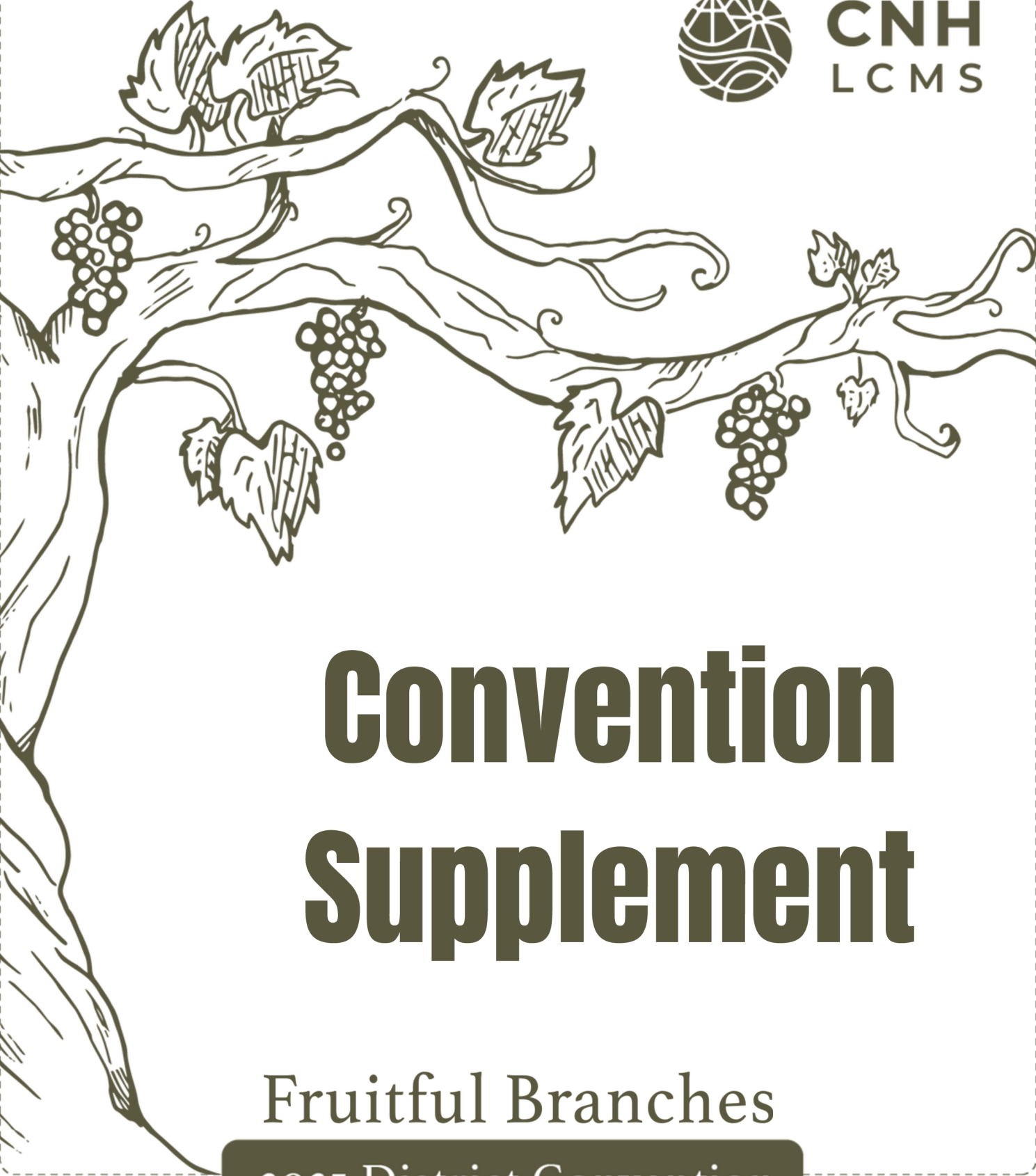




CNH
LCMS

A detailed line drawing of a vine with several large, lobed leaves and three clusters of grapes hanging from it. The vine is thick and gnarled, with smaller tendrils extending from it.

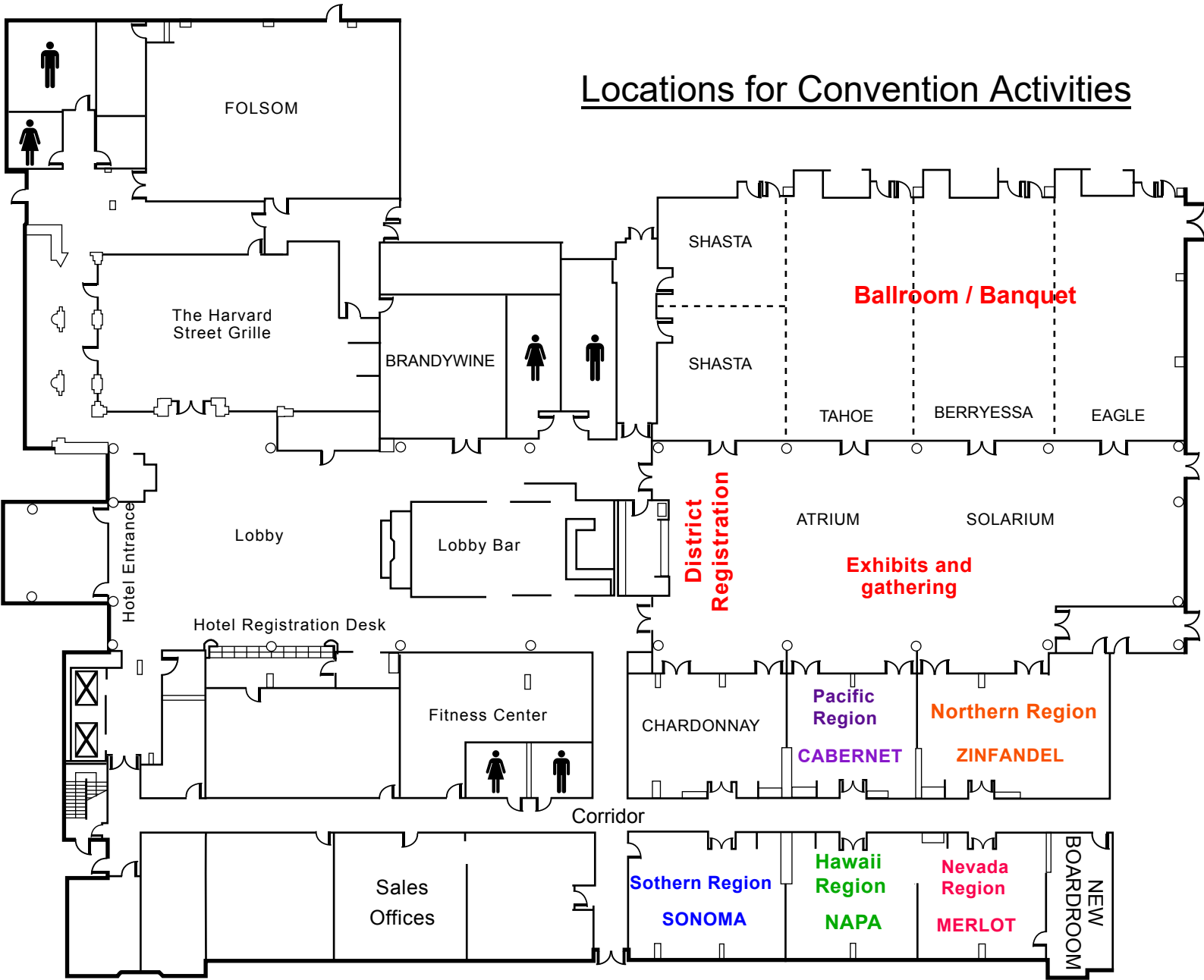
Convention Supplement

Fruitful Branches

2025 District Convention

May 15-17, 2025 • Hilton Sacramento Arden West

HILTON SACRAMENTO ARDEN WEST
GROUND LEVEL



2025 CONVENTION SUPPLEMENT

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2025 CNH District Convention Agenda

May 15 – 17, 2025

Thursday May 15

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

Friday May 16

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



- 3:30 Convention Business
- 3:55 District President's Report, Part 2
- 4:35 Convention Business
- 5:05 Closing Devotion
- 5:15 Break for Regional Caucus
- Hawaii – Napa Room
 - Nevada – Merlot Room
 - Northern – Zinfandel Room
 - Pacific – Cabernet Room
 - Southern – Sonoma Room
- 6:15 – 7:00 No-host Bar (Atrium)
- 7:00 District Banquet (Ballroom)
Banquet Speaker: Rev. Jeff Cloeter

Saturday May 17

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

Updated 5/7/25

Nominations for District Offices and Biographical Information

District President

Rev. Michael R. Lange

Current Congregation and Title: CNH District President

Degrees: Institution / Year earned:

AA (Pre Seminary) St. Paul's College, Concordia MO – 1982

BA (Psychology) Graceland University, Lamoni IA – 1984

MDiv Concordia Seminary St. Louis, MO – 1988

DMin (in process) Concordia Seminary St. Louis, – TBD

District and / or Synod Offices / Positions Currently Held:

2018-Present: CNH Dist. President

Previous Offices / Positions Held:

2013 – 2018: Assistant to the President, CNH District – Mission Advancement

Minnesota South: LWML District Counselor/ District Evangelism Committee

CNH: Circuit Counselor / Regional Vice President / Mt. Cross Board Member

Synod: Board for International Mission / National Youth

Gathering Committee Member

Congregation Served:

1988-1994: Redeemer: Wayzata, MN

1995-1996: Missionary at Large – Dixon, CA

1996-2013: Resurrection: Brentwood, CA (Missionary at Large and Pastor)

Districts Served:

Minnesota South

California-Nevada-Hawaii

District 1st Vice President

Rev. Mitchell W. Gowen

Current Congregation and Title: Our Savior, Aiea Senior Pastor

Degrees: Institution / Year earned:

Concordia Seward – 1986 B.A.

Concordia Ft. Wayne – 1988 MDiv

District and / or Synod Offices / Positions Currently Held:

Regional Vice-President

National Youth Gathering Planning Committee

Previous Offices / Positions Held:

Circuit Counselor

Circuit Visitor

Congregations Served:

Our Savior, Aiea , HI

Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Cupertino, CA

Districts Served:

California-Nevada-Hawaii

Rev. Robert Weller

Current Congregation and Title: Shepherd of the Valley, San Jose, CA, Pastor for 25 years

Degrees: Institution / Year earned:

BA from Concordia College, Ann Arbor, MI (1990)

MDiv from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN (1994)

District and / or Synod Offices / Positions Currently Held:

Circuit Visitor for Circuit 18 of CNH (2005-2013, 2019-2025)

Previous Offices / Positions Held:

Circuit Visitor for Utah Circuit of the Rocky Mountain District (1998-2000)

Financial Aid Committee Chairman

Conference Committee - Rocky Mountain District

Congregations Served:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Logan, Utah (1994-2000)

Districts Served:

Rocky Mountain District

California-Nevada-Hawaii

Regional Director – Hawaii

(None submitted)

Regional Director – Nevada

(None submitted)

Regional Director – Northern

Leigh Ann Bozung (Circuit 14)

Congregation: St. John Lutheran, Petaluma, CA

Occupation: Child Nutrition Supervisor

District Offices: (none)

Elisabeth Hovland (Circuit 14)

Congregation: Faith Lutheran, Ukiah, CA

Occupation: Wife, mother, and grandmother

Congregational Offices: Have served various positions in congregation; have attended at least five churches within the CNH District.

District Offices: Current Northern District Lay Director for the CNH District; former CNH District Northern Lay Director, 2003 – 2006.

Gary C. Nelson (Circuit 14)

Congregation: St. John Lutheran, Petaluma, CA

Occupation: Attorney

District Offices: (none)

Bill Swift (Circuit 19)

Congregation: First Lutheran, Placerville, CA

Occupation: Retired, formerly LCEF District VP

Congregational Offices: President, Vice President, and Trustee; Evangelism, Property Board, and Stewardship; headed a Pastoral call committee

District Offices: Board Chair, Church Extension Fund; CNH Board member; Mission Agency Chair; District staff representing LCEF; special projects

Regional Director – Pacific

(None submitted)

Regional Director – Southern

(None submitted)

Secretary

Rev. Jared A. Eggebraaten

Current Congregation and Title: Faith Lutheran Church & Preschool, Fair Oaks, CA., Pastor

Synod: Synod Conv. Deleg. (2016).

District: NID-S. Regional Conference Secretary (2015-2017); NID-GPC Program Committee (2015-2017); NID-GPC Vice Chair (2011-2013).

Circuit: CNH-Circuits 4 & 19 Communications Secretary (2024-Present); NID-S. Regional Youth Association (2017-2019); NID-LWML Zone Counselor.

LCMS-RSO: Faith, Hope, & Peace Ministries, Board of Directors (2016-2021).

Congregations Served: Pastor-Sole, Zion, Naperville, IL (2006-2021); Pastor-Senior Administrative, Faith, Fair Oaks, CA (2021-Present).

Districts Served: California-Nevada-Hawaii; Northern Illinois.

Education: MDiv, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (2006); BA, English/Theology, Concordia University, Irvine, CA (2001); Santa Barbara City College, Santa Barbara, CA (1999).

Born & Baptized: 1977.

Ordained: 2006

Rev. Morris W. Stephens, Jr.

Current Congregation and Title: Messiah Lutheran Church, Citrus Heights, CA., Pastor

District: LLL Pastoral Counselor, 2018 – 2022; LWML Circuit 19 Pastoral Counselor, 2024 – present.

Treasurer

Donald Busse

Congregation: Our Savior, Livermore, CA

Occupation: Retired Certified Public Accountant; President of the CNH District Church Extension Fund (2010-2016); Senior financial positions in several sales and marketing

companies in the food industry; 10 years in public accounting with Coopers & Lybrand which subsequently merged into PricewaterhouseCoopers.
District Offices: CNH LCMS Treasurer (2021-Current)

Board of Directors – Commissioned Minister

Christy Wood

Current Congregation and Title: St. John's Napa, CA, Principal

Education:

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership CU, Irvine, CA -December 2021
Masters of Arts- Educational Leadership Concordia University, Portland, OR-May 2015
Masters of Education- Curriculum and Instruction CU, Irvine, CA-May 2008
Schools Leadership and Development for Elementary Principals- SLeD III Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod – National Lutheran Schools Academy-June 2001
Early Childhood Certificate of Christian Teaching CU, Irvine, CA-May 2001
Lutheran Teaching Certificate and California Credential CU, Irvine, CA-May 1997
Bachelor of Arts - Liberal Studies San Francisco State University-January 1996

WASC Commission - NLSA representative 2025 - present
CNH District NLSA Commission member 2020 - present
English District NLSA Commission member- 2003-2018
Served on over 15 NLSA Accreditation visits
Served as a Consultant for three NLSA school accreditations

CNH District Board of Directors 2023-present
Lutheran Education Association Board of Directors - 2017 - 2023
English District- LCMS Early Childhood Consultant 2016-2018

Congregations Served:

Principal St. John's Lutheran School Napa, CA July 2020 - Present
Director of School Ministries (Principal and Preschool Director) Lamb of God Lutheran School Las Vegas, NV July 2018 – June 2020
Assistant Principal, West Portal Lutheran School, San Francisco, CA August 2002 – June 2018
Teacher/Early Childhood Center Director, Open Arms/ Messiah Lutheran School, Tucson, AZ July 2000- June 2002
Teacher, Faith Lutheran School, Tucson, AZ August 1998- June 2000
Teacher, West Portal Lutheran School, San Francisco, CA August 1997- June 1998

Volunteerism

Mercy High School, San Francisco, CA, 2017-2018
Served as a Parent representative for the Parent Leadership Team
Riordan High School, San Francisco, CA, 2014-2017
Served as the Band Booster Treasurer

Girl Scouts, 2006 – 2018

Prepared and organized activities, including Fall product sales and Cookie Sales, for a Brownie Troop (2006- 2018), a Junior Girl Scout Troop (2009-2011), and a Cadette

Troop (2011-2014). Also served on the San Francisco Service Unit as Religious Awards coordinator (2010-2012).

Accreditation

National Lutheran School Accreditation Representative, 2024- Current

Western Association of Schools and Colleges Commission

California-Nevada-Hawaii District-Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, 2020-current

NLSA Commission member

English District- Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, 2003-2018

NLSA Commission member

Nominating Committee for 2028 CNH District Convention

(None submitted)

2025 Convention Exhibitors

Name of Organization	Address	City	State	Zip	Representative
Benicia Lutheran Church	201 Raymond Drive	Benicia	CA	94510	Phil Kohlmeyer
CNH Disability Ministry Committee	505 Ashwill Court	Rio Linda	CA	95673	Dianne Flynn & Fred Hammer
CNH Disaster Response & Human Care Committee	2772 Constitution Drive	Livermore	CA	94551	Phil Zabel + Marilyn Harri & Susan Contreras
Concordia Historical Institute	804 Seminary Place	St. Louis	MO		Kristi Lange for Kristen Muehler
Concordia Plans	1333 S. Kirkwood Road	St. Louis	MO	63122	Kim Hoover & Casey Carlson
Concordia Publishing House	3558 S. Jefferson Avenue	St. Louis	MO	63118	Cheryl Kelso
Concordia Seminaries	6600 N. Clinton Street	Fort Wayne	IN		Tim Puls (CTSFW) & Vicki Bigggs (STL)
Concordia University Irvine	1530 Concordia West	Irvine	CA	92612	Steve Mueller
District Table (Mission Agency & Education Department)	2772 Constitution Drive	Livermore	CA	94551	Joel Wahlers & Renee Lawrence
Five Two Network	PO Box 644	Buchanan Dam	TX	78609	Randy Larson & Derrick Hurst
LCMS Foundation	1333 S. Kirkwood Road	St. Louis	MO	63122	Brian Hyde
LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces	1333 S. Kirkwood Road	St. Louis	MO	63122	Dann Ettner
Lutheran Bible Translators	PO Box 789	Concordia	MO	64020	Kyla Rodriguez
Lutheran Church Extension Fund	1597 Swallowview Drive	Lincoln	CA	95468	Matt Molinari
Lutheran Heritage Foundation	51474 Romeo Plank Rd	Macomb	MI	48042	Al Chai
Lutheran Hour Ministries	660 Mason Ridge Center Drive	St. Louis	MO	63141	Londa & Luther Skov
LWML CNH	21020 Disch Road	Lockeford	CA	95237	Roxan Schwab & Bev Vietor
Orphan Grain Train	1564 E. Colonial Parkway	Roseville	CA	95661	Tom Watson
The Center	2282 Summit Drive	Frankfort	MI	49635	Robert Newton

as of 4/26/25

Report on the CNH District Ministry Center Evaluation

District Convention 2022

Background

In response to a resolution adopted at the 2022 CNH District Convention, the District President appointed a task force to evaluate whether the current Ministry Center in Livermore meets the present and future needs of the District in relation to its mission.

Study Process and Recommendations

Task Force:

Task Force members:

- Bill Swift, Chair
- Don Young
- Rev. Aaron Putnam
- Laurie Hertzberg
- David Hemker

The Task Force completed its report in April 2023. It evaluated multiple scenarios, including: Doing nothing

1. Sell the building and lease and lease a smaller space in Livermore
2. Sell the building and lease a smaller space in Livermore
3. Sell the building and lease back Suite A (about 8,000 SF)
4. leasing unused space (about 3,000 SF)
5. Utilizing alternative properties, such as vacant church sites.
6. Sell building and lease space in another location.

The Task Force favored leasing Suite B (Scenario #4) as the most financially beneficial option if ownership was maintained. They also found Scenario #2 (selling and leasing a smaller space in Livermore) to be favorable if the property were sold.

LCEF – Real Estate Solutions (RES)

In June 2024, Josh Rhee, Senior Director of RES, provided a second opinion. He reaffirmed that the building is larger than needed and strongly advised against leasing Suite B due to weak market demand, significant structural, and administrative challenges associated with the District building. In the meantime, Happy Fish Swim School, the owner of the adjacent building, reached out to the District, expressing interest in purchasing the District building. In an updated report issued on March 6, 2025, Josh recommended selling the Ministry Center and purchasing a smaller office nearby, allowing the District to own a more appropriately sized hard asset.

Comparison of Task Force and RES Recommendations

- The Task Force supported leasing Suite B to a compatible 501(c)(3) tenant and keeping the building (Scenario #4).

- RES concluded that leasing was impractical due to layout challenges, the limited pool of qualified tenants, and the burden of property management.
- The Task Force suggested that being a landlord was acceptable though challenging; RES found it too problematic for staff to manage.
- The Task Force accepted the possibility of renting if the property was sold; RES strongly recommended becoming a tenant, citing long-term expense and financial instability in an inflationary environment.
- Both reports acknowledged that the building is underutilized and larger than necessary.
- RES emphasized that selling to an interested buyer in a soft market (Happy Fish Swim School) presents a timely opportunity and recommended investing the proceeds into a new facility (6,000–8,000 SF).

Current Status

- The Board of Directors and the District President recognize that selling the Ministry Center and purchasing a smaller facility appears to be a good option based on current findings and market conditions. To that end:
- Conversations are underway with Happy Fish Swim School (a current co-owner) for the potential purchase of the District's portion of the building.
- The District is exploring the purchase of a smaller facility (approximately 6,000–8,000 SF) in the Livermore, Dublin, or Pleasanton area, to maintain a centralized location accessible to congregations across the region.
- The option of owning a new hard asset is being considered as preferable to renting or holding cash, especially in the current inflationary environment.

Conclusion

The Board of Directors and District President will continue to study and evaluate all available options with careful attention to ministry needs, staff support, and responsible stewardship.

California-Nevada-Hawaii District Convention 2025

Concordia University Irvine Report President Michael Thomas

Concordia University Irvine's Mission

Concordia University Irvine is your comprehensive Lutheran Christian university guided by Christ's Great Commission, developing wise, honorable, and cultivated citizens to serve society and the church. Rooted in the 500-year Lutheran intellectual tradition, Concordia has called Orange County home for nearly 50 years. We look forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary in the 2026-2027 academic year with all of you!

Concordia offers more than 60 undergraduate and graduate programs designed around our distinctive, award-winning Enduring Questions & Ideas curriculum. Students take courses that ask some of life's toughest questions, guide them to analyze the great books of Western Civilization for the ways others have answered these complex questions, and encourage them to posit answers for themselves. Through this specially curated general curriculum and their major coursework, we prepare each student for their professional and personal vocations.

Whether students come as residential or commuter undergraduates, hybrid or online post-baccalaureate or graduate students, whether they pursue a bachelor's, master's, doctoral or certificate program, they will experience personal mentoring by faculty and staff that is animated by a consistent mission, vision, and core convictions & values that have served since 1976, when Concordia Irvine was called into being as Christ College.

Each student is formed through myriad encounters with a community of faculty and staff who winsomely share the Gospel, who dedicate themselves to helping students discover their God talents and gifts, and then help them discern their vocations. Those students become alumni of Concordia University Irvine who in turn bring hope to a world that is in desperate need.

Concordia's Core Convictions

Concordia University Irvine serves our students, colleagues, and community by being:

- *Gospel-Centered:* The faculty and staff, guided by God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions, welcomes all qualified students who are willing to engage with its mission and proclaims God's grace in Christ to each person.
- *Faithfully Relevant:* Concordia offers exceptional, rigorous, holistic, and sought-after programs in the liberal arts and professional studies, rooted in the

Lutheran intellectual tradition, that prepare servant leaders who proactively address the contemporary needs of the church and the world.

- *Sustainably Excellent*: Concordia invests its resources of time, talent, and treasure in wise and sustainable ways by empowering each faculty, staff, and student to live out their vocations and to support the ongoing excellence and fulfillment of the university's mission.
- *Courageously Loving*: At Concordia, all are called to love one another, forming a community that faithfully cultivates humility and responsibility, fosters honest and charitable conversations, and offers a path to personal growth that equips students for lives of service in a diverse world.
- *Relentlessly Hopeful*: Concordia is ever hopeful as it carries out its mission in the face of the world's challenges. Our hope is rooted in the confidence that God in Christ has reconciled the world to himself and that Christ is the Lord of all creation.

We are a university of the church. Your university.

Concordia University Irvine is one of the five universities of the Concordia University System (CUS) of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS). As the only CUS school west of the Rockies, we serve as a partner and resource to the schools and congregations of the Pacific Southwest District, the California-Nevada-Hawaii District, the Northwest District, the Rocky Mountain District, LCMS districts throughout the nation, and LCMS international affiliates such as The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and Westfield House in Cambridge, England (part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England).

Under the new CUS Ecclesiastical Accreditation guidelines set forth in the 2024 LCMS Synodical Convention, an ecclesiastical accreditation team visits each Concordia during the triennium between conventions. In January 2025, Concordia University Irvine was the first CUS school to undergo an ecclesiastical visit. Chief Mission Officer, Steve Mueller, in partnership with members of university leadership compiled the accreditation report that was submitted for review prior to the visit. During the three-day, in-person visitation, the ecclesiastical accreditation team met with 66 administrators, faculty representatives, staff, and students. The visitation team expressed appreciation for our hospitality, high regard for the consistency of Concordia's messaging, our focus on mission and identity, and our Enduring Questions and Ideas core curriculum. The team's formal written report announced the highest possible affirmation of Concordia University Irvine's ecclesiastical accreditation. The final report has been made public on the Concordia University System website and will be published as part of the formal reports for the upcoming Synodical Convention.

Concordia's Commitment to offering compelling and mission-aligned curricula

Church Work Programs

Concordia University Irvine continues to prepare workers to serve the Church through a wide variety of programs, including Director of Christian Education, Director of Parish Music, Pre-Seminary, Pre-Deaconness, and Teacher Education programs. Enrollment in our undergraduate Church Work programs is up substantially, including Pre-Seminary. Concordia University Irvine now has the largest DCE program of the Concordias. Additionally, Concordia Irvine is celebrating a 30 year partnership with Concordia Seminary, as we collectively train pastors for LCMS ordination in the Cross-cultural Ministry program. And we are committed to making affordable the pursuit of a Church Work major. Through our generous and faithful donors, Concordia Irvine offers every qualified undergraduate student who pursues LCMS Church Work the very same scholarship that is received by faculty and staff students, which for the 24-25 academic year was a **minimum** scholarship of \$34,000 annually.

New Academic Programs

Concordia's leadership, in partnership with the academic deans and faculty, have launched or approved several new, market-driven academic programs and emphases between 2023-2025:

- Master of Arts in Education: School Psychology
- Master of Arts in Education: Early Childhood
- Master of Science in Nursing: Family Nurse Practitioner
- Master of Arts in Counseling: Marriage, Couple & Family - *launching Fall 2025*
- Master of Business Administration: Managerial Science - *launching Fall 2025*
- Bachelor of Science in Data Science - *launching Fall 2025*
- Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media Studies - *launching Fall 2025*

Concordia University Irvine - Spectrum Campus™

In December of 2023, Concordia Irvine purchased a three-story, 114,000 sq. ft. campus building on 6.6 acres of land located in the Spectrum District of Irvine, the dynamic biotech and healthcare sector hub within the city. This purchase, financed by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, reflects Concordia's commitment to workforce development in Irvine and Orange County.

Healthcare Programs at Spectrum

The Spectrum Campus is home to the School of Health and Human Sciences, including our Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and our new MSN-Family Nurse Practitioner Program. The facilities include 20,000 sq. ft. of state-of-the-art nursing teaching space with high fidelity simulation labs and more than 60,000+ sq. ft. of additional classrooms, offices, workstations, and unique educational spaces that will serve the expansion of several other academic programs. In 2024, Concordia University

Irvine was awarded a \$5M grant by CalOptima to support underrepresented students who want to pursue a Nursing degree.

Engineering and Computer Science at Spectrum

In April of 2025, Concordia University Irvine received a signed pledge of \$5M to create the Swenson Family Foundation Center for Engineering and Computer Science. This remarkable gift will enable Concordia to build a cutting edge, immersive space for collaborative, hands-on Engineering and Computer Science education, including six dedicated labs occupying nearly 17,000 sq ft. This expansion will enable the offering of specific concentrations, including mechanical, materials science, and biomedical engineering and cybersecurity and robotics within computer science. Concordia Irvine aims to open these new labs in the Fall of 2027.

New Home of the Pacific Southwest District at Spectrum

The Pacific Southwest District Office now occupies 13,000 sq ft of space on the third floor of the Spectrum Campus, featuring large conference rooms, training facilities, and offices. The Spectrum Campus also has a dedicated worship space for weekly worship services. It is also home to St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine, who also leases spaces for administrative offices, Bible studies, and worship.

Nursing Campus in Rancho Cucamonga, CA

In spring 2024, Concordia opened a third campus in Rancho Cucamonga, CA that offers a hybrid Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) degree for the Inland Empire communities. Students complete much of their coursework online, and then come to the ABSN learning site during the week to attend in-person exams and to complete simulation labs.

Vision 2025 & Turtle Rock Campus Construction

The Turtle Rock Campus is the original campus for Concordia. And there is a lot happening at that location! Vision 2025 began during the summer 2024, and it features three major improvements to our campus that will greatly enhance the experience of our students and all who visit Concordia.

- 1) **CU Center for Worship & the Performing Arts** is both the spiritual and physical heart of the Turtle Rock Campus. With a seating capacity of only 485 seats and outdated acoustics, Concordia outgrew this iconic campus landmark, as we often host more than 500 faculty, staff, and students for worship on Friday morning and reach over-capacity audiences for many music performances.

The CU Center renovation is well underway and will increase the seating capacity to

just over 800. From chapel services and special speakers, to concert and theatrical performances, the renovations will allow for expanded size of our choral and instrumental ensembles, and provide enhanced acoustics, sound, and lighting for all events.

Improved sightlines and auditorium style seating will dramatically increase congregational and audience comfort, all while retaining the iconic profile of this beloved building. Reworked and newly created furnishings and religious art, as well as a rebuilt and enhanced Casavant organ, will create a beautiful setting for worship that testifies to the gracious work of God.

- 2) **The Golden Eagles Athletics Complex** is a two building configuration (combined 19,000 sq ft) that continues Concordia's promise to provide both the student body and the student-athletes with new facilities and resources that match their level of commitment to excellence. The field house will house nine field sports and will provide team facilities, training rooms, locker facilities, and public restrooms. The weight room and fitness center, which will constitute the second building, will provide a 5000 sq ft weight room that will be available for all students. Additionally, these new venues will greatly improve the guest experience for the loyal fans, friends, and family members who have supported Concordia teams for more than four decades, with permanent grandstands and a viewing-entertainment deck.
- 3) **Nelson Amphitheatre renovation** plans are still under development at the time of this writing, but we are eagerly working with an architect and builder to design a facility to serve our outdoor worship, theatre, and music needs. Stay tuned for more updates to come on this important facility.

Vision 2025 Philanthropy:

The Vision 2025 projects constitute \$50M in construction. Concordia Irvine endeavors to build new student amenities only when able to do so without incurring long-term indebtedness. To do so would only put the financial burden on students and families, undermining our commitment to offer an affordable, accessible Lutheran-Christian education. Thanks be to God that our faithful donors continue to support Concordia Irvine with unbelievable generosity. As of April of 2025, Concordia Irvine has raised \$47M in gifts and pledges towards the \$50M total. Thanks be to God!

An Exciting Marketing and Educational Strategy

One of the recurring challenges for Concordia University Irvine is the lack of brand awareness. While students, families, and alumni who know us, love us, too few people know about what Concordia Irvine offers in terms of a Lutheran Christian private education that develops the whole person to serve society and the church. To reach these potential students, a solid, well-developed marketing strategy is needed.

In February 2025, Concordia University Irvine proudly announced that we are the Founding Partner and Official Education Partner of OCVIBE, an expansive 100-acre sports, entertainment, and lifestyle district coming to Anaheim, CA in the heart of Orange County. OCVIBE will surround the Honda Center, home of the NHL Anaheim Ducks, with immersive entertainment experiences, including eclectic dining options, concerts, and nightlife, not found elsewhere in Orange County. In addition to aligning with OCVIBE, Concordia University Irvine is becoming the Official Education Partner of the Anaheim Ducks and Honda Center.

As the Official Education Partner, Concordia Irvine will develop innovative programs designed to enhance the educational journey of Concordia University Irvine students and will provide students with a dynamic environment to collaborate and learn within the heart of this cutting-edge district, including:

- Internships: Hands-on learning opportunities for students interested in careers in sports, business, hospitality, and entertainment.
- Speaker Series & Mentorships: Access to industry leaders and professionals, fostering valuable connections and real-world insights.
- Capstone Projects: Collaborative projects allowing students to apply their skills in meaningful, real-world scenarios.
- Onsite Cohorts: Utilizing dedicated space, we will provide learning opportunities on site.

With digital and physical signage throughout the OCVIBE complex and within the Honda Center, Concordia Irvine will greatly enhance our name recognition throughout OC, which will undoubtedly lead to more interest in our undergraduate and graduate offerings.

Higher Education at Concordia Irvine: Affordability and Fiscal Responsibility

Despite rising skepticism about the ROI of higher education, a college degree remains one of the best investments for long-term financial success. Degree holders consistently earn more over their lifetimes and enjoy greater job stability compared to those without a degree. While not all programs yield the same returns, the overall economic and personal benefits of higher education are substantial. This is doubly true for a Concordia Irvine degree in which we endeavor to prepare students for all their vocations in life to serve both society and the church.

Concordia Irvine's faculty and staff strive to offer degree programs that are both mission-aligned and connected to career pathways, and we are constantly adding, subtracting, and modifying our degree programs while remaining dedicated to providing a liberal arts based curriculum shaped by the 500 year old Lutheran educational tradition. Moreover, as an institution devoted to the holistic formation of each student, we are committed to offering an affordable and accessible residential

experience for students who desire a traditional four-year degree. And we offer a multitude of post-Baccalaureate and graduate programs for other students.

According to our recent academic accreditation review, Concordia Irvine does an exceptional job providing a relevant and engaging academic program to all these students, as we just received in 2025 the highest possible affirmation by WSCUC, our regional academic accreditor.

Despite these accolades, the higher education sector remains under financial strain. In April of 2025 the University of California system and the California State University system announced a freezing of all hiring and operational budgets in response to unprecedented financial uncertainties. The reasons are many, but can be categorized as uncertainty surrounding the state of the U.S. economy (e.g. potential recession, imposition of tariffs on global trade, cutting of federal grants to universities, increasing inflation, etc.), the budget deficits and inflation specific to the State of California (e.g. potential cutting of state support to universities, inflation related to wages, insurance, utilities, etc.), and the effects of the so-called “demographic cliff” (i.e. the dearth of high school graduates for the next several years as a result of depressed birth rates during the 2008 economic crisis).

Concordia Irvine is not immune from these pressures. In fact, as a private Lutheran university, we have the fiduciary responsibility to make at times very hard financial decisions because we, unlike the state universities, do not have a safety net of the state tax coffers. Despite our deep commitment to our mission, identity, and values, Concordia Irvine also operates fully in the left-hand kingdom governed by economic and fiscal realities, and we take that responsibility seriously as an agency of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. At times, the faculty and staff must make decisions that are difficult at the moment but set up Concordia University to thrive for our next 50 years.

Concordia University Irvine: 50 Years of Forming “Wise, Honorable, and Cultivated Citizens”

In 2026 Concordia University Irvine will celebrate our 50th anniversary. We happily invite you to put October 2026 on your calendar. While we will celebrate the entire year, that October, we will gather to “cut the ribbons” on the CU Center for Worship and the Performing Arts and the Golden Eagles Athletic Complex. That will be a great day in the history of the Lord’s work at this university, which he called into being those many years ago!

Pray for Us; Root for Us; Support Us

Concordia Irvine’s faculty and staff are honored to be in partnership with the churches and schools of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District! We want to support you in any

way that you need. Reach out to us with your ideas, questions, comments, and prayer requests. And we ask the same of you. Pray for us! Speak well of us and root us on! And support us as you are able. How you might ask? Introduce your students to us. Come visit our amazing, glorious campuses in Irvine. Give us a chance to put a financial aid package together, as you might be very pleasantly surprised. And help us identify LCMS faculty and staff who might be ready to serve the Lord through our ministry here at Concordia University Irvine!

We are deeply honored to be in this work together in partnership with all of you!

For His Students,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent part.

Michael Thomas, Ph.D.
President
Concordia University Irvine

2025 ROSTER OF COMMISSIONED MINISTERS - Active Status

DCE - Director of Christian Education

DEA - Deaconess

DFM - Director of Family Ministry

DPM - Director of Parish Music

A - Administrator

T - Teacher

M - Missionary

ECD - Early Childhood Director

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CNH District Commission Ministers - Roster Changes

Calls & Contacts Accepted 2022

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

Placements 2022

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

Change in Roster Status 2022

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

Removed from Roster 2022

None

Called to Glory 2022

Charles	Schlibe
Lydia	Schroeder

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

Calls & Contacts Accepted 2024

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

Placements 2024

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

Change in Roster Status 2024

None

Removed from Roster 2024

None

Called to Glory 2024

Joel	Koerschen	CNH Education Executive
Stephen	Dinger	

Convention Overtures

Overture #1-1

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

WHEREAS, there are well 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 and District 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 current in effect at this Convention on a trial basis; therefore, be it,

Resolved, that this process of having a preliminary advisory vote on appropriated, non-election, convention actions, as determined by the Chair, become 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

Overture #1-2

To Live Responsibly in God's Creation

WHEREAS, In concern for God's creation, Christians identify with all human suffering and pursue compassionate ways of social improvement to alleviate that suffering; and

WHEREAS, God told humans to be good stewards of his creation and its vast resources and riches for us to use wisely and enjoy for a full and abundant life; and

WHEREAS, Each human has chemical, mechanical, biological, psychological, mental, and spiritual dimensions, and any one dimension affects all the others; and

WHEREAS, God created everything "good", through the fall into sin humans have brought into the world the evil that impoverishes and defaces God's creation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the church call on all believers to be alert to the destructive nature of evil in the endless variety of forms in which it appears; and be it further

Resolved, That we dedicate ourselves to combating the evils of depersonalizing, demonizing, and dehumanizing any human being; and be it further

Resolved, That we pledge ourselves to work to restore and preserve the life-sustaining qualities of the air, the earth, and the water, as God created them; and be it further

Resolved, That we support all efforts to exercise wise stewardship over all the things God has made; and be it further

Resolved, That we call on the church, as a corporate entity, to use in responsible ways all channels open to it to influence other structures and institutions and sensitize them to the task of improving the quality of life at all levels of society; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage participation on the part of God's people, as individuals, congregations, circuits, districts, and the Synod, in prayer, personal involvement, service, and sacrifice directed toward the relief of troubles in our world and preventing the causes of these troubles; and be it further

Resolved, That the California-Nevada-Hawaii District submit this approved resolution to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for consideration at its next convention in the summer of 2026; and be it further

Resolved, That the CNH District-LCMS, meeting in convention May 15-17, 2025, in Sacramento, CA, ask its Human Care Committee to study these issues in more depth and try to develop resources, materials, and trainings to assist individuals, congregations, circuits, and the District to live responsibly in God's creation; and be it finally

45 *Resolved*, That the final two resolves of this approved resolution not be included in the
46 resolution sent to LCMS for its consideration.
47

48 Submitted by the Human Care Committee of the CNH District-LCMS
49

50
51 Rev Philip W. Zabell, Chair
52

53 Rev Ronald L. Arnold, Comm. Member

Overture #1-3

To Promote Lives of Christian Service

WHEREAS, By virtue of our Baptism into Jesus Christ, we are committed to his ministry; and

WHEREAS, The three articles of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds teach that God is concerned about humans in our whole being and is creating, redeeming, and sanctifying us for a life of service to him and our neighbor; and

WHEREAS, The church has only one ministry, centered in Word and Sacraments which centers Christians to serve God and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, God expects us to develop wholesome human relationships; and

WHEREAS, The mission and ministry of Jesus Christ, as proclaimed by the church, needs to be brought to all people in, with, under, by, and through our words and deeds; therefore be it

Resolved, That we affirm that the church has a single ministry to the whole person; and be it further

Resolved, That we commit ourselves to work for the restoration of all people to the full and abundant life God created us to have; and be it further

Resolved, That our words and deeds truly reflect the image of God in which we were created; and be it further

Resolved, That we pledge ourselves to the ongoing work for the elimination of poverty and hunger, which rob God's people of joy, peace, and hope; and be it further

Resolved, That we support those programs in public or private sectors that seek to eliminate the causes of poverty and hunger; that work towards the availability of effective medical care for all; that sensitize legal, social, financial, governmental, and educational structures to provide justice and fairness for all; and be it further

Resolved, That we support a system of values that places importance: on people rather than things; on the person rather than on programs; on humans rather than on means; on needs rather than on economics; and be it further

Resolved, That we support programs and leaders working for the elimination of racist, separatist, discriminatory, and bigoted attitudes that tear apart the human family; and be it further

Resolved, That we call on Christians to always be working for understanding and reconciliation in all areas of their life; and be it further

46 *Resolved*, That we encourage participation of God's people, as individuals,
47 congregations, circuits, districts, and the Synod, in prayer, personal involvement, service,
48 and sacrifice directed toward the relief of troubles in our world and preventing the causes
49 of these troubles; and be it further

50
51 *Resolved*, That the California-Nevada-Hawaii District submit this approved resolution to
52 the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for consideration at its next convention in the
53 summer of 2026; and be it further

54
55 *Resolved*, That the CNH District-LCMS, meeting in convention May 15-17, 2025, in
56 Sacramento, CA, ask its Human Care Committee to study these issues in more depth
57 and try to develop resources, materials, and trainings to assist individuals, congregations,
58 circuits, and the District to live lives of Christian service; and be it finally

59
60 *Resolved*, That the final two resolves of this approved resolution not be included in the
61 resolution sent to LCMS for its consideration.
62
63
64

65 Submitted by the Human Care Committee of the CNH District-LCMS

66
67 Rev Philip W. Zabell, Chair

68
69 Rev Ronald L. Arnold, Comm. Member
70
71

1 **Overture #1-4**

2 **To Establish a Stronger Framework for Connection and Collaboration**
3 **Between Regional Vice Presidents (RVPs), Circuit Visitors (CVs), and**
4 **Congregations in the CNH District**

5 WHEREAS, Many congregations across the CNH District struggle with engagement,
6 support, and trust in the district's resources and leadership; and

7 WHEREAS, The role of Regional Vice Presidents (RVPs) and Circuit Visitors (CVs) is to
8 serve as the frontline of connection, fostering trust and collaboration between
9 congregations and the district; and

10 WHEREAS, Establishing a structured, proactive approach to relationship-building and
11 resource-sharing can strengthen the perception of the district as a valuable and
12 approachable partner for congregations; therefore be it

13 *Resolved*, That the CNH District establish a structured strategy leveraging RVPs and
14 CVs as the primary relational connection between congregations and the district; and be
15 it further

16 *Resolved*, That the district define and communicate clear roles and expectations for
17 RVPs and CVs, positioning RVPs as relational initiators and CVs as local ongoing
18 support; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That a biannual RVP and CV strategy meeting be implemented to align
20 goals, share insights, and ensure consistency in messaging and support; and be it
21 further

22 *Resolved*, That the CNH District provide quarterly check-ins with RVPs and CVs for
23 feedback and to address emerging issues, strengthening ongoing relationships with
24 congregations; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, that the CNH District implement an Initial Connection and Relationship
26 Building plan whereby:

- 27 • RVPs initiate personalized outreach to congregations, conducting listening tours
28 to understand their unique needs and challenges.
29 • CVs follow up on initial outreach by RVPs, deepening relationships and providing
30 localized support through direct engagement; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the district develop a Resource Catalog highlighting coaching, church
32 planting support, leadership training, and community outreach strategies, ensuring
33 churches are aware of the resources available to them; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the CNH District launch quarterly workshops and webinars on relevant
 35 topics such as church revitalization, community engagement, and leadership
 36 development, available to all congregations; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the CNH District implement an early identification system for struggling
 38 churches by establishing a dashboard for monitoring church vitality indicators (e.g.,
 39 attendance trends, financial health, community engagement), with regular check-ins by
 40 RVPs and CVs to proactively address emerging challenges; and be it further

41 *Resolved*, That struggling congregations be classified into three levels of need—
 42 Encouragement Needed, Intervention Needed, and Revitalization Required—with
 43 customized action plans developed accordingly; and be it further

44 *Resolved*, That the CNH District encourage cross-congregational collaboration,
 45 including mentoring networks, shared mission initiatives, and pulpit/resource sharing, to
 46 strengthen relationships and reduce isolation among congregations; and be it further

47 *Resolved*, That the CNH District establish a consistent communication and feedback
 48 loop, including:

- 49 • An every other month RVP and CV newsletter highlighting success stories,
 50 resource updates, and upcoming events;
- 51 • A structured feedback mechanism for congregations to provide input and request
 52 district support; and be it further

53 *Resolved*, That the CNH District conduct quarterly strategy reviews to assess
 54 engagement levels, resource utilization, and effectiveness in building trust and
 55 collaboration between congregations and the district; and be it finally

56 *Resolved*, That this overture be adopted to ensure a stronger, more effective framework
 57 of connection and collaboration between RVPs, CVs, and congregations, enhancing the
 58 district's role as a supportive and engaged ministry partner.

59

60

Submitted by

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CNH District Board of Directors

Overture #1-5

To Encouraging Ministry Sabbaticals to Church Workers and Ministries

WHEREAS, Ministry Sabbaticals serve to bless both the church worker and the ministry; and

WHEREAS, The Word of God points to the command for Sabbath rest, (Genesis 2:3 Exodus 20:8-11; Leviticus 25:4ff); and

WHEREAS, Many Christian denominations strongly encourage pastors to take sabbaticals, recognizing the importance of periodic rest and renewal for sustained ministry effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, A Ministry Sabbatical is a structured time for spiritual reflection, study, personal development, and rest for church workers; and

WHEREAS, There is historical precedent in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod going back to the first Synod President, C.F. W. Walther, who in 1859 took much needed ministry sabbatical to be refreshed and renewed; and

WHEREAS, Walther’s example of returning with renewed energy and great productivity blessed the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, Currently we are seeing a decrease of seminary graduates, DCE and Lutheran School teachers available to fill a growing number of calls and a growing number of church workers retiring; and

WHEREAS, A ministry sabbatical is an investment in a local ministry to reinvigorate the ministry and the church worker, strengthening it for future ministry; and

WHEREAS, Ministry Sabbaticals can help church workers combat burnout, refresh their perspective, and return to ministry with renewed energy and focus; and

WHEREAS, Even some in the business world have recognized the benefit of offering sabbaticals to retain good workers. Sabbaticals can also enable retention and longer service in churches; and

WHEREAS, Since COVID in 2019 we have seen higher expectations placed on Church Workers with decreased participation and a steady decline in many places, leading to discouragement and burnout among current church workers; and

WHEREAS, The need to continually cultivate longevity among current church workers is beneficial to the whole church; Therefore, be it

35 *Resolved*, That ministries study the benefits of ministry sabbaticals on their workers;
36 and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the District provide a template for a Ministry Sabbatical Policy Guideline
38 for ministries to adapt and adopt to their circumstances; and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That ministries be encouraged to set aside funding regularly to support their
40 church workers in taking a sabbatical; and be it further

41 *Resolved*, That districts work together to put together a list of available grants and
42 scholarships which help provide necessary funding for a Ministry Sabbatical; and be it
43 finally

44 *Resolved*, That Districts avail themselves of available resources within the LCMS,
45 including those provided by LCEF (through Grace Place Wellness), to explore and
46 promote healthier church workers and healthier ministries.

47

48

49

Submitted By

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CNH District Board of Directors

1 **Overture #2-1**

2 **To Strengthen the Nonvoting Advisory Role of Commissioned**
3 **Ministers at Synodical Conventions**

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

9 WHEREAS, Ministers of Religion—Commissioned are considered Advisory Members at
10 District and Synodical Conventions, with a representative voice, but no vote, along with
11 other Ordained Ministers not eligible for selection as a voting delegate under Bylaws
12 3.1.2.1(c) (p. 101 of the 2023 Handbook) with a representative voice, but no vote at
13 District and Synod conventions; and

14 WHEREAS, Various LCMS Districts (Pacific Southwest, California—Nevada—Hawaii,
15 and Northern Illinois) have incorporated methods of hearing the guidance of
16 Commissioned Ministers at their Conventions using a non-counting advisory pre-vote,
17 with results broadcast to the convention, prior to regular delegate votes on appropriate,
18 non-election, convention actions, as determined by the Chair; and

19 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, has a legacy of promoting and
20 supporting the role of non-ordained, full-time church workers with the establishment of
21 Lutheran Colleges dating back to the 1800's, initially designed to train classroom
22 teachers, which has now been followed through the creating of specialized training
23 programs for other Commissioned ministry positions, as they have been established by
24 the Synod; therefore be it,

25 *Resolved*, That the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, develop a similar process
26 practiced by several LCMS District Conventions by which the voice of representative
27 Advisory Commissioned Ministers be used during Synod Convention Business,
28 incorporating a process of a non-binding vote, with results broadcast to the convention,
29 prior to regular delegate votes on appropriate, non-election, convention actions, as
30 determined by the Chair, and; be it finally,

31 *Resolved*, That this action be memorialized to the 2028 LCMS Convention.

32
33
34 Submitted by

35 CNH District Board of Directors

Overture #2-2

To Support and Clarify the Prior Approval Process

Rationale

Since the 2013 Convention, appointments to theological faculties at all universities and seminaries, as well as all college, university, and seminary presidential appointments, have been subject to the prior approval process. While the convention in 2013 amended the bylaws to delegate the responsibility for prior approval to specific groups (see bylaws referenced below) the bylaws did not, and still do not, stipulate how the process of prior approval should be carried out. Over time this has led to questions as to the standards used to evaluate candidates as well as the process utilized by the prior approval panels. In the hopes of building trust and relieving any undue criticism of the panels and the process, the following overture aims to increase transparency for the process and standards used by the panels as well as ensuring clear communication between the panels, the candidates, and the Synod.

Resolution

WHEREAS, one of the expressed purposes of Synod is to “recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth” (Art. III.3); and

WHEREAS, Synod has the responsibility to oversee that training; and

WHEREAS, Synod has designated that responsibility to the prior approval panels outlined in various bylaws (3.6.6.1, 3.10.5.7.3, 3.10.6.8.2, 3.10.6.9.2); and

WHEREAS, those panels have responsibility not only to work in behalf of the Synod but also are responsible to the Synod; and

WHEREAS, those under consideration for theological professorships and other such positions as require prior approval have ordinarily been ordained into the Office of Holy Ministry or have been commissioned and/or consecrated into an auxiliary office of the Church; and

WHEREAS, those under consideration for aforementioned positions have also been examined and approved for service on the roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, those individual members of Synod have, by virtue of their membership in the Synod, agreed to the confessional basis as outlined in Art. II, as well as recognize and affirm the validity of Bylaws 1.6–1.8; therefore be it

Resolved, That the District in convention give thanks to the Lord of the Church for using the Synod and its agencies to preserve and enlarge the workers of the harvest; and be it further

Resolved, That District in convention give thanks to those engaged in the various prior approval processes for being engaged in difficult and important work; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to do the
2 same; and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That District in convention memorialize the Synod to require that process used
4 by the various panel to carry out the responsibility entrusted to it by the Synod be made
5 transparent and publicly available; and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That District in convention memorialize the Synod to stipulate that unless those
7 under consideration by the prior approval panels are found to be in violation of their
8 ordination, commissioning, consecration, or installation vows that their approval be
9 assumed; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to stipulate
11 that if those under consideration are thought to be in violation, that the candidate be given
12 every opportunity to clarify their position to the panel; and be it finally

13 *Resolved*, That District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to stipulate
14 that if such a violation be found that the panel would, with the appropriate District
15 President as that individual's ecclesiastical supervisor, engage in the appropriate
16 processes to restore the erring brother or sister so that one deemed unworthy to teach at
17 one of the Synod's institutions not be permitted to remain on the roster or serve a
18 congregation and thus lead that congregation to err or become out of step with Synod.

19
20
21 Submitted by

22 Circuit #7 CNH District

Overture #2-3

To Condemn the Stone Choir Podcast (v.2)

WHEREAS, Two individuals began releasing episodes of the *Stone Choir* podcast on October 19, 2022 to tackle issues relevant to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that, in their judgment, the pastors and leadership of the LCMS were not addressing, leaving them to function as “the very stones” who must “cry out” because the clergy are silent (Luke 19:40); and

WHEREAS, These issues on which the pastors and leadership of the LCMS are accused by the *Stone Choir* hosts of remaining silent include the ostensible necessity of the reintroduction of racial segregation; the ostensible sinfulness of interracial marriage; the ostensibly pernicious nature of the Jewish race today; and the ostensibly fictitious nature of the Jewish Holocaust perpetrated by the National Socialists during World War II; and

WHEREAS, None of *Stone Choir’s* positions on these aforementioned issues are taught in Holy Scripture, and indeed their positions on these issues cause great offense to many Christians of good will; and

WHEREAS, The *Stone Choir* hosts are active on Twitter/X, and *Stone Choir* listeners are likely to be influenced not only by what they teach on the *Stone Choir* podcast, but also by what they post on Twitter/X; and

WHEREAS, On Twitter/X, the hosts, among other outrageously offensive behaviors, openly praise Adolf Hitler, call for the deportation of Jews, Muslims, and Blacks from the United States, and condemn as sin the practice of interracial marriage and adoption, causing great offense to Christian consciences; and

WHEREAS, Through their activity on the *Stone Choir* podcast and on Twitter/X, the hosts have sought to associate confessional Lutheranism with devotion to Adolf Hitler, opposition to the Jewish race, and a desire for segregation of Blacks from White society; and

WHEREAS, The hosts of *Stone Choir* have publicly denounced all pastors of the LCMS as “either apostate or derelict” and on their podcast and on Twitter/X have attempted to turn their listeners against their pastors; and

WHEREAS, the hosts of the *Stone Choir* podcast are not currently active members of any LCMS congregation and are therefore beyond the reach of church discipline; therefore be it

Resolved, That the California-Nevada-Hawaii District in Convention publicly condemn the *Stone Choir* podcast and its hosts for the offense they cause by their public devotion to Adolf Hitler, their stirring up of antipathy toward our Jewish and Black neighbors, their denunciation as sin of that which God has not called sin, and their open hostility toward the pastors and leadership of the LCMS; and be it further

47
48 *Resolved*, That the laity of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District be warned against the
49 *Stone Choir* podcast and its hosts, and that the pastors of the California-Nevada-Hawaii
50 District be encouraged to admonish members of their congregations whose approval of
51 *Stone Choir* and its hosts has become known; and be it further

52
53 *Resolved*, That pastors of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District who are found to be
54 promoting the *Stone Choir* podcast or its hosts be brought under a disciplinary process
55 by their ecclesiastical supervisor for the offense they cause thereby; and be it further

56
57 *Resolved*, That qualified pastors and teachers of the LCMS be encouraged to continue
58 to examine the claims and teachings of the *Stone Choir* podcast according to the norm of
59 the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, demonstrating from clear and firm
60 testimonies of the same how the *Stone Choir* podcast is in error; and be it finally

61
62 *Resolved*, that the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn the *Stone Choir*
63 podcast and its hosts and followers, to take action against pastors who promote the same,
64 and to repent of the sins for which God has allowed *Stone Choir* and its followers to arise
65 within the LCMS.

66
67
68
69 Submitted by;

70
71 Circuit #4, Sacramento
72 Circuit #19, East Sacramento
73

1 **Overture #3-1**

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

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

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

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

17
18 WHEREAS, the District Secretary working with the District Committee on Constitutional
19 Matters (DCCM) has reviewed the report of the Synod CCM and has made many of the
20 changes recommended by that committee as current time restraints allowed; and

21
22 WHEREAS, The CNH District Secretary has submitted its recommendations to the CNH
23 District Board of Directors (BOD) and these recommendations have been approved by
24 the Board; therefore be it

25
26 *Resolved*, That the Voting Delegates of the 2025 CNH District Convention approve the
27 accompanying changes recommended by the DCCM and approved by the CNH District
28 BOD and direct that they be incorporated into the Bylaws of the CNH District by the
29 District Secretary and; be it further

30
31 *Resolved*, That the District CCM, District Secretary and the District Board of Directors
32 continue working to resolve the remaining issues with the CNH Bylaws as suggested in
33 Synod's CCM report and; be it finally

34
35 *Resolved*, That the CNH District BOD will present its report concerning the resolution of
36 the remaining issues to the next CNH District Convention.
37

38
39
40 Submitted by
41 CNH District Board of Directors

Revised
May 7th
2022
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 of the Synod is also the constitution of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District. The Bylaws of the Synod shall be primarily the bylaws of the District. Both the Bylaws of the Synod and those of the District serve the Gospel mission and ministry of the Lord.

ARTICLE III STRUCTURE OF THE DISTRICT

III.A. The Board of Directors

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

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

3. The District Board of Directors shall:

a. As a primary function, generate and adopt declarations of desired outcomes which will give long-term direction to the District and its President, staff, and committees.

b. In addition to generating and adopting declarations of desired outcomes, address broad levels of issues in policies of purpose and governance or constraints, leaving lesser levels to the discretion of the District President.

c. Through the District President, and he through his staff and the District Committees, coordinate the work of the District in accordance with the District Mission Statement, the Bylaws of the Synod, the Bylaws of the District, the District Convention Resolutions, and the declarations of desired outcomes.

d. Except for assignments of its own work (policies) to committees, consultants, or officers, delegate authority only to the District President.

e. Provide for an annual audit of the records of the District in such manner directed by the Synod and in accordance with its own policies.

f. Provide for and oversee the bonding of all District fiscal officers and employees entrusted with the receiving and disbursing of funds, such bonds to be provided by a licensed bonding agency at District expense.

g. Be empowered to review all activities of the District and its committees, and make binding decisions affecting them; this review may include, but is not limited to, the leadership, membership, purpose, or functions of any activity or Committee.

h. Approve or disapprove the annual District Budget which the District President shall present.

i. Be the authority to create and abolish Called positions and act as the Calling body on behalf of the District. The administrative details, including preparation of Call documents, may be delegated to the District President.

j. Respond in a timely manner to any formal concern related to the Board's area of responsibility addressed to it by the President, Board members, committees authorized by the Bylaws or the Board, Circuit Forums, Circuit Pastors' Conferences, or Congregations of the District or organizations that are ancillary to the District or Synod..

k. Appoint District Reconcilers as prescribed in the Synod Constitution and Bylaws.

l. Be the custodian of all property, records, and legacies of the District.

m. Establish and provide for the maintenance of a headquarters called the District Office, which shall be the official address of the District. All official records of the District shall be kept at the District Office; any exceptions shall require approval of the Board of Directors.

n. Present reports of its actions at all District Conventions and, if desired, propose recommendations for consideration by the District Convention.

o. Be responsible to the District for its actions and the actions of all District Officers, Committees, agents, and employees.

4. Members of the Board of Directors shall not serve as Chairs of District Committees; nor serve as members of the Nominating Committee; nor be on the District payroll.

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

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

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

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

d. Serve as Chair of the Board of Directors.

2. The Regional Vice Presidents shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

III.D. The Regional Directors

The Regional Directors shall:

a. Be lay persons.

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

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

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

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

III.E. Director-Commissioned Minister

The Director-Commissioned Minister shall:

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

b. Be elected at the regular Convention.

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

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

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

203 The District Secretary shall:

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

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

231 The Treasurer shall:

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

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

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

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

IV.B. Representation at Board of Directors Meetings

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

IV.C. Mandated Committees

1. MISSION

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

2. HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES

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

b. This Committee shall:

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

3. STEWARDSHIP

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

b. This Committee shall:

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

4 CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

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

b. This Committee shall:

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

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

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

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

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

5. **HISTORICAL/ARCHIVAL COMMITTEE**

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

b. This Committee shall:

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

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

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

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

6. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

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

b. This Committee shall:

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

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

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

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

7. **HISPANIC COUNCIL**

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

b. This Committee shall:

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

IV.D. Special Committees

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

ARTICLE V DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

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

V.A. Delegates

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

V.B. Committee Appointments

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

V.C. Convention ~~Manual~~ Workbook

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

483 484 **V.E. Proceedings**

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

490 1.

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

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

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

500

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

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

- 505
- 506 1. The term of office for all officers of the District shall be for three years.
- 507
- 508 2. The term of office for the President, First Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Circuit Visitors shall
509 be without limitation to reelection. All other positions shall have a limitation of two successive terms. More
510 than one-half of a term shall be considered a full term under limited tenure.
- 511

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

- 513
- 514 Nominations for the Offices of President and First Vice-President shall be made in the following manner:
- 515 a. The Secretary of the District shall mail nominating ballots to each voting congregation no later than
516 eight (8) months prior to the Convention.
- 517
- 518 b. Each voting congregation of the District is entitled to nominate two Ministers of Religion - Ordained
519 from the roster of the Synod as candidates for the office of District President and two Ministers of
520 Religion – Ordained from the roster of the District as candidates for the office of First Vice-President.
- 521
- 522 c. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by two officers of the voting congregation and shall be
523 returned to the Secretary of the District no later than six months prior to the opening date of the
524 Convention.
- 525
- 526 d. The Secretary of the District shall tabulate nominations and report the names of all clergy receiving
527 three or more nominations in the ~~Convention Manual~~ Workbook.
- 528
- 529 e. From the pool of those clergy receiving three or more nominations, the ~~Candidates~~ candidates for
530 President and 1st Vice-President shall be the five receiving the highest number of nominating ballots
531 from the congregations. In the event of a tie for the fifth position among the candidates, all names
532 involved in the tie shall be listed as candidates, as prescribed by the Synod Constitution and Bylaws.
- 533
- 534 ~~f. Candidates for First Vice President shall be the five receiving the highest number of nominating~~
535 ~~ballots from the congregations. In the event of a tie for the fifth position among the candidates, all~~
536 ~~names involved in the tie shall be listed as candidates.~~
- 537

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

539

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

544

545 **VI.E. Teller Committee**

546

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

549 **1.Election Procedure**

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

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

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

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

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

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

563 1. Election of the President

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

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

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

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

575
576 3. Election of the First Vice President
577

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

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

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

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

589
590 4. Election of the Regional Vice Presidents and Regional Directors
591

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VI.G. Ballots

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

VI.H Records of Elections

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

VI.I Procedures and Methods

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

.

650 **VI.J. Vacancies**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

697
698
699 **ARTICLE VII**

700 **REGIONS, CIRCUITS AND CIRCUIT FORUMS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VIII.C. Amendment by Synod Action.

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

VIII.D. Publication of Bylaw Revisions

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

Overture #3-2

To Establish a CNH Disaster Response Committee

Rationale:

When it comes to disasters it is not a matter of if, but when. While it is not possible to know the details of any given disaster beforehand, there are certain general preparations which can be initiated.

Our LORD, Jesus, the Christ, has commissioned us to bring Good News to this fallen creation (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 20:21-23; Acts 1:8). When words are accompanied by actions (Micah 6:8; James 1:23, 27; 2:8, 15-16, 18, 22, 26; 3:13, 17; Galatians 5:13) they become an effective means by which the Holy Spirit can bring Good News to those in need of hearing it.

Our Synodical motto is "Witness, Mercy, Life Together." When a disaster strikes an individual or community all three are needed. We give witness to the One whom we call LORD as we show God's mercy to the survivors and our lives are joined together in showing that mercy through the Christian actions Jesus, the Christ, describes in Matthew 25: 35-40.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 provides us with the image of how valuable it is to find ways to multiply our resources by working together. This is true especially when it comes to disaster response as disasters impact all in a community.

A District Disaster Response Committee would not only streamline the CNH District's response for assistance and grants but would also allow the CNH District to cover nominal costs for the Committee through the interest on Donations/Deposits up to 3 percent for relief expenses. The responsibilities of this Committee can be developed by the initial Committee with assistance and support from the CNH District President and/or staff.

Among the items the initial Committee might consider are:

- 1) Development of a written disaster plan for the District Ministry Center in Livermore
- 2) Development of a District-wide disaster plan connecting the District congregations
- 3) Identifying and developing a list of resources available whenever a disaster occurs
- 4) Holding quarterly meetings to ensure all plans are up to date
- 5) Developing quarterly exercises in coordination with the DDRC involving the District Circuits.

The purpose of these exercises would be to maintain proficiency and discover any anomalies needing attention. They would also provide an opportunity to keep the congregations alert to the need for disaster preparedness along with encouragement for the congregation to gather items which can be of help to disaster survivors.
(blankets/quilts, cleaning materials, diapers, personal hygiene items, storage tubs)

Resolution:

WHEREAS, with respect to both man-made and natural disasters it's not a matter of if but when; and

WHEREAS, it is not possible to know the details of any given disaster beforehand but there are certain general preparations which can be initiated; therefore be it

Resolved, that the CNH District in convention establish a Disaster Response Committee of at least 5 and up to 7 members which can consist of the CNH DDRC as well as a one pastor, one teacher, and the District Treasurer. Additional members to consider are a communications specialist using amateur radio, law enforcement personnel, fire fighters, nurses, EMTs, or people with a social work background.

Submitted by

Rev Philip W Zabell, KI6SMN
District Disaster Response Coordinator,
Circuit Visitor, Circuit 12,
Rev Brian Cummins