

1 **#3-07**

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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

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

14

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

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

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

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36 WHEREAS, The Policy Manual for Admission to the Pastoral Ministry of The  
37 Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod by Colloquy: Bylaws and Policies states that  
38 applicants for Colloquy must fit into one of two categories (the Colloquy

39 Committee for the Pastoral Ministry is responsible for the final determination of  
40 the category in each individual situation):

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- 42 • Active Pastors from Other Christian Church Bodies: Men who, at the time of  
43 application are in good standing and in active service as pastors in another  
44 Christian Church body/denomination may apply for colloquy.
- 45
- 46 • Men who have prepared for pastoral ministry but, at the time of application,  
47 are not in active service as pastors: Such applicants must be graduates of a  
48 program of study that leads to ordination, from an accredited institution, with  
49 no fewer than 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of required academic  
50 credit. Applicants with prior pastoral service must provide the date (month  
51 and year) and the reason (e.g. retirement, resignation, dismissal) their active  
52 service ended. Such an applicant also must have been a communicant  
53 member in good standing in a congregation of The Lutheran Church-  
54 Missouri Synod for at least two years immediately prior to the time of  
55 application. This category does not apply to LCMS members who while  
56 members of LCMS congregations have obtained Master of Divinity degrees  
57 outside the LCMS; and
- 58

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

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

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

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78 *Submitted by the CNH District Board of Directors*