



SOUTH WISCONSIN

DISTRICT

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

December 13, 2024

Advent greetings to you and yours as we await the arrival of the One who was, and is, and is to come!

Because of the enormous value we all place on confessional Lutheran education and the treasure we have in our Concordias, on Thursday evening, December 12, the South Wisconsin District [SWD] Board of Directors [BOD] invited Dr Erik Ankerberg, the president of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor [CUWAA], the Rev Dr Aaron Moldenhauer, CUW Vice President for Mission and Church Relations, and the Rev John Berg, chair of the CUWAA Board of Regents, to update the SWD BOD on the CUWAA administration's work.

Dr Ankerberg in his presentation led the SWD BOD through some recent history and financial realities, including CUW's assumption of ownership and administration of Concordia Ann Arbor ten years ago. Without this intervention and subsequently massive financial support of the Ann Arbor campus, it is clear that LCMS educational ministry would have ceased completely there years ago. CUW administrations past and present, as well as President Harrison, deserve heart-felt thanks for the generosity of support given freely over the years to preserve the good that has been accomplished there. The Michigan District has reason to treasure the campus and the ministry there.

Dr Ankerberg's presentation also included a thorough strategic plan for continuing educational ministry in Ann Arbor into the future. That such foresight and thoroughness could be accomplished under such difficult circumstances is impressive. May God richly bless these efforts for the sake of the Church and the honor of God's name!

A casual observation of Church history will reveal that often the Church is long-suffering, patiently enduring periods of conflict and uncertainty – think of Shakespeare's "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune." As a consequence, Church leaders usually have to develop a thick skin as developments unfold. The SWD BOD, however, has come to that critical moment when a decision has to be made and vocal support given to CUWAA's leadership. Recognizing that there is abundant pain and heartache to go around, the SWD BOD nonetheless wants the Church at large to know that Dr Ankerberg, the Rev Berg, and the entire CUWAA BOR have their complete support, encouragement, and gratitude for the efforts that have been made to guide CUWAA through profoundly difficult circumstances.

Because we serve a Lord who has overcome the world and its problems, we commend ourselves into His nail-pierced hands. Even at this late hour the hand of fellowship is extended to everyone who finds themselves broken by recent history. So that the Kingdom of God might be extended, we urge everyone to get behind the efforts being made by the CUWAA administration.

Rev. Eric C. Skovgaard,
South Wisconsin District President

Chairman of the South Wisconsin District Board of Directors

On the commemoration of St Lucia, whose life bore witness to Christ as the light of the world

From the Office of the President

*Confessing Christ
for the Next Generation*

