



# TODAY'S BUSINESS

## South Wisconsin District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

57<sup>th</sup> Convention | June 9-10, 2025

Monday – Issue #1

June 9, 2025

### WELCOME

We welcome all delegates, honored guests, and visitors to the 2025 South Wisconsin District Convention. We pray that the Lord of the Church would bless you and your service to Him during these days as we honor His Name and pray that His kingdom may be advanced.

### OUR SITE HOST

We praise God for the fine facilities and helpful staff of Concordia University Wisconsin who have contributed greatly to the preparation for this convention. If you have facility needs that require attention, please let us know.

### SPECIAL STANDING RULES

The Special Standing Rules for the convention are printed on page 3. Please familiarize yourself with them as they will facilitate the handling of the convention's business and will be presented for adoption at the first session of the convention.

### SCHEDULE

An up-to-date agenda for the convention can be found on pages 5-6 of TODAY'S BUSINESS. Please refer to it for further information on the times of convention events and their locations.

### WELCOME CENTER

The Welcome Center in the Field House lobby is able to answer general questions about the convention, give directions, and assist in finding other delegates. They will also be able to assist you in finding your seat on the convention floor.

### WORSHIP & OUR HOST CONGREGATION

Worship folders will be made available / distributed at the entrance to the Chapel of Christ Triumphant for each service.

The host congregation for the closing service is St. John Lutheran Church, Fredonia.

### COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The Communications Center is located in Room F017 (southwest of the meeting room). If you need to reach someone at the convention, please come to the Communications Center so we can assist you.

The Communications Center is responsible for the duplication and distribution of **ALL** materials for the convention. Please stop by if you need something distributed or duplicated.

*No material may be distributed at the convention without authorization.*



**James Imaging Systems** has graciously provided for our printing and duplication services. Headquartered in Brookfield, James Imaging Systems has provided innovative document imaging and printing solutions for over 40 years. We thank them for their assistance.

## **SPECIAL WELCOME**

We extend special greetings and thanks to:

- Rev. Dr. Donald Fondow, President Emeritus of the Minnesota North District (*Chaplain*);
- Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, President of the Concordia University System (*Parliamentarian*);
- Dr. Adam Francisco, Director of Academics at 1517 (*Essayist*);
- Dr. Erik Ankerberg, President of Concordia University Wisconsin;
- Rev. Peter Lange, First Vice President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
- Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe, Sixth Vice President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
- Rev. Dr. Ross Shaver, Church Planter and Educator for the LCMS Office of International Mission – Latin America (Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission);
- Rev. Dr. Eric Kennaugh, Vice President of Ministry Solutions at Lutheran Church Extension Fund;
- Dr. James Sanft, President & CEO of Concordia Plan Services;
- Mrs. Cinda Poppe, President of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (SWD); and
- Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, President of the North Wisconsin District.

## **THANK YOU**

Thanks to Mr. Christopher Rowan and Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) for the backpacks made available to voting and advisory delegates. We thank them for their support and continued partnership.

## **EXHIBITOR LIST**

A listing of exhibitors and a map of locations has been printed at the end of this issue of TODAY'S BUSINESS (page 29). Please take advantage of the opportunity to view their products and services.

## **YOUR CONSIDERATION IS REQUESTED**

Because the exhibit areas are near the convention floor, please be considerate of the delegates and speakers by keeping conversation to a minimum in the exhibit area while the convention is in session. You may visit outside!

## **NOMINATION AND CONSENT FORM**

A Consent and Biographical Information for District Nomination form has been printed at the end of this issue of TODAY'S BUSINESS (page 31) for your convenience.

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**SPECIAL STANDING RULES**

- 1) The Chair shall see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
- 2) During the final morning of the convention, the President shall have the privilege of calling up for action those resolutions which in his judgment must be acted upon before adjournment.
- 3) Resolutions that are not acted upon by the convention before adjournment die. The subject matter may be reintroduced to the next convention by an overture.
- 4) Minutes from Session I shall be distributed in *Today's Business* #2 on Tuesday morning and the minutes from Session II shall be distributed for approval during the third session. Only corrections to the minutes involving convention actions shall be offered from the floor for consideration. Editorial corrections addressing misspellings of names or faulty references, or titles should be provided in writing to the Secretary for incorporation into the minutes. The exception shall be the minutes from Session III, which shall be approved by the Board of Directors at its first meeting following the convention.
- 5) Resolutions shall be prioritized by floor committees and normally shall be presented to the convention in numerical sequence.
- 6) The preface, preamble, rationale, and WHEREAS sections shall be regarded as integral parts of resolutions and therefore subject to the same consideration and adoption as the main motion.
- 7) Delegates wishing to address the convention, when recognized by the Chair, shall state their name and the name and city of the congregation or other entity they represent.
- 8) During debate, the two-minute rule for speaking to the motion shall apply to the floor committee and to all who speak from the floor. The two-minute rule also will apply to all speaking from the floor for any reason unless prior permission has been received from the Chair.
- 9) A delegate who speaks on an issue may not move to call the question at the close of his or her speech.
- 10) Whenever possible, amendments to proposed resolutions and substitute resolutions shall be submitted to *Today's Business* for publication prior to convention consideration of the resolutions to which they pertain. When this is not possible, as in the course of a discussion, a written copy of proposed amendments shall be provided to the Secretary prior to its being offered from the floor.
- 11) THE BEHNKEN RULE: If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter shall be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for offering it, after which the convention shall decide by majority vote without debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and if the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails. If the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again considered.
- 12) While any voting member may call the question at any time, the question shall be called by the Chair after every 10 minutes of debate on any motion. The Chair may also call for a vote on the close of debate (2/3 majority required) when in his judgment the assembly has heard sufficient speaking from both sides of the issue.
- 13) If a resolution/overture is brought up from the floor, by a delegate who has the right to propose such, that proposed resolution/overture will be submitted in writing to the secretary of the convention; after which it will be submitted to the appropriate floor committee for review, after which it may then be brought to the convention floor for consideration.
- 14) In order to promote an orderly and non-distracting convention atmosphere, the following shall apply to the use, and area of use, of electronic equipment, including wired and wireless communication devices, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, smart watches, pagers, PDAs, or other similar electronic devices. In all cases where use is permitted, the sound-producing capabilities of such devices shall not be used. Except as approved by convention staff, personal extension cords shall not be allowed on the convention floor.

	Type of Usage Permitted in Designated Area		
	Voice	Electronic Communications including email, text, and social media messaging, <i>e.g.</i> , laptops, tablets, pagers, PEDs, smart phones, wearable technology including smart watches and like devices.	Laptop computers, tablets with communications disabled ( <i>i.e.</i> , Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Cellular, and Infrared communications turned off or in airplane mode.)
Voting and Advisory Delegates & Representatives Areas	No	No	Yes
BOD, Press, Special Guests Areas	No	Yes	—
Visitors, Back Seating Area	No	Yes	—
Convention Staff, All Areas	Yes	Yes	—

Unless covered by these Special Standing Rules, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

AGENDA

57<sup>th</sup> Convention of the South Wisconsin District  
The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod

Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon | June 9-10, 2025

*All events take place in the Field House unless otherwise noted.*

MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Registration (*Friends of Concordia Room*)

SESSION I – 1:00 to 5:30 p.m.

1:00 - 1:05 p.m.	Opening prayer – Rev. Dr. Donald Fondow, MNN President Emeritus
1:05 - 1:10 p.m.	In Memoriam + Rev. Dr. John C. Wille
1:10 - 1:15 p.m.	Opening gavel – Rev. Eric Skovgaard, SWD President
1:15 - 1:20 p.m.	Welcome to Concordia University Wisconsin – Dr. Erik Ankerberg, President
1:20 - 1:25 p.m.	Convention Committee – Rev. William Kilps
1:25 - 1:30 p.m.	Adoption standing rules – Rev. Eric Skovgaard
1:30 - 1:35 p.m.	Adoption of convention agenda – Rev. Eric Skovgaard
1:35 - 1:50 p.m.	Committee on Constitutional Matters – Rev. Christian Gugel (Introduction of pastors and delegates from new congregations since 2022)
1:50 - 2:00 p.m.	Committee 1 – Nominations: Floor nominations for various offices
2:00 - 2:15 p.m.	Committee 5 – Elections: Ballot for the Office of District President
2:15 - 3:15 p.m.	Synod report (part one) – Rev. Peter Lange, First Vice President of the LCMS

BREAK

*(Please take this time to stretch your legs, grab a refreshment, and visit our exhibitors.)*

3:40 - 4:25 p.m.	Essayist – Dr. Adam Francisco, Director of Academics at 1517
4:25 - 4:45 p.m.	Committee 2 – Administration & Constitutional Matters
4:45 - 5:05 p.m.	Committee 5 – Elections: Ballot for the Offices of Vice President and ranking
5:05 - 5:10 p.m.	Committee 8 – Minutes & Report of the Board of Directors
5:10 - 5:30 p.m.	Committee 6 – Miscellaneous
5:30 p.m.	Closing prayer – Rev. Dr. Donald Fondow

DINNER

*(Dinner will be served in the Siebert Dining Hall.)*

7:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer & Commemoration of the Faithful Departed ( <i>Chapel of Christ Triumphant</i> ) Preacher: Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe, Sixth Vice President of the LCMS
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**TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025**

7:45 a.m. Registration (*Friends of Concordia Room*)

SESSION II – 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

8:00 - 8:05 a.m. Opening prayer – Rev. Dr. Donald Fondow  
8:05 - 8:30 a.m. Synod report (part two) – Rev. Peter Lange  
8:30 - 8:50 a.m. Committee 5 – Elections  
8:50 - 9:00 a.m. Committee 3 – Parish Education  
9:00 - 9:10 a.m. Special Guest: Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission – Rev. Dr. Ross Shaver  
9:10 - 9:20 a.m. Committee 4 – Missions  
9:20 - 9:30 a.m. Committee 2 – Administration & Constitutional Matters

**BREAK**

*(Please take this time to stretch your legs, grab a refreshment, and visit our exhibitors.)*

9:55 - 10:05 a.m. Approval of minutes from Session I  
10:05 - 10:25 a.m. SWD President's report – Rev. Eric Skovgaard  
10:25 - 10:35 a.m. Business report – Mr. Paul Reske, Business Manager  
10:35 - 10:55 a.m. Mission and Mercy report – Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, Executive Assistant to the President  
10:55 - 11:15 a.m. Schools, Youth and Family report – Dr. Christopher Cody, Executive Assistant to the President  
11:15 - 12:00 p.m. Essayist – Dr. Adam Francisco  
12:00 p.m. Closing prayer – Rev. Dr. Donald Fondow

**LUNCH**

*(Lunch will be served in the Siebert Dining Hall.)*

SESSION III – 1:30 to 3:45 p.m.

1:30 p.m. Opening prayer – Rev. Dr. Donald Fondow  
1:30 - 1:40 p.m. Committee 2 – Administration & Constitutional Matters  
1:40 - 1:50 p.m. Committee 5 – Elections  
1:50 - 2:35 p.m. Essayist – Dr. Adam Francisco  
2:35 - 2:40 p.m. LCEF report – Mr. Christopher Rowan, LCEF District Vice President  
2:40 - 2:50 p.m. Special Guest: Lutheran Church Extension Fund – Rev. Dr. Eric Kennaugh, VP Ministry Solutions  
2:50 - 2:55 p.m. Special Guest: Concordia Plan Services – Dr. James Sanft, President & CEO  
2:55 - 3:00 p.m. Special Guest: Lutheran Women's Missionary League SWD – Mrs. Cinda Poppe, President  
3:00 - 3:10 p.m. Special Guest: Concordia University Wisconsin – Dr. Erik Ankerberg, President  
3:10 - 3:30 p.m. Unfinished business  
3:30 - 3:40 p.m. Approval of minutes from Session II  
3:40 p.m. Announcements, closing gavel, and closing prayer  
4:00 p.m. Divine Service & Installation of Officers (*Chapel of Christ Triumphant*)  
Preacher: Rev. Eric Skovgaard

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE WORKBOOK

Late Overture 6-06

**To defend and support the faithful service of Dr. Erik Ankerberg and the Board of Concordia University Wisconsin and Concordia Ann Arbor**

**Whereas**, the Word of God admonishes the church to “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ... Repay no one evil for evil but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ...If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God” (Romans 12:9a, 10, 17a, 18, 19a) and,

**Whereas**, the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment teaches, “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.” And we learn in *Luther’s Small Catechism* that this means, “We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.”<sup>1</sup>; and

**Whereas**, the Grand Rapids Northeast Circuit, Grand Rapids Southwest Circuit, Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Lansing, MI and Trinity Lutheran Church, Muskegon, MI have submitted overture 3-04 to the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod titled: A Call for Concordia University Wisconsin Ann Arbor Leadership to Accountability and Repentance; and

**Whereas**, the University’s Administration, under the guidance of the Board of Regents can document frequent and ongoing communications with Synod, districts, and other agencies of the church regarding the recent challenges at the Concordia University Wisconsin Campus at Ann Arbor; therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the South Wisconsin District Pastors’ Conference meeting in La Crosse, WI May 12-14, 2025, respectfully request the Michigan District to withdraw overture 3-04 from their workbook and refrain from furthering these falsehoods at the Synod Convention; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the South Wisconsin District President request that the Michigan District President correct the false claims made by the Grand Rapids Northeast Circuit, Grand Rapids Southwest Circuit, Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Lansing, MI and Trinity Lutheran Church, Muskegon, MI; and be it finally

**Resolved**, that both Districts be encouraged to support the faithful and thankless work of those who serve faithfully on our behalf in all capacities at CUW/CUAA and that all thanks be to God for those who are blessed by their work.

*Adopted by the South Wisconsin District Pastors’ Conference on May 14, 2025.*

<sup>1</sup> Luther. (2017). [\*Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation\*](#) (p. 110). Concordia Publishing House.

**ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE WORKBOOK**

**The President's Official Report on District Membership Statistics**

*through May 31, 2025*

**DEACONESS ENTERING DISTRICT**

BAKKER, Anne – Candidate, 8/7/24

**PASTORS DECEASED**

MYERS, Larry 5/27/25

**ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE WORKBOOK**

**Voting Delegates by City and Congregation**

<b>CITY</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>	<b>CIR/RE</b>	<b>DELEGATE</b>
ELKHART LAKE	GRACE	12/NE	Dennis Price
MADISON (MONONA)	OUR SAVIOR DEAF	19/W	Richard Belling
ONALASKA	SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS	19/W	Rev. David Baumgarn
RACINE	PRINCE OF PEACE	26/SE	Rev. Christopher Lockie Todd Gretebeck
	TRINITY	26/SE	Rev. Stephen Jennings Harley Dell
SHEBOYGAN (WILSON) / WALDO	TRINITY / ST. THOMAS	10/NE	Drew Heiden
SUSSEX	PEACE	05/CE	Randy Kirk
WEST SALEM	PRINCE OF PEACE	17/W	Michael Dosland
WALES	BETHLEHEM	21/SE	Rev. Aaron Boerst Ross Johnson



LIST OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

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**Note:** The Floor Committees and Chairmen are listed on page 12 of the Convention Workbook.

**RESOLUTION 2-01**

Overture 2-05 [Convention Workbook, p.28]

**To Amend District Bylaw 1.25(b) Vacancies**

**Whereas** the current bylaw 1.25(b) is unclear regarding the process of “in consultation with” and the composition of “elected representatives of the region.” Therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that bylaw 1.25b be amended to read:

~~Present~~/Proposed Wording

1.25 Vacancies

b. If a vice-president for any reason shall leave office, the vacancy shall be filled by the district President ~~in~~ after consultation with elected representatives of the region, namely, circuit visitors, and the district Board of Directors. The appointed vice-president shall be last in line of succession.

**RESOLUTION 2-02**

*Submitted by the Floor Committee on May 31, 2025*

**To Amend South Wisconsin District Bylaw 1.45**

**Whereas** in 2020, The President of the South Wisconsin District, Reverend Doctor John Wille, requested the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters review District Bylaw 1.45, regarding the District Committee on Constitutional Matters, and

**Whereas** the Commission offered the following opinion regarding his questions:

“Question 1: Considering the specific charge of a district Constitution Committee (Synod Bylaw sections 2.2 and 2.4), and that the Bylaws provide otherwise for handling controversies within a congregation through ecclesiastical supervision (Bylaw 4.4.6), and that Synod is purely advisory to congregations in regard to matters of self-government (Const. Art. VII), is it consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod for a district Constitution Committee to be authorized to render opinions as indicated above?

Opinion: No. A district constitution committee giving an opinion interpreting the constitution or bylaws of a congregation is not so authorized by the Bylaws 2.2.1 and 2.4.1 of the Synod. Even if a congregation were to have specifically included in its constitution or bylaws a provision for requesting such an interpretation from the district Constitution Committee and had, as a congregation, requested such, any opinion rendered would be without authority so far as the Synod or district are concerned. The congregation requesting such an opinion, therefore, could not safely rely upon it, for example, in regard to ecclesiastical supervision of the congregation by the district president or any dispute under Bylaw section 1.10.

Question 2: Does it make a difference whether such interpretations are made at the request of a district president, in the course of ecclesiastical supervision, or whether by the congregation itself, or by the board of directors of the district?

Opinion: See preliminary comments. A request for insight regarding the meaning of a portion of the constitution and bylaws of a congregation could theoretically be addressed to a district Constitution Committee by either the congregation or the district president. However, any such response would be no more than advice (and, ‘even so, not the advice of the district or the Synod) and could not be regarded as an authoritative interpretation. Since a district board of directors is not involved in ecclesiastical supervision, it would have no official role in resolving a dispute within a congregation of the district.

Question 3: If such opinions are legitimate when requested by congregations, considering that membership in the Synod is held by the congregation and not by its members (other than rostered church workers thereof) would such an opinion, if allowable, need to be requested by the congregation as such, as an official act, or could it be requested by an officer of the congregation, such as its chairman or president?

Opinion: See preliminary comments. Any such opinion, regardless of how it may come to be requested, possesses no authority under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

Question 4: Were the interpretation offered to relate to the divine call of a member of the Synod by a congregation of the Synod, a circumstance in which a dispute resolution panel might ultimately be called upon to determine a dispute, would such an "advisory" or "more than advisory" opinion, supported by the bylaws of a district, necessarily be regarded as authoritatively rendered?

Opinion: See preliminary comments. Even in the event that a congregation had the necessary provisions in its constitution or bylaws authorizing the district Constitution Committee or some other source to give an "authoritative" (from the congregation's perspective) interpretation of its constitution and bylaws in the case of a dispute within the congregation, the congregation, as a member of the Synod, is bound to the ecclesiastical supervision of the district president and to the Bylaw section 1.10 process, and any such outside opinion would possess no authority under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and have no bearing on the role of the district president or of the Bylaw section 1.10 process of the Synod.

Question 5: South Wisconsin District Bylaw 1.45 (c) states as another function of the committee: "c. Interpret, within the limitations of synod bylaw, the bylaws unique to our district and resolutions of the district in cases of controversy. Its opinion shall be binding unless overruled by the district[.]" Could determinations under 1.45 (e) be overruled by the district?

Opinion: Any opinion issued under District Bylaw 1.45 (e) possesses no authority under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. Neither has the district (or a district board of directors) the authority to interpret the constitution and bylaws of a congregation, except to satisfy itself that they contain nothing contrary to the Scriptures or the Confessions; therefore, the overruling of a moot opinion would itself be moot.

Question 6: Again, in regard to South Wisconsin District Bylaw 1.45 (c), "Its opinion shall be binding unless overruled by the district," would the "district" be limited to the district convention, or could an opinion be overruled by, for example, the district board of directors?

Opinion: See above answer to Question 5.

(Opinion offered by the Commission on Constitutional Matters, July 21, 2020)

Therefore, be it

**Resolved,** that the South Wisconsin District, in Convention amend Bylaw 1.45 to read:

1.45 Function

The Committee on Constitutional Matters (CCM) shall:

- a. Examine the content and the language of the reports, overtures and resolutions to the District asking for changes or amendments to the District Bylaws, or which in any manner affect the District and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. (Any proposed amendments to the District Articles and Bylaws must be submitted to the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters for approval prior to convention action);
- b. Be represented at the meetings of the floor committee appointed to consider the constitutional matters at the Conventions of the district;
- ~~c. Interpret, within the limitations of synod bylaw, the bylaws unique to our district and resolutions of the district in cases of controversy. Its opinion shall be binding unless overruled by the district;~~
- d. c. Shall examine the congregational constitutions and bylaws to ascertain that they are in harmony with Holy Scripture, the Confessions, and the teachings and practices of the Synod in order that any necessary changes may be made by the congregation, and
- e. d. Interpret and give advisory interpretations in regard to congregational Constitutions and Bylaws when requested by congregations, the District President, or the Board of Directors. ~~If desired, a congregation has the authority to request more than an advisory interpretation of its documents.~~

And, be it finally

**Resolved,** that implementation of this bylaw amendment shall take place immediately.

*Originally submitted by Revered Christian Gugel, Chairman, Committee on Constitutional Matters, SWD in response to the opinion provided by Synod Secretary Reverend Doctor John W. Sias on July 27, 2020 [Today's Business #1, p. 26]*

**RESOLUTION 2-03**

OVERTURE 2-04 [Convention Workbook, p.25]

**To Request Action and Closer Examination of Recognized Service Organization Status  
Regarding Matters of Human Sexuality**

**Whereas** since before the fall into sin, God created human beings male and female, (Genesis 1:27); and

**Whereas** since before the fall into sin, God gave man and woman to be husband and wife, (Genesis 2:24); and

**Whereas** after the fall into sin, God reiterates that He still gives man and woman to be husband and wife in marriage, (Matthew 19:5, Mark 10:7, Ephesians 5:31); and

**Whereas** sin is anything that goes contrary to God's purpose and design, (1 John 5:17); and

**Whereas** our country has adopted policies and practices that uphold, promote, and uplift LGBTQIA+ positions on gender, sexuality, and marriage that are contrary to God's design and are therefore sinful according to God's Word, (e.g. ruling that marriage is no longer exclusively the lifelong union of one man and one woman); and

**Whereas** the LGBTQIA+ community is supported, uplifted, and celebrated at many times and places (e.g. Pride month, Pride parades, etc.); and

**Whereas** the Christian is called to not follow in the deeds of darkness, but rather, is to lead a holy and God-pleasing life, (Ephesians 5:11; 1 Peter 2:9); and

**Whereas** such a God-pleasing life does not seek to remain in sin nor to celebrate it, but repents of it, receives forgiveness for it, and strives to sin no more, (Romans 6:1-2, Psalm 32:5, John 8:11); and

**Whereas** The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) published a report on marriage and sexuality entitled *A Chaste and Decent Life: An Update to Human Sexuality (1981)* which concludes that, "attitudes towards gender identity and dysphoria, homosexuality and homosexual marriage, and societal pressures regarding sexuality, among others, have changed markedly in the last forty years," yet still maintaining that "God's intention for human sexuality does not change," (*A Chaste and Decent Life: An Update*, 37); and

**Whereas** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has upheld and reaffirmed such positions regarding Marriage and Sexuality, as recently as the 2023 Synod Convention, (Resolution 5-11, "To Reaffirm Synod's Biblical Positions on Marriage and Sexuality"); and

**Whereas** the granting of Recognized Service Organization (RSO) status by the Synod "signifies that a service organization fosters the mission and ministry of the church, engages in program activity that extends the mission and ministry of the Synod, is in harmony with the programs of the Synod, and respects and does not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Synod," (Bylaw 6.2.1); and

**Whereas** many resources from the Synod and its partners (LCEF, Concordia Plans, etc.) are made available to the RSO's of the Synod to support their work; and

**Whereas** the Office of the Secretary of the Synod is tasked with receiving and facilitating applications for RSO status, (Bylaw 6.2.4[a]); and

**Whereas** the Office of National Mission (ONM) and the Office of International Mission (OIM) are tasked with the granting of RSO status, (Bylaw 6.2.4); and

**Whereas** Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) and Lutheran Social Services of Northern California (LSSNorCA) have both been granted RSO status; and

**Whereas** LCSNW, as recently as June of 2024, participated in an annual Pride Parade in Spokane, WA “as they do every year” in an effort to make their communities “more healthy, just, hopeful and [sic] *Prideful* for all,” (“Pride is more than a month at LCSNW; it’s a mindset to serve LGBTQ clients”, accessed October 1, 2024, <https://www.lcsnw.org/2024/06/pride-is-more-than-a-month>), and

**Whereas** LSSNorCA stands with the LGBTQIA+ community and proudly supports them, as stated in a 2023 letter from the President and CEO of the LSSNorCA, (“Statement on LGBTQIA+ Pride”, accessed October 1, 2024, [https://www.lssnorcal.org/file\\_download/b8699925-8345-437f-8cda-dad7d95d3d77](https://www.lssnorcal.org/file_download/b8699925-8345-437f-8cda-dad7d95d3d77)), therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the Chief Mission Officer of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod be asked to review the RSO status of LCSNW and LSSNorCA, before the Synod meets in convention, and if found to be acting contrary to what The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod believes, teaches, and confesses, have their status suspended and revoked, and, be it further

**Resolved**, that the Synod Secretary, in conjunction with the Chief Mission Officer and the Director of Recognized Service Organizations decline any new or renewal applications for RSO status received from any organization supporting, uplifting, celebrating, or otherwise promoting or affirming LGBTQIA+ groups or organizations seeking RSO status that are partnered with an organization supporting, advocating, or otherwise promoting the same; and, be it further

**Resolved**, That the members of Synod support and encourage their respective District Presidents as they go about their task given them in Bylaw 6.2.1(c) of overseeing the RSOs under their ecclesiastical supervision; and, be it further

**Resolved**, That Bylaw 6.2.3 be amended as follows:

~~Present~~ Proposed Wording

6.2.3 Program administration shall be carried out by the Offices of National and International Mission according to these bylaws, and according to policies and criteria developed by the Synod Board of Directors, mission boards, and mission offices.

(a) The Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall adopt common policies and criteria for granting of recognized service organization status by Synod’s mission offices, such policies relating to expectations for the corporate structure and governance of the organizations, statements regarding their legal and corporate independence from the Synod, and the necessary relation of their work to the mission and ministry of the Synod as generally expressed in its Constitution and Bylaws. These policies shall include an agreement with the recognized service organization stating that they adopt and will uphold the biblical definition of manhood, womanhood, and marriage, as adopted by the Synod and that they will not endorse, support the work of, nor enter into partnerships with other organizations who either undermine or do not uphold the same. The Board of Directors shall approve the standard form of agreement to be entered into by the Synod and each recognized service organization.

And, be it finally

**Resolved**, that Bylaw 6.2.4 be amended as follows:

~~Present~~ Proposed Wording

6.2.4 Subject to policies adopted by the Synod’s Board of Directors and the respective mission board, recognized service organization status may be granted and revoked by the Office of National Mission or the Office of International Mission to a service organization (other than an auxiliary) that extends the mission and ministry of the Synod but is not part of the Synod as defined by its Constitution and Bylaws.

(b) Within the area of its responsibility and in accordance with policies and criteria developed by the Synod Board of Directors, the respective mission board and office, each mission office shall determine to which organizations recognized service organization status will be granted and revoked.

**RESOLUTION 2-04**

OVERTURE 2-03 [Convention Workbook, p. 24]

**To Amend Bylaw 1.24.(a) to Limit Terms of the Office for District President, Vice-Presidents,  
Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer**

**Whereas** the Lord gifts all people with many and diverse gifts, and

**Whereas** Paul acknowledges this truth in 1 Corinthians 12:28-31 with reference specifically to the Office of the Holy Ministry, where it is written, “...and God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts” [ESV]; and

**Whereas** the Lord has gifted the Church with many faithful men who possess the gifts of leadership and administration; and

**Whereas** we are discouraged from trusting in human princes—precisely because of their humanity—rather than in God who alone saves and endows all pastors with these various gifts, as it is written in Psalm 146:3, “*Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation*” [ESV]; and

**Whereas** all elected offices in the world and in the church, including the elected offices of The South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, are often very stressful and take their toll on any and all who hold them; and

**Whereas** we should always be concerned for the physical, emotional, and spiritual welfare of all who hold office in our District, that they not become negatively impacted by their work and are encouraged to return to their lives after service, healthy at all levels; and

**Whereas** one of the benefits of term limitation is that it focuses the office holder by helping him to see what limits there are to his time and the authority of his office; and

**Whereas** the Synod and District have already seen the wisdom of limiting the tenure of circuit visitors and board and commission members; therefore, be it

**Resolved**, That Bylaw 1.24(a) be amended as follows:

~~Present~~/Proposed wording

1.24.a. The offices of President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer of the District shall be ~~without limitation as to re-election~~ limited to four consecutive terms or 15 years lifetime in one particular office.

And, be it finally

**Resolved**, that this amendment take immediate effect, meaning that the count of consecutive terms begin with the convention at which the amendment is adopted.

**RESOLUTION 2-05**

OVERTURE 2-02 [Convention Workbook, p.23]

**To Amend Synod Bylaw 3.2.4.1 to Limit Terms of Office for President, First Vice-President,  
Regional Vice-Presidents, and Secretary**

**Whereas** the Lord gifts all people with many and diverse gifts, and

**Whereas** Paul acknowledges this truth in 1 Corinthians 12:28-31 with reference specifically to the Office of the Holy Ministry, where it is written, “...and God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts” [ESV]; and

**Whereas** the Lord has gifted the Church with many faithful men who possess the gifts of leadership and administration; and

**Whereas** we are discouraged from trusting in human princes—precisely because of their humanity—rather than in God who alone saves and endows all pastors with these various gifts, as it is written in Psalm 146:3, “Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation” [ESV]; and

**Whereas** all elected offices in the world and in the church, including the elected offices of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, are often very stressful and take their toll on any and all who hold them; and

**Whereas** we should always be concerned for the physical, emotional, and spiritual welfare of all who hold office in our Synod, that they not become negatively impacted by their work and are encouraged to return to their lives after service, healthy at all levels; and

**Whereas** one of the benefits of term limitation is that it focuses the office holder by helping him to see what limits there are to his time and the authority of his office; and

**Whereas** the Synod has already seen the wisdom of limiting the tenure of board and commission members; therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the South Wisconsin District in Convention memorialize the 2026 Synod Convention to consider the following amendment to Synod Bylaw 3.2.4.1:

~~Present~~/Proposed wording

3.2.4.1 As to reelection, The offices of President, the First Vice-President, regional vice-presidents, and Secretary shall be limited to four consecutive terms or a maximum of 15 years lifetime in one particular office.

And, be it finally

**Resolved**, that this amendment take immediate effect, meaning that the count of consecutive terms begin with the convention at which the amendment is adopted.



**RESOLUTION 2-06**

Overture 2-06 [Convention Workbook, p. 29]

**To Commend the Board of Regents and Administration of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor**

**Whereas** in February 2024 the Board of Regents of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor (BoR & CUWAA), President Erik Ankerberg, and the administration of both campuses were confronted with financial realities that included a growing deficit and limited sustainability at the Ann Arbor campus located in Michigan; and

**Whereas** the Ann Arbor campus had been unable to generate auxiliary revenue sufficient to meet its needs leading to an annual average operational shortfall of \$4 million for the entire university; and

**Whereas** CUWAA is recognized as a Lutheran higher education community of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod serving a focused educational mission accountable for responsible stewardship; and

**Whereas** the BoR, President Ankerberg, and the administration of CUWAA have demonstrated intentional strategic thought as they considered a variety of initiatives designed to better position CUWAA for the future; and

**Whereas** they all have exhibited faithful Christian leadership in their service to the students, faculty, staff, and Synod in a fair, reasonable, and responsible manner; therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the BoR, President Ankerberg, and the administration of CUWAA be commended for making the necessary decisions to ensure that CUWAA is financially secure and sustainable for future generations; and, be it further

**Resolved**, that the South Wisconsin District continue to pray in good faith for the on-going efforts of the BoR, President Ankerberg, and the administration of CUWAA; and, be it further

**Resolved**, that by our prayers they would be encouraged in their responsibility to be “*steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain*” (1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV); and, be it finally

**Resolved**, since CUWAA directly impacts our churches, schools and ministries and in the spirit of fraternal support and encouragement; the South Wisconsin District receive a report at the 2028 Convention regarding the outcomes, benefits, and the ongoing efforts of the BoR, President Ankerberg, and the entire administration of CUWAA.

**OVERTURE 2-01**

Overture 2-01 [Convention Workbook, p. 22]

**To Prohibit Holding District Pastors' Conferences in the Same Calendar Year as District Conventions**

Overture was sent to **Omnibus A** since it should be considered either by the District President in consultation with the elected committee that plans the Fall and Spring Pastor's Conferences OR presented for ratification by the pastors in attendance at one or both Pastors' Conferences. This overture is not a matter for the District in Convention.

**LATE OVERTURE 2-07**

Overture 2-07 [Convention Workbook, p. 237]

**Resolution regarding the oversight and execution of the Annual SWD Pastors Conference**

Overture was sent to **Omnibus A** since it should be considered either by the District President in consultation with the elected committee that plans the Fall and Spring Pastor's Conferences OR presented for ratification by the pastors in attendance at one or both Pastors' Conferences. This overture is not a matter for the District in Convention.

**RESOLUTION 3-01**

OVERTURE 3-01 [Convention, Workbook, p. 30]

**To Encourage and Promote the Biblical Teaching of Creation**

*Whereas*, Christians are surrounded by teaching that contradicts the Scriptures concerning creation; and

*Whereas*, Many of the most prominent defenders and institutions of the biblical doctrine of creation produce literature that has false teaching mixed into it; and

*Whereas*, The Missouri Synod is one of the largest denominations to uphold the Lord's six-day creation of the universe (cf. 1932 Brief Statement Article 1); therefore be it now

*Resolved*, That we urge the South Wisconsin District, including its congregations, pastors, district leadership, and schools, to uphold and promote the biblical teaching of creation and to provide increased educational opportunities on the subject; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That 2025 South Wisconsin District Convention submit this same overture to the 2026 Synod Convention so that Synod leadership and institutions (such as Concordia Publishing House and institutions of higher learning) may be encouraged to make this a priority for the next triennium and in years to come.

**RESOLUTION 4-01**

*Submitted by the Floor Committee on May 31, 2025*

**TO ENCOURAGE THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT TO  
CELEBRATE THE 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FORO PARTERSHIP**

**Whereas** twenty years ago, LCMS International Mission entered into a mission partnership that deployed a Brazilian pastor and an American deaconess to begin the efforts of planting a national church in the Dominican Republic and,

**Whereas** this partnership under the leadership of Rev. Ted Krey and the faithful labor of those missionaries who have served and are now serving, has now grown to five congregations, numerous preaching stations and outreach venues, two schools, a group home for those with intellectual developmental disability, and a seminary that serves pastoral formation of Confessional Lutheran pastors in Latin American and the Spanish-speaking world and,

**Whereas** the South Wisconsin District Board of Directors entered into this FORO(a Spanish word for *forum*) partnership in 2008 and,

**Whereas** the South Wisconsin District in its 52<sup>nd</sup> Regular Convention affirmed this partnership (Res 5-03) and,

**Whereas** the South Wisconsin District has been deeply involved longer than any other FORO partner in financial support and in-kind support for this mission effort including funding the purchase of land and construction of buildings, and

**Whereas** there are new opportunities that are on the horizon for similar projects that go beyond the regular budget for these mission efforts, therefore be it,

**Resolved**, the South Wisconsin District in convention re-affirm their commitment to this FORO for ongoing financial and in-kind support, and be it further,

**Resolved** the congregations of the South Wisconsin District be encouraged to take part in a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thank offering for the continued mission work in the Dominican Republic, and be it further,

**Resolved** those funds from this thank-offering be designated for the acquisition of property for building or expansion of congregational mission work in places like Pueblo Nuevo or other locations deemed critical by the FORO, and be further

**Resolved** that the South Wisconsin District in its 57<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention designate the convention offering to this thank-offering effort, and be it finally,

**Resolved** that the congregations of the South Wisconsin District be strongly encouraged to pray for this mission effort, and whenever possible to deploy teams on the field in support of this mission effort.

**RESOLUTION 4-02**

*Submitted by the Floor Committee on May 31, 2025*

**TO ENCOURAGE AND EXPAND PLANTING OF CONGREGATIONS IN THE SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT**

**Whereas** it is the local congregation gathered by the Holy Spirit around Word and Sacrament, where the work of the Gospel is carried out and,

**Whereas** the South Wisconsin District its 56<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention adopted Resolution 4-02 Encouraging the planting of congregations in the district, and

**Whereas** over the last triennium church planting efforts have launched plants in Green County, Vernon County, and Washington County and,

**Whereas** Peace Valley Lutheran (Green County) has received a \$100,000 church planting grant from the LCMS Office of National Mission, and

**Whereas** Hill Country Lutheran Church in Vernon County continues its planting efforts as the only LCMS entity in the county, and

**Whereas** Living Word Lutheran Church in Jackson voted on Palm Sunday 2025 to be the “mother” congregation of an effort to be launched in the Slinger area of Washington County, and

**Whereas** there are ample other opportunities for church planting on the horizon, therefore be it,

**Resolved**, the South Wisconsin District in convention give thanks to God for the planting efforts currently underway, and be it and be it finally,

**Resolved** that the congregations of the South Wisconsin District be strongly encouraged to continue prayerfully and confidently to partner at the congregational, circuit, district and Synod level to seek out opportunities to foster partnerships and provide resources for efforts in expanding the work of Word and Sacrament ministry in South Wisconsin.

**RESOLUTION 6-01**

OVERTURE 6-04 [Convention, Workbook, p. 35]

**To Use the Title “Chaplain” Exclusively for Ordained Clergy within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture teaches that the pastoral office is entrusted with the public preaching of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments (Matthew 28:18–20; John 20:21–23; 1 Corinthians 4:1), and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Confessions affirm the necessity and centrality of the called and ordained pastor in the life of the Church (Augsburg Confession, Article XIV; Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, 67–74), and

WHEREAS, The term “chaplain” historically designates an ordained clergyman entrusted with the spiritual care of a specific community, institution, or military unit, thus reflecting a pastoral function, and

WHEREAS, The usage of “chaplain” for individuals not holding the office of the public ministry can create confusion regarding who is authorized to preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments, potentially undermining the pastoral office and our confession of the Office of Holy Ministry, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the South Wisconsin District in convention memorialize the 2026 Synod Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to adopt the position that the title “chaplain” within LCMS contexts be reserved for ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament; and be it further

RESOLVED, That institutions, agencies, and ministries within the LCMS be encouraged to ensure that titles and job descriptions make clear any distinction between ordained chaplains and other spiritual-care providers (e.g., deaconesses, lay ministers, or pastoral counselors) who may assist but are not called and ordained to the Office of the Holy Ministry; and be it further

RESOLVED, That districts, circuit visitors, and local congregations be urged to instruct their members regarding the proper use of the term “chaplain,” reaffirming our confessional understanding that preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments are entrusted to the pastoral office; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Synod give thanks for the faithful service of all who provide spiritual care within our fellowship, while upholding in doctrine and practice that the title “chaplain” belongs to those ordained to serve as called ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Corinthians 4:1).

**RESOLUTION 6-02**

*Submitted by the Floor Committee on May 31, 2025*

**To Thank the Lord Our God for His Servants**

Whereas, President John Wille faithfully served our district as District President, and

Whereas President Eric Skovgaard and the Vice Presidents and Secretary have led our district the past year(s), and

Whereas Dr. Chris Cody, Administrative Assistant to the President in the area of Schools, Youth and Family, has  
accepted a Call to another area of service in the church, and

Whereas members of the Board of Regents and District Board of Directors have faithfully served their Lord and His  
Church, and

Whereas many of these have completed their years of service to the South Wisconsin District, therefore be it

Resolved, that the South Wisconsin District in convention assembled give thanks to the Lord of the Church for the  
service of these men and women, and be it finally

Resolved, that we express our thanks to them with a rising vote of thanks.

**OVERTURE 6-01**

OVERTURE 6-01 [Convention, Workbook, p. 31]

**Regarding Use of the name “Lutheran” in our Schools and Universities**

Overture was sent to **Omnibus C** due to previous actions by district and synod conventions:

- 1998 overture to Synod convention to make name Lutheran in Concordia and nothing happened.
- 2023 Synod convention Lutheran identity but no resolution brought forward.
- Unnecessary financial cost of rebranding.

**OVERTURE 6-02**

OVERTURE 6-02 [Convention, Workbook, p. 32]

**To Correct the *Gloria In Excelsis* in Divine Service, Setting IV**

Overture was sent to **Omnibus C**:

- Not a direct quote, but paraphrase.
- The LSB has gone through LCMS doctrinal review and has passed.
- The word “sins” is not contradictory to the word “sin”.

**OVERTURE 6-03**

OVERTURE 6-03 [Convention, Workbook, p. 33]

**For the Church of Christ to Stay and Do Her Duty**

Overture was sent to **Omnibus C**:

- Addressed at the 2023 & 1968 LCMS Convention.
- See LCMS 2023 resolution – adopted 4-06

**OVERTURE 6-05**

OVERTURE 6-05 [Convention, Workbook, p. 36]

**To Request Additional Resources Using the New King James Version**

Overture was sent to **Omnibus C**:

- CPH adopted ESV as translation.
- LCMS Convention 2023 resolution 4-10
- Thomas Nelson has the copyright to NKJV and to buy the copyright, or pay royalties, would be a large cost and undo expenses.
- Commission on Worship Request Regarding Bible Translations adopted by CTCR September 15, 2003. On theological and linguistic grounds, the English Standard Version, the New American Standard Version and the New King James Version are preferable to the New International Version. On text-critical grounds, the English Standard Version and the New American Standard Version are preferable to the New King James Version. The CTCR elects to leave “readability” questions to the Commission on Worship. In principle, the CTCR declines to endorse officially any English translation of the Bible.



**LATE OVERTURE 6-06**

LATE OVERTURE 6-06 [Today's Business #1, p. 7]

**To defend and support the faithful service of Dr. Erik Ankerberg and the Board of Concordia University  
Wisconsin and Concordia Ann Arbor**

Overture was sent to **Omnibus C** as President Skovgaard has already acted on the second to last resolve, and the last resolve is covered by Resolution 2-06 [Today's Business #1, p. 17] brought forward by Floor Committee 2.

**District Constitution Committee Authority to Interpret (South Wisconsin District Bylaw 1.45 e)**  
**(20-2939)**

The President of the South Wisconsin District requested that the commission review his district's Bylaw 1.45(e), regarding the district's Committee on Constitutional Matters, as previously reviewed in CCM Op. 17-2862 and 17-2862A, in light of the following questions. The bylaw reads as follows:

1.45 Function:

The Committee on Constitutional Matters (CCM) shall: ...

e. Interpret and give advisory interpretations in regard to congregational Constitutions and Bylaws when requested by congregations, the District President, or the Board of Directors. If desired, a congregation has the authority to request more than an advisory interpretation of its documents.

**Preliminary Comments: Authority of Constitution Committees and Congregational Governance**  
**Controversies**

Bylaw 2.2.1 requires each district to have a standing Constitution Committee. A congregation that wishes to join the Synod is required to submit its constitution and bylaws to the appropriate district president, who refers it to the committee for review. The role of that committee is to examine the constitution and bylaws of the congregation applying for membership to ensure they are in harmony with Holy Scriptures, the Confessions and the teachings and practices of the Synod." The district Constitution Committee can require that anything contrary to such be changed by the congregation before its application for membership can be acted on and accepted by the district board of directors. Bylaw 2.4.1 requires the committee to evaluate, in the same manner, proposed changes to a member congregation's constitution or bylaws. In neither case does the committee have authority to pass judgment on or require changes to any other aspects of the congregation's manner of organization. This limitation is consistent with Constitution Article VII: the Synod is advisory to congregations in relation to their self-government and as such has no authority to impose anything upon a congregation.<sup>1</sup>

A district Constitution Committee's authority, established in the Bylaws of the Synod as noted, is limited to the evaluation of congregational documents as above described. Neither Bylaw 2.2.1 nor Bylaw 2.4.1 authorizes a district Constitution Committee to interpret and give opinions regarding the constitution and bylaws of a congregation. In fact, for it to do so may amount to a violation of Article VII of the Constitution of the Synod if it amounts to an organ of the Synod imposing its understanding on the self-government of the congregation. A request for interpretation of congregational governing documents may imply not just uncertainty but a congregational controversy regarding the sense or force of such documents, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod provide specifically for Synod's role in such matters of controversy. While the original Constitution of the Synod provided for the Synod's arbitration of disputes *within* a congregation *if all parties involved submitted the matter to Synod for arbitration*,<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> At the same time, in joining the Synod a congregation agrees to abide by and be bound by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. Should a congregation act contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, the Synod cannot force it to change. The recourse of the Synod in such an instance is to remove that congregation from membership in the Synod (Article XIII) following the procedure of the proper Bylaw section.

<sup>2</sup> The 1847 Constitution of the Synod, Chapter IV, Business of the Synod, provided as one of the functions of the Synod the following:

9. To give theological opinions, also to settle disputes between single persons or between parties in the congregations. But the latter is to take place only in cases where all persons involved have applied to Synod for arbitration.

these provisions were removed by 1924. The current Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod make no general provision for disputes *within* a congregation to be placed before the Synod for adjudication,' the Synod does provide one general mechanism to 'address disputes within congregations. This responsibility belongs to the president of the district of which that congregation is a member. District presidents are charged with the ecclesiastical supervision of the members of their district, both congregations and individual members (Coast. Art. XII 7). Bylaw 4.4.6 specifically deals with the responsibilities of the district president when controversies arise *within* a congregation of his district. In carrying out this responsibility the district president is free to ask the advice of whoever he wishes to get a full understanding of the situation. He could conceivably ask the advice of the district Constitution Committee, should he so choose; however, any response he received would be no more than advice and in no way would it be authoritative. The district president is also free at his discretion to involve others (a circuit visitor or someone trained in dispute resolution) to assist and work with those having the dispute in an attempt to bring about resolution. Nonetheless, dealing with, these disputes within the congregation remains the responsibility of the district president.

While the current Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod make no provisions for the Synod to reach and enforce a decision regarding a dispute *within* a congregation, the Synod Bylaws do provide a process for resolving disputes that involve as parties members of the Synod, both congregations and individual members (ordained and commissioned ministers). This process is found in Bylaw section 1.10. All members, congregations and individual members, by their joining of the Synod are bound to follow this process in the event of a dispute *between* members of the Synod. When a dispute within a congregation involves both the congregation on the one hand, which is a member of the Synod, and an individual member of the Synod (pastor or commissioned minister) on the other, the provisions of Bylaw section 1.10 apply. While the district president, who has ecclesiastical supervision over both the congregation and the individual member, would likely already have been involved, this Bylaw section 1.10 process is available to those members who are in dispute, and must be used and followed if requested. The goal of the Bylaw section 1.10 process is for reconciliation to occur between the parties involved. However, if this cannot be achieved, the process also provides for a panel to render a formal decision after hearing the facts presented by both sides, and this formal decision is binding on all parties. Yet, even in this instance, because of the advisory nature of the Synod, the Synod cannot force a congregation to follow the decision rendered (Bylaw 1.10.9). However, as a member of the Synod, the congregation has agreed to follow and abide by this procedure, and its failure to follow the decision could put in jeopardy the membership of the congregation in the Synod.

#### The Commission's Prior Reviews (Op. 17-2862 and 17-2862A)

The Commission on Constitutional Matters reviewed the bylaws of the district at its November 2017 meeting (Op. 17-2862). District Bylaw 1.46 (e) [now 1.45 (e)], at the time of that review, listed as a function of the district Committee on Constitutional Matters (as the district committee is known, to which the responsibility of the district Constitution Committee, among other duties, is assigned): "Interpret and give opinions in regard to congregational Constitutions and Bylaws when requested by congregations, the District President, or the Board of Directors." In its opinion the commission responded:

Bylaw 1.46 [e]: The committee does not have authority to render binding opinions as to the meaning of congregational constitutions or bylaws, unless granted such by these congregational documents. The congregation, not the district president or board of directors, would have the authority to request more than an advisory interpretation of its documents.

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Note that according to the 1847 Constitution, for the Synod to become involved in a dispute in a congregation, it required that *all* of the parties involved would have requested arbitration by the Synod. This was because of the advisory nature of the Synod. When the Constitution of the Synod was revised in 1854, this same wording was retained now as Chapter IV, point 4. This same wording remained in the Synod Handbook through 1899. However, when the Constitution was again revised and translated into English, between 1917 and 1924, this stipulation was removed.

1 In essence the commission indicated that unless, and only if, there were a specific statement-to that effect  
2 in the constitution or bylaws of the congregation, authorizing a request to be made of the district  
3 Constitution Committee or some other outside source to give an interpretation of its constitution and  
4 bylaws and agreeing to abide by said decision, the district Constitution Committee does not have the  
5 authority to render a binding decision interpreting the constitution or bylaws of a congregation. In  
6 addition, the wording of the congregation's constitution and bylaws would have to specify who is  
7 authorized to request this opinion on behalf of the congregation. Theoretically, with these provisions in  
8 place in its constitution and bylaws, a congregation could bind itself to abide to the interpretation of the  
9 district Constitution Committee or some other outside source. Yet, even in this case, the opinion rendered  
10 would be devoid of authority, as far as Synod itself is concerned, as the rendering of such opinions is not  
11 a function assigned to the district Constitution Committee.

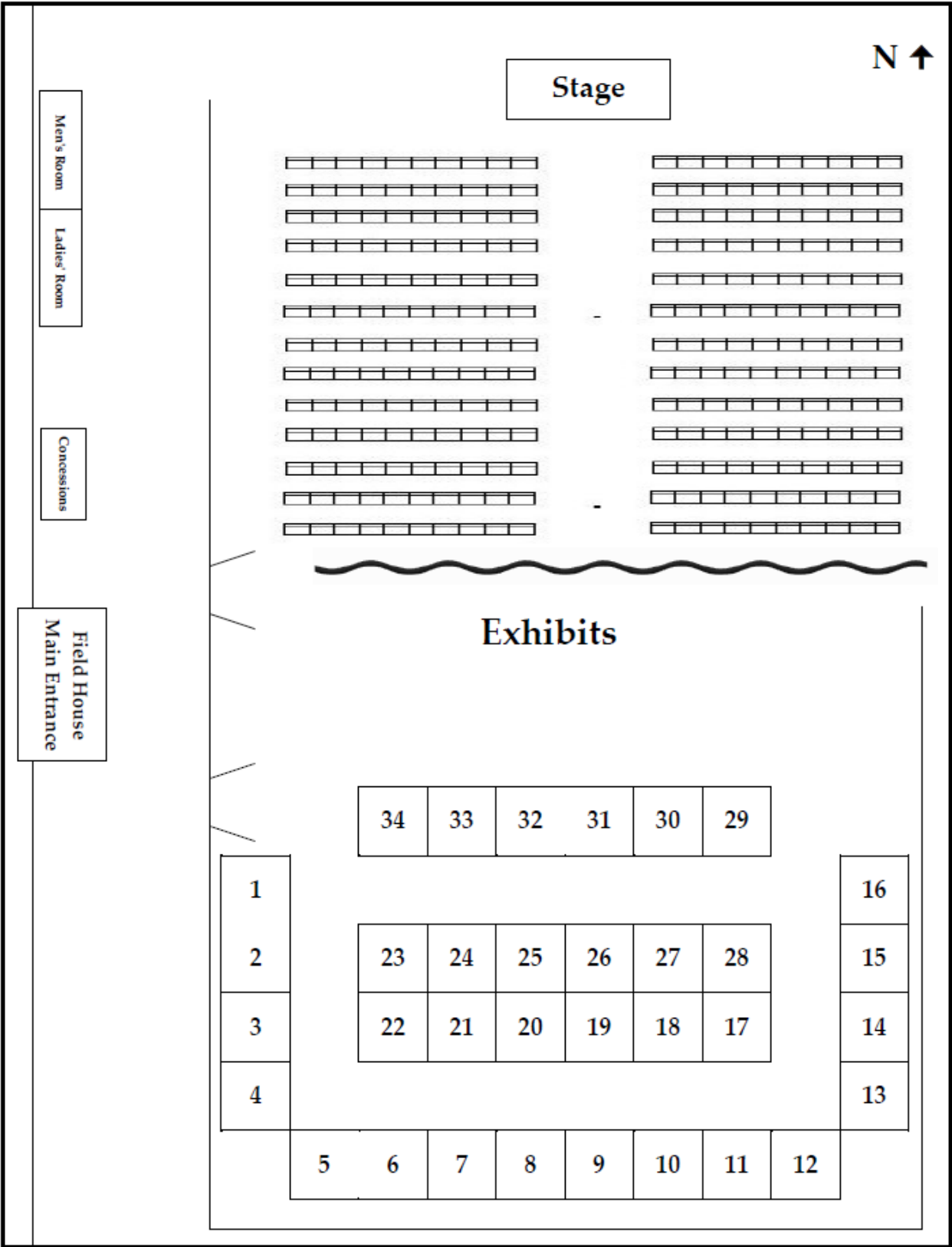
12 The present wording of district Bylaw 1.45 (e) does not accurately reflect this opinion of the commission  
13 and is not consistent with the language suggested to the district in the Synod Commission on  
14 Constitutional Matters review of its bylaw in Op. 17-2862. It does not specify that this authority for the  
15 congregation to request a binding opinion from the district Constitution Committee or other outside  
16 source must be specifically included in the constitution and bylaws of the congregation itself. Regrettably,  
17 the commission in Op. 17-2862A did not object to the language adopted by the district; that language  
18 today is found to have been insufficient, and the approval granted in Op. 17-2862A is hereby overruled.

19 As district Bylaw L45 (e) currently stands, it is in violation of Const. Art. VII and Bylaws 2.2.1, 2.4.1,  
20 and 4.4.6, and cannot be used.

21  
22  
23 Commission on Constitutional Matters  
24 July 21, 2020

# EXHIBITOR LIST & MAP

Table	Organization	Table	Organization ( <i>Alphabetical</i> )
1-2	Concordia University - Wisconsin and Ann Arbor	7	A Place of Refuge Ministries of South WI, Inc.
3	The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	25	Camp LuWiSoMo
4	Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM)	16	Church Mutual Insurance Company, SI
5-6	Concordia Publishing House	29	Concordia Catechetical Academy
7	A Place of Refuge Ministries of South WI, Inc.	20	Concordia Historical Institute
8	Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin	22	Concordia Plans
9	Lutherans For Life	5-6	Concordia Publishing House
10	Lutheran Heritage Foundation	19	Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft Wayne / Concordia Seminary, St Louis
11	LHM South Wisconsin District	1-2	Concordia University - Wisconsin and Ann Arbor
12	South WI District LWML	17	Concordia University Chicago
13	Little Flock Productions	4	Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM)
14	Worship Anew	31-32	Gaspard, Inc.
15	Time of Grace Ministry	27	Hmong International Mission
16	Church Mutual Insurance Company, SI	21	LCMS Foundation
17	Concordia University Chicago	11	LHM South Wisconsin District
18	Ministry to the Armed Forces	13	Little Flock Productions
19	Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft Wayne / Concordia Seminary, St Louis	23	Lutheran Church Extension Fund
20	Concordia Historical Institute	8	Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin
21	LCMS Foundation	10	Lutheran Heritage Foundation
22	Concordia Plans	28	Lutheran Legacy Foundation
23	Lutheran Church Extension Fund	33	Lutheran Neighborhood Schools
24	Triun3 LLC	26	Lutheran Young Adults League
25	Camp LuWiSoMo	9	Lutherans For Life
26	Lutheran Young Adults League	18	Ministry to the Armed Forces
27	Hmong International Mission	34	Phoenix Anthem, LLC
28	Lutheran Legacy Foundation	12	South WI District LWML
29	Concordia Catechetical Academy	30	South Wisconsin District LERT / Lutheran Church Charities
30	South Wisconsin District LERT / Lutheran Church Charities	3	The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
31-32	Gaspard, Inc.	15	Time of Grace Ministry
33	Lutheran Neighborhood Schools	24	Triun3 LLC
34	Phoenix Anthem, LLC	14	Worship Anew



## Consent and Biographical Information for District Nomination

### Triennial Convention of the South Wisconsin District The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

June 9-10, 2025 • Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position(s) for which you have been suggested to serve: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Region in which I reside** (lay person) **or work** (rostered church worker) (CHECK ONE)

If unknown, skip this question.

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central East Region | (Circuits 1-7)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast Region    | (Circuits 8-14)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> West Region         | (Circuits 15-20) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Southeast Region    | (Circuits 21-26) |

**CONSENT:** (CHECK ONE)

☐ ***I am...***

☐ ***I am not...***

***...willing to have my name placed on the ballot for the position(s)  
indicated above. If elected, I am willing to serve in this position.***

*(Optional: If multiple positions are listed above, I want to be considered for  
\_\_\_\_\_ but not for \_\_\_\_\_.)*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Biographical Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation (former occupation, if retired): \_\_\_\_\_

List College/University/Seminary attended, the degrees earned, and the year each was earned: \_\_\_\_\_

**List your past and present service to the Church and the Community** (with approximate dates):

Congregational experience and activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

District/Circuit experience and activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Synod experience and activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Community experience and activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In 100 to 200 words, please state your hopes for the South Wisconsin District: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Congregation in which you presently hold membership:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_