinity, Oakland ('98)
Ruclare Pauling (1936 - 2021)	Trinity, Fairfield ('78 - '83), Our Faith, Davis ('10)
Martin Steyer (1927 - 2021)	Holy Cross, Concord ('79 - '85)
Richard Thompson (1939 - 2021)	Trinity, San Jose ('80 '84), Zion, San Francisco ('85 - '86)
Rexford Umbenhauer (1951 - 2021)	Westchester, CA ('01 - '17)
Karl Wyneken (1936 -2021)	Peace, Sacramento ('64 - '67), Grace, Santa Maria ('67 - '78), Redeemer, Fresno ('78 - '98) District Archivist ('65 - '21)
Ronald Clawson (1935 - 2022)	

Commissioned Ministers	
Roland Lassanske (1919- 2017)	
Walter Knoedler (1943 - 2019)	
Beverly Libscomb (1950 - 2020)	

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
California - Nevada - Hawaii
72nd District Convention

First Session
Friday, May 6th, 2022

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

On Thursday, May 5th convention attendees gathered at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School in Fremont at 6:30 pm for a “Cinco de Mayo” themed dinner and time of fellowship. The dinner was followed by a Service of Divine Worship in the Church sanctuary. The sermon for the evening was presented by Synod President, the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison. President Harrison’s theme for the evening’s message was “Rock Solid”.

1. ORIENTATION

Secretary Rev. John Standley welcomed delegates to the convention at 9:30 am and offered comments about convention procedure. Convention Parliamentarian Rev. Richard Rice reviewed the Convention Standing Rules.

This year the convention will use the Election Buddy program for voting. LCEF District Vice President, Edward Kwak offered an overview of the system and Log-In instructions. After all voting delegates had access to the program several test votes were taken. Edward, Doug Benton, and others were available throughout the convention to assist delegates.

2. OPENING

CNH District President Rev. Michael Lange opened the convention at 10:15 am. The President’s opening comments built on the convention theme “Building Our House(s) on the Rock”.

Mike went on to introduce several of our guests and district workers: LCMS Synod President Matthew Harrison, CNH President Emeritus Walter Tietjen and his wife Ione, CNH President Emeritus Robert Newton and his wife Pricilla, Mike’s wife Kristi Lange, CNH 1st Vice President Tom Zelt, CNH Board of Directors, and Administrative Assistant Glenna Sanlis.

The President thanked Rev. Dr. Tom Zelt, the Worship Team, and all the workers at Prince of Peace that made Thursday evening’s pre-convention activities such a memorable experience.

3. REGISTRATION REPORT

Rev. John-Paul Meyer presented the first Convention Registration Report. A complete list of convention attendees will be posted in the Convention Proceedings.

Voting Lay Delegates = 76

Voting Pastoral Delegates = 67

Total Voting Delegates = 143

Total Non-Voting Participants = 100

Total Registered = 243

4. ADOPTION OF THE STANDING RULES

President Lange asked for a motion to approve the Standing Rules that were read by Parliamentarian Rick Rice during the Orientation. ***A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Standing Rules. The motion was approved.***

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The President asked for a motion to approve the Convention Agenda as posted earlier by email. ***A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Convention Agenda. The motion was approved.***

6. OPENING DEVOTION

Rev. Mark Whittaker, Senior Administrative Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church – Arroyo Grande, CA offered the opening devotion. In his devotion Rev. Whittaker followed the Convention theme “Building Our House(s) on the Rock” noting that the Rock is no mere concept, rather it is a new reality. Building Our House(s) on the Rock is a complete reorientation of life.

Peter denied Christ, later Jesus appears to Peter with His peace (Shalom). Christ’s peace was life-changing for Peter just as it is for us. What would it be like to see Jesus in the tomb and then three days later be in the presence of the Risen Lord? Peter was changed forever, as are we.

Mark used a series of Scripture readings in his devotion. That list can be found in the addendum to the convention minutes. The time of devotion was closed with prayer and singing of the hymn “*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*” LSB 465

7. MEMORIAL ROLL CALL

President Lange called the names of the Ordained and Commissioned Ministers that were called to glory in the past Quadrennium. The list of these names can be found in the Convention Workbook.

8. DISTRICT PRESIDENT’S REPORT – PART 1

President Lange offered opening remarks reflecting on the challenges in the District over the past four years. A video was shown building on the theme of the convention – *Building Our House(s) on the Rock*. (Check the Convention Website for Convention Videos).

Mike introduced Joel Wahlers who serves as Assistant to the President - Education. Joel spoke briefly about the Strategic Ministry Plan (SMP) that has been developed by the president and staff as a strategic plan for district operations. Joel reviewed the five components of the plan – Mission / Vision / Values / Goals / Initiatives.

Joe Robb Assistant to the President – Missions introduced a video featuring the Mercy Hollistic Ministry led by Rev. Berhanu Didanu. The ministry offers showers and other basic needs to the homeless community in the Greater Sacramento Area.

Mike added additional comments to conclude the first part of his report.

9. WELCOME TO NEW DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS

The President welcomed to the podium representatives of two new District congregations: St. Matthew's – Kauai, Hawaii, and Shepherd of the Valley – Galt, CA. Members of the third congregation Trinity – Chowchilla, CA were not able to attend. The Lay members representing St. Matthew's and Shepherd of the Valley met with Secretary Standley to sign the District's constitution.

10. ELECTION PROCEDURES

Rev. Rob Weller, Chair of the Elections Committee thanked his committee and offered comments concerning election procedures. Rob advised that nominations from the floor would be accepted for all elections except for President and First Vice President. Permission from the nominee and a short Bio would be required for all floor nominations. Rob also reviewed the process that is proposed for elections in the Regional Caucuses.

11. ELECTION OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Nominees for the office of President were:

Rev. Jason Bredeson – Accepted Nomination

Rev. Michael Lange – Accepted Nomination

Rev. Todd Pepperkorn – No longer in CNH District

Rev. Dr. Thomas Zelt – Declined Nomination

A prayer was offered by Rob before the start of the election.

Election Results:

Rev. Jason Bredeson – 26

Rev. Michael Lange – 120

Rev. Michael Lange was elected as the President of the CNH District of the LCMS

Rev. Zelt offer words of prayer for President Lange

12. ELECTION OF THE DISTRICT FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Nominees for the office of First Vice President were:

Rev. Daniel Deuel – Accepted Nomination
Rev. Mitchell Gowen – Accepted Nomination
Rev. Dr. Thomas Zelt – Declined Nomination
Rev. Mark Zier – Accepted Nomination

Election Results – First Vice President

Rev. Daniel Deuel – 41
Rev. Mitchell Gowen – 81
Rev. Mark Zier – 15

Rev. Mitchell Gowen was elected as the First Vice President of the CNH District of the LCMS

President Lange offered a prayer for leadership for Mitch.

13. INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT STAFF

While waiting for the previous vote to begin, President Lange introduced his staff:

Glenna Sanlis -- Administrative Assistant -- Office of the President
Aldebaran Austin -- Administrative Assistant -- Office of Mission Agency
Denise Lo – Assistant to the President -Operations Executive
Shelly Alba -- Administrative Assistant -- Office of Education
Doug Benton -- Communications Assistant
Matt Newton -- In Touch Editor
Rev. Joseph Robb -- Assistant to the President -- Mission Leadership
Joel Wahlers -- Assistant to the President – Education

13. WEST COAST DISTRICT PARTNERSHIPS

President Lange introduced the President of the Pacific Southwest District Rev. Dr. Mike Gibson and Rev. Dr. Paul Linnemann President of the Northwest District.

President Linnemann addressed the convention speaking of the importance of the partnership that has developed between the three West Coast Districts. Paul stressed that ministry on the West Coast is challenging – *“We need each other!”*

President Gibson reiterated the importance of the alliance between the districts, adding that *“Isolation destroys us”*. Mike advised that the Mission Training Center which is now based at Concordia Irvine is more important than ever after the end of the Licensed Lay Deacon program at the 2016 Convention of the Synod. He said that the Mission Training Center still trains Deacons as well as other servants. He went on to note that the District’s Mission Executives also meet together. Rev. Gibson ended by saying, *“We are in this together”*.

President Lange also spoke about the necessity of the partnership. He talked about the importance for him of the Zoom calls that take place between the three Presidents at

the start of each week. Mike also mentioned the ongoing training of new pastors that is offered as a joint program between the districts. Mike concluded his comments by saying, *“We’re better together”*.

Rev. Gowen offered a prayer with the three Presidents ending with this quote from Isaiah Chapter 43, *“Now this is what the LORD says— the One who created you, Jacob, and the One who formed you, Israel — “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine. I will be with you when you pass through the waters, and when you pass through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. You will not be scorched when you walk through the fire, and the flame will not burn you.”*

14. BREAK FOR LUNCH

Before the lunch break, Rev. Zelt announced that the amount of the offering that was received at the Worship service on Thursday was \$2501.00. The funds will go to help finance the work of the Mercy Holistic Ministry. Tom then offered the meal prayer.

During lunch, which was served in the Convention Hall, videos were shown featuring the LCMS Armed Forces Ministry and Concordia Plan Services. There were also slides from various exhibitors.

SECOND SESSION DAY ONE

President Lange called the session to order at 1:00 pm

14. REGISTRATION REPORT

Rev. John-Paul Meyer presented the second Convention Registration Report. A complete list of Convention attendees will be posted in the Convention Proceedings.

Voting Lay Delegates = 76

Voting Pastoral Delegates = 72

Total Voting Delegates = 148

Total Non-Voting Participants = 107

Total Registered = 253

15. GREETINGS FROM OTHERS

In introducing President Emeritus Walter Tietjen, President Lange talked about the help Walt had given him during his first term saying, *“Walt showed me what pastoral care looks like.”*

Walt spoke words of encouragement to the convention attendees as he so aptly does. He noted the discouraging words that so often flow from the mouths of the world around us. He acknowledged that those voices can sometimes get so loud that we may want to say, “I quit”. When those times come, he advised us to “look to the cross and hear Jesus say, I didn’t”

President Lange went on to introduce President Emeritus, Robert Newton. Bob quipped that he thought that this was the youngest group that he could ever remember.

In his remarks, Rev. Newton reflected on the effects of Covid on the ministry of the church. He remarked about how he had watched Mike go from Prophet (Mission Exec) to King (District President) and how in light of COVID that came at just the right time. He recalled hearing during COVID that the church was not essential and then watched and worked as the church pushed back. Rev. Newton closed his thoughts with prayer.

16. CNH DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Before getting into the report of the District Board President Lange asked Tom and Sue Zelt and his wife Kristi to join him on the podium. Mike and Kristi presented gifts to Tom and Sue thanking them both for their service to the district and to the church.

Chair of the CNH District Board of Directors Tom Zelt presented the report of the Board. Tom briefly reviewed policy-based governance and noted that in that system a major work of the board is to build the Outcomes (Goals). Perhaps even more important is the crafting of the Metrics or the means by which the Outcomes are measured.

Tom briefly reviewed the Outcomes that the Board has worked with during the past Quadrennium.

1. THE CNH DISTRICT CONSISTS OF WELL-EQUIPPED, HEALTHY, MISSIONALLY-COMMITTED LEADERS.

A. There is a district-wide culture that facilitates the overall wellness and equipping of leaders

B. Identify and utilize *and retain* leaders across the district to assist others in mission for both congregations and schools.

2. CONGREGATIONS HAVE A POSITIVE MISSION DIRECTION.

A. Congregations have hope with a vision for the future.

B. Cooperative ministries between congregations are fostered and enabled

3. BASIC CONGREGATIONAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED IN AN EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE WAY.

Tom noted the increased portion of the district's funds now going to missions even as support from congregations has declined. He gave thanks for the opportunities that the district has given him to be of service.

17. LCEF REPORT

President Lange introduced Edward Kwak who serves as the LCEF District Vice President to the CNH District. Ed commended Bill Swift for all the fine work he did with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund in the CNH District. He stated that he is working closely with Joe Robb. He also noted that \$59,000.00 has come from LCEF to go toward Worker Wellness. In closing, a video was shown highlighting the Worker Wellness programs.

18. CONVENTION BUSINESS

Resolution #3-06 -- Mr. Don Young representing Floor Committee #3 was welcomed to the podium. Don presented Resolution #3-06 -- TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK THE LCMS FOR THE STRENGTHENED AND EXPANDED "SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS" COVID-19 RESPONSE INITIATIVE

Don moved for approval of the resolution. The motion was seconded. The Chair called for discussion, hearing none the vote was called for by way of Hands and Voices. The motion was approved.

Resolution #1-03 -- Rev. James Beyer Chair of Floor Committee #1 introduced Rev. Otis Byrd who presented resolution #1-03 -- MAKING THE CNH DISABILITY MINISTRY TASK FORCE A STANDING MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Rev. Byrd moved for approval of the resolution. The motion was seconded. The Chair called for discussion, hearing none the vote was called for by way of Hands and Voices. The motion was approved.

19. SYNOD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Harrison began his report with a video presentation reviewing some of the work of the Synod over the past four years. The video also featured many of the programs offered through the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Matthew introduced the Greek word - Homologeto. (ὁμολογία)

He said the word literally means to speak the same. It is used throughout scripture to confess our sins. Scripture is all about us as sinners, not about telling others of their sins. We are sinner-saints. The confession of the early church was "Jesus is Yahweh".

The President then offered a second Greek word – Marturion (μαρτύριον) which is translated as confession/witness. In John Chapter 4 the woman at the well witnessed what she had heard and believed and those who heard her came and believed. Our witness is a strong confession of our faith.

Homologeto – President Harrison referred to Matthew 11:25 – "At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children". Rev. Harrison noted that a life of thankful praise is our confession. He went on to say that after 175 years of the LCMS we are losing our privileged position, but we still have the one thing left "Only Jesus".

President Harrison turned to a PowerPoint presentation on the effects and responses to COVID. He stated that he believes that the government has no business inside the sanctuary - that belongs to the individual congregation.

Rev. Dr. Harrison reviewed some of the Synod's programs including the work of our universities and seminaries. He also spoke of our sister church in Finland and the trials that they have endured in their fight to stay true to scripture. He talked a bit about the LCMS International Missions' work in South Sudan. The President mentioned that we

are now down about one hundred missionaries because of COVID. He also said that we only have twelve people to support all our missionary families.

The President added commentary to captions that were projected on the screens in the meeting room to highlight some of the many activities and accomplishments of the LCMS.

- Online Missionary study for ministry - opening ministries to many places we have never been before.
- Mission is reaching out to many Farsi-speaking people. Many Muslim converts.
- Dominican seminary has over 200 graduates -- New Latin American hymnal.
- 15 Seminaries in Africa -- prosperity theology is a big problem.
- Life network continues to grow.
- First ever official Chainsaw use manual -- Legal Counsel approved. 😊
- 19,000 "Everyone His Witness" workbooks sold.
- LCMS was able to move forward with the Youth Gathering.
- Child Protection program.
- Best financial condition in 30+ years -- maybe best ever.
- 4 million to seminaries.
- "Set Apart to Serve" -- Church worker recruitment program.
- Annotated Large Catechism is coming out.
- 2 million in Church Planting Grants (Small grants work better).
- Church Planting "Boot Camp" planned. (Churches that plant churches tend to grow).

After this, President Harrison took time for questions. Those questions are listed below.

1. What is the Synod's position on online worship and communion?
2. Suggestion to study the effects of the Lutheran Hour broadcast from its inception.
3. As a church body is there a way that we might be better prepared for persecution such as we experienced during covid?
4. What might be ways that the dichotomy between the missional and confessional divide might find common ground?

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

President Harrison closed his report with a blessing.

20. CONVENTION BUSINESS

Resolution # 3-01 -- Rev. Daniel Deuel, Chair of Floor Committee #3 was welcomed to the podium. The committee presented Resolution # 3-01 -- TO CONSIDER RE-ALIGNMENT OF OBJECTIVES 1 & 2 FOR SYNOD CONSTITUTION ARTICLE 3

The committee moved to approve Resolution #3-01, the motion received a second. There was considerable discussion before the Chair called for the question. The motion to end discussion was seconded and approved with a vote by hand and voice. The Chair announced that the resolution had been adopted. There was then a call for a "Division of the House". That vote by hand and voice was counted twice. ***The motion to accept Resolution #3-01 was approved 77 Yes / 31 No.***

Resolution #3-03 -- Floor Committee #3 introduced Resolution #3-03. TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS PREPARING FOR GENERAL ORDINATION THROUGH DISTANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND BY EXPANDING THE WORK OF THE CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY CENTER - CUI(CMC). (Note - #3-03 is a compilation of original Resolutions #3-03, #3-04, and #1-02)

The committee moved that Resolution #3-03 be approved. The motion was seconded. After a significant period of discussion, the chair called the question. ***The motion was approved by a hand and voice vote.***

21. DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S REPORT – PART 2

Board chair Tom Zelt welcomed President Lange to the podium for part 2 of his report. Mike asked Rev. Eric Van Scharrel who is a member of the Missio Dei Foundation to join him at the podium to offer information about the newly formed organization. Pastor Van Scharrel talked about the work of the Foundation. He noted that resources from closed congregations that have chosen to work with the Foundation would be invested. Earnings from those funds will be used for mission activity in the district. President Lange added that the district also has committees to assist congregations that are considering the future path of their ministry.

Mike went on to speak about the value of prayer in reaching out to non-believers. He related the experiences that he and Kristi have had in conversation with some of their neighbors. He asked those present to take about 5 minutes to talk with others at their table concerning experiences they may have had in reaching out to neighbors with the gospel and then end with prayer.

President Lange introduced District Mission Executive, Rev. Joe Robb. Joe talked about the changes in demographics in the district and about the ways mission is conducted. He noted that there are many options for mission education in our district. He talked about the SMP program and how that program allowed Rev. William Pierce to be ordained, enabling him to provide Word and Sacrament ministry to Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church in Kauai, one of the congregations that were welcomed into the district and Synod this morning.

Rev. Robb went on to talk about the work of LINC Ministries - Bay Area which has been helpful in furthering mission in our district. A video featuring Director Aaron Putnam and

the work of LINC – Bay Area was shown. Joe closed by talking about a few of the tools that are available through the mission agency including grants, short-term mission trips, and mission plants.

Assistant to the President for Education Joel Wahlers was welcomed to the podium. Joel asked those present to turn to page 34 in the Convention Workbook. He stated that there are 50 preschools in the CNH district serving 2810 students, 18 elementary schools, and 1 high school serving together 3469 students. In addition, there are various groups and many people who support the district education system.

Joel talked about the challenge of attracting qualified staff. He noted that using the colloquy program is one way to increase the percentage of Rostered workers. He asked that we continue to encourage our youth to consider a vocation as a rostered LCMS teacher.

22. CONVENTION BUSINESS

President Lange returned to the podium to introduce the video “Growing Ministries” which will serve as an introduction to the next resolution #1-01 – Mission Plants

Resolution #1-01 -- The Chair of Floor Committee #1 introduced Aaron Putnam who read the resolves from Resolution #1-01 TO ESTABLISH NEW MISSIONS IN CNH

The committee moved for approval of Resolution #1-01, the motion was seconded. After discussion had concluded, the chair called for the vote by hand and voice. ***The motion was approved.***

Resolution #2-02 -- Rev. Mitchell Gowen, Chair of Floor Committee #2 came to the podium. Resolution #2-02 was introduced - TO AMEND THE CNH DISTRICT ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION – The resolve section of the resolution was read. The committee moved for the adoption of Resolution #2-02, and the motion was seconded. Hearing no discussion, **the chair called for the vote by hand and voice. *The motion was approved.***

Resolution #2-03 / #2-03a / #2-04 -- Floor Committee #2 presented three resolutions dealing with changes, additions, and updates to the CNH Bylaws

- Resolution #2-03 -- PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE CNH DISTRICT BYLAWS (*District Bylaw changes necessitated by actions of Synod in Convention*)
- Resolution #2-03a -- BYLAW ADDITION TO INCLUDE PROCESS FOR ELECTION OF REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS –
- Resolution #2-04 -- TO ACCEPT CHANGES TO CNH DISTRICT BYLAWS AS RECOMMENDED BY SYNOD AND DISTRICT COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

The committee moved that the three resolutions be considered together. The motion was seconded, and the Chair asked for discussion. As discussion ended the vote was called for the vote by hand and voice. **The motion was approved.**

23. CLOSING DEVOTION

Rev. Jason Bredesen was welcomed to the podium to offer the closing devotion. Jason commented on the confusion by some in the world today regarding the human body. His response to that was simply, "God created it – We broke it"! Christ's body was broken for us. In His body, He comes to us in the broken bread and poured out wine. Jason ended with words from 1st Corinthians -- We are the body of Christ – "Be steadfast knowing that your work is not in vain".

24. DISMISSAL TO REGIONAL CAUCUS

President Lange called the session to a close at 5:00 pm and released the delegates to their respective Regional Caucus.

Submitted By

Rev. John M. Standley
CNH District Secretary

**The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
California - Nevada - Hawaii
72nd District Convention
Second Session
Saturday, May 7th, 2022**

1. OPENING DEVOTION

President Lange opened the second session of the 72nd convention of the CNH District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod at 8:00 am. The President introduced Rev. David Jung, Senior Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Visalia, California.

Pastor Jung opened with prayer. His devotion was based on 1 Peter 2:4-5.

Wi-Fi is our access to the World-Wide-Web. Our congregations are the world's access to God. The temple served as access to God's people, it was where God's business was conducted. Jesus is the temple -- the access point. Praying in Jesus' name was radical to those who had been accessing God through the tabernacle. The glory of God came and dwelt among us. If Christ is the access point, we are the router. The church is where God in Christ conducts his business.

The devotion was closed with prayer.

2. CONVENTION BUSINESS

Ratify Regional Caucus Elections (VP and Lay Directors)

Mike called Election Chair Rob Weller to the podium. The names of those elected during last night's regional caucuses were read and projected on the screens.

Nevada

Regional Vice President – Reverend Phil Beyer
Regional Lay Director – Stephen Streufert

Hawaii

Regional Vice President – Reverend Mark Zier
Regional Lay Director – Lana Wold

Pacific

Regional Vice President – Reverend Dr. Shiu Lau
Regional Lay Director – Joan Hilse

Southern

Regional Vice President – Reverend Daniel Deuel
Regional Lay Director – Don Young

Northern

Regional Vice President – Reverend Jason Bredeson
Regional Lay Director – Elizabeth Hovland

The slate for Regional Vice Presidents and Regional Lay Directors as received from the Regional Caucuses was approved by hand and voice vote.

Commissioned Minister -- Board of Directors.

The Chair opened the nominations for Commissioned Minister -- Board of Directors. Hearing no nominations from the floor the nominations were closed.

The following names were submitted by the Nominations Committee:

- Jennifer Lee
- Christy Wood

Vote Results

Jennifer Lee – 41

Christy Wood – 68

Christy Wood has been elected to the CNH Board of Directors as Commissioned Minister.

CNH District Secretary

The Chair opened the nominations for CNH District Secretary. Hearing no nominations from the floor the nominations were closed.

The following name was submitted by the Nominations Committee:

- Rev. John M. Standley

Vote Results

Rev. Standley was elected by hand and voice vote to his 5th term as CNH District Secretary.

CNH District Treasurer

The Chair opened the nominations for CNH District Treasurer. Hearing no nominations from the floor the nominations were closed.

The following names were submitted by the Nominations Committee:

- Donald Busse
- W. Lee Kucker

Vote Results

Donald Busse – 88

W. Lee Kucker – 23

Donald Busse was elected as the CNH District Treasurer.

CNH District Nominations Committee – Clergy (1)

The Chair opened the nominations for CNH District Nominations Committee for one Ordained Clergy position.

Rev. Isaac Schuller was nominated from the Floor. Hearing no further nominations, the nominations were closed.

The following names were submitted by the Nominations Committee:

- Rev. Clarence Eisberg
- Rev. Morris Stephens

Vote Results

Rev. Clarence Eisberg -- 66

Rev. Isaac Schuller -- 42

Rev. Morris Stephens – 9

Rev. Eisberg was Elected to the CNH District Nominations Committee – Clergy

CNH District Nominations Committee – Commissioned (1)

The Chair opened the nominations for CNH District Nominations Committee for one Commissioned Minister position.

Sara Agee was nominated from the Floor. Hearing no further nominations, the nominations were closed.

There were no nominations from the nominations committee.

Vote Results

Sara Agee -- 88

Sara Agee was Elected to the CNH District Nominations Committee – Commissioned Minister.

CNH District Nominations Committee – Lay Members (2)

The Chair opened the nominations for CNH District Nominations Committee for two Lay member positions. Hearing no nominations from the floor the nominations were closed.

The following names were submitted by the Nominations Committee:

- Richard P. Fielitz
- Dan Hahn

Vote Results

Richard P. Fielitz -- 71

Dan Hahn – 84

Richard P. Fielitz and Dan Hahn have been elected to the CNH District Nominations Committee – Lay Members.

Synod Nominating Committee

The Chair opened the nominations for Synod Nominating Committee for one Ordained Clergy position. Hearing no nominations from the floor the nominations were closed.

The following names were submitted by the Nominations Committee:

- Rev. Dr. Robert Newton
- Rev. Martin R. Noland

Vote Results

Note -- Due to issues with the voting system the vote was taken by paper ballot. As a result, the Chair decided to continue with the next item of business and the following results were announced after Rev. Dr. Newman's presentation.

Rev. Dr. Robert Newton -- 88

Rev. Martin R. Noland – 35

Rev. Dr. Robert Newton was elected as the CNH District member of the Synod Nominating Committee.

3. RATIFY RESULTS OF CIRCUIT VISITOR ELECTIONS

President Lange presented the slate of Circuit Visitors elected by their respective Circuit Forums

#1 Vacant	#11 Rev. Mark Zier
#2 Rev. Mark Oatman	#12 Rev. Brian Cummins
#3 Rev. Calvin Waetzig	#13 Rev. Tyrel Bramwell
#4 Rev. David Hardin	#14 Rev. James Beyer
#5 Rev. Daniel Schlensker	#15 Rev. Clarence Eisberg
#7 Rev. Andrew Jones	#16 Rev. Richard Rice
#8 Rev. Paul Schult	#18 Rev. Robert Weller
#9 Rev. Mark Whittaker	#19 Rev. Duane Bamsch
#10 Rev. Joshua Brown	#20 Rev. William Abbott

Mike moved that the slate be approved. The motion received a second. With no discussion, the motion was adopted by a hand and voice vote.

4. CONVENTION ESSAYIST: REV. DR. MICHAEL NEWMAN

Rev. Dr. Michael Newman serves as the President of the Texas District of the LCMS. Rev. Newman began with prayer.

In good Lutheran fashion, the speaker asked, "What does this mean"? And "How is it done"? He noted that had been reading the book, "The Romance of Lutheranism in California" which chronicles the path of the LCMS coming to California. It seems that the journey may have begun with a letter from a woman named Elizabeth Schriever that was written to C.F. W. Walther pleading with him to send missionaries to California to support members of the Synod that had moved West. Others made similar requests and

soon the Gospel DNA welled up in the Synod and in 1852 the LCMS voted to send missionaries to California. We are called by love! In the first 70 years, the LCMS grew to over 4000 churches.

Dr. Newman has written a number of books including, “ *Gospel DNA: Five Markers of a Flourishing Church*”. He used the “Five Markers of Gospel DNA” described in that book as an outline for his essay.

1. People
2. Multiplication
3. Truth
4. Adaptability
5. Self-Sacrifice

President Newman closed by asking, “Do you know the LCMS? – Will you be the LCMS?” He then offered a series of questions for the attendees to discuss at their tables. This was followed by a period of Q & A.

5. CONVENTION BUSINESS

Resolution #1-02 -- Rev. Jim Beyer, Chair for Floor Committee #1 came forward to present Resolution #1-02 -- CHURCH WORKER HOUSING -- TO SEEK SOLUTIONS FOR THE CHURCH WORKER HOUSING CHALLENGE

After reading the resolves of the resolution, the committee moved for the adoption of Resolution #1-02. The motion was seconded. In discussion, it was recommended that the committee consider the requirement for congregations to issue an IRS1099 form to pastors for the value of a parsonage. The suggestion was taken under advisement.

At the end of discussion, the Chair called for the vote by hand and voice. **Resolution #1-02 was adopted.**

Resolution #3-02 – Floor Committee #3 introduced Resolution #3-02 -- TO DELAY CONSIDERATION OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM RESTRUCTURING.

The committee moved for the adoption of the Resolution. The motion was seconded. After a period of discussion which was both Pro and Con, the Chair called for an electronic vote. The result was – Yes=72 – No=21 – Abstained=13 **Resolution #3-02 was adopted**

Resolution #3-04 – Floor Committee #3-member Rev. Brian Cummins presented Resolution #3-04 -- TO ADDRESS THE LUTHERAN TEACHER SHORTAGE AND LOW TEACHER SALARIES BY INITIATING A STUDENT DEBT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LCMS COMMISSIONED MINISTER-TEACHER

The committee moved for the adoption of Resolution #3-04. The motion was seconded. After a call for discussion, the Chair called for a hand and voice vote. **Resolution #3-04 was adopted**

Resolution #3-05 – Rev. Cummins remained at the podium to put before the convention Resolution #3-05 -- TO RECONSIDER THE USE OF LICENSED LAY DEACONS IN WORD AND SACRAMENT MINISTRY

The committee moved for the adoption of Resolution #3-05. The motion received a second. The Chair called for discussion which was both Pro and Con. The question was called from the floor. The motion to end the discussion was approved by a hand and voice vote. The result by electronic ballot was -- Yes=69 – No=34 -- Resolution **#3-05 was adopted.**

After the vote was announced, President Harrison spoke to the convention to offer some of Synod's actions regarding the LLD Program.

6. THE GREAT SENDING – AN INTRODUCTION

A video was shown regarding the Strategic Ministry Plan.

Following the video, President Lange introduced the book *The Great Sending – God's Heart for the World Beating Through You* by Will Sohns. The book was made available to all lay delegates at the convention, pastors received the book at the last Pastors Conference. Mike highly recommended the book for all congregations. The district has provided over 300 copies of the book.

7. CONVENTION BUSINESS – FINAL

Resolution #1-04 – The resolves were read from Resolution #1-04 -- REGARDING THE MISSION TRAINING CENTER

The committee moved for the adoption of Resolution #1-04. The motion was seconded. In discussion, the word "primary" was requested to be taken out of the first resolve. The request was handled as a friendly amendment. The chair called for a hand and voice vote on the motion as amended. **Resolution #1-04 was adopted.**

Resolution #2-01 -- TO STRENGTHEN THE NON-VOTING ADVISORY DELEGATES PARTICIPATION AT CONVENTIONS

After reading the resolves, Floor committee # 2 moved for the adoption of Resolution #2-01. The motion received a second and after discussion, the resolution was adopted by a hand and voice vote.

Resolution # 2-05 -- TO STUDY THE VALUE OF THE CURRENT MINISTRY CENTER – President Lange advised that this Resolution would be studied by the District Board of Directors.

8. CONVENTION CLOSE

President Lange closed the 72nd District Convention of the CNH District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod at 11:00 am

9. INSTALLATIONS OF DISTRICT OFFICERS

Synod President Matthew Harrison installed newly re-elected CNH District President Rev. Michael Lange.

Following his installation as President, Michael installed the Circuit Visitors, the District Board of Directors, and the remaining elected District officers.

10. CLOSING WORSHIP

The Closing Worship Service was led by outgoing 1st Vice President, Rev. Dr. Thomas Zelt.

Submitted By

John M. Standley

Rev. John M. Standley
CNH District Secretary

Resolution Titles

Floor Committee #1 – District Mission and Ministry

- 1-01 To Establish New Missions in CNH
- ~~1-02 To Increase number of students preparing for General Ordination (CMC – CUI)~~
- 1-02 Church Worker Housing
- 1-03 Regarding Disability Task Force
- 1-04 Regarding the Mission Training Center

Floor Committee #2 – Structure and Administration - District

- 2-01 To Strengthen the Non-Voting Advisory Delegate Participation at Conventions
- 2-02 To Amend the CNH District Articles of Incorporation
- 2-03 Proposed Addition to the CNH District Bylaws
 - 2-03a CNH Bylaws with proposed changes
- 2-04 To Accept Changes to CNH District Bylaws As Recommended by Synod and District Commission on Constitutional Matters
- 2-05 To Study the Value of the Current Ministry Center

Floor Committee #3 – Mission and Ministry (Synod)

- 3-01 Consider realignment of Objectives 1 & 2 for Synod Constitution; article 3
- 3-02 To Delay Consideration of Concordia University System Restructuring
- 3-03 To increase the number of students preparing for General Ordination through distance learning opportunities and by expanding the work of the Cross-cultural Ministry Center - CUI(CMC) (Overtures 3-03 and 3-04 and 1-02 Combined)
- 3-04 To Address the Lutheran Teacher Shortage and Low Teacher Salaries by Initiating a Student Debt Assistance Program for LCMS Commissioned Minister – Teacher
- 3-05 To Reconsider the use of Licensed Lay Deacons in Word and Sacrament Ministry
- 3-06 To Recognize and Thank the LCMS for the Strengthened and Expanded “Soldiers of the Cross” COVID-19 Response Initiative
- 3-07 To create a third pathway for general pastoral colloquy for members of LCMS congregations who have graduated with an accredited Masters of Divinity Degree from a Non-LCMS Seminary.

1 **Overture # 1-01 – TO ESTABLISH NEW MISSIONS IN CNH**
2 **TO SET A GOAL OF ONE NEW MISSION/MINISTRY IN EACH CIRCUIT**
3 **BY THE 2025 DISTRICT CONVENTION**

4 WHEREAS, the Strategic Mission Plan of the CNH District calls for the
5 development and implementation of a process to starting new
6 ministries in various locations within the District; and

7 WHEREAS, the CNH District pivoted from District centric mission planting to
8 congregational/circuit centric mission planting in 2006; and

9 WHEREAS, there are mission and ministry opportunities [and needs] (is this
10 needed) in every circuit of the CNH District; be it

11 RESOLVED, that the Mission Agency develop and provide resources to help
12 each Circuit and interested congregation evaluate and examine
13 possible mission or ministry sites in their area ; be it

14 RESOLVED, that the Mission Agency provide training in mission/ministry
15 planting; and further be it

16 RESOLVED, that information on the CNH District Mission Grant and Loan
17 System and other resources be made available to all Circuits and
18 Congregations to assist in the planting of the missions and
19 ministries; and be it finally

20 RESOLVED, that the CNH District set a goal of one new mission or ministry in
21 each Circuit before the 2025 CNH District Convention.

Submitted by CNH District Board of Directors

ACTION: Adopted Defeated Recommitted Amended

1 **Overture #1-02 – CHURCH WORKER HOUSING**

2
3 **TO SEEK SOLUTIONS FOR THE CHURCHWORKER HOUSING**
4 **CHALLENGE**

5
6 WHEREAS, the CNH District of the LCMS has seen a dramatic increase in cost of
7 living (specifically housing costs); and

8 WHEREAS many congregations no longer own parsonages or teacherages; and

9 WHEREAS the CNH District is currently experiencing an increase in pastoral and
10 commissioned minister vacancies; and

11 WHEREAS calling congregations are struggling to offer housing options that
12 would enable them to secure workers; Be it

13 RESOLVED that the CNH District in Convention direct the President to create a
14 Task Force to study solutions and options for congregations; and be
15 it finally

16 RESOLVED that the Task Force make its report no later than one year from the
17 end of the District Convention.

18 Submitted by the CHN District Board of Directors
19
20

ACTION: X Adopted _____ Defeated _____ Recommitted _____ Amended

21

1 **#1-03 – REGARDING DISABILITY TASK FORCE**

2 **MAKING THE CNH DISABILITY MINISTRY TASK FORCE A STANDING**
3 **MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

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

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS the mission of this Task Force is *“to equip the Church to reach out,*
17 *include, and encourage full participation of people with disabilities*
18 *and their families in the life of Christ’s Church”*; and

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

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

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

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

31 RESOLVED that its mission remain as stated above, and BE IT FINALLY

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

ACTION: X Adopted Defeated Recommitted Amended

1 **#1-04 – REGARDING THE MISSION TRAINING CENTER**

2 To celebrate the work of the Mission Training Center (MTC) and encourage
3 congregations to make use of this excellent resource for their ministries
4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Submitted by: CNH District Board of Directors

ACTION: X Adopted _____ Defeated _____ Recommitted X Amended

1 **#2-01**
2 **To Strengthen the Non-Voting Advisory Delegates Participation at Conventions**

3
4 WHEREAS, Currently, there are 12,010 Ministers of Religion-Commissioned (Church
5 Worker Update System - March 2021) who serve the mission and ministry of
6 congregations, schools, child development centers, camps, compassion centers, and mission
7 work throughout the national and global mission fields; and
8

9 WHEREAS, The current structure of the Synod does not allow for a third category of voting
10 delegates at district and Synod conventions (Synod Handbook: Article IX, Article XII.10.b);
11 and
12

13 WHEREAS, The Synod highly values commissioned ministers for their eagerness to serve the
14 Lord and His Church (2019 Resolution. 9-17, "To Study Voting Privilege in the LCMS"
15 p.201 of 2019 LCMS Convention Proceedings); and
16

17 WHEREAS, Ministers of Religion – Commissioned are considered Advisory Members with
18 representation, voice, but no vote at conventions of districts and Synod, along with "those
19 ordained ministers not eligible for election as a voting delegate" under Bylaw 3.1.2.1(d) (p.
20 101 Handbook 2019) with representation, voice, but no vote at conventions of districts and
21 Synod; and
22

23 WHEREAS, At least one other district (Northern Illinois) utilizes the voice and guidance of
24 their commissioned workers in district convention through a non-counted advisory member
25 vote; and
26

27 WHEREAS, this honors the bylaw and structure of the Convention while allowing the
28 Nonvoting Advisory Delegate voice to be heard and their vote recognized; therefore, be
29

30 Be It RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors work with the District President to establish a
31 *procedure* for the Rostered Ministers of Religion of the CNH District to provide a preliminary
32 poll on the resolutions proposed for the District Convention; and be it further
33

34 RESOLVED, that the results of that poll be provided to the delegates at the Convention prior to
35 the Convention vote; and be it further
36

37 RESOLVED, that this procedure be ready in time and become effective with the next
38 District Convention in 2025, and be it finally
39

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

ACTION: X Adopted _____ Defeated _____ Recommitted _____ Amended

1 **#2-02**

2 **To Amend the CNH District Articles of Incorporation**

3 WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.6 states requirements for relationship and asset
4 disposition language to be included in the governing documents; and

5 WHEREAS, The CNH District is in compliance with the Relationship language in its
6 Articles of Incorporation; and

7 WHEREAS The CNH District is not currently in compliance with relationship
8 language required by the Synod; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That with the advice of legal counsel and after approval by the Synod
10 Committee on Constitutional Matters, the following section be added to
11 the CNH District Articles of Incorporation;

12 *1.5.3.6 (a) all provisions of these Articles of Incorporation and associated Bylaws are*
13 *subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the*
14 *Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod in Convention.*

ACTION: Adopted Defeated Recommitted Amended

1 **#2-03**

2 **Proposed Addition to the CNH District Bylaws**

3 *District Bylaw changes necessitated by actions of Synod in Convention*

4

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

7 WHEREAS, The Synod in Convention often enacts changes to the Bylaws of the
8 Synod which then require changes to the Bylaws of all LCMS Districts;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Changes to our District's Bylaws must be approved by the District in
11 Convention; and

12 WHEREAS, The Conventions of the Districts including the CHN District take place
13 approximately 2 years following the Convention of the Synod, and

14 WHEREAS, During this two year time between Conventions our District Bylaws may be
15 outdated and thus leave us out of compliance in our relationship with
16 Synod; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the following section be added to the Bylaws of the CNH District:

18 *When made necessary by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or*
19 *otherwise expressly directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendments*
20 *may be made by a two-thirds majority of the district board of directors. Such*
21 *amendments shall be drafted by the District Committee on Constitutional Matters and*
22 *shall be reviewed in advance by the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters.*

ACTION: X Adopted _____ Defeated _____ Recommitted _____ Amended

1 **2-04**

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

4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTION: X Adopted _____ Defeated _____ Recommitted _____ Amended

Revised
June 2018
Approved
By
Convention

Bylaws

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

ARTICLE I MISSION STATEMENT

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

ARTICLE II RELATIONSHIP TO THE SYNOD

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

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ARTICLE III STRUCTURE OF THE DISTRICT

III.A. The Board of Directors

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

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

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3. The District Board of Directors shall:

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

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III.B. The District President

- 1. The District President shall be Chief Executive ~~Officer~~ of the District.
- 2. The District President shall:
 - a. Be a Minister of Religion – Ordained and be on the roster of the Synod. ~~He must be a member of the District during his tenure.~~
 - b. Be a full-time executive.
 - c. Provide vision and direction for the work of the District, and, in compliance with the policies of the Board of Directors, be the overseer of the work of the District.
 - d. In consultation with the Board of Directors, appoint all District Committee Chairs, who shall be directly responsible to the President.
 - e. In consultation with each duly appointed Committee Chair, appoint a sufficient number of members to each Committee to ~~insure~~ ensure its proper functioning (except for the members of the Nominating Committee, which are elected by the District Convention, as required by the Synod ~~Constitution and Bylaws Handbook~~²).
 - f. Be responsible for the proper functioning of all District Committees.
 - g. In consultation with other staff professionals and Committee Chairs, and in compliance with the fiscal limitations established by the Board of Directors, be responsible for the preparation of the annual District Budget.
 - h. In consultation with the District Board of Directors, contract for service sufficient professional staff personnel to assist the Committees in the performance of their tasks, such contracts to be time limited and coterminous with each term of office of the District President and such personnel to report directly to the President, who shall be responsible for their proper functioning.
 - i. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors: to provide reports summarizing his activities; to report his perceptions of the progress of District programs; and to receive counsel from the Board.
 - j. Perform the duties and functions of office as prescribed in the Synod ~~Constsitution and Bylaws Handbook~~³.

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III.C. District Vice Presidents

- 1. The First Vice President shall:
 - a. Be a minister of Religion – Ordained and be on the roster of the District.
 - b. Upon the request of the President, or as directed ~~by the Board of Directors or~~ by the District Convention, advise, assist, or represent the President.
 - 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:

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

165 ***III.D. The Regional Directors***

166 The Regional Directors shall:

- 167 a. Be lay persons.
168
169 b. Be members of District congregations.
170
171 c. Be ~~elected~~ **selected** regionally, by caucus, at the regular Convention for no more than two consecutive
172 terms, ~~with the slate presented for possible amendment and final ratification by the District Convention.~~ **Formatted: Strikethrough**
173
174 d. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.
175
176 e. Attend at least one meeting of each circuit Forum in his/her region each year: to provide reports
177 summarizing his/her activities and those of the Board of Directors; to report his/her perceptions of the
178 progress of District programs; and to receive counsel from the Circuit Forum.
179
180

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

182 The Director-Commissioned Minister shall:

- 183 a. Be a minister of Religion – Commissioned and be on the roster of the District. **Formatted: Font: Italic**
184
185 b. Be elected at the regular Convention.
186
187 c. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.
188
189 d. Attend at least one District Educators Conference each year: to provide reports summarizing his/her
190 activities and those of the Board of Directors; to report his/her perceptions of the progress of District
191 programs; and to receive counsel from the Educator's Conference.
192
193
194

195 ***III.F. The District Secretary***

196 The District Secretary shall:

- 197 a. Be a minister of Religion – Ordained and be on the roster of the District. **Formatted: Font: Italic**
198
199

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

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222 ***III.G. District Treasurer***

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223 The Treasurer shall:

- 224 a. Be a lay person.
- 225
- 226
- 227 b. Be a member of a District congregation.
- 228
- 229 c. Administer the office in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the District Board of
- 230 Directors.
- 231
- 232 d. Ensure that the District President keeps an accurate account of and disburses District funds
- 233 according to instructions of the Board of Directors.
- 234
- 235 e. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors to monitor the financial health of
- 236 the District and to provide counsel to the Board of Directors.
- 237
- 238

239 ***ARTICLE IV***

240 ***THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES***

241

242 ***IV.A. In General***

243

- 244 1. District Committees shall:
- 245 a. Act on their own initiative within their approved budget limitations, and in accordance with the
- 246 Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, the Bylaws of the District, Resolutions of the Convention, and
- 247 policies which have been adopted by the District Board of Directors.
- 248
- 249 b. On a timely basis submit to the District President and Board of Directors: proposed Plans of Action;
- 250 projected costs; projected activities; lists of members; and minutes of meetings.
- 251

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

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

268

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

277 ***IV.C. Mandated Committees***

278

279 **1. MISSION**

280

281 a. This Committee is responsible for coordinating and promoting the mission plans of the District and
282 supporting and encouraging the mission work of every congregation.
283

284 b. This Committee shall operate according to the CNH District Mission Agency policies and
285 procedures as adopted by the Board of Directors.

286 ~~b.c.~~ This Committee' shall coordinate with the Office of National Mission and, if applicable, the Office
287 of International Mission.
288
289

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290 **2. HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES**

291

292 a. The Chair of this Committee may attend all regular meetings of the Board of Directors and any
293 special meetings, or when required by the District President or the Board of Directors.
294

295 b. This Committee shall:

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

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297
298 ii. Provide Circuit level assistance in the field of social welfare, especially in coordinating Circuit
299 support for District-wide social welfare projects.
300

301 iii. Be responsible for giving guidance to the District in the area of social ministry.
302

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

305
306 v. Understand its tasks and function as being congruent with the Objectives of the Synod as set forth in
307 Constitution Article III and mission and ministry emphases of the Synod, as well as resolutions of the
308 District, as regard its area of work, ~~those prescribed in the Synod Handbook.~~⁵

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310 3. STEWARDSHIP

311
312 a. The Chair of this Committee may attend all regular meetings of the Board of Directors and any
313 special meetings, or when required by the District President or the Board of Directors.

314
315 b. This Committee shall:

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

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317
318 ii. Assist and advise the local congregations in the development and promotion of an adequate
319 stewardship program.

320
321 iii. Promote special gifts and bequests of all kinds for all phases of the church's work, provided such
322 activities do not conflict directly with the Articles of Incorporation of the District.

323
324 iv. Understand its tasks and function as being congruent with the Objectives of the Synod as set forth in
325 Constitution Article III and mission and ministry emphases of the Synod, as well as resolutions of the
326 District, as regard its area of work, ~~those prescribed in the Synod Handbook.~~⁶

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328 4. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

329
330 a. The Chair of this Committee may attend any regular meeting of the Board of Directors and shall
331 attend any special meeting of the Board of Directors, or when required by the District President or the
332 Board of Directors.

333
334 b. This Committee shall:

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

336
337 ii. Regularly review the Bylaws of the District, and draft proposed revisions which will keep them up to
338 date with current practice.

339
340 iii. Draft proposed revisions to the District Bylaws made necessary by changes in the Synod Handbook.

341
342 iv. Immediately after each Convention of the District, draft revisions to the District Bylaws to conform
343 to resolutions adopted by the Convention.

344
345 v. Review proposed revisions of the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws of District
346 congregations to insure that they conform to the Bylaws of the Synod and District ~~and to state law.~~

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347
348 vi. Interpret the Bylaws of the District in cases of controversy. These opinions shall be binding unless
349 overruled by the District Convention or by the Synod.

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350
351 vii. Understand its tasks and function as being congruent with those of the Synod Commission on
352 Constitutional Matters, but with regard to the governing documents unique to the District ~~prescribed in~~
353 the Synod Handbook.⁷

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354

355 **5. HISTORICAL**

356
357 a. The Chair of this Committee may attend any regular meeting of the Board of Directors and shall
358 attend any special meeting of the Board of Directors, or when required by the District President or the
359 Board of Directors.

- 360 b. This Committee shall:
 - 361 i. Collaborate with the Concordia Historical Institute and provide a regional representative for the
362 Institute.
 - 363
 - 364 ii. Gather and ensure the safekeeping of records and articles of historical importance to the District
365 and Synod and make them available to qualified researchers.
 - 366
 - 367 iii. Promote activities that stimulate historical interest and awareness in the District.
 - 368
 - 369 iv. Advise congregations and agencies in establishing and maintaining their own archives.

370 **6. NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

371
372 a. The Chair of this Committee may attend any regular meeting of the Board of Directors and shall
373 attend any special meeting of the Board of Directors, or when required by the District President or the
374 Board of Directors.

- 375 b. This Committee shall:
 - 376
 - 377 i. Be elected as part of each Convention's elections process, as prescribed in the Synod Constitution
378 and Bylaws Handbook.*
 - 379
 - 380 ii. Consist of one Minister of Religion- Ordained, one Minister of Religion- Commissioned, and
381 two lay persons.
 - 382
 - 383 iii. Nominate at least two candidates for each of the following elective offices: Regional Directors,
384 Director-Commissioned Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, and the (next Convention) *Nominating*
385 *Committee* (see above).
 - 386
 - 387 iv. Obtain the prior consent of nominees and publish brief biographical sketches in the
388 *Convention Manual Workbook*.

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390 **7. HISPANIC COUNCIL**

391
392 a. The Chair of this Committee may attend any regular meeting of the Board of Directors and may
393 attend any special meeting of the Board of Directors, or when required by the District President or the
394 Board of Directors.

- 395 b. This Committee shall:
 - 396
 - 397 i. Serve as liaison between Spanish language ministries and the District and its congregations.
 - 398
 - 399 ii. Assist in recruiting Spanish language workers.
 - 400
 - 401 iii. Assist Spanish language workers in their growth and development.
 - 402
 - 403 iv. Assist and advise the District and its congregations in the development of Spanish language
404 ministries.
 - 405

406 **IV.D. Special Committees**

407
408 The District President may, by and with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, create ad hoc
409 Committees as needed. These Committees and their Chairs have the same rights, privileges and
410 accountability as the Mandated Committees.

411
412 **ARTICLE V**
413 **DISTRICT CONVENTIONS**

414
415 The District shall meet in Convention triennially prior to June 1 of the year preceding the Convention
416 of the Synod. In addition to provisions of the Synod ~~Handbook~~² ~~Constitution and Bylaws~~ regarding
417 Conventions of the District, the following regulations shall apply:

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418
419 **V.A. Delegates**

420
421 Congregations shall register the names (together with a brief biographical sketch) of the delegates and
422 alternates with the District President at least three months prior to the opening of the Convention.

423
424 **V.B. Committee Appointments**

425
426 The District President shall announce the appointment of Convention Floor Committees in the pages of the
427 official District publication at least one month prior to the opening of the Convention.

428
429 **V.C. Convention Manual**

430
431 1. The Board of Directors and all Committees of the District, as well as others desiring to bring their
432 work to the attention of the District Convention, shall submit their reports and recommendations to the
433 District President for publication in the ~~Convention Manual~~ ~~Workbook~~. These reports and recommendations
434 shall be in the office of the District President at least ten weeks prior to the opening of the Convention. The
435 District President, at his discretion, shall have the right to withhold certain overtures and unofficial reports
436 from publication in the ~~Convention Manual~~ ~~Workbook~~, referring them directly to the appropriate Floor
437 Committee as unpublished overtures and reports for its consideration. Overtures and unofficial reports
438 received later than two weeks prior to the opening of the Convention may be referred to the Convention at
439 the discretion of the District President.

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440
441 2. One copy of the *Convention Manual* shall be supplied to each Minister of Religion – Ordained or
442 Commissioned, to each congregation on the District roster, and to such others as the Board of Directors shall
443 authorize.

444
445 3. The District President shall instruct the District Secretary to publish all the reports and overtures which
446 he supplies, together with the program of the Convention, an outline of the Convention essay, and the
447 District roster (this roster to include all congregations, all Ministers of religion - Ordained and -
448 Commissioned, all officers and Committees of the District and of the Convention). The ~~Convention Manual~~
449 ~~Workbook~~ shall be mailed in time to reach the congregations at least one month prior to the opening of the
450 District Convention.

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451
452 **V.D. Convention Business**

453
454 1. All reports, resolutions, including those from Floor Committees, or other material not contained in the
455 *Convention Manual* shall be reproduced and distributed to the delegates prior to the opening of the session
456 in which these reports, resolutions, or other materials are to be discussed and considered.

457

458 2. Except for overtures, memorials, petitions, or resolutions, no materials appearing in the published
459 *Convention Manual* shall be read in their entirety on the Convention floor.

460
461 ***V.E. Proceedings***

462
463 1. The Secretary shall be responsible for publication of the *District Convention Proceedings* by July 1
464 following the Convention.

465
466 2. One copy of the *Proceedings* shall be supplied to each minister of Religion – Ordained or -
467 Commissioned, each congregation on the District roster, and such others as the Board of Directors shall
468 authorize.

469
470
471 **ARTICLE VI**
472 **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

473
474 ***VI.A. Elected Officers***

475
476 The elected officers of the District are President, First Vice President, five Regional Vice Presidents, five
477 Regional Directors, Secretary, Treasurer, members of the Nominating Committee, and a Circuit Visitor for
478 each of the District's Circuits.

479
480 ***VI.B. Term of Elected Officers***

481 1. The term of office for all officers of the District shall be for three years.

482
483 2. The term of office for the President, First Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Circuit Visitors shall
484 be without limitation to reelection. All other positions shall have a limitation of two successive terms. ~~One-~~
485 ~~half or more~~ More than one-half of a term shall be considered a full term under limited tenure.

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486
487 ***VI.C. Pre-Convention Nominations for District President and First Vice-President***

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

489 a. The Secretary of the District shall mail nominating ballots to each voting congregation no later than
490 eight (8) months prior to the Convention.

491
492
493 b. Each voting congregation of the District is entitled to nominate two Ministers of Religion - Ordained
494 from the roster of the Synod as candidates for the office of District President and two Ministers of
495 Religion – Ordained from the roster of the ~~Synod~~ District as candidates for the office of First Vice-
496 President.

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497
498 c. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by two officers of the voting congregation and shall be
499 returned to the Secretary of the District no later than six months prior to the opening date of the
500 Convention.

501
502 d. The Secretary of the District shall tabulate nominations and report the names of all clergy receiving
503 three or more nominations in the *Convention Manual*.

504
505 e. Candidates for President shall be the five receiving the highest number of nominating ballots from
506 the congregations. In the event of a tie for the fifth position among the candidates, all names involved

507 in the tie shall be listed as candidates, as prescribed by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws
508 Handbook.¹⁰

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

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514 **VI.D. Convention Floor Nominations**

515
516 Except for the Offices of President and First Vice-President, additional nominations for any elective office
517 may be made from the floor of the Convention, from the floor of the Caucus as appropriate, or by any
518 voting delegate; however, the prior consent of the nominee shall have been obtained and a brief
519 biographical sketch submitted to the District Secretary at the time the nomination is made.

521 **VI.E. Teller Committee**

522
523 A Teller Committee and its Chair shall be appointed by the District President to facilitate the election of
524 officers.

526 **VI.F. Order of Elections**

528 1. Election of the President

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

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

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

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

541 2. Election of the First Vice President

542
543 a. In the first business session of the
544 Convention, the Teller Committee shall conduct the election for the office of First Vice President.

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

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

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

555 3. Election of the Regional Vice Presidents and Regional Directors

556

- 557 a. The Regions shall caucus to nominate their Regional Vice Presidents and the Regional Director.
 558 Each Region will submit to the Convention one nomination for Regional Vice President and one
 559 nomination for Regional Director.
 560
- 561 b. In the Regional caucus, the Teller Committee will facilitate the nomination of the Regional Vice
 562 President according to the process used for nomination of First Vice President.
 563
- 564 c. In the Regional caucus, the Teller Committee will present the slate prepared by the Nominating
 565 Committee for the office of Regional Director; entertain nominations from the floor of the caucus as
 566 allowed in Article VI.D above. Upon closure of the slate, the caucus shall by ballot select its candidate.
 567 The Candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared nominated.
 568
- 569 d. The Teller Committee shall submit to the Convention a final slate of candidates for the offices of
 570 Regional Vice President and Regional Director to be ratified by the Convention.
 571
- 572 e. The Teller Committee shall conduct the election (ratification) of the Regional Vice Presidents and
 573 Regional Directors.
 574
- 575 4. Succeeding elections shall be conducted by the Teller Committee for the following offices:
 576
- 577 a. For the Director-Commissioned Minister, for the Secretary, and for the Treasurer from the slate
 578 prepared by the Nominating Committee, supplemented by nominations from the floor. The candidate
 579 receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
 580
- 581 b. For the (next Convention) Nominating Committee from the slate prepared by the Nominating
 582 Committee, supplemented by nominations from the floor. The candidates receiving a majority of the
 583 votes cast shall be declared elected.
 584
- 585 c. For Circuit Visitors from the slate published by the District Secretary, as prescribed by the Synod
 586 *Handbook*.¹¹
 587

588 **VI.G. Ballots**
 589

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

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592 **VI.H Records of Elections**
 593

594 All ballots in each election shall be preserved by the Chair of the Teller Committee until the close of the
 595 Convention and shall then be destroyed, as prescribed by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws ~~*Handbook*~~.¹²

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596 **VI.I. Vacancies**
 597

598 1. When the Office of President becomes vacant, or when the President is incapacitated, the Office shall
 599 be assumed by the First Vice President. If less than six months of the term remains, he may serve out the
 600 term in a part-time capacity. If more than six months remains, he must be willing to assume the position
 601 full-time. If he declines, a new President shall be elected by the Board of Directors.
 602

603 2. When the office of First Vice President becomes vacant, a new First Vice President shall be elected by
 604 the Board of Directors.
 605

606 3. Vacancies in any other elected office of the District shall be filled by Presidential appointment by and
607 with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors. In the event any officer of the District shall become
608 incapable of service, the Board of Directors shall relieve that person of his/her duties.
609

610 **VI.J. Delegates to the Synod Convention**

611
612 1. Election of the delegates and alternates (voting) shall be as prescribed in the Synod Constitution and
613 Bylaws Handbook.¹³

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614
615 2. Election of advisory delegates and alternates in the categories of Minister of Religion — Ordained and
616 of Minister of Religion — Commissioned shall be as prescribed in the Synod Constitution and Bylaws
617 Handbook.¹⁴

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618
619 3. Selection of other District advisory representatives shall be as prescribed in the Synod Constitution
620 and Bylaws Handbook.¹⁵

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621
622 4. Selection of the District's youth representatives shall be made by a District Youth Task Force, as
623 prescribed in the Synod Handbook.¹⁶

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624
625 **VI.K. Installation of Officers**

626
627 1. All District officers elected at the Convention shall be installed prior to on July 1 following the
628 Convention, or as soon thereafter as practicable. The President shall designate the installing officer and the
629 date, time, and place of the installation.

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630
631 2. The President and other District Officers leaving office shall continue to hold the authority and
632 responsibility of office until July 1 following the Convention.
633

634 3. Any expenses of the newly elected officers related to assuming office shall be the responsibility of the
635 District.
636

637
638 **ARTICLE VII**
639 **REGIONS, CIRCUITS AND CIRCUIT FORUMS**

640
641 1. The authority to determine Regional and Circuit divisions shall rest with the District Convention, as
642 prescribed by the Synod Handbook.¹⁷

643
644 2. The purpose and function of each Circuit and Circuit Forum shall be as prescribed in the Synod
645 Handbook.¹⁸

646
647 3. Within two months after each District Convention, each Circuit Forum shall meet and elect such
648 officers as it deems necessary to support the Circuit Visitor who was elected by the District Convention.
649

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

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653
654 5. Each Circuit Forum may submit overtures to the District Board of Directors as well as to Synod and
655 District Conventions, as prescribed by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws Handbook.²⁰

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656
657

658 **ARTICLE VIII**
659 **AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

660 **VIII.A. Amendments by Direct Convention Action**

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

- 664 a. The change is not contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
665
666 b. The proposed change is presented to the Convention in writing.
667
668 c. The proposed material is specified as a Bylaw amendment and is studied as such by a Convention
669 floor committee.
670
671 d. The change is adopted by a majority vote by the Convention.
672

673 **VIII.B. Amendment by Indirect Convention Action**

- 674
675 1. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be made when the District Convention shall have created new
676 entities without having established Bylaw provisions for them or when District Convention action
677 affecting these Bylaws has been taken without providing the necessary new texts.
678
679 2. Needed revisions to these Bylaws shall be drafted by the District Constitutional Matters Committee and
680 submitted to the next District Convention for approval.
681

682 **VIII. C. Amendment by Synod Action**

- 683
684 ~~1. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be made when action taken by the Synod's Convention shall have set~~
685 ~~them at variance with the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws.~~
686
687 ~~2. Needed revisions to these Bylaws shall be drafted by the District Committee on Constitutional Matters~~
688 ~~and submitted to the next District Convention for approval.~~
689

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690 *When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly*
691 *directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendments may be made by a two-thirds*
692 *majority of the District Board of Directors. Such amendments shall be drafted by the District*
693 *Secretary and shall be reviewed in advance by the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters.*
694

695 **VIII.D. Publication of Bylaw Revisions**

696
697 Whenever it becomes necessary to publish new editions of the Bylaws of the District (whether entirely or
698 in substantial sections), the Secretary shall have responsibility for their publication.

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

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

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

1 **#2-05**

2 **TO STUDY THE VALUE OF THE CURRENT MINISTRY CENTER**

3

4 WHEREAS, the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of the LCMS sought to expand
5 and centralize the primary office for staff and district ministries by
6 relocating from Grace Lutheran Church, San Francisco to their
7 current offices in Livermore; and

8 WHEREAS, the current CNH District offices are larger than necessary for the
9 current mission; and

10 WHEREAS, the cost of living in Livermore has risen to an unsustainable amount;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the CNH District of the LCMS has experienced changes in both
13 staffing and the way ministry is conducted and

14 WHEREAS, the District’s primary mandate in its Bylaws is, “to challenge and
15 assist congregations in their proclamation of the Gospel and ministry
16 to all people;” and

17 WHEREAS, the district is utilizing new means of ministry and care for
18 congregations (i.e.; electronic); therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, that the CNH District in Convention direct the President to establish a
20 task force to study if the current office meets both the present and
21 future needs of the District in direct relation to its primary mandate;
22 and be it finally

23 RESOLVED, that the Task Force give recommendations to the District Board of
24 Directors as to possible solutions to best maximize ministry and
25 stewardship no later than 18 months from the end of the 2022
26 Convention in preparation for possible action at the 2025 District
27 Convention.

ACTION: _____Adopted _____Defeated X Recommitted _____Amended

1 **#3-01**

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

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

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

8 WHEREAS, the church is blessed when the mission of God is first in the hearts of its
9 people, and a primary focus on official structure providing defense against schism,
10 sectarianism, and heresy is, while praise worthy (Revelation 2:3-4), a departure from our
11 first love (Revelation 2:4-5), and

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

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

14 1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3–6; 1 Cor. 1:10), work
15 through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and
16 provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;

17 2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and
18 deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel
19 witness into all the world;...

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

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

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

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

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

Submitted by the CNH District Board of Directors

ACTION: Adopted Defeated Recommitted Amended

1 **#3-02**

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

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

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, the proposal provides a significant voice of influence for
18 leaders in the Synod over the institutions with limited accountability for the
19 impact of that influence,

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

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

26 RESOLVED, that a new Task Force be formed composed of at least a
27 District president from a district of a closed Concordia and a District
28 president with an operating Concordia University and at least multiple
29 representatives chosen by current Concordia University presidents, and

30 Be it Finally RESOLVED that this new task force study and report on the
31 closures of the three universities in the past five years before forming a new
32 proposal.

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

ACTION: X Adopted _____ Defeated _____ Recommitted _____ Amended

1 **Overture #3-03**
2 **(Combining Overtures #3-03 and #3-04 and #1-02)**
3 **To increase the number of students preparing for General**
4 **Ordination through distance learning opportunities and by**
5 **expanding the work of the Cross-cultural Ministry Center -**
6 **CUI(CMC).**

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, two thousand pastors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri
25 Synod are expected to retire in the next ten years and the synod currently
26 has 476 pastoral vacancies, and the entire graduating class of both
27 seminaries was eighty-eight in 2022 to replace these faithful servants and
28 expand further mission and ministry; and

29 WHEREAS, students in today's world of education expect opportunities to
30 learn in a variety of educational methods (pedagogy); and

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

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

37 WHEREAS, it has become increasingly difficult and prohibitive for
38 prospective LCMS seminary students to leave homes, family, employment,
39 and ministry context to move cross-country to enroll in a four-year residential

40 Master of Divinity program; and

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

45 WHEREAS, enrollment in the Cross-cultural Ministry Center is currently
46 limited by: 1) a cap on the number of students that can enroll in the program;
47 2) where those students are geographically located (typically LCMS Region
48 5 – Western US); and 3) whether the student's ministry context is
49 appropriately "culture crossing" enough to qualify for enrollment; and

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

54 RESOLVED, that the CNH District memorialize the 2023 Synod Convention to
55 enhance the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center ability to meet the increasing demand
56 for pastoral candidates by removing current restrictions on enrollment,
57 geographic location and ministry context, and be it further

58 RESOLVED, that the seminaries of the Synod be encouraged to study
59 different education models of training general pastors, and be it finally

60 RESOLVED, that the seminaries and the Districts of the Synod consider
61 how they can work together to increase the number of students
62 preparing for general ministry through the existing distance study
63 program opportunities (EIIT, SMP, CUI, CHS), Hybrid models like CMC
64 and, residential programs including the residential Alternate Route to
65 provide more general pastors for the mission of the Gospel.

ACTION: Adopted Defeated Recommitted Amended

1 **#3-04**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Submitted by CNH District Board of Directors

ACTION: X Adopted _____ Defeated _____ Recommitted _____ Amended

1 **#3-05**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 *Submitted by the CNH District Board of Directors*

ACTION: X Adopted _____Defeated _____Recommitted _____Amended

1 **#3-06**

2
3 **To Recognize and Thank the LCMS for the Strengthened and**
4 **Expanded “Soldiers of the Cross” COVID-19 Response**
5 **Initiative**
6

7 WHEREAS; The Pandemic of 2020 shuttered schools in the middle of the
8 school year, furloughed workers and caused others to pivot towards a digital
9 presence for which they were unprepared; and
10

11 WHEREAS; Many of our teachers and school workers were without the
12 additional tuition or budget income needed to support the immediate response
13 to the transition and additional regulations that were placed upon them through
14 the Centers for Disease Control and the Executive orders of local, state, and
15 national government; and
16

17 WHEREAS; The need for compassionate support and financial assistance was
18 great; and
19

20 WHEREAS; The Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod (LCMS) and The
21 Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) worked together to identify funds for
22 immediate assistance for all who served in Lutheran ministries; and
23

24 WHEREAS; Many of our school and child development workers who were
25 both rostered and lay benefited from this generous act of compassion; and
26

27 WHEREAS; As of September 2020 more than \$1,516,847 was awarded to 902
28 workers; be it therefore
29

30 RESOLVED, that on behalf of the workers of our Lutheran churches, schools,
31 and centers the California-Nevada-Hawaii District in Convention publicly thank
32 God for the generosity of His people, The LCMS, and the LCEF for supporting
33 all who serve in our schools and child care centers.
34

Submitted by the CNH District Board of Directors

ACTION: Adopted Defeated Recommitted Amended

1 **#3-07**

2

3 **To examine additional pathway(s) for general pastoral**
4 **colloquy for members of LCMS congregations who have**
5 **graduated with an accredited Master of Divinity Degree from a**
6 **Non-LCMS Seminary.**

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

13 WHEREAS, two thousand pastors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri
14 Synod are expected to retire in the next ten years and the synod currently
15 has 476 pastoral vacancies, and the entire graduating class of both
16 seminaries was eighty-eight in 2022 to replace these faithful servants and
17 expand further mission and ministry; and

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

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

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

- 36 • Active Pastors from Other Christian Church Bodies: Men who, at the time of
37 application are in good standing and in active service as pastors in another
38 Christian Church body/denomination may apply for colloquy.
- 39 • Men who have prepared for pastoral ministry but, at the time of application,
40 are not in active service as pastors: Such applicants must be graduates of a

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

51 WHEREAS, the colloquy committee has shown discernment over the years, recognizing
52 that qualified men may not fit into the current policy manual categories

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

61 RESOLVED, that the California-Nevada-Hawaii District memorialize the 2023
62 LCMS Convention to examine additional routes for colloquy including online,
63 hybrid, and routes for members in good standing in LCMS congregations who have
64 graduated from programs of study leading to ordination from outside the
65 seminaries of the LCMS (satisfying all the necessary academic credit
66 requirements) to become general ordination pastors by way of the Colloquy
67 process, without enrolling in the Residential Alternative Route Program.

Submitted by the CNH District Board of Directors

ACTION: Adopted Defeated Recommitted Amended

2022 Convention Acknowledgements

Convention Logo:

- Conceptual Design: Stephanie Jones, First Lutheran Church, Concord, CA
- Final Production Development: Matt Molinari, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Rocklin, CA

Host of Thursday evening fellowship meal:

- The staff of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fremont, CA

Preparations of the Thursday evening worship service:

- Rev. Dr. Tom Zelt, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fremont, CA
- Circuit 2 pastors

Closing worship:

- Rev. Dr. Tom Zelt, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fremont, CA
- Ms. Cara Berg, pianist, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fremont, CA

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

- Mr. Evan Anwyl, St. John's Lutheran Church, Bakersfield, CA
- Mr. Doug Benton, CNH District staff, Livermore, CA

For facilitation of ElectionBuddy:

- Mr. Edward Kwak, District VP, Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Gold-level sponsorship:

- Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- Heffernan Insurance Brokers of Walnut Creek, CA