WELCOME to all delegates, official guests, and visitors to the 2022 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.

SCHEDULE

An up-to-date agenda for the convention has been printed on pages 5-6 of TODAY’S BUSINESS. Please refer to it for further information on the times of convention events and their locations.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The Communications Center is located in Room F017 (southwest of the meeting room). If you are expecting a phone call or need to reach someone at the convention, please come to the Communications Center so we can assist you. You may call (262) 243-3400 to reach the Communications Center or call the main number of Concordia University (262) 243-5700 and leave a message.

The convention staff and volunteers will be delivering messages to your assigned tables. If necessary, messages will be displayed on the projection screen in the convention hall.

DUPLICATION SERVICES

The Communications Center is responsible for the duplication and distribution of ALL materials for the convention. Please stop by the office if you need something distributed or duplicated. A work order will be available at the center. No material may be distributed at the convention without authorization.

Creative Imaging Products, who has been servicing southeast Wisconsin since 1989, has graciously provided for our printing and duplication services. We thank them for their assistance and invite you to stop by their exhibit (Booth #37).

WORSHIP FOLDER

Delegates have received a worship folder with their registration packet. The folder is for use at all the worship services of the convention. Please remember to take it with you to the chapel for the opening and closing services.
WELCOME / HOSPITALITY CENTER

The Welcome / Hospitality 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.

OUR 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.

THANK YOU

Thanks to the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) for the Convention carry bags made available to voting and advisory delegates. Monday evening’s gemütlichkeit is also sponsored in-part by LCEF. We thank them for their support and continued partnership.

SPECIAL WELCOME

We extend greetings to Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrabe, Fourth Vice President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Pulse, Concordia Theological Seminary; Rev. David Fleming, Executive Director for Spiritual Care DOXOLOGY; Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, English District President; Rev. James Baneck, Executive Director of Pastoral Education of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Rev. Jonah Burakowski, Missionary Pastor & Associate Regional Director For Latin America & the Caribbean in the Dominican Republic; Rev. Bart Day, Lutheran Church Extension Fund President; Mr. James Sanft, Concordia Plan Services; Mr. Christian Boehlke, Office of International Missions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

CONVENTION OFFERINGS

The offerings gathered at the opening and closing services of the convention will be designated for future church and school plants in the South Wisconsin District. Checks should be made payable to South Wisconsin District LCMS and include on the memo line church/school plants.

EXHIBITORS’ LIST

A listing of exhibitors and a map of locations has been printed at the end of this issue of TODAY’S BUSINESS on page 33. Please take advantage of the opportunity to view their products and services.
NOMINATION AND CONSENT FORM

A Consent and Biographical Information for District Nomination form has also been printed at the end of this issue of TODAY’S BUSINESS on page 35 for your convenience.

YOUR CONSIDERATION IS REQUESTED

Because the exhibit areas 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!

STANDING RULES

The Standing Rules for the convention are printed on page 14. 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.

HOST CONGREGATION

The host congregation for the closing communion service will be St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lebanon.

CORRECTIONS TO THE WORKBOOK

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CENTRAL EAST

O – Rev. Mark Wangerin, Benediction, Milwaukee

Committee on Constitutional Matters

Current Members of the CCM

The Rev. J. Patrick Niles, Bethlehem, Sheboygan

FLOOR COMMITTEES

5. Elections

O – Rev. M. Douglas Peters, Trinity, Milwaukee, Chair

O – Rev. Christopher Raffa, Pilgrim, West Bend

O – Rev. Marshal Frisque – St. John, Fredonia

The President’s Official Report on District Membership Statistics

OTHER INSTALLATIONS

GUGEL, Christian – Christ, Sheboygan dual parish with Good Shepherd, Sheboygan 12/12/18
CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE WORKBOOK

SCHOOLS NEW
MADISON, Mt. Olive, 9/7/21

Committee on Convention Nominations—District

MEMBERS
L - Ronald Kabitzke, Chair

Board of Directors—South Wisconsin District

Four lay persons – elect one for each position indicated to a six-year term

Central East        Northeast
Dean Sievert, incumbent    Ronald Kabitzke, incumbent
James Frerking

Southeast        West
Steve Grindland    David Sleight
Bob Trapp

One Lay Person – elect one for each position to fill an unexpired term (three-years)

West
Joan Anderson

Board of Regents—Concordia University Wisconsin

Two lay persons from the South Wisconsin District – elect to a three-year term

Position I          Position II
Robert Denkert, incumbent    Gary Thompson
Marcia Arndt          George Peek

Names and Cities of Voting Convention Delegates

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Agenda for the 56th Convention of the South Wisconsin District,
The Lutheran-Church Missouri Synod
June 12-14, 2022
Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon

Please note: All events take place in the Field House unless otherwise noted.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022

12:30 - 3:45 p.m.  Registration – Friends of Concordia Room
4:00 p.m.  Opening memorial worship service (Chapel of Christ Triumphant)
Sermon: Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

DINNER

SESSION I – 6:15 to 9:00 p.m.

6:15 - 6:20 p.m.  Opening prayer – Rev. David Fleming, Exec. Director for Spiritual Care DOXOLOGY
6:20 - 6:25 p.m.  Welcome and opening gavel – Rev. Dr. John C. Wille, SWD President
6:25 - 6:30 p.m.  Welcome to CUW – Dr. William Cario
6:30 - 6:35 p.m.  Convention Committee – Quorum
6:35 - 6:40 p.m.  Adoption of Standing Rules – Rev. Dr. John Wille
6:40 - 6:45 p.m.  Adoption of Convention Agenda
6:45 - 7:00 p.m.  Committee on Constitutional Matters – Rev. Christian Gugel
(Introduction of new congregations, pastors, and delegates serving new congregations since 2018)
7:00 - 7:10 p.m.  Committee 1 – Floor nominations for various offices – Rev. Bryan Osladil
7:10 - 7:40 p.m.  District President’s report (part two) – Rev. Dr. John C. Wille
7:40 - 7:45 p.m.  Ballot for the Office of District President
7:45 - 8:45 p.m.  Synod report (part one) – Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, LCMS President
8:45 p.m.  Closing devotion – Rev. Robert Zick, 2nd Vice President, SWD

SESSION II – 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

7:45 a.m.  Registration reopens – Friends of Concordia Room
8:00 - 8:20 a.m.  Opening devotion – Rev. Daniel Torkelson, 1st Vice President SWD
8:20 - 8:30 a.m.  Approval of Minutes from Session I
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.  Synod report (part two) – Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrabe, 4th Vice President LCMS
9:00 - 9:20 a.m.  Committee 5 – Elections (vice presidential ballot and ranking ballot)
9:20 - 9:30 a.m.  Committee 2 – Administration and Constitutional Matters
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.  Essayist – Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Pulse, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN
10:00 -10:15 a.m.  Committee 4 – Missions
10:15 -10:20 a.m.  Committee 8 – Minutes and Report of the Board of Directors – Rev. Bryan Osladil
10:20 -10:40 a.m.  Special Guest: James Banek, LCMS Executive Director of Pastoral Education
10:40 -10:55 a.m.  Committee 6 – Miscellaneous
10:55 -11:10 a.m.  Special Guest: Rev. Jonah Burakowski, Missionary Pastor, and Associate Regional Director For Latin America and the Caribbean in the Dominican Republic
11:10-11:20 a.m.  Committee 5 – Elections
11:20 -11:30 a.m.  Greeting from the Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN
11:30 -11:40 a.m.  Greeting from the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO
11:40 -11:50 a.m.  SWD Business Manager – Mr. Paul Reske
11:50 -12:00 p.m.  Special Guest: Office of International Mission- Mr. Christian Boehlke
12:00 p.m.  Announcements and prayer – Rev. David Fleming, Exec. Director for Spiritual Care

DOXOLOGY

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022

7:45 a.m.  Registration reopens – Friends of Concordia Room
8:00 - 8:20 a.m.  Opening devotion – Rev. Daniel Torkelson, 1st Vice President SWD
8:20 - 8:30 a.m.  Approval of Minutes from Session I
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.  Synod report (part two) – Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrabe, 4th Vice President LCMS
9:00 - 9:20 a.m.  Committee 5 – Elections (vice presidential ballot and ranking ballot)
9:20 - 9:30 a.m.  Committee 2 – Administration and Constitutional Matters
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.  Essayist – Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Pulse, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN
10:00 -10:15 a.m.  Committee 4 – Missions
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11:30 -11:40 a.m.  Greeting from the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO
11:40 -11:50 a.m.  SWD Business Manager – Mr. Paul Reske
11:50 -12:00 p.m.  Special Guest: Office of International Mission- Mr. Christian Boehlke
12:00 p.m.  Announcements and prayer – Rev. David Fleming, Exec. Director for Spiritual Care

DOXOLOGY
**Today's Business**

**Sunday, June 12, 2022**

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**LUNCH**

SESSION III – 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

1:30 - 1:35 p.m.  
Opening prayer – Rev. Lance O’Donnell

1:35 - 2:05 p.m.  
SWD Mission Executive Assistant to the President – Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador

2:05 - 2:15 p.m.  
Essayist – Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Pulse, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN

2:15 - 2:45 p.m.  
SWD Education Executive Assistant to the President – Dr. Christopher Cody

2:45 - 3:15 p.m.  
Committee 3 – Parish Education

3:15 - 3:25 p.m.  
Committee 4 – Mission

3:25 - 3:40 p.m.  
Committee 5 – Administration and Constitutional Matters

3:40 – 3:50 p.m.  
Committee 6 – Miscellaneous

3:50 - 4:00 p.m.  
Committee 7 – Stewardship and Evangelism

4:00 - 4:10 p.m.  
LCEF – Mrs. Diana Raasch, LCEF Vice-President

4:10 - 4:20 p.m.  
Rev. Jeffrey Pulse, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, In

4:20 - 4:30 p.m.  
Mr. James Sanft, Concordia Plan Services

4:30 - 4:40 p.m.  
DOXOLOGY, Rev. David Fleming, Executive Director for Spiritual Care

4:40 - 4:45 p.m.  
SWD President, Mrs. Cinda Poppe

4:45 - 4:50 p.m.  
Mr. Craig Toerpe

4:50 - 4:55 p.m.  
Mr. Dan Frieburger

4:55 - 5:00 p.m.  
Closing devotion – Rev. David Paape, 3rd Vice President SWD

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**DINNER – Gemütlichkeit!**

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**TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022**

SESSION IV – 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

8:00 - 8:20 a.m.  
Opening devotion – Rev. Charlie Brandt, 4th Vice President SWD

8:20 - 8:30 a.m.  
Approval of Minutes from Session II and III

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.  
Rev. Jeffrey Pulse, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, In

9:00 - 9:15 a.m.  
Committee 5 – Elections

9:15 - 9:20 a.m.  
A Place of Refuge – Rev. David Paape

9:20 - 10:35 a.m.  
Unfinished Business

10:35 - 10:40 a.m.  
Announcements

10:40 - 10:45 a.m.  
Closing gavel and prayer

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SESSION V – 11:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Closing worship with Holy Communion, including the installation of newly elected SWD officers – Preacher: Rev. Dr. John C. Wille *(Chapel of Christ Triumphant)*
In the days after the Texas school shooting Dan Bongino, a conservative commentator, remarked:

"Our culture is rotting," Bongino monologued. "We’ve got an increasingly godless society and a plague of broken homes, an entertainment is saturated with glorified violence, throw this in the witch's brew with misery and uncertainty of the last few years with children isolated and pulled away from their friends and their communities while being told what to think and what to do."

An interesting commentary on our times. We live in a society that no longer has religious moorings. A society ruled by its own sinful desires and whims. It is in this society that our Lord has placed us to “Confess Christ in this generation for the next generation.” We do that in four strategic priorities:

1. Distinctly Lutheran in our theology, in our confession, and in our practice:

What does this mean? That is the penultimate Lutheran question, and it has a Lutheran answer. An answer from someone no less than Martin Luther himself. In his book *Church and Ministry*, C.F.W. Walther quotes these words from the Reformer, Dr. Martin Luther, on what it means to be Lutheran:

“It is true that you by no means should say: ‘I am a Lutheran or a papist,’ for none died for you nor is your Master than Christ alone, and you should regard yourself as a Christian. But if you believe that Luther’s doctrine is evangelical and the pope’s unevangelical, you must not cast Luther aside; otherwise you will cast aside his doctrine, which you regard as that of Christ. So you must say: ‘Luther may be a scoundrel or a saint, for that I do not care; yet the doctrine is not his but that of Christ Himself.’ For you see that the tyrants have in mind not [merely] to kill Luther but to destroy his doctrine. It is on account of his doctrine that they attack you and ask you whether you are a Lutheran. Here surely you must not reply evasively, but you must frankly confess Christ, whether He be preached by Luther, Claus, or George. The person you may ignore, but the doctrine you must confess.¹

Being a Lutheran is about doctrine and confession. Being a Lutheran is about our Lutheran identity, our Lutheran confession, and our Lutheran practice.

That all begins with the chief article of our Lutheran Christian faith, the article of Justification on which the church stands or falls. Article IV of the Augsburg Confession states:

1 Also they teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for Christ’s sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and that their sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake, who, by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins. 2 This faith God imputes for righteousness in His sight. Rom. 3 and 4.²

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We are Lutheran Christians: Lutheran in our doctrine and confession. We are Confessional Lutheran Christians by what we say with our mouths and by what we do in practice.

We are Lutheran in our confession of the divine service. At our core we are the church of the historic liturgy which has been passed down to us from generation to generation from the earliest of times in the New Testament Church. We recognize that as we gather “In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost”, the Triune God Himself comes to us through Word and Sacrament, precious gifts which bring us forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Lutheran Christians we believe, teach, and confess that the world and everything in it was created by the Word of the in six ordinary days. Each with a morning and each with an evening, 24 hours long.

Lutheran Christians we are pro-life. We believe, teach, and confess that God knit us together in our mother’s womb giving us each an immortal soul and our unique identity. Each life is so precious that our Lord Jesus suffered and died to redeem your body and soul from hell. We are strongly pro-life. Life that begins at the moment of conception and continues until the Lord calls people of out this life.

Lutheran Christians are strongly pro-family. We uphold the sanctity of marriage and the traditional family: a father, a mother, and children. It is a place where the Christian faith has been passed down from generation to generation.

Lutheran Christians we believe, teach, and confess that our sexual identity was chosen for us by the Creator. The Explanation of the Apostles Creed the First Article puts it this way:

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my limbs, my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them; in addition thereto, clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and homestead, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He provides me richly and daily with all that I need to support this body and life, protects me from all danger, and guards me and preserves me from all evil; and all this out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I owe it to Him to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.³

In that creation we receive our identity as male or female. Altering of that precious identity is out-right rebellion against God Himself and a violation of the First Commandment.

Lutheran Christians we also reject the tenets of the latest cultural fads such as Critical Race Theory, Diversity Equity, and Inclusiveness, as we all the tenets of Black Lives Matter. Each of these modern social justice systems find their origins in Marxism. Each is a belief system incompatible with our Christian faith. Each is anti-Christian and anti-family. Yet, at the same time we believe and confess that regardless of the color of one’s skin, our Lord Jesus died to redeem all mankind from the curse of sin.

Being Lutheran Christians sets us apart from the rest of Christianity as unique and distinctive. With time limitations here, I point you to the “Lutheran Confessions”; to “Luther’s Small Catechism”, to “The Lutheran Service Book”. Each, a wonderful and fresh resource for us as Lutheran Christians.

As Lutheran Christians we proclaim faith in our Lord Jesus as the only Savior and we confess the faith more clearly than every other church denomination. C.F.W. Walther writes this:

From this point forward, we have a great, difficult task before us. We have been united by the mutual conviction that the true Church is not still in search of the saving truth, but has found it. She is the possessor and the keeper of it. Therefore, she is always one and the same. And so we are also convinced today that she alone is the true Church [today] that, in doctrine and practice, is in strictest accord with the true Church of the past, wherever she may have been. But at the same time, we are all convinced of the fact that the Church of our fathers, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as she has professed her faith before the whole world in the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and the other Confessions, is the true visible Church of God on earth. And we are resolved in the name of the Lord jointly to promote in doctrine and practice this Church, and none other, in this country.4

2) Honor our Vocation as the people of God:

Vocation is about living out your lives as the people of God. Vocation is a calling and an opportunity to live life for the glory of God and for the benefit of others. Vocation links beliefs with life-styles.

Being a Lutheran Christian is a way of life. St. Paul writes to the

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

This is the time during which he has called us to be his people; both individually and corporately. We all have different occupations in life. We all have different talents and abilities. But we all share the same vocation. Paul tells the Thessalonian believers: “He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” St. Peter says, “You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

We are the forgiven people of God. We are fathers or mothers, children, or adults, retired and grandparents, plumbers or electricians, doctors and nurses, factory workers or office workers, farmers, employers and employees or administrators. We are the people of God. We are the people of God together in this place at this time.

Being the people of our God carries with it not just privileges, but also remarkable responsibilities and certain loyalties. As individuals and together as a Christian congregation we have been entrusted with Lord’s affairs. Jesus says, “It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.” We are the managers or the stewards of all that our Lord has entrusted to our care. That includes what our Lord has blessed us with in our own personal lives, our families. It includes our emotional, physical, and spiritual blessings.

And our Lord allows us to remain here for a specific reason. It is enlightening to read Martin Luther’s comments on 1 Peter 1:9 in relation to our life in this world. St Peter reminds us that we

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are born again “To a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” Martin
Luther comments:

We have no other reason for living on earth than to be of help to others. If this were not the
case, it would be best for God to kill us and let us die as soon as we are baptized and have
begun to believe. But He permits us to live here in order that we may bring others to faith,
just as He brought us. But as long as we are on earth, we must live in hope.5

Those are challenging words for us to hear. In an age where everyone lives for himself or herself,
as the people of our God we recognize that ours is a higher calling, a grander vocation. To repeat
the words of Martin Luther, our Lord “permits us to live here in order that we may bring others
to faith, just as He brought us.” For that reason one of our strategic goals is to…

3. Plant new congregations and schools:

If you have not noticed, you will hear at this convention that SWD is back in the church planting
business. From the very get-go we were involved in the Hispanic church plant in Sheboygan
County. Rev. David Blas is doing wonderfully as he reaches out with the Gospel to the Latinos
in Sheboygan. You will hear from Nathan Meador that Pastor Prada at St. Martini is on the
cutting edge of missions. St. Martini was an historic German immigrant church plant. These days
St. Martini has a burgeoning Hispanic outreach. Now under Pastor Prada’s guidance St. Martini
is planning an Anglo church plant in the Third Ward.

You will see a series of videos that tell the SWD mission story. Your mission story.

When Nathan Meador became SWD mission executive, one of the first things that he and I did
was to establish a “top ten list” for church plants in SWD. Nathan will describe that list later in
the convention. He will tell the story and you will see a series of videos that highlight our SWD
mission focus.

One of the truly wonderful stories is that of Cross Lutheran is Westport, on the near westside of
Madison. In partnership with Bethlehem Sun Prairie we replanted a failed mission start that had
A new building was dedicated in October 2021. In the Sundays after Easter this year Pastor Joel
Brandt reports that there were regularly 180 in divine service.

Partnering with Bethlehem Sun Prairie we are in the opening stages of another church plant in
Fall River, near Columbus.

Please pay close attention to what Pastor Meador will report to you later in this convention.
SWD is planting churches once again. If you would like to discuss planting a new congregation
in your area, please speak with Rev. Meador. We are blessed!

I dare not forget about the planting of new schools. You will hear later tomorrow that SWD
you’re your Education Executive, Mr. Chris Cody, is also engaged in starting new schools.
Chris, along with Rev. Brandon Koble, will report on a new classical high school that will open
in the next 12 months or so. When this classical high school gets underway, SWD will have the

oldest Lutheran High School in the LCMS (Milwaukee Lutheran), and the youngest/newest. There is also chatter about several school plants in various other parts of SWD.

We are talking about church plants and new school plants. We are blessed and have much for which to give thanks.

During the convention you will also hear from Rev. Jonah Burakowski who comes to us now as the associate director of Central American Missions. SWD has been a partner in that mission effort since early in my years as district president. 2007 to be exact. From the simplest of beginnings the Dominican Republic church plant has been blessed beyond our dreams. Congregation after congregation has been established. Schools have been planted. There is a deaconess training center in Palmar Arriba, along with a seminary which trains Lutheran pastors from all around the Caribbean and beyond. It is a wondrous miracle of God’s Word with strong SWD support and ties. You are part of that.

An older pastor in Illinois often remarked, “It is my conviction that the Lord blesses the church in like manner as it reaches out to the lost.” We are blessed.

Church and school planting has been part of our LCMS heritage since our very beginning and even before. In his 1879 Essay to the Iowa District, titled “Duties of an Evangelical Lutheran Synod”, CFW Walther quotes Martin Luther who states:

[Luther] It is a shameful thought if a congregation says, “We have our church and school now, so let others worry about [their churches and schools]!” No, God demands that we assist others in getting churches and schools. A Christian and also a congregation are plants that have grown from the seed sown by other Christians and congregations. Therefore this congregation and every individual Christian is to be a seed from which new Christians and congregations can ever again grow. That is why the apostle says so emphatically, “The Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother” (Galatians 4: 26). Just as surely as we are now members of the Church, so surely we should also be fruitful mothers; and if we are unfruitful mothers, that is, if we do not produce spiritual children or fail to do those things whereby such children can be produced, then we are not obeying our calling, and God will not say, “You pious and faithful servant,” but rather, “You unfaithful servant!” God grant that we never need to hear Him say those words to us!  

4. Embrace our communities:

If you haven’t noticed, South Wisconsin is no longer a monolithic population made up of only northern Europeans. Listen carefully to the reports that will follow tomorrow.

As a district we are blessed with “those of every nation, tribe, language and people.” Those words come from Revelation 7. We see them being fulfilled here in SWD. Gui Kasongo hails from the French Congo. Gui is an amazing story. Chris Ikanih who serves Bethany comes from Nigeria, along with his son, Afam, who is chaplain to the House of Correction. Both are blessings to the church. Pastor Prada at St. Martini, German Novelli Jr. at Grace Milwaukee and David Blas in Sheboygan represent our Hispanic outreach. We have Pastor Dennis Harmon serving our African American community at Mission of Christ and Hope. Then we dare not

forget our Hmong workers. Fai Neng Herr serve Hmong Hope as the gather at Berea Lutheran on
the near north-west side of Milwaukee. Hmong ministry also goes on at Trinity Oshkosh and at
Benediction Milwaukee under Don Hougard’s watchful eye. We dare not forget Dr. Sam Lee
who is working on his SMP degree. Sam is also working with Calvary Chapel Madison in our
outreach to the Asian student Community there.

There are so many good things that are happening in South Wisconsin. It is challenging to get
them into a single report like this. Please listen to the various execs as they tell their stories.

Financially, we are amongst the healthiest of LCMS districts, which means that we have
resources to support our ambitious church planting plans. Here I want to applaud you and give
thanks for you and your generosity. Without you, without your pastor, without your generosity
none of the things which we will report over the next couple of days would be possible. Thank
you!! Thank you!!

As a district we have congregations in small town and rural areas that are reaching into their
communities. We have congregations and schools in larger communities and suburbs. We have
congregations in urban and inner-city areas. In each congregation there is an altar, a baptismal
font, and a pulpit; each a visible representation of the message that is proclaimed in that place.
Each place is dedicated to the proclamation of the Word of God and the administration of the
Sacraments according to Christ’s institution. We have our Lord’s promise from Exodus 20: “In
every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you.”

Let’s just step back one more time and review. Missions and schools are doing well. New
missions are on the drawing board. Cross-cultural missions are blessed. Many of our schools
have experienced increased enrollment this past year. Our current district staff is strong and
focused. That said, the district staff is well aware that we are not the district; rather we serve the
South Wisconsin District, its congregations, its schools, and its church workers.

Again we are blessed by our Lord!

We are blessed as we live together as Lutheran Christians in this sin ruined world. We are
blessed as we gather in Divine Service where our Lord comes to bless us through Word and
Sacrament with forgiveness. We are blessed as we set our sights on planting new congregations
and new schools. We are blessed as we embrace our communities, “those of every nation, tribe,
language and people.”

As I bring this report to a close I am reminded of the words which my dear friend, Rev. Dr.
Edwin Suelflow, spoke to us at our last convention in 2018. It was shortly before our Lord call
Ed to his eternal rest. Rev. Suelflow said,

“A fellow asked me not too long ago, “You’ve been a pastor for 70 years. Did you learn
anything?” [Laughter]. And I thought to myself, “This fellow needs some catechesis!” So I
told him, “I know for sure that the Word of God has the power to change the hearts and
lives of people. The Word of God has the power to lead people to repentance. The Word of
God has the power to bring comfort and peace to the sorrowing and distraught. The Word
of God has the power to offer hope, the assurance of forgiveness, the promise of eternal
life.”

The Word of God is to be proclaimed, studied, learned, and lived. You are an important part of
that here is SWD.
The Word of God explains to us what this life and our vocation as the people of God is all about. It more than merely grabbing all we can in this life for ourselves. The picture is much bigger; and we dare never forget the destination. Revelation 7:

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

May our gracious Lord bless this gathering of His people!

Rev. Dr. John C. Wille
President South Wisconsin District
- 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 shall be distributed every next morning in Today’s Business. The first item of business of the afternoon session shall be the formal approval of these minutes, with the exception of the final day’s minutes, which shall be approved by the Board of Directors at its first meeting following the convention. 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.

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 names and the name 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 devises shall not be used. Except as approved by convention staff, personal extension cords shall not be allowed on the convention floor.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Voice</th>
<th>Electronic Communications including email, text, and social media messaging, e.g., laptops, tablets, pagers, PEDs, smart phones, wearable technology including smart watches and like devices.</th>
<th>Laptop computers, tablets with communications disabled (i.e., Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Cellular, and Infrared communications turned off in airplane mode.)</th>
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<td>Voting and Advisory Delegates &amp; Representatives Areas</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOD, Press, Special Guests Areas</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visitors, Back Seating Area</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention Staff, All Areas</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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Unless covered by these Special Standing Rules, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order*. 
Resolution 2-01
Overture L2-06
Amendments to District Bylaws

To Amend District Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws in response to LCMS CCM Review [LCMS CCM Opinion 17-2862] and Actions of the 2019 Synod Convention

WHEREAS, the Handbook of the Synod states: “The bylaws and regulations of the district and any subsequent change therein shall be submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters [CCM] of the Synod for review and approval [Bylaw 4.1.1.2 (b)], and
WHEREAS, a review of the South Wisconsin District Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws by LCMS CCM noted a number of points within the governing documents of the district which “will require attention, if possible, at the 2018 convention of the district” [LCMS CCM Opinion 17-2862], and
WHEREAS, the South Wisconsin District Committee on Constitutional Matters has reviewed the requested changes and has submitted proposed changes to the LCMS CCM for review and pre-approval, and
WHEREAS, the changes proposed, in line with the LCMS CCM requests, have been approved for presentation to the District in convention [LCMS CCM Opinion 17-2862A], therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the South Wisconsin District, in convention, hereby amends its Bylaws as follows:

BYLAWS

1.04 Advisory Delegates
   a. All non-voting ordained and commissioned ministers who are members of the Synod within the District shall be advisory delegates to the Convention.
   b. The congregation of a multi-congregational parish not providing the voting lay delegate for the parish may select an advisory lay delegate to the convention.

1.056 Accreditation of Pastoral and Lay Delegates
   The pastoral and lay delegate of the parish shall be certified accredited by two officers of the congregation. The certification shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the District prior to the opening of the Convention.

B. GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1.1920 Definitions
   c. A standing committee or subcommittee consists of persons who are voting members of a board or committee and other persons appointed to assist the standing committee or subcommittee in performing a specific function and is to report to the parent group. Membership on a standing committee or subcommittee does not constitute a “term” or “office” for the purposes of District Bylaws 1.2425 and 1.2930.
   d. A task force is a group which has an ad hoc assignment to accomplish a specific task, has a definite expiration date, and does not necessarily consist of members of the appointing body. **Members of a task force are exempt from District Bylaws 1.2425 and 1.2930.** Membership on an ad hoc task force does not constitute a “term” or “office” for the purposes of District Bylaws 1.2425 and 1.2930.
   e. A special position is an appointive office in which a person fills a specific role and serves at the discretion of the appointing body. **Persons filling a special position are exempt from District Bylaws 1.2425 and 1.2930.** Filling a special appointive office does not constitute a “term” or “office” for the purposes of District Bylaws 1.2425 and 1.2930.

1.23 Term of Office
   d. **Members elected to the Board of Regents shall take office at the close of the District Convention at which they are elected.**

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

1.29a. No one, either in the Synod or in the District, or between the Synod and the District, shall hold more than one elective office; or more than two offices, although one or both be appointive; or ever hold two offices
wherein one is directly responsible for the work done by the other. The Committee of Convention Nominations is to be regarded as an Ad Hoc Convention committee, to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.

D. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1.3940 Membership and Officers of the Board

1.55 Election of Vice-Presidents

f. If a Vice-President accepts a Call out of the District, or for any reason shall leave office, the candidate who received the next highest vote for that position at the last previous election shall become the successor Vice-President for that region, but shall not be in the line of succession.

2.01 Amendments

a. Amendments to these Bylaws may be made by the District Synod in accord with Synod Bylaws.

b. The District may amend those Bylaws which are unique to the District, in accord with Synod Bylaws 4.1.1.2 and 3.9.2.2.4 and then only if such amendment is:

1. Not contrary to the Constitution of the Synod;
2. Not in conflict with the Bylaws of Synod;
3. Presented in writing to a Convention of the District;
4. Specified as a Bylaw amendment and considered by a Convention floor committee;
5. Submitted to the District Committee on Constitutional Matters and the Synod Commission on Constitutional Matters for review and approval prior to presentation to the Convention; and
6. Adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of delegates present and voting.

c. The Secretary of the District is authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Synod and its Handbook revisions. All such changes shall be subject to prior review and approval by the Committee on Constitutional Matters or Board of Directors. All other substantial changes in meanings are to be brought before the Convention in conformity with 2.01b above.

d. 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 SWD Committee on Constitutional Matters as well as the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters.
Resolution 2-02
Overture L2-05
To Move First Immanuel Cedarburg from Circuit 8 to Circuit 7 in order to bring the SWD Electoral Circuits into Alignment with the LCMS Bylaws.

Whereas the LCMS Bylaws 3.1.2 states that:
   Electoral circuits shall meet as required by the Bylaws of the Synod to elect circuit voting delegates to the Synod’s national conventions.
   (a) An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000.
   (b) Exceptions to these requirements may be made only by the President of the Synod upon request of a district board of directors.
   (c) Voting delegates shall consist of one pastor and one layperson from each electoral circuit. These pastoral and lay delegates and their alternates shall be elected according to the regulations of the Synod (Bylaw 3.1.2.1).
   (d) The lay delegate shall serve throughout the triennium following the convention as an advisory member of the circuit forum. And

Whereas First Immanuel Cedarburg is not “adjacent” to Circuit 8 which violates the LCMS Bylaws, therefore be it

Resolved that the South Wisconsin District in Convention moves First Immanuel Cedarburg from Circuit 8 to Circuit 7 to conform with Bylaw 3.1.2

Resolution 2-03
Overture L2-04 [CW, p. 84]
To Bring Accountability to Concordia Board of Regents

Whereas, our Concordia Universities have long been and continue to be precious gifts to the world and to the Church, especially when they clearly confess Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior according to Holy Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions, and

Whereas the Board of Regents at each of our Concordias is vital to offering to its students, the world, and the Church a clear confession of what we in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod believe, teach, and confess, and

Whereas, while each of our Concordias has expanded its academic offerings to include other God pleasing vocations, and at the same time our Concordias continue to be the primary training ground in preparing future pastors and teachers for the LCMS, and

Whereas, while each Concordia University Board of Regents is to hold its members accountable, which at times has proved problematic, and there is currently no mechanism in the LCMS Bylaws for the Church at Large to deal with Regents, including laity, who fail to faithfully adhere to the bylaws, and,

Whereas, neither the Synod President nor the geographic district president in whose district the Concordia resides has any authority over the laity, therefore

Be it resolved that, The South Wisconsin District in convention appeal to the LCMS 2023 Convention to request that the Commission on Handbook draft a series of bylaws so that the geographic district president in whose district the specific Concordia resides, and/or the Synod President, may, after futile admonition, appeal to the LCMS Board of Directors for relief.

Be it further resolved that once completed the LCMS Commission on Handbook forward these new bylaws to the LCMS Board of Directors for approval and implementation
Resolution 2-04
Overture 2-02 [CW, p. 16]
To Affirm the Implementation of Matthew 18:15-20 and to Commend the CTCR Report on “Public Rebu
of Public Sin” for Study and use in Determining when Matthew 18 is not Applicable.

Whereas the effects of sins unfortunately manifest themselves in sinful actions against brothers and sisters in Christ, and

Whereas our Lord Jesus calls the one sinned against to go and speak to the brother or sister who has sinned against him or her in private with the goal of winning over a brother or sister (Matthew 18:15), and

Whereas the effects of our sinful condition also manifest themselves in false belief and false teaching, and

Whereas public rebuke of public sin continues to be a divisive issue in our walk together in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and

Whereas spiritual care conscientiously undertaken also includes the necessity of public rebuke of public sin in circumstances that are amply illustrated by the examples of Jesus and the apostle Paul, and

Whereas examples can also be given from the Scriptures to illustrate the general principal that public censure of false teachings that stand in opposition to the Gospel is not only appropriate but necessary, and

Whereas Luther wrote in his Large Catechism, “Where the sin is public, the rebuke also must be public, that everyone may learn to guard against it,” and

Whereas public rebuke should not be the first response to a first offense, and

Whereas public rebuke should not be undertaken lightly but only after much prayer, deliberation, and consultation with others who know of the sin, and

Whereas public rebuke of public sin, properly understood, must have a place in a church that values the clear teachings of Scripture, and

Whereas the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) issued a report entitled “Public Rebu
of Public Sin: Considerations in Light of the Large Catechism Explanation of the Eighth Commandments” (https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/82CFD7DF-25EC-4918-A476-98FAB29255DF?) in which the CTCR has provided well thought out guidance and council intended to aid us in walking peacefully as a synod; therefore, be it

Resolved that the South Wisconsin District publicly affirm the implementation of Matthew 18:15-20; and be it further

Resolved that the South Wisconsin District commend the CTCR Report on “Public Rebu
of Public Sin” for study and use in determining when the procedures described in Matthew 18 are and are not applicable.
Resolved 2-05
Overture L2-07

To Memorialize the LCMS Commission on Handbook to Revise the Number of Voters for the Election of Presidents of Concordia University System Schools

Whereas the schools of the Concordia University System (CUS) are auxiliaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and were originally developed by the congregations of the Synod for the training of church workers to assist the spread of the Gospel, and,

Whereas the Presidents of our CUS schools hold a primary level of importance in providing vision and oversight under the broad assignment of Synod, and,

Whereas, while each of our Concordias has expanded its academic offerings to include other God pleasing vocations, and at the same time our Concordias continue to be the primary training ground in preparing future ordained and commissioned ministers for the LCMS, and,

Whereas, the current selection of Presidents of schools of the CUS is strictly tasked to the schools’ Boards of Regents who are specifically tasked in Bylaw 3.10.6 to do their business (including the selection of Presidents) "subject to the general policies set by the Synod, including those established by the Concordia University System," and whose duty is defined in 3.10.6.1 as "defining and fulfilling the mission of the institution within the broad assignment of Synod," and,

Whereas recent changes to the makeup of CUS Boards of Regents call for the appointment of members based on certain skill sets (i.e. financial, legal, etc.) which, while necessary and good, have in the past proven also to politicize and distract certain Boards from their duty to be mindful of the “broad assignment of the Synod,” namely teaching the Word faithfully and proclaiming the Gospel, and,

Whereas, the election of our Seminary presidents, outlined in Bylaw 3.10.5.6.2 (b) prescribes an election process requiring four (4) votes (Regents, Elected Regent District President, President of Synod, and Chairman of Synod Board of Directors), thus offering greater Synod inclusion in the election process, and,

Whereas this election process serves as a good template for greater mindfulness of the Synod’s mission in the CUS Presidential election process as well, therefore be it

Resolved that the South Wisconsin District in convention appeal to the LCMS 2023 Convention to request that the Commission on Handbook draft a series of bylaws so that the election process of Concordia University Presidents follow the pattern of Seminary President elections, and be it further

Resolved that once completed the LCMS Commission on Handbook forward these new bylaws to the LCMS Board of Directors for approval and implementation.

Resolved that upon ratification this resolution be passed on to the 68th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in July 2023 in Milwaukee for deliberation by the entire Synod.
Resolution 2-06
Overture 2-01 [CW, p. 15]
To Encourage Support of RSO Ministries Within Our District

WHEREAS God has blessed our South Wisconsin District with many RSO’s (Recognized Service Organizations) which bring the Gospel and mercy of our Lord to the people of our area, which include schools, camps, crisis centers, services for the disabled or elderly, specific ministries, and support for our church workers, therefore be it

RESOLVED that we thank God for these ministries and the people who serve in them, and be it further

RESOLVED that we encourage the members of our district to support these ministries both financially, with in-kind donations, and with volunteers, and be it finally

RESOLVED that we pray that God will continue to bless our work in these ministries and lead us to new kinds of service through which we might continue to bring His grace and mercy to our world.

Overture 2-03
To Return District to pre-1997 organization
Overture was sent to Omnibus C as it needs to be sent to the Committee on Constitutional Matters (Synod) for review and approval.

Resolution 3-01
Overture: 3-01
To Request a Comprehensive Review of the Commissioned Ministry Colloquy Process

WHEREAS, the LCMS in convention has repeatedly passed resolutions related to the dire need for and advantages of having Lutheran teachers, most recently in 2016 (Resolution 8-01A) and in 2019 (Resolution 12-02A), and

WHEREAS, in 2020-2021 only 26% of educators in our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) schools are on the active roster of Synod3, and

WHEREAS, the number of requests for Lutheran teachers from the Concordia University System has outpaced the number of actual graduates since 20124, and

WHEREAS, schools in the South Wisconsin District have increasingly had to hire non-rostered Lutheran teachers, and

WHEREAS, the typical cost of the Concordia online Colloquy program offered through CUEnet is $6452, and

WHEREAS, graduating from a CUS school is the only other option to a Lutheran Teacher Diploma (LTD), and

WHEREAS, LCMS Synodical Bylaw 3.10 (C) establishes a Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry, and

WHEREAS, LCMS Synodical Bylaw 3.10.3.1 names “the First Vice-President of the Synod as chairman,” and

WHEREAS, LCMS Synodical Bylaw 3.10.3.2 (b) gives authority to the Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry to “establish and monitor academic and theological standards for each of the colloquy programs,” therefore be it

RESOLVED, that congregations and schools of the South Wisconsin District give thanks for the service of all teachers in Lutheran schools, regardless of Synodical roster status, and be it further
RESOLVED, that the South Wisconsin District in convention request that the Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry complete a comprehensive review of the teacher colloquy process in order to establish a more efficient route to colloquize teachers who are committed members of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Wisconsin District in convention request that the Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry complete a comprehensive review of the teacher colloquy process in order to establish a more cost-effective route to colloquize teachers and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this review be completed, and the results be communicated to The South Wisconsin District Board of Directors by January 1, 2023.

Resolution 4-01
Overture 4-01 [CW, p. 110]
To Build a Diverse District that is United in Christ

WHEREAS the Scriptures teach that all Christians are brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter how different we might be, for example:

- Isaiah 11:10, “In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the people; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.”
- Galatians 3:26-29, “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heir according to the promise.”
- Revelation 7:9, “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb,” and

WHEREAS The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the South Wisconsin District, our congregations, and other partner ministries have embraced this unity in Christ by reaching out to new neighbors, children, youth, expectant mothers, those with physical and developmental challenges, those suffering from debilitation of age, those coming out of incarceration, and many other challenges, therefore be it,

RESOLVED that the South Wisconsin District of the LCMS, give God thanks for the ways that God has used our hands to minister to such a diverse group of people, especially in the ways that God has used us to serve the weakest and vulnerable among us;

RESOLVED that we rejoice in the forgiveness of Christ and the opportunities that God continues to give to us, and be it further

RESOLVED that we encourage our congregations and entities to be places where all people are honored as brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter the outward differences, and be it further

RESOLVED that we celebrate the variety of cultural expressions of the Gospel among the congregations and ministries of our district, and be it further

RESOLVED that we support our ethnic and urban congregations and ministries in their work, and be it further, and be it further resolved
RESOLVED that we give our support to those specialized ministries that support the vulnerable among us, and be it further.

RESOLVED that we diligently prepare both pastoral and lay leaders for a variety of settings with our full support and encouragement of the traditional, EIIT (Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology), CHS (Center for Hispanic Studies), and SMP (Specific Ministry Pastor) seminary programs and the programs of our universities, and be it further.

RESOLVED that we seek out every opportunity that God gives to us to share the Gospel with people of every nation, tribe, people and language among us, and be it finally.

RESOLVED that we give thanks to God for His forgiveness in Christ, and that He continues to use our weak, trembling hands in His service. (Psalm 90:17)

Resolution 04-02
Overture 4-2
Encourage the 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 Lord of the Church has sent His people forth to engage their unchurched and de-churched neighbors, and

WHEREAS church planting is statistically the most effective way to reach new believers by engaging them in Christ’s mission, and

WHEREAS church planting also sustains the long-term faithful work of the Gospel within district and Synod, and

WHEREAS the modern movement of people from one location to the next causing once thriving areas to decline and once vacant areas to boom with new communities, and

WHEREAS the national average of all congregations closing is about 1.4%, and

WHEREAS the LCMS needs to plant 85 congregations per year to maintain current size and to grow denominationally it will take more planting of congregations, and

WHEREAS the most successful model for church planting in the LCMS has been the mother-daughter or sister-sister church plant, therefore be it

RESOLVED that over the next triennium the congregations of the South Wisconsin District be strongly encouraged to seek prayerfully and confidently to partner at the congregation and circuit level to seek out opportunities to plant new congregations, and be it finally

RESOLVED that South Wisconsin District seek to form and foster partnerships and provide resources to support this effort for the glory of God and extension of the Gospel.
RESOLUTION 6-01
To Encourage the Formation of Lutheran Early Response Teams in the South Wisconsin District at the Congregation and Circuit Levels

WHEREAS St. Paul admonishes us that “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together (I Corinthians 12:26), and
WHEREAS natural and manmade disasters regularly afflict places across our nation and those who belong to the family of faith, and
WHEREAS since Hurricane Katrina, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has sought to address this with the formation of Lutheran Early Response Teams as a way to provide material and service to those facing disaster, and
WHEREAS the South Wisconsin District has benefited from this work in the past, therefore be it
RESOLVED that the South Wisconsin District of the LCMS in convention support and encourage this disaster response work of the Synod, and be it finally
RESOLVED that the congregations of the South Wisconsin District be encouraged to form LERT teams within congregations and circuits and seek the training necessary to be ready to respond to disasters in the local community, the district and around the nation as a core component of its mercy ministry.

RESOLUTION 6-02
Overture 6-04 [CW, p. 104]
To Protect Christian Consciences

WHEREAS Christians are called to “render to God what is God’s” (Luke 20:25) and to “obey God rather than man” (Acts 5:29), and
WHEREAS Christians are called to “obey their magistrates save when they are commanded to sin” (Ap XVI:6-7), and,
WHEREAS the Holy Scriptures teach that man is not free to bind the conscience of another to a merely human commandment (Galatians 5:1-6; Romans 14), and
WHEREAS there are increased attacks on Christian conscience; such attacks including, but not limited to attacking Biblical authority regarding the sanctity of human life, human sexuality, Christian marriage, necessity of in-person Christian worship, enforced masking, vaccine mandates, and other issues of Christian conscience, and
WHEREAS this is clearly evidenced not only anecdotally, but also concretely, for instance, by the recent Equality Act in the U.S. Congress (H.R. 5), negating application of The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (see Sec. 1107), and redefining sex beyond the Biblical teaching (See Sec. 1101), and
WHEREAS this violation of conscience is a violation of one’s Christian freedom and Christian wisdom and may result in sin, and
WHEREAS there is historic success in claiming religious exemption from violations of conscience on the basis of Religious Freedom in America (e.g. Philadelphia v. Catholic Social Services [2021] or The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod v. FCC [1998] or Meyer v. Nebraska, [1923]), therefore be it
RESOLVED that the LCMS South Wisconsin District, congregations and their members abstain from every teaching of men that violates their Christian consciences bound to God's Word alone in every sphere of life, and be it further
RESOLVED that the LCMS South Wisconsin District, congregations, and their members be encouraged to speak and act in a Christian manner against such breaches of conscience in their daily vocations, and be it further
RESOLVED that the LCMS South Wisconsin District give its full assistance of every kind to any congregation of
the District or member of a District congregation in securing religious exemption from teachings and practices
contrary to God's Word, and be it finally

RESOLVED that the South Wisconsin District in convention refer this matter to the 2023 LCMS National
Convention in Milwaukee for consideration and adoption.

RESOLUTION 6-03

That Each Member of the CUWAA Board of Regents Uphold and Honor Synod Bylaws

WHEREAS the apostle Paul commends the “good order” found at the church in Colossae over and above any
delusion by way of “plausible arguments” (Colossians 2:1-5), and

WHEREAS each member of our Concordia University System Board of Regents willingly takes on the
responsibility to “consider as one of its primary duties the defining and fulfilling of the mission of the institution
within the broad assignment of the Synod” (LCMS Bylaw 3.10.6.1), and

WHEREAS any elected or appointed regent of our Concordia University System is required to “become familiar
with and develop an understanding of pertinent policies, standards, and guidelines of the Synod and the Board of
Directors of Concordia University System” (LCMS Bylaw F 3.10.6), therefore be it

RESOLVED that the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod call upon the Concordia
University Wisconsin/Ann Arbor Board of Regents to re-examine and publicly commit themselves to the
importance of following the “good order” found in our agreed upon policies and bylaws, and be it finally

RESOLVED that any elected or appointed member of the CUWAA Board of Regents who is unable or unwilling to
follow the bylaws of Synod for the sake of good conscience resign.

RESOLUTION 6-04

To Make All Concordia University System Board-Appointed Regents Advisory Members

WHEREAS accountability to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions have been a hallmark of The Lutheran
Church—Missouri Synod, and

WHEREAS the members of Synod, congregations, and the institutions of Synod have agreed to be held accountable
to these authoritative documents through the process of ecclesiastical supervision and convention action, and

WHEREAS the current Bylaw provision of board self-appointments for the purpose of management of the
institution is both good and necessary, and

WHEREAS these board self-appointments present a conflict to the accepted practice of fraternal accountability to
the Synod as a whole, and

WHEREAS this lack of accountability could afford the devil an opportunity to divide the community of the LCMS,
therefore be it

RESOLVED that all board-appointed members of any CUS Board of Regents be vetted in the same manner as
elected members as determined by the Commission on Handbook, and be it further

RESOLVED that the SWD in Convention refer this matter to the 2023 LCMS National Convention in Milwaukee
to amend Bylaw 3.10.6.2 as follows:
No fewer than four and no more than eight members shall be appointed as members of the board of regents according to a process determined by the individual institution. Board-appointed members of any Board of Regents are advisory. They will have voice but no vote.

and be it finally

RESOLVED that upon the approval of 2023 LCMS National Convention this action be applied immediately to all board self-appointed regents across the CUS system regardless of their time of appointment.

RESOLUTION 6-05

Overtures 6-01 and 6-02 [CW, p. 100-101]

To Reject the Practice of Online or Virtual Communion

WHEREAS, in the wake of the incipient pandemic, congregations throughout the Synod sought to provide spiritual care to their congregations when public health measures prohibited gathering for corporate worship services; and

WHEREAS those attempts included among some the practice of online or virtual communion, which had heretofore not been practiced in the Synod or endorsed by seminary faculties or the CTCR; and

WHEREAS the CTCR and the systematic theology departments of both seminaries issued opinions that unequivocally and unanimously argued against the practice of online or virtual communion; and

WHEREAS the CTCR affirmed its 2006 opinion on DVD consecration and applied its rationale to online or virtual communion, putting forward the arguments—among others—that this practice:

1. Severs the consecration of the sacrament through the words of institution from the distribution and reception of the sacrament;
2. Potentially and unnecessarily sows doubt in the minds of communicants as to whether the elements received are in fact the sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood;
3. Vitiates the instrumental role of pastoral care in the administration of the sacrament through the lack of pastoral oversight, preparation of communicants, and admission to the table; and
4. Detracts from the corporate assembly of God’s people around the Lord’s Supper as an expression of their common confession of Christ and unity in the faith.

5. WHEREAS, the Lutheran Confessions (Formula of Concord, SD VII) indicate that the proper use of the sacrament includes a unified consecration, distribution, and reception, none of which are to be severed from the other, yet the practice of online or virtual communion would interject a spatial, temporal, and technological gap between the consecration and the distribution and reception; and

WHEREAS, the Sacrament of the Altar serves to strengthen faith against all doubts (Augsburg Confession XIII) and is “given for a daily pasture and sustenance, that faith may refresh and strengthen itself so as not to fall back in such a battle, but become ever stronger and stronger” (Large Catechism 5.24), while it is incumbent upon the faithful ministers of the Gospel to remove all obstacles that create doubt regarding what Christ offers in the sacrament or detracts from it (Augsburg Confession XXIV), yet the practice of online or virtual communion may result in uncertainty regarding the validity of a sacrament thus celebrated (as even the anonymous tract “Communion in Homes in Times of Crisis” admits when it concedes that uncertainty may cause some people to refrain from participating in an online communion service); and

WHEREAS the pastoral office is responsible for oversight of the administration of the sacrament in accordance with the keys conferred upon the pastor by virtue of his call (Augsburg Confession XIV; Walther’s Theses on the Ministry V and VII); and

WHEREAS no theological justification for the novel practice of online or virtual communion has existed within the Synod or in the Lutheran tradition nor has been advanced in the circles advocating for it on the basis of the principally relevant texts (sedes doctrinae) of Holy Scripture or of the Lutheran Confessions; and
WHEREAS, the Sacrament of the Altar has been established by our Lord according to his words of institution, commanding literally “This keep on doing” (Luke 22:19; I Corinthians 11:24-25), which indicates that this use of the sacrament should be kept according to his institution, and that “nothing is a sacrament without the appointed use” as set forth by those same words of institution (FC 7.73) and these texts (and all related) require serious study by the church; and

WHEREAS the uniformity in practice from the foundation of the Synod has long been considered desirable (1847 Constitution, Art. I.3, II.4, IV.5, V.14) and remains an endeavor toward which congregations are encouraged to strive (Constitution Art. II.7); and

WHEREAS such practice (virtual or online communion) has not been discussed by Synod as a whole, much less considered and commended by it on a scriptural and confessional basis; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we commend the desires of faithful pastors to care for their flocks in a time of pandemic, having granted charity and latitude due to the emergency nature of the situation experienced by all; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Wisconsin District, on the basis of God’s Word, reject the irresponsible and unfaithful practice of online and virtual communion as contrary to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the South Wisconsin District memorialize the 2023 LCMS Convention to reject the practice of online or virtual communion as contrary to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions and accept the CTCR opinions Communion and Covid-19 and One Little Word Can Fell Him: Addendum to Communion and Covid-19.

RESOLUTION 6-06
Overture 6-03 [CW, p.103]
To Direct the South Wisconsin District Board of Directors to Pursue Legal Action

WHEREAS the Third Commandment is: “Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy,” and

WHEREAS, the Word of God says, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24-26), and

WHEREAS, the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Altar, which is “the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink” (Small Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar) and

WHEREAS the psalmist says “a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere” (Psalm 84:10), and

WHEREAS the recent emergency stay at home orders by the Governor of the State of Wisconsin have contradicted the Scriptures, intruding into the Church and Christian worship, teaching and fellowship, and

WHEREAS, both Daniel (Daniel 6) and St. Paul (Acts 25) appeal to the governing authorities when such authorities act contrary to the Word of God, either with respect to their own station or with respect to the stations of others, and

WHEREAS some of the policies and programs of the SWD are stated in the Constitution of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod “Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights” (LCMS Constitution, Article III:9), and

WHEREAS, the Word of God says, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29), therefore let it be

RESOLVED, that the South Wisconsin District in convention direct the District Board of Directors to engage legal counsel on behalf of the congregations of the SWD (with the consent of the LCMS Board of Directors) that
congregations be allowed to worship in person (including the celebration of the Lord’s Supper) in the event they be forbidden in the future from doing so by the federal, state, or local governments.

RESOLUTION 7-1
Give Thanks to God for the Ongoing Partnership Between the District and the Congregations and Ministries of the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Whereas one of the means the Lord of the Church provides for His people is through the work of the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, and

Whereas the congregations and ministries of the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod are richly blessed by this dedicated work, therefore,

Be it resolved that the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod in convention give thanks to God for the ongoing partnership between the district and the congregations and ministries of the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, by rising to sing the common doxology.

RESOLUTION 7-2
Utilize the Gifts God has Graciously Given to His Church through the Staff of the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Whereas the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod is designed to partner with the congregations and ministries of the South Wisconsin District, and

Whereas the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod is staffed to provide quality services and resources to assist congregations and ministries in their ongoing mission and outreach, and

Whereas the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod provides connectivity and continuity to facilitate collaboration among the congregations and ministries of the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, therefore,

Be it resolved that the congregations and ministries of the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod be encouraged to utilize the gifts God has graciously given to His Church through the staff of the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod and the resources they provide.

RESOLUTION 7-3
To Prayerfully and Financially Support the Work of the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Whereas the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod serves as a ministry partner, providing ministerial oversight, offering guidance in missions and outreach, giving support to our educational institutions, and delivering many other services that assist Word and Sacrament ministry, therefore,

Be it resolved that the congregations of the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod be encouraged to prayerfully and financially support the work of the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.
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ARNDT, Marcia Menn:
Age: 63  
Occupation: Retired; Associate Dean of Manufacturing, Moraine Park Technical College
Region/Circuit: SE-22  
Education: University of Wisconsin-Stout (Bachelor of Science, 1980); University of Wisconsin-Madison (Master of Science, 1990)
Experience and activities—
Congregation: Executive Committee Recording Secretary (2022); Community Outreach Board (2015-21; Chair, 2018-21); Fundraising Campaign Co-Chair (2013); Pastor Call Committee (2011, 2015, 2019-20); By-Laws Committee (2012-13); Family Promise Volunteer (2012-present); Altar Guild (2007-present); Women’s Bible Study Leader (2011-12); Board of Education (1999-2020)
District/Circuit: Passionate Believers Conference (2016); SWD Convention Delegate (2012)
Career Experience: 36 years in adult and continuing education at postsecondary instructional and administrative level; Strengths include: program/curriculum development, team and collaborative-based leadership, business and industry outreach, fund-raising, grant writing, management, facilitation, lab, equipment, budget, change and conflict management skills
Synod: n/a
Community: Senior Citizens Activities Inc, West Bend Board of Directors (2015-present; Secretary, 2018-present); Nuts and Bolts and Thingamajigs North American Foundation Board (2006-14; Secretary, 2013-14); United Way of Washington County Board (2007-13; Strategic Planning Chair, Secretary, Vice-President, and President); West Bend Leadership (2004-05)
Congregation: Divine Savior Lutheran Church, Hartford
Hopes for the District: We as a society are faced with increased challenges, societal, family and individual problems and attacks on our Christian faith. We as Christians are encouraged to teach the Gospel to all but most are not equipped or comfortable with it. My hope for the South Wisconsin District/CUW is to effectively reach out to members/students to help them increase their service within the congregation, the community, their place of work and school. It is through every member/student and the personal relationships they develop within the congregation/school and outside of it that we can help others strengthen their faith. It is faith in action which will encourage our fellow Christians to lead lives of integrity and be an example to others. By strengthening members’/students’ faith, we can then equip them to increase outreach and service to the community. This will positively impact the lives of the people they touch in their everyday actions. This will be accomplished through increased efforts by the district for partnerships within the communities such as with community-based non-profits.
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Consent and Biographical Information for District Nomination

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

June 12-14, 2022 • Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon

IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE COMPLETE THIS CONSENT/BIO FORM ONLINE at swd.lcms.org

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.

☐ Central East Region (Circuits 1-7)
☐ Northeast Region (Circuits 8-14)
☐ West Region (Circuits 15-20)
☐ 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: ____________________________________________________________________