

Convention Overtures

Overture #1-1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Submitted by

CNH District Board of Directors