



*The 59th Regular Convention of the
Southern Illinois District*

Today's Business
Volume 1
January 19, 2022

7

8 This issue of "Today's Business" contains the resolutions proposed by the floor committees at
9 their January 8th, 2022 meeting. These are the items scheduled to be brought before the
10 convention. It also contains the biographical information for those who were nominated for
11 the various offices and boards of the district. The exception to this is the office of vice-
12 president. The candidates for vice president are selected by primary ballot. All the voting
13 delegates will be given a list of all the ordained ministers on the roster of the Southern Illinois
14 District, and will write the names of two separate individuals on the ballot they will be given.
15 The slate will then be the six names having the most nominations in the primary balloting.
16 There are also two reports and one overture that were received after the publication of the
17 Workbook that are included for your reference.

18

19

Rev. Peter W III

20

District Secretary

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28 **Report LR-01 The Circuit Report from Circuit 5**

29 **Zion Lutheran Church, Mascoutah, IL**

30 Under God's undeserved grace, Zion Lutheran Church in Mascoutah continues to join together
31 to receive His gifts in the Word and Sacraments regularly. The congregation is served by Pastor
32 Kirk Clayton, and has also been blessed to receive Field Education students from the seminary
33 in the past four years. Zion's Preschool continues to have a wonderful opportunity to share
34 God's love with students from the congregation and the broader community. Marlene
35 Lockwood retired as the Preschool Director in 2020 after over 25 years of service. The new

1 **Zion Lutheran Church, Belleville, IL**

2

3 **Ministry Highlights**

4 **2021--- Pastoral Transition**

5 In April of 2020, two days after Easter, Pastor Downs suffered a serious and near fatal heart
6 attack. Pastor Downs recovered and though there remains permanent damage to his heart and
7 memory, he was able to return to full-time ministry in August of 2020. While he was hopeful to
8 be able to serve as Senior Pastor faithfully, Pastor Downs under the counsel of President Scharr,
9 Pastor Chris Spelbring, the leadership of Zion informed the church that he was unable to fulfill
10 the essential responsibilities required by his call as senior pastor. Therefore, on November 22,
11 Zion formally formed a transition team to develop a process for exiting with dignity and grace.
12 On December 19th Pastor Downs formally announced this transition to faith community of Zion.
13 The congregation, staff, and leadership have remained compassionate and exceptional in the
14 care extended to Pastor Downs and Pastor Spelbring (serving as interim pastor during the
15 transition period). We trust in the Lord as we together navigate through these uncertain days.

16

17 **Worship and Member Care**

18 Zion remains fervent and faithful in doing all it can to deliver God’s means of grace in Word and
19 Sacraments to the people entrusted in their care. The Body of Christ here at Zion has been
20 edified by our Lord’s gifts through the worship opportunities offered, bible studies, small group
21 initiatives, member care from the priesthood of believers and gospel centered service projects.

22

23 **Connected to Christ**

24 In the fall of 2021, Zion had a 6 week sermon series and small group study based on the CPH
25 book *Connected to Christ: Overcoming Isolation through Community*. This initiative was not
26 only timely as we were coming out of the COVID crisis but vital to how we care for one another,
27 encourage each other, and worship together. Over 170 people participated through 32 small
28 groups. Also, the Zion community gathered for corporate worship over a 6-week period as each
29 week’s theme was delivered through the preaching of God’s Word. This series and small group
30 experiences were wonderful, and many among the Zion community expressed incredibly
31 positive feedback.

32

33 **Bible Education**

34

1 The Zion community continues to seek ways to share God’s Word and grow in faith alongside
2 one another. There has been a multitude of offerings from books of the Bible, topical, video
3 based or through the Sunday School for children. Some are led by staff, others by lay leaders.

4

5 **School:**

6 Zion’s reputation remains vibrant and strong within the Greater Belleville Community. Through
7 the leadership of Zion’s Principal, Mrs. Ananda Baron, the School Advisory Committee, and staff
8 are a large reason Zion remains a vital resource for education as we seek to bring Jesus to our
9 students and families.

10

11 It ought to be officially noted that this past August (2021) Mrs. Baron completed a master’s in
12 educational administration from Concordia University-Nebraska (Seward). Congratulations to
13 Mrs. Baron for this achievement while providing exceptional leadership for our school
14 community.

15

16 **Music Ministry**

17

18 Zion has a long history of being blessed by the music of the church in its various forms. Zion’s
19 Director of Music-Dawn Tayon leads our dedicated musicians, vocalists, choirs, and praise team
20 ensembles. They have been an incredible asset to this faith community especially through some
21 unique times.

22 **Youth/Family Ministry**

23

24 With another transition here at Zion we continue to strive to care for families and the youth of
25 this community. Kerri Schmid-Zion’s DCE continues to lead our youth while Zion seeks to “call”
26 for a new youth minister. Youth small groups continue on Sunday nights. The big events coming
27 this summer are the LCMS National Youth Gathering and Camp Lone Star, LaGrange, TX.

28

29 **Human Care**

30

31 Zion continues to support the Inter Faith Food pantry in Belleville with volunteers and financial
32 support. In addition, the Summer Sack Lunch program led by Jill Batchelder received another

1 \$5,000 grant from Archford Angels thanks to Jen Boyer's for the benefits to overcome food
2 insecurity among the children of our community.

3

4 **Christmas Outreach**

5

6 Operation Christmas Child delivered about 1,036 parcels.

7 Angel Tree delivered over 150 gifts to children of incarcerated parents or guardians.

8

9 **LR-02 REPORT OF THE SID GOLF TOURNAMENT**

10 TO: SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT CONGREGATIONAL CONVENTION

11

12 FROM: ANNUAL BOB STREUTER MEMORIAL - SID/LCMS GOLF TOURNAMENT

13 COMMITTEE : Dan Roth, Ruth Waeltz, Wally Streuter

14

15

16 Annually, the Southern Illinois District Scholarship Committee awards scholarships to student
17 applicants who are entering into Concordia colleges and seminaries to become professional
18 church workers. Previously, funding for these scholarships came from an annual \$50,000 grant
19 from the Werner Foundation. In the 1990's approximately 30 plus SID Student Scholarships
20 were awarded annually.

21

22 In 2003 the Werner Foundation, Paris, IL, informed the Board of Directors the monetary grant
23 would soon be ending, leaving the Southern Illinois District Student Aid Scholarship in jeopardy,
24 thus the Board of Directors began researching and organizing their own funding for these
25 Scholarships.

26

27 Determined to find a solution, the 2004 SID Board of Directors Finance Committee suggested an
28 Annual District Sponsored Golf Tournament to raise funds for the scholarships, and with four
29 avid golfers serving on the 2004 Finance Committee, namely Dan Roth (District School and
30 General Executive), Bob Streuter (District Treasurer), Norm Rowald, and Ruth Waeltz (Board
31 Directors), the 1st SID Scholarship Golf Tournament was approved by the SID Board of
32 Directors.

33

34 The Golf Tournaments sole purpose is to raise funds for the Student Aid Endowment Fund. All
35 tournament profits, resulting from golfer entry fees, and nearly 100% profit coming from
36 congregation, corporate, and individual sponsorships, have been retained in the District's
37 Designated Fund.

38

1 Upon the passing of Bob Streuter, who strongly supported this event, the tournament was
2 renamed, "Bob Streuter Memorial Golf Tournament", which is now organized by, Dan Roth,
3 Ruth Waeltz, and Bob's brother, Wally Streuter.
4

5 Presently, the SID Scholarship Endowment Fund balance is near a quarter million dollars, with
6 approximately \$139,000 deposited from 17 years hosting the tournament.
7

8 The SID Board of Directors budget \$15,000 - \$16,000 a year for scholarships. Additional
9 Scholarship money is drawn from the interest in the Student Aid Endowment Fund.
10 Approximately \$19,500 total grants were awarded to twelve applicants in 2021.
11

12 Due to the 2020 Pandemic, the Golf Committee was determined to have our tournament. The
13 June event had to be cancelled, but with excellent help from the Roland Barkau Golf Club, the
14 tournament was played on October 3, with a few minor adjustments. Twenty-one golf teams
15 entered the tournament, it was a financial success, and another tournament was completed
16 with plenty of fun and in Christian fellowship. In 2021, the Tournament was moved back to
17 June 12, with nineteen teams participating.
18

19 The SID Tournament Committee begins planning early each year. We encourage golfers to
20 organize a team of four (male/female) and the goal is to have about 30 teams enter. The
21 committee then solicits businesses, corporations, congregations, and individuals to become
22 Tournament Sponsors with a monetary donation. The entry level sponsorship starts at \$50.
23 More is acceptable! We also encourage corporate sponsors at the \$1,000 level.
24

25 Consistent income from sponsorships and participating members are the necessary core of a
26 successful tournament. For the past 18 years the Golf Committee has desperately tried
27 encouraging our ninety-one Congregations to participate by helping encourage their member
28 golfers to form a team to play and to have their congregation send a tournament sponsor gift.
29 Just think, if seventy Congregations, out of the ninety-one, would be Tournament Sponsors, for
30 just \$50, that would net \$3,500 for the Student Aid Endowment Fund. Sadly, only three SID
31 congregations were Tournament Sponsors in 2021.
32

33 Our sole purpose of reporting to the Delegates and Pastors at this Convention, is to inform you
34 of the District Student Aid Endowment Fund, and we suggest that you return to your
35 congregation and be a dedicated advocate to your congregation, friends, and golfers.
36

- 37 • Inform them about the SID Scholarship Program.
- 38 • Recommend your congregation annually consider supporting Tournament Sponsorship.
- 39 • Encourage any golfers in your congregation to consider entering a team on June 11, 2022
40 at the Roland Barkau Memorial Golf Course in Okawville

41
42 As a delegate, please help keep this event successful. Consider volunteering to serve on the
43 planning committee. Just a meeting or two is all that is necessary.
44

1 Thanks be to God for all the golfers who participate, corporate sponsors, church sponsors,
2 business sponsors, and all individual sponsors. Please help keep the Bob Streuter Memorial Golf
3 Tournament an annual event.

4

5 Thank you for allowing this report to be shared at the 2022 Southern Illinois District
6 Convention.

7

8 SID Golf Committee

9

10 **Overture LO3-06**

11

12 **To Encourage Congregations To Enhance Their Support For The Bob Streuter Memorial Golf**
13 **Tournament**

14

15 *Whereas*, SID Annual Bob Streuter Golf Tournament Committee is seeking enhanced support
16 from all SID Congregations represented at this Convention, AND

17

18 *Whereas*, realizing a \$50,000 annual grant from the Werner Foundation ended their
19 commitment by leaving the Southern Illinois District Student Aid Scholarship in jeopardy, SID
20 Board of Directors began researching and organizing their own funding for these Scholarships,
21 AND

22

23 *Whereas*, the Southern Illinois District Student Aid Scholarship provides important grants to
24 students attending a synodical university or seminary, and who are studying to be professional
25 church workers in the LCMS church family, AND

26

27 *Whereas*, Determined to find a solution, in 2004 the SID Board of Directors Finance Committee
28 suggested an Annual District Sponsored Golf Tournament to raise funds for the scholarships,
29 the 1st SID Scholarship Golf Tournament was approved by the Board of Directors, AND

30

31 *Whereas*, Observing the passing of original committee-member, Bob Streuter in 2008, the
32 tournament was renamed: Annual Bob Streuter Memorial - SID/LCMS Golf Tournament, AND

33

34 *Whereas*, Reiterating the sole purpose of raising funds, all profits resulting from golfer entry
35 fees, and 100% profit coming from congregation, corporate and individual sponsorships were
36 retained in the SID Student Aid Endowment Fund AND

37

38 *Whereas*, Continuing sponsorships with fewer participating members and golfers have gradually
39 impacted the event funds, and for the past 18 years the Golf Committee has desperately tried
40 encouraging participation with monetary gifts, encouraging members and golfers, AND

41

1 *Whereas*, Sadly, of the ninety-one Southern Illinois Congregations, church participation has
2 resulted in only two or three Congregation Sponsorships, per year, AND

3
4 *Whereas*, Endorsing the 18th Annual Bob Streuter Memorial - SID/LCMS Golf Tournament,
5 scheduled for Saturday, June 11, 2022 at Roland Barkau Memorial Golf Course in Okawville,
6 Illinois; therefore, be it . . .

7
8 *Resolved*: All congregations support the **Southern Illinois District Student Aid Endowment**
9 **Fund**; through its Congregational Chairman, Pastor, or Delegates, and be it further . . .

10
11 *Resolved*: All congregations be encouraged to create an annual budget item sponsoring the
12 **Southern Illinois District Student Aid Endowment Fund** via the Annual Bob Streuter Memorial -
13 SID/LCMS Golf Tournament, be it finally . . .

14
15 *Resolved*: All delegates share announcements, bulletins, flyers, encouraging their church and/or
16 individual members to consider tournament sponsorship, giving a monetary gift, or
17 participating in the Annual Bob Streuter Memorial - SID/LCMS Golf Tournament.

18
19 The Annual Bob Streuter Memorial Golf Tournament Committee

20
21 **Biographical Information**

22 **Candidates for District President**

23 Rev. Benjamin Thomas Ball

24 Date of Birth: 3-30-1972

25 Pastorates:

- 26
- St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Dedham, Massachusetts 1999-2004
 - St. Paul Lutheran Church, Brookfield, Illinois 2004-2012
 - St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hamel, Illinois 2012-present
- 28

29 Synod and District Offices and Positions:

30 Synod

- 31
- Sixth Vice-President, Central Region 2019-Present
 - Chairman, Standing Committee for Nominations 2019–present
 - Assistant Chaplain, LCMS Convention 2013
 - Convention Delegate 2007, 2016, 2019
 - Convention Floor Committees 2016, 2019
 - Doctrinal Reviewer 2013–2019
- 36

- 1 • Planning Committee Member and Presenter, LCMS Institute on Liturgy, Preaching and
- 2 • Church Music 2014, 2017
- 3 • Participant, LCMS Model Theological Conference 2010

4 District

- 5 • Second Vice-President, Southern Illinois District 2018-2019
- 6 • Vice-Chairman, SID Pastoral Conference 2017–2019
- 7 • Chairman, SID Commission on Convention Nominations and Elections 2017–2018
- 8 • Circuit Counselor/Visitor, Northern Illinois District 2006-2009, SID 2015–2018
- 9 • Secretary, NID Nominations Committee 2009
- 10 • NID East Region Pastoral Conference Committee 2006–2010
- 11 • New England District Worship Commission 2001–2004
- 12 • Convention Floor Committees 2000, 2015

13 Personal Statement Regarding the Office

14 We confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord and believe that God the Father raised Him from
15 the dead (Romans 10:9). So that the saving Gospel would be proclaimed with clarity and unity,
16 and that the objectives of the synod would be carried out in our congregations, the bylaws of
17 the

18 Synod express how the District President is to conduct his office -

19 *He shall arrange in advance for an official visit to each congregation of his district at least once*
20 *every three years and otherwise as he deems it necessary...In his official visits he shall seek to*
21 *bring about to the greatest possible degree the achievement of the Synod's objectives as*
22 *expressed in Article III of its Constitution...He shall conduct his official visits in an evangelical*
23 *manner... He shall come to the pastor and the congregation as a brotherly advisor, reminding*
24 *them of the joy of serving in the mission and ministry of the church...In his visits he shall include*
25 *fraternal discussion in regard to worship and communion attendance; participation by the*
26 *congregation in missions and the work of the church at large; the congregation's evangelism*
27 *and education endeavors; its cultivation of sound stewardship principles; all aspects of*
28 *compensation for professional church workers; the need for maintenance of purity of doctrine;*
29 *the strengthening of the bond of Christian fellowship; and the provision of resources,*
30 *opportunities, and assistance so God's people can grow in their faith, hope, and love...Each*
31 *district president, in accordance with the Constitution of the Synod, shall supervise the doctrine,*
32 *the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained or commissioned ministers*
33 *who are members through his district or are subject to his ecclesiastical supervision, and shall*
34 *inquire into the prevailing spiritual conditions of the congregations of his district. Bylaws 4.4.4-5*
35 Under the Scriptures and our Confessions, these bylaws would be my guide as District
36 President.

37 I would strive to make personal, annual visits to our congregations and pastors. I would engage
38 in fraternal discussions about the need for the maintenance of purity of doctrine, of evangelism

1 and education, and make every effort to strengthen our bonds of Christian fellowship so that
2 God’s people can grow in their faith, hope, and love. This world is fractured by sin and is in
3 disarray. The devil seems to rule. However, “The Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35).
4 We Missouri Synod Lutherans in Southern Illinois have the truth of the Scriptures. We have
5 Jesus as Lord. He is our King. As the devil and this world rage, we need to be joined together
6 in our confession that Jesus is Lord, that He is raised from the dead, and proclaim the hope that
7 is
8 ours – together. I would make every effort as District President to strengthen our faith, hope,
9 and
10 love, by serving with the strength God provides. 23 years of pastoral ministry, service as a Vice-
11 President of the SID and as a Vice-President of the Synod are a good foundation for the office.
12

13

14 Rev. Dr. Kirk Clayton

15 Date of Birth: November 18, 1972

16

17 Pastorate:

18 Zion Lutheran Church, Mascoutah, IL, 2005–Present

19 Grace Lutheran Church, Canton, IL, 2000–2005

20

21 Synod and District Offices and Positions:

22 SID 2nd Vice President (2019-2022)

23 Circuit Visitor for Circuit 5 (2018-2019)

24 SID PALS Coordinator (2017-Present)

25 Member of SID Board of Congregational Support (2015-2018)

26 Vice President of SID Pastor’s Conference Committee (2014-2016)

27 Member of SID Pastor’s Conference Committee (2005-2009)

28 Member of SID Pastoral Candidate Interview Committee (2012-Present)

29 Representative to National Mission Conference (2011)

30 Chairman of the SID Board of Missions (2009-2015)

31 Member of the SID Board of Directors (2009-2015 and 2018-Present)

32 Delegate to Synodical Convention (2007 and 2016)

33 One of two representatives selected to introduce LSB Hymnal in SID (2006)

34 SID LLL Pastoral Advisor (2005-2013)

35 Sectional Speaker at Higher Things Youth Conferences (2006, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2017, 2018,
36 2021)

37

38 Personal Statement Regarding the Office

39 After receiving grace from our loving and giving God, the Church lives by serving and lives to
40 serve. Regarding leadership and authority in the Church, Jesus said, “You know that the rulers
41 of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not
42 be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever
43 would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served
44 but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:25-28) Leadership in the

1 Church, both at the congregational level and at other elected District and Synodical levels, is a
2 call to serve as God has first served us and love as God has first loved us. The call to lead is the
3 call to serve, the call to serve is the call to sacrifice. That is the way of Christ, and that is the way
4 of His Church.
5

6
7 Name: Rev. Mark Alan Nebel

8 Date of Birth: April 13, 1964

9 Pastoral Ministry: Ordination: July 22, 1990

10 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bay City, Michigan, Vicarage, 1987-1988

11 Concordia Lutheran Church, Cottage Hills, Illinois, Pastor, July 22, 1990-October 31, 1996

12 Vacancy Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wood River, Illinois, 1991

13 Vacancy Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Godfrey, Illinois, 1993

14 Trinity Lutheran Church, Hoyleton, Illinois, Pastor, November 3, 1996-June 30, 2007

15 St. John's Lutheran Church, Red Bud, Illinois, Senior Pastor, July 1, 2007-present

16 Vacancy Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Baldwin, Illinois, January-August 2015
17

18 Synodical Service:

19 Delegate to the 1992 synodical convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

20 Delegate to the 2004 synodical convention in St. Louis (Floor Committee 2, Worship)

21 Facilitator in Southern Illinois for Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS)

22 2005-2013

23 Participant in the President's Strategy Summit, March 2006

24 Field Education Supervisor for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 1990-1996, 2007-2021

25 Vicarage Supervisor for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 2005-2007

26 Delegate to the 2016 synodical convention in Milwaukee (Floor Committee 8, Parochial

27 Schools)

28 Advisory Delegate to the 2019 synodical convention in Tampa (Board of Directors
29 representative)

30 Vicarage Supervisor for Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, 2019-2020
31

32 District Service: (all in the Southern Illinois District, LCMS)

33 Member of the Board of Communications (1992-2003)

34 Circuit Counselor, Mid-Kaskaskia Circuit (February 2003-June 2007)

35 Member of the District Board of Directors (February 2006-June 2007; February 2015-
36 present)

37 Member of the Salary Guidelines Committee (2005)

38 Pastoral Conference Program Committee, 1999-2002, 2004-2007, chairman 2010 to

39 2012

40 SID Student Aid Endowment Golf Tournament Committee member, 2005-2015

1 Chairman of the Nominations and Elections Committee for the District Convention,
2 2011-2012
3 Circuit Counselor/Visitor, Kaskaskia River Valley Circuit (February 2012 to February
4 2018)
5 First Vice-President (February 2018-present)
6 Chairman of the Office and Personnel Committee (April 2018-present)
7

8 Auxiliary Service:

9 Zone Counselor, Metro North, Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 1993-1995
10 Pastoral Advisor, Southern Illinois District Lutheran Laymen's League, 1996-2003
11 Member and Chairman of Community Program Council, Lutheran Child and Family
12 Services, 1994 -1996 (Belleville, Illinois), 1998-2006 (Mt. Vernon, Illinois)
13 Member of the Saint Paul Alumni Association, Concordia, Missouri, 1992-2016
14 Pastoral Counselor, Southern Illinois District Lutheran Women's Missionary League,
15 January 2009 to September 2014
16 Member of the Board of Trustees, Saint Paul Lutheran High School, August 13, 2012 to
17 June 28, 2021 (Vice-Chairman, August 2016 to June 2021)
18

19 Community Service:

20 Chaplain-on-call, Wood River Township Hospital, 1991-1996
21 Firefighter and First Responder, Hoyleton Fire Protection District, 1997-2007
22 Hoyleton Lions Club, 1996-2007 (President 1999-2000)
23 Red Bud Lions Club, 2007-present (President 2011-2012)
24 Red Bud Rotary Club, 2007-present (President 2014-2015)
25 Red Bud Complete Count Census Committee, 2010
26 Southern Illinois Substance Abuse Alliance Committee member (Communications), June
27 2017-present
28 Red Bud Regional Hospital Ethics Committee member, April 2021-present
29

30 Recognitions:

31 "An Outstanding Lutheran School Shepherd" by National Lutheran School Accreditation,
32 2016
33 "Person of the Year" Trinity Lutheran School Alumni Association, Jefferson City,
34 Missouri, 2018
35

36 Professional Associations:

37 Abstractor for Religious and Theological Abstracts, Myerstown, Pennsylvania, Fall 1989
38 to present
39

40 Personal Statement Regarding the Office

1 A district president serves God's people using God's Word of Law and Gospel with evangelical
2 guidance. He advises and assists the congregations gathered around God's Word and
3 Sacraments as they are entrusted to his care. He visits, encourages, and assists the called
4 professional church workers as they serve God's people in their congregations. He represents
5 his district in meetings and gatherings of our synod. He represents the synod as he shares the
6 mission work of our larger church body with the congregations of his district.

7 I have been privileged and honored to serve the Southern Illinois District the last four years as
8 its First Vice-President. In this position I have filled in for President Scharr on a number of
9 occasions. I certainly have enjoyed doing so. This has enhanced my appreciation of his work and
10 leadership in our district. It also has given me a better understanding of the requirements,
11 expectations and responsibilities of this elected office of our church body.

12

13 Rev. Timothy J. Scharr

14 Date of Birth: February 11, 1958

15 Pastorate:

- 16 • Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Pastor, Indianola, IA 1984-1994
- 17 • St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Pastor, Wenatchee, WA 1994-2001
- 18 • Trinity Lutheran Church, Senior Pastor, Nashville, IL 2001-2010
- 19 • Southern Illinois District President 2010-present
- 20 • Messiah Lutheran Church, Assistant Pastor, Carlyle, IL 2020-present

21 Synod and District Offices and Positions:

- 22 • Iowa West Student Scholarship Committee 1988
- 23 • Iowa West Stewardship Board 1988-1994
- 24 • Circuit Visitor, Iowa West 1991-1994
- 25 • Circuit Visitor, Northwest District 1997-2001
- 26 • Board of Missions, Southern Illinois 2003-2006
- 27 • 2nd Vice-President, Southern Illinois District 2006-2009
- 28 • 1st Vice President, Southern Illinois District 2009-2010
- 29 • President, Southern Illinois District 2010-present
- 30 • LCMS Dialog with Renewal in Missouri (RIM) 1995-2001
- 31 • LCMS Council of Presidents 2010-present
- 32 • LCMS Pastoral Colloquy Committee 2012-present
- 33 • LCMS Liaison to Lutheran Hour Ministry Board 2011-2016
- 34 • LCMS 5-01a Task Force 2014-2016
- 35 • LCMS 7-02b Task Force 2016-2019
- 36 • LCMS "What's Next?" Committee 2019-present

1 Personal Statement Regarding the Office

2 It is a privilege and honor to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and His people. I have been
3 blessed to be a pastor in four congregations in three different districts. This has led to
4 experience in the wider church from Circuit Visitor to District Boards, to Synodical Commissions,
5 and since 2006 as a member of the Presidium of the Southern Illinois District.

6 We have been through challenging times brought on by Covid-19 and the various
7 government mandates. The demographic shifts in our rural and small towns presents significant
8 challenges to our congregations in supporting full-time pastors. Through all the this, the
9 steadfast love of the Lord endures forever. The Church is built on the One Foundation, which is
10 Jesus Christ. He remains the same yesterday, today and forever. Moving forward we stand
11 upon that which is sure and certain. We pray for His guidance, discernment and blessing as we
12 build with the gold, silver and precious stones of His Word and Sacraments. We have a sure and
13 certain future prepared by Jesus. The best is yet to come.
14

15 Rev. Michael P. Walther

16 Date of Birth: April 7, 1958

17 Pastorates:

- 18 • St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Beemer Nebraska (1984-1988)
- 19 • LCMS Campus Ministry at Kearney State College, Kearney, Nebraska (1988-1991)
- 20 • Part-time Chaplain Richard Young Psychiatric Hospital, Kearney, Nebraska (1990-1991)
- 21 • Associate Pastor Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, Illinois (1991-1992)
- 22 • Pastor Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, Illinois (1992-Present)

23 Synod and District Offices and Positions:

- 24 • Circuit Visitor Representative to the SID Board of Directors (2009-2010)
- 25 • Second Vice President SID (2010-2012)
- 26 • First Vice President SID (2012-2015)
- 27 • Second Vice President SID (2015-2018)

28 Personal Statement Regarding the Office

29 I have been blessed to serve as a pastor in a variety of settings including: rural, small town,
30 campus ministry, institutional, and large. I know what its like to have no secretary and mow the
31 lawn for the church to keep costs down. I've worked with college-age youth and with mental
32 patients. I've led multi-million dollar stewardship and building programs. I helped a dying
33 congregation in our circuit come back to life again. I worked with the government and a little
34 against the government during the Covid pandemic to make sure the ministry of the Gospel
35 kept going. All of this I only because God has given us His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins
36 and to give us a new life led by the Holy Spirit. Sin tears all things down. Grace builds all things

1 up. If God would call me to this office, I would first like to meet with all the congregations and
2 pastors to encourage them in what they are doing and to help with any resources the district,
3 synod and other agencies might be able to offer. Second, I would look forward to working with
4 the SID staff and boards to see how we can advise and support the congregational, educational,
5 and institutional ministries of the district. My goal in life is first to be a servant of Christ and to
6 carry out the work of the Lord in a Biblical, confessional, and effective way. We have many
7 challenges ahead as has every generation before us. But, Jesus, who “is the same, yesterday,
8 today, and forever, will not forsake us” (Hebrews 13.8, 5). We will “press toward the goal for
9 the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3.14).

10

11 **Candidates for District Secretary – elect 1**

12 Rev. Peter W. Ill
13 Member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Millstadt, Illinois
14 Current Position: Senior Pastor

15

16 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Pastor at St. John,
17 Chester, IL 2010-2014, Senior Pastor at Trinity, Millstadt, IL 2014-present. (D) SID Pastoral
18 Conference Committee 2011-2015, 2017-present, SID Board of Congregational Support 2015-
19 2018, Secretary 2018-Present. (S) Convention Delegate 2016, 2019.

20

21 Special qualifications for this position: I have served in this position the previous term.

22

23

24 Rev. Dr. Antonin “Tony” Troup
25 Member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Waterloo, Illinois
26 Current Position: Associate Pastor.

27

28 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Parish Pastor for 37
29 years, Stephen Ministry Leader, Advisory Board of Directors for Oak Hill Rehabilitation Center.
30 (D) Chairman of Commission on Congregational Constitutions – 9 years, SID District Secretary –
31 6 years, Counselor for LWML, Counselor for LYF. (S) Adjunct Professor at Concordia Seminary –
32 2 years.

33

34 Special Qualifications for this position: Served as District Secretary 2006-2012.

35

36

37 **Candidates for Treasurer – elect 1**

38

39 Mr. Gary D. Hemmer (Layperson)
40 Member of Zion Lutheran, Belleville, Illinois
41 Current Occupation: Retired Banker Employer: First National Bank of Waterloo

1
2 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) President, Elder,
3 Board of Personnel, Endowment Committee, Member of Ministry Leadership Group. (D)
4 Treasurer, Fund Advisory Committee
5
6 Special Qualifications for this position: Professional: Banker for 45 years Education: MBA from
7 St Louis University in Finance, B.S. University of Illinois in Finance Volunteer: District Treasurer,
8 Treasurer of American Banker's Association.
9

10
11 Mr. Andrew Gerlach (Layperson)
12 No biographical information available
13

14
15 **Commissioned Candidates for the Board of Directors – elect 2**

16
17 Mr. William F Becker (Commissioned)
18 Member of St. John's Lutheran, Red Bud, Illinois
19 Position: Director of Christian Education at St. John's Red Bud
20

21 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (D) 2 terms on the Board
22 of Directors, service on the Nominations Committee, service on the SID/CID Teacher's
23 Conference Committee.
24

25 Special Qualifications for this position: I have served as treasurer for teacher's conference, I
26 served 2 terms of LEA's ETNet board, and I serve my local congregation in many ways.
27

28
29 Mr. Joe J Gerth
30 Member of: St. Paul Lutheran, Hamel, Illinois.
31 Position: Principal at St. Paul, Hamel
32

33 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences:
34

35 Special qualifications for this position: I'm a faithful Lutheran educator, committed to its
36 teachings. I love our church and its rich heritage.
37

38
39 Dr. Jay A. Krause (Commissioned)
40 Member of Good Shepherd Lutheran, Collinsville, Illinois
41 Current Position: Principal at Metro East Lutheran High School
42

1 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: In the Texas, South
2 Wisconsin, and English districts: Advisory member positions, School Board positions, District
3 finance positions.

4
5 Special qualifications for this position: SID Board of Directors the past 4 years, Leadership
6 positions at various LCMS schools for the past 27 years, significant background in church and
7 school finances.

9
10
11 Mr. Zachariah D. Schnare
12 Member of St. Paul Lutheran, Hamel, Illinois
13 Current position: Auto sales at Robert's Motors

14
15 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: Elder, Previous Board of
16 Director's member

17
18 Special qualifications for this position:

21
22 **Lay Candidates for the Board of Directors – elect 8**

23
24 Mr. Les Apps
25 No biographical information available

27
28 Mr. Larry L Barringer Age: 64
29 Member of: Trinity Lutheran Ministries, Edwardsville, IL
30 Present Position in Congregation: Congregational President
31 Current Occupation: Retired Chemical Engineer Employer: Phillips 66, Wood River Refinery

32
33 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Congregational
34 President, Elder for 14 years, Stewardship Board, Church Council at Large. (D) SDI Convention
35 delegate x3, SIUE International Student Ministry Volunteer, SID Advocates for Life, Keynote
36 Speaker – 40 Days for Life in Granite City. (S) 2019 National Convention Delegate and floor
37 committee member

38
39 Special qualification for this position: 20 years as both short-term and strategic economic
40 planner for Fortune 500 company.

1 Mr. Paul J. Bertels Age: 57
2 Member of: Emmaus Lutheran Church, Dorsey, IL
3 Present Position in Congregation: Trustee
4 Current Occupation: self-employed/consultant Employer: Farmgate Insights, LLC
5
6 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Trustee
7
8 Special qualifications for this position: In a previous career, I was a Vice President of a large
9 trade association, so I am familiar with working with a diverse Board of Directors.
10

11 Mr. Walter D. Blotevogel Age: 76
12 Member of: Trinity Lutheran, Worden, IL
13 Present Position at Congregation: Elder
14 Current Occupation: Civil Engineer, P.E. Employer: Sheppard, Morgan, & Schwaab, Inc.
15
16 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Chairman of Board of
17 Missions and Worship, elder, chairman of congregation. (D) SID LCMS Board of Directors (S)
18 Delegate to 2010 and 2016 LCMS Conventions
19
20 Special qualifications for this position: Owned and operated a professional services business for
21 30 years. Chaired Fund-Raising Committee for New Church – Edwardsville, IL.
22
23

24 Mr. Matthew Bierman
25 No biographical information available
26
27

28 Mr. Virgil L. Gramenz Age: 64
29 Member of: St Peter Lutheran, Campbell Hill, IL
30 Present position in congregation: member
31 Current Occupation: Farmer Employer: Self Employed
32
33 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) board of Elders, Board
34 of Stewardship, Board of Education. (D) SID Board of Directors
35
36 Special qualifications for this position: Currently on SID Board of Directors and Gateway FS
37 Board of Directors
38
39

40
41
42
43

1 Mr. Kevin R. Hartkemeyer Age: 64
2 Member of: Hope Lutheran, Highland, IL
3 Present Position in Congregation:
4 Current Occupation: CEO Employer: Top Ag Cooperative
5
6 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Hope Lutheran – vice
7 chair 2 years, chairman 4 years, chaired call committee; First English Lutheran, Spencer, IA elder
8 6 years, vice chair 1 year, chair 2 years, chair of finance committee to build new church; Trinity
9 Lutheran, Knierem, IA elder 3 years; Grace Lutheran, Blainstown, IA financial secretary,
10 treasurer.
11
12 Special qualifications for this position: I’ve worked for a board of directors for 30 years and
13 understand the dynamics and the roles involved. Served on numerous boards – 6 years for
14 Cooperative Futures Association – treasurer, board of Grain and Feed Association of Illinois for
15 6 years, 17 years for Cooperative Credit Company – 15 as President, 9 years of AGRI Industries,
16 7 years on AGM, 6 years for Mrs. Clarks Food, 15 years on executive council of Land O’Lakes.

18
19 Mr. Gordon Heuer
20 No biographical information available

22
23 Mr. Derek Johnson
24 No biographical information available

26
27 Mr. Kurt E. Johnson Age: 61
28 Member of: St. Paul Lutheran, Hamel, IL
29 Present Position in congregation: Member
30 Current occupation: President Employer Southern Illinois Transfer, Inc
31
32 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Elder – 18 years,
33 Chairman of Congregation – 14 years (D) Board of Directors of Metro-East Lutheran High
34 School – 15 years.

35
36 Special qualifications for this position: BS in accounting, practicing attorney for 22 years, now
37 managing our business

39
40 Mr. Duane H Meyer Age: 80
41 Member of: St Paul Lutheran, Hamel, IL
42 Present position in congregation: Vice Chairman
43 Current Occupation: Retired Employer: Self

1
2 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Elder, Secretary,
3 School Board, Vice Chairman (D) SID Board of Directors

4
5 Special qualifications for this position:
6 _____

7
8 Mr. James Munden
9 No biographical information available

10 _____
11
12 Mr. Mark Nolte
13 No biographical information available

14 _____
15
16 Mrs. Anna Rowden Age: 71
17 Member of: Messiah Lutheran, Carlyle, IL
18 Present position in congregation: Business Admin/Financial Admin
19 Current Occupation: Church Secretary Employer: Messiah Lutheran Church

20
21 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Financial Secretary,
22 Stewardship chair, Evangelism chair, chair of the annual fundraiser (D/S) Convention Delegate

23
24 Special qualifications for this office: As a layperson, I have been an office manager and fiscal
25 officer as well as corporate rep for 2 prestigious dermatology practice, for safety firm, and
26 endurance athlete for over 30 years.

27 _____
28
29
30 Mr. Donald L. Stallman Age: 77
31 Member of: St. John Lutheran, Chester, IL
32 Present position in congregation: Vice Chairman
33 Current Occupation: Retired Employer:

34
35 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Board of elders,
36 chairman of the congregation, vice chairman, secretary of the congregation.

37
38 Special qualifications for this position: I have held many leadership positions in different areas
39 of our congregation. I am the author of our current constitution and bylaws. I have assisted
40 the pastors and had input in the problems that arose in the congregation.

41 _____
42
43

1 Mr. Kevin G. Weidner Age:
2 Member of: Zion Lutheran, Bunker Hill, IL
3 Present position in congregation: layperson
4 Current occupation: Farmer Employer: self employed
5

6 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Life long member of
7 Zion, financial secretary – 4 years, Sunday School Superintendent – 4 years, Trustee – 6 years,
8 elder – 6 years.
9

10 Special qualifications for this position: No special qualifications but willing to serve.
11

12
13 **Ordained Candidates for the Board of Missions – elect 3**
14

15 Rev. Robert W Gray Age: 74
16 Member of: Our Savior Lutheran, Carbondale, IL
17 Present position in congregation:
18 Current occupation: retired Employer

19 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (D)Circuit Counselor,
20 Worship Committee Chairman, Current Chair of Interview Committee, District Mental Health
21 Committee Chair
22

23 Special qualifications for this position: Campus Pastor for many years, police chaplain for
24 Carbondale and Southern Illinois University, on-call chaplain at hospital, adjunct counselor for
25 SIU, Saluki Care Committee – SIU, Task Force for Suicide Prevention for Carbondale, worked in
26 prison ministry and worked with mentally ill and mentally retarded, foster parent
27

28
29 Rev. David W. Kern Age: 65
30 Member of Emmaus Lutheran, Dorsey, IL
31 Present position in congregation: Pastor
32 Current Occupation: Pastor Employer:

33
34 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Pastor at St. Paul
35 Lutheran, West Frankfurt 2005-2015 (D) Prison Ministry 2003-2013 Hardin County Adult
36 Facility, Prison Ministry 2017-2020 Illinois Youth Center in Grafton, IL
37

38 Special qualifications for this position:
39

40
41
42
43

1 Rev. Martin T. Schnare Age: 67
2 Member of: St Paul Lutheran, Hamel, IL
3 Present position in congregation: member
4 Current Occupation: Retired Employer:
5
6 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (D) District Youth
7 Committee Member, District Stewardship chairman, commission of Congregational Services
8 Chairman, District Secretary, Circuit Visitor (S) LCMS Youth Board
9
10 Special qualifications for this position: Currently working as part-time regional representative
11 for Lutheran Heritage Foundation
12

13
14 Rev. Dr. Willie P. Stallworth, Sr. Age: 60
15 Member of Unity Lutheran, East St Louis, IL
16 Present position in congregation: Pastor
17 Current Occupation: Pastor Employer: Unity Lutheran, East St Louis
18
19 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: N/A
20
21 Special qualifications for this position: Education, Administration, etc.
22

23
24 Rev. Timothy J. Wilcoxon Age: 31
25 Member of: Zion Lutheran, Carlinville, IL
26 Present position in congregation: Sole Pastor
27 Occupation: Pastor Employer: Zion Lutheran, Carlinville, IL
28
29 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences:
30
31 Special qualifications for this position: My congregation and I have learned much about
32 stewardship and how to run a preschool as a mission.
33

34
35 **Commissioned Candidates for the Board of Missions – elect 1**
36

37 Mr. Paul M. Miller Age: 70
38 Member of: Zion Lutheran, Staunton, IL
39 Present position in congregation: Treasurer
40 Current occupation: retired Employer:
41
42 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences:
43

1 Special qualifications for this position:
2

3
4 Mrs. Susan Schwartz Age: 66

5 Member of: St. John Lutheran, Chester, IL

6 Present position in congregation: member

7 Occupation: Retired teacher employer:
8

9 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: teacher for 40 years in
10 Lutheran school
11

12 Special qualifications for this position:
13

14
15 **Lay Candidates for the Board of Missions – elect 4**
16

17 Mr. Larry L Barringer Age: 64

18 Member of: Trinity Lutheran Ministries, Edwardsville, IL

19 Present Position in Congregation: Congregational President

20 Current Occupation: Retired Chemical Engineer Employer: Phillips 66, Wood River Refinery
21

22 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Congregational
23 President, Elder for 14 years, Stewardship Board, Church Council at Large. (D) SID Convention
24 delegate x3, SIUE International Student Ministry Volunteer, SID Advocates for Life, Keynote
25 Speaker – 40 Days for Life in Granite City. (S) 2019 National Convention Delegate and floor
26 committee member
27

28 Special qualification for this position: 20 years as both short-term and strategic economic
29 planner for Fortune 500 company.
30

31
32 Mr. Michael D Burke Age: 61

33 Member of: Our Savior Lutheran, Carbondale, IL

34 Present position in congregation: Chairman

35 Current occupation: Attorney Employer: Self

36 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Board of Finance for
37 3 years, Chairman of congregation for the last 32 years
38

39 Special qualifications for this position: I have served in a congregation that has put special
40 emphasis and importance on the mission of the Church and I believe that I can use that
41 experience to help and support the district's mission of the Church.
42

43

1 Mr. David E. Dyson Age: 82
2 Member of: Trinity Lutheran, Nashville, IL
3 Present position in congregation: member
4 Current occupation: retired employer:
5
6 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Stewardship/Finance
7 (D) Board for Congregational Support – 6 years, Board of Directors – 6 years, Board for missions
8 – 4 years, Board of Directors of Unity Christian Lutheran Elementary School
9

10
11 Mrs. Sharon F. Holcomb Age: 67
12 Member of: Emmaus Lutheran, Dorsey, IL
13 Present position in congregation: Treasurer, LWML
14 Current Occupation: Substitute Teacher Employer: Clayton School District
15
16 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences:
17
18 Special qualifications for this position: Previous delegate at national convention
19

20
21 Mr. Donald J. Hutchinson Age: 67
22 Member of: Messiah Lutheran, Lebanon, IL
23 Present position in congregation: Elder
24 Current Occupation: Retired Employer: Anheuser-Busch
25
26 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) President, Board of
27 Education (D) Board of Directors (chair, finance committee), Board of Missions (Secretary),
28 Commission on Constitutional matters.
29
30 Special qualifications for this position:
31

32
33 Mr. George R. Trammell Age: 75
34 Member of: Good Shepherd Lutheran, Marion, IL
35 Present position in congregation: Treasurer
36 Current occupation: Retired Employer:
37
38 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) President of
39 congregation, vice president, elder (D) Board of Missions (S) Voting delegate to 63rd and 66th
40 Synodical Conventions, Floor Committee on roads to ministry
41
42 Special qualifications for this position: Worked with budgets, volunteer workers, planning,
43 strategic organizational development

1 Mr. Edgar Dwayne Schwartz Age: 71
2 Member of: St John Lutheran, Chester, IL
3 Present position at congregation: member
4 Current occupation: Retired farmer/sales Employer: Self
5
6 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Board of Elders,
7 congregational chairman at St. Mark's Steeleville; Board of Elders at St John, Chester
8
9 Special qualifications for this position: Taught Sunday School, adult Bible class, youth groups,
10 worked with Rev. Lloyd Lenz in Sandhills Ministry
11

12
13 Mr. Donald L. Stallman Age: 77
14 Member of: St. John Lutheran, Chester, IL
15 Present position in congregation: Vice Chairman
16 Current Occupation: Retired Employer:
17
18 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Board of elders,
19 chairman of the congregation, vice chairman, secretary of the congregation.
20
21 Special qualifications for this position: I have held many leadership positions in different areas
22 of our congregation. I am the author of our current constitution and bylaws. I have assisted
23 the pastors and had input in the problems that arose in the congregation.
24

25
26 Mr. Kevin Weber Age: 66
27 Member of: St. John Lutheran, Chester, IL
28 Present position in congregation: Elder
29 Current occupation: retired Employer:
30
31 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: Past and current elder at
32 St John Lutheran Church
33
34 Special qualifications for this position: Elder at St. John Lutheran Church and a desire to help
35 the congregation and district with God's work.
36

37
38 **Ordained Candidates for Board for Congregational Support – elect 2**

39
40 Rev. Alan R. Kornacki Age: 47
41 Member of: St. Peter Lutheran, Campbell Hill, IL
42 Present position in congregation: Pastor

1 Current occupation: Pastor Employer: St. Peter Lutheran, Campbell Hill and Bethel Lutheran,
2 DuQuoin

3
4 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: Circuit Visitor 2016-2022,
5 Board of Spiritual Care

6
7 Special qualifications for this position: Board of Education, Bethel Lutheran Preschool, 2016-
8 2020; Pulpit Rider, Southern District, 2005-2010

9
10 Rev. Timothy A. Sims Age: 52

11 Member of: St John Lutheran, Chester, IL

12 Present position at congregation: Senior Pastor

13 Current occupation: Pastor Employer: St John Lutheran, Chester

14
15 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: Pastor at Oklahoma Ave
16 Lutheran in Milwaukee, WI

17
18 Special qualifications for this office:

19
20
21 Rev. Sean R Smith Age: 38

22 Member of: Immanuel – St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Dual Parish (West Point and Wine Hill)

23 Present position in congregation: pastor

24 Current Occupation: Employer:

25
26 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (D) Board of
27 Congregational Support, District Communications Commission, District Pastors Conference
28 Committee, President of Indiana District’s Campus Ministry Board

29
30 Special qualifications for this position:

31
32
33
34 Rev. Timothy J. Wilcoxon Age: 31

35 Member of: Zion Lutheran, Carlinville, IL

36 Present position in congregation: Sole Pastor

37 Occupation: Pastor Employer: Zion Lutheran, Carlinville, IL

38
39 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences:

40
41 Special qualifications for this position: My congregation and I have learned much about
42 stewardship and how to run a preschool as a mission.

43

1
2 **Commissioned Candidates for the Board of Congregational Support – elect 2**
3

4 Mr. William F Becker (Commissioned)
5 Member of St. John’s Lutheran, Red Bud, Illinois
6 Position: Director of Christian Education at St. John’s Red Bud
7

8 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (D) 2 terms on the Board
9 of Directors, service on the Nominations Committee, service on the SID/CID Teacher’s
10 Conference Committee.
11

12 Special Qualifications for this position: I have served as treasurer for teacher’s conference, I
13 served 2 terms of LEA’s ETNet board, and I serve my local congregation in many ways.
14

15
16 Mrs. Karen M. Gramenz Age: 62
17 Member of: St Peter Lutheran, Campbell Hill, IL
18 Present position in congregation: member, Sunday School coordinator
19 Current occupation: teacher Employer: Immanuel Lutheran School, Murphysboro, IL
20

21 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: Christ Our Savior
22 Lutheran High School Board of Directors 1999-2015
23

24 Special qualifications for this position: Active in my congregation.
25

26
27 Mrs. Melissa M. Holman Age: 37
28 Member of: St Paul’s Lutheran, Columbia, IL
29 Present position in congregation: member
30 Current occupation: Teacher Employer: Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School
31

32 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) VBS Director, Board of
33 Youth, Sunday School Teacher
34

35 Special qualifications for this position:
36

37
38 Mrs. Dawn T. Mueller
39 Member of: St John’s Lutheran, New Minden, IL
40 Present position in congregation: Sunday School teacher, Week Day Religion Teacher
41 Current occupation: PreK & 4th Grade teacher Employer: Trinity- St John Lutheran School
42

1 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Various LWML offices
2 in local society – currently treasurer (D) SID Mission Board, Unity Lutheran School Board, Older
3 Adult Ministry Advisory Committee
4

5 Special qualifications for this position: I enjoy working with others in the district to spread
6 Jesus' love.
7

8
9 **Lay Candidates for the Board of Congregational Support – elect 4**

10
11 Mr. Frank Glaub Age: 70
12 Member of: Good Shepherd Lutheran, Marion, IL
13 Present position in congregation: Head Elder / Vice President
14 Current occupation: Retired Employer:
15

16 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Building committee
17 chairman during building expansion (D) Served last term on Board of Congregational Support
18

19 Special qualifications for this position: Able to manage. Recent employment as fleet/driver
20 management. Had my own business for 16 years. Taught Bible Study. Great sense of humor.
21

22
23 Mrs. Susan Holt
24 No biographical information available
25

26
27 Mr. Derek Johnson
28 No biographical information available
29

30
31 Mr. Brian J. Keller Age: 56
32 Member of: Jerusalem Lutheran, Collinsville, IL
33 Present position in congregation: Chairman
34 Occupation: Freelance photographer Employer:
35

36 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (c) Chairman, elder,
37 secretary (D) Convention lay delegate 1994, 1997, 2003, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018; convention
38 floor committee 2009, 2015, Board of Congregational Support 2018-2022 (S) Convention Lay
39 Delegate 2016
40

41 Special qualifications for this position:
42
43

1 Mr. Donald L. Stallman Age: 77
2 Member of: St. John Lutheran, Chester, IL
3 Present position in congregation: Vice Chairman
4 Current Occupation: Retired Employer:
5
6 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Board of elders,
7 chairman of the congregation, vice chairman, secretary of the congregation.
8
9 Special qualifications for this position: I have held many leadership positions in different areas
10 of our congregation. I am the author of our current constitution and bylaws. I have assisted
11 the pastors and had input in the problems that arose in the congregation.
12

13
14 Mr. Zachary Stegman
15 No biographical information available
16

17
18 Mr. Kevin Weber Age: 66
19 Member of: St. John Lutheran, Chester, IL
20 Present position in congregation: Elder
21 Current occupation: retired Employer:
22
23 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: Past and current elder at
24 St John Lutheran Church
25
26 Special qualifications for this position: Elder at St. John Lutheran Church and a desire to help
27 the congregation and district with God’s work.
28

29
30 **Candidates for Nominations and Elections for the 2025 District Convention from Circuit 1**
31 **(Ordained) – elect 1**
32

33 Rev. Joseph M. Nehring Age: 60
34 Member of: Trinity Lutheran, Harvel, IL
35 Present position in congregation: pastor
36 Current occupation: pastor Employer: Trinity, Harvel
37
38 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: At St. Peter’s Spanish
39 Lake, MO – Treasurer, elder, president; at Immanuel Lutheran Chapel, St Louis County, MO –
40 president, chair of elders; at Hope, Granite City, IL – elder
41
42 Special qualifications for this position:
43

1
2 Rev. Timothy J. Wilcoxon Age: 31
3 Member of: Zion Lutheran, Carlinville, IL
4 Present position in congregation: Sole Pastor
5 Occupation: Pastor Employer: Zion Lutheran, Carlinville, IL
6
7 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences:
8
9 Special qualifications for this position: My congregation and I have learned much about
10 stewardship and how to run a preschool as a mission.

11
12 **Candidates for Nominations and Elections for the 2025 District Convention from Circuit 2**
13 **(Lay) – elect 1**

14
15 Mrs. Mary Heeren
16 No biographical information available
17

18
19 Mr. Daryl D. Piering Age: 71
20 Member of: St. Paul Lutheran, Wood River, IL
21 Present position in congregation: usher
22 Current occupation: retiree Employer: self
23
24 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) at St Paul Lutheran,
25 Bay City, MI and Concordia Lutheran, Cottage Hills, IL – usher, elder, chairman, maintenance of
26 churches during lifetime
27
28 Special qualifications for this position: I have been a salesman many times. I was a lawman for
29 32 years. I was assisted fireman for 32 years. I help do some work for a funeral home. I do
30 work to assist Madison County Firemans Association. I’m a guardian for several ill persons.
31 Supervising is challenging but okay.

32
33
34 Mr. Charles Tedrick
35 No biographical information available
36

37
38 **Candidates for Nominations and Elections for the 2025 District Convention from Circuit 3**
39 **(Ordained) – elect 1**

40
41 Rev. Benjamin T. Ball Age: 49
42 Member of: St Paul Lutheran, Hamel, IL
43 Present position in congregation: Senior Pastor

1 Current Occupation: Present Employer:
2

3 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) pastor at St. Paul,
4 Hamel 2012-present; St Paul, Brookfield, IL 2004-2012, St Lukes, Dedham, MA 1999-2004 (D)
5 Circuit Visitor (several terms), SID 2nd Vice President 2018-2019 (S) 6th Vice President of LCMS
6 2019-Present
7

8 Special qualifications for this position: I have served as our district nominations committee
9 chairman and am currently the chairman of the Synod nominations committee. I know what is
10 required of the position and am willing to serve.
11

12
13 Rev. Heath Curtis
14 No biographical information available
15

16
17 **Candidates for Nominations and Elections for the 2025 District Convention from Circuit 4**
18 **(Lay) – elect 1**
19

20 Mr. Brian J. Keller Age: 56
21 Member of: Jerusalem Lutheran, Collinsville, IL
22 Present position in congregation: Chairman
23 Occupation: Freelance photographer Employer:
24

25 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (c) Chairman, elder,
26 secretary (D) Convention lay delegate 1994, 1997, 2003, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018; convention
27 floor committee 2009, 2015, Board of Congregational Support 2018-2022 (S) Convention Lay
28 Delegate 2016
29

30 Special qualifications for this position:
31

32
33 Mr. Zachary Stegman
34 No biographical information available
35

36
37 **Candidates for Nominations and Elections for the 2025 District Convention from Circuit 5**
38 **(Ordained) - elect 1**
39

40 Rev. Karl W. Gregory Age: 64
41 Member of: Messiah Lutheran, Lebanon, IL
42 Present position in congregation: pastor
43 Current occupation: Employer:

1
2 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: pastor at Bethesda / First
3 English Lutheran in Marion/ Parker, SD
4

5 Special qualifications for this position:
6

7
8 Rev. Christopher A Spelbring Age: 43

9 Member of Zion Lutheran, Belleville, IL

10 Present position in congregation: Associate Pastor

11 Current occupation: Employer:

12

13 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (D) SID Pastoral
14 Conference Committee 2019-2021, SID Circuit Visitor 2021-present
15

16 Special qualifications for this position:
17

18

19 **Candidates for Nominations and Elections for the 2025 District Convention from Circuit 6**
20 **(Ordained) – elect 1**

21

22 Rev. Peter W. III (Ordained Minister) Age: 38

23 Member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Millstadt, Illinois

24 Current Position: Senior Pastor
25

26 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Pastor at St. John,
27 Chester, IL 2010-2014, Senior Pastor at Trinity, Millstadt, IL 2014-present. (D) SID Pastoral
28 Conference Committee 2011-2015, 2017-present, SID Board of Congregational Support 2015-
29 2018, Secretary 2018-Present. (S) Convention Delegate 2016, 2019.
30

31 Special qualifications for this position:
32

33

34 Rev. Bruce E. Keseman Age: 58

35 Member of: Christ Our Savior Lutheran, Freeburg, IL

36 Present position in congregation: Pastor

37 Current occupation: Pastor Employer: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
38

39 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (D) 2nd and 1st Vice
40 President, Board of Directors, LYF District President (S) LYF Synod Chairman, Board for Youth
41 Services, Concordia Seminary St Louis Board of Regents (Other) Higher Things Bord of Directors
42 and Conference Executive
43

1 Special qualifications for this position:
2

3
4 Rev. Stephen N. Krenz Age: 53

5 Member of: St Paul's Lutheran, Columbia, IL

6 Present position in congregation: Sole Pastor

7 Current occupation: pastor employer: St. Paul's Lutheran

8

9 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (d) Two terms as circuit
10 visitor, presently the district LWML pastoral advisor

11

12 Special qualifications for this position: I have been around the District for 20 years. As a person
13 on the nominations committee that knowledge of people and congregations might be helpful.

14

15
16 **Candidates for Nominations and Elections for the 2025 District Convention from Circuit 7**
17 **(Lay) – elect 1**

18

19 Mr. Robert "Bob" Thouvenin Age: 66

20 Member of: Messiah Lutheran, Carlyle, IL

21 Present position in congregation: Chairman

22 Current occupation: retired Employer:

23

24 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) Chairman (10 terms),
25 Vice-Chairman (6 terms), elder (3 terms) trustee (1 term) (D) SID Convention Lay Delegate

26

27 Special qualifications for this position:
28

29

30 **Candidates for Nominations and Elections for the 2025 District Convention from Circuit 8**
31 **(Ordained) – elect 1**

32

33 Rev. Nathan T. Wollenburg Age: 35

34 Member of: Trinity Lutheran, Hoyleton, IL

35 Present position in congregation: Pastor

36 Current occupation: Pastor Employer: Trinity Lutheran Church, Hoyleton, IL

37

38 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (C) St. Paul Lutheran,
39 McAllen, TX 2012-2016, Trinity Lutheran, Hoyleton, IL 2016-present

40

41 Special qualifications for this position:
42

43

1 Rev. Eric R. Wood Age: 50
2 Member of: Immanuel Lutheran, Okawville, IL
3 Present position in congregation: Pastor
4 Current occupation: pastor Employer: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Okawville, IL
5

6 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (D) 2 terms on SID
7 Mission Board (S) pastoral delegate to 2016 LCMS convention
8

9 Special qualifications for this position: I've served as an SID pastor since 2005 in two different
10 circuits, so I've met a good number of SID Lutherans. I was also an SID vicar in 1998-1999.
11

12
13 **Candidates for Nominations and Elections for the 2025 District Convention from Circuit 9**
14 **(Lay)**
15

16 Mrs. Mardell Granger
17 No biographical information available
18

19
20 Mr. Michael McClure
21 No biographical information available
22

23
24 **Candidates for Nominations and Elections for the 2025 District Convention from Circuit 10**
25 **(Ordained) – elect 1**
26

27 Rev. Lyle E. Buettner Age: 52
28 Member of: St. Paul's / Trinity Lutheran, New Athens/Darmstadt, IL
29 Present position in congregation: pastor
30 Current occupation: Employer:
31

32 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (D) Board for
33 Congregational Support, Liaison for Older Adult Advisory Committee, pastoral conference
34 committee
35

36 Special qualifications for this position:
37

38
39 Rev. Mark A. Nebel Age: 57
40 Member of: St. John's Lutheran, Red Bud, IL
41 Present position in congregation: Senior Pastor
42 Current occupation: Senior Pastor Employer: St John's, Red Bud
43

1 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: See page ??

2

3 Special qualifications for this position: 30+ years as pastor in the SID. I served as the chairman
4 of this committee for the 2012 convention.

5

6

7 **Candidates for Nominations and Elections for the 2025 District Convention from Circuit 11**
8 **(Lay) – elect 1**

9

10 Mr. George Trammel

11 No biographical information available

12

13

14 **Candidates for Nominations and Elections for the 2025 District Convention (Commissioned –**
15 **At Large) – elect 2**

16

17 Mr. William F Becker (Commissioned)

18 Member of St. John’s Lutheran, Red Bud, Illinois

19 Position: Director of Christian Education at St. John’s Red Bud

20

21 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences: (D) 2 terms on the Board
22 of Directors, service on the Nominations Committee, service on the SID/CID Teacher’s
23 Conference Committee.

24

25 Special Qualifications for this position: I have served as treasurer for teacher’s conference, I
26 served 2 terms of LEA’s ETNet board, and I serve my local congregation in many ways.

27

28

29 Mr. Matthew Foster

Age: 34

30 Member of Salem Lutheran, Salem, MO

31 Present position in congregation: --

32 Current occupation: High School Principal Employer: Christ Our Savior LHS Evansville, IL

33

34 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences:

35

36 Special qualifications for this position:

37

38

39 Mrs. Edith Laufer

Age: 62

40 Member of: Holy Cross Lutheran, East Carondelet, IL

41 Present position in congregation: member

42 Current occupation: teacher Employer: Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School

43

1 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences:

2

3 Special qualifications for this position: I have lived in the district for over 30 years. Through
4 Thrivent Board office, LWML, school, and as a pastor’s wife I have met many people in SID.

5

6

7 Miss Kaela L. Powley Age: 35

8 Member of: St. John Lutheran, Chester, IL

9 Present position in congregation: Principal/teacher

10 Current occupation: Principal/teacher Employer: St. John Lutheran, Chester

11

12 Previous Congregational, District, and Synod offices and experiences:

13

14 Special qualifications for this position:

15

16

17

18 **Resolutions**

19

20 **Resolutions for Floor Committee One - Witness**

21

22 **Resolution 1-01 To Direct an Equal Amount of Support for Campus Ministry**

23 **(Derived from Overture 1-01.)**

24 WHEREAS, The Southern Illinois District (SID) supports Campus Ministry at Southern
25 Illinois University – Carbondale (SIUC) through Our Savior Lutheran Church, Carbondale and at
26 Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville (SIUE) through Trinity Lutheran Ministries,
27 Edwardsville and

28 WHEREAS, the 2020 SID budget for Campus Ministry was as follows:

29 Campus Ministries

30 103 Program Subsidies

31 SIU-E Campus Ministry \$3,000

32 SIUE International Campus Ministry-Salary \$10,000

33 SIUE International Campus Ministry-Supplies \$3,000

34 Campus Ministry Conference \$1,500

35 SIU-C Campus Ministry \$3,000

36 Our Savior Carbondale SIU-C \$50,000

37 and

38 WHEREAS, undergraduate enrollment for the 2018-19 academic year was 11,695 at SIUC
39 and 13,061 at SIUE, and

1 WHEREAS, SIUE has grown from only 54% of the size of SIU—C in 2000 to having 12%
2 more students than SIUC in 2019, and

3 WHEREAS, Campus Ministry support has long been an integral mission endeavor of the
4 SID, and

5 WHEREAS, Trinity, Edwardsville has not received SID Program Subsidies for the Campus
6 Ministry at SIUE therefore let it be

7 RESOLVED, that the program subsidies for Campus Ministry be divided equally between
8 Trinity, Edwardsville and Our Savior, Carbondale, and let it be finally

9 RESOLVED, that the chaplain lead the convention in prayer for our Campus Ministries
10 and the students they serve.

1 **Resolution 1-02 To reject Critical Race Theory and its world view in the Church**

2 **(Derived from Overtures 1-02, 1-08, 2-01.)**

3 WHEREAS, God has created all people and they are blood related going back to our mutual
4 fathers, Adam and Noah, and all are subject to the stain of original sin, but now also have been
5 equally redeemed by the blood of Christ in order to be reconciled to God and to each other;
6 (Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 10, Romans 5:12-21, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23), and

7 WHEREAS, God desires that all people of every nation and ethnicity be baptized, believe in Him
8 and be saved (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:16-17, John 3:16-17, 1 Timothy 2:3-6), and

9 WHEREAS, God’s Word says, “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You
10 shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are
11 committing sin and are convicted by the law of the transgressors” (James 2:8-9), and

12 WHEREAS, the LCMS in convention has passed resolutions in past conventions repudiating all
13 racism, for example 1992 Res. 3-03, see also 2019 Res. 11-04A, and

14 WHEREAS, Critical Race Theory (CRT) has become a common, multifaceted, and controversial
15 theory for discussion of contemporary race relations, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED that the Southern Illinois District confess that there is one human family, descended
17 from Adam and Noah, and that God’s desire is for all people to be saved and to come to the
18 knowledge of the truth, and be it further

19 RESOLVED that the Southern Illinois District call upon all her members to love their neighbors as
20 themselves, and to seek to live in peace and harmony with all people by proclaiming that Jesus
21 is Lord, and bringing forth the fruits of faith in serving the neighbor, and be it further

22 RESOLVED that the Southern Illinois District reject the world view of CRT, as it is contrary to
23 Scripture and counterproductive to true racial conversation and reconciliation, for it pursues
24 equality of outcome (“equity”) between racial groups, which requires treating individuals
25 unequally based on race, and be it further

26 RESOLVED that the Southern Illinois District reject all organizations, movements, petitions, and
27 theological language that support the world view of CRT in a positive manner, and be it further

28 RESOLVED that the Southern Illinois District reject any doctrine, such as that proposed by CRT,
29 that teaches that an individual is inherently racist, or oppressive, whether consciously or
30 unconsciously, because of his or her race, ancestry, or nationality; and be it finally

31 RESOLVED that the Southern Illinois District submit this resolution as an overture to the 2023
32 LCMS convention.

1 **Resolution 1-03 To Reject Internet Communion as Contrary to the Word of God**

2 **(Derived from Overtures 1-03 and 1-09.)**

3 WHEREAS during the COVID-19 pandemic, congregations of our Synod started a novel practice -
4 “online” or “virtual” Communion, which is unknown to the Scriptures and had heretofore not
5 been practiced in the Synod, and

6 WHEREAS the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) and the systematic
7 theology departments of both seminaries issued opinions that unequivocally and unanimously
8 argued against the practice of online or virtual communion, and the Council of Presidents has
9 passed a motion for all members of Synod to “refrain from the practice of online communion,”
10 and

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

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

22 WHEREAS the Lutheran Confessions (Formula of Concord, SD 7) indicate that the proper use of
23 the sacrament includes a unified consecration, distribution, and reception, none of which are to
24 be severed from the other, yet the practice of online or virtual communion would interject a
25 spatial, temporal, and technological gap between the consecration and the distribution and
26 reception, and

27 WHEREAS the Sacrament of the Altar serves to strengthen faith against all doubts (Augsburg
28 Confession XIII) and is “given for a daily pasture and sustenance, that faith may refresh and
29 strengthen itself so as not to fall back in such a battle, but become ever stronger and stronger”
30 (Large Catechism 5.24), while it is incumbent on all faithful ministers of the Gospel to remove
31 all obstacles that create doubt regarding what Christ offers in this sacrament or detracts from it
32 (Augsburg Confession XXIV), and

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

1 WHEREAS no theological justification for the novel practice of online or virtual communion has
2 existed within the Synod or the Lutheran tradition nor has been advanced in the circles
3 advocating for it on the basis of the principally relevant texts (*sedes doctrinae*) of Holy Scripture
4 or the Lutheran Confessions, and

5 WHEREAS the Sacrament of the Altar has been established by our Lord according to his words
6 of institution, commanding literally “This keep on doing” (Luke 22:19, 1 Cor. 11:24-25) which
7 indicates that this use of the sacrament should be kept according to his institution and that
8 “nothing is a sacrament without the appointed use” as set forth by those same words of
9 institution (FC 7.73) and

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

13 RESOLVED that the Southern Illinois District reject the practice of online or virtual communion
14 as it is contrary to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions, and let it be further

15 RESOLVED that the Southern Illinois District urge congregations practicing online or virtual
16 communion to cease this divisive practice, and be it finally

17 RESOLVED that the Southern Illinois District submit this resolution as an overture to the 2023
18 LCMS Convention.

1 **Resolution 1-04 To Defend the Christian Conscience and the Church’s Daughters**

2 **(Derived from Overture 1-04.)**

3 Overview: On Thursday, September 23, 2021 the United States House of Representatives
4 passed the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, which included language that would
5 require women at the age of 18 to register for the military draft.

6 Resolution:

7 WHEREAS, God has created both male and female in His image, yet made them individually to
8 be complementary but not identical to one another, and

9 WHEREAS, God specifically commands husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the Church
10 and laid down his life for her (Ephesians 5), and

11 WHEREAS, all of Scripture and the vast majority of human history testifies that men, not
12 women, are to be required at times to enter combat and risk their lives in defense of their
13 family and country, and

14 WHEREAS, The House Armed Services Committee in September 2021 voted to recommend that
15 women be required to register for the draft (although this wording did not appear in the final
16 bill), and

17 WHEREAS, such entrance into the draft may mean that our wives, mothers, daughters, and
18 sisters are forced to fight in defense of their husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers, and

19 WHEREAS, Christian consciences are right to be burdened by the thought of men requiring their
20 daughters and wives to risk their lives in carrying out duties of war given to men to reflect
21 Christ’s love for His Church; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED That we as the Southern Illinois District object to the mandatory registration of
23 women into the draft of the United States military, and be it further

24 RESOLVED, that we as the Southern Illinois District call on our district president to communicate
25 to Illinois’ US Senators and congresspeople our intent to object on religious grounds to the
26 involuntary service of women in the military, and be it finally

27 RESOLVED, that we memorialize The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, in its 2023 convention,
28 to publicly confess our conscientious objection, prepare appropriate letters of communication
29 to our nation’s leaders, and prepare template statements of conscientious/religious objection
30 for all pastors and congregations to utilize in the event of a national military draft which would
31 include women.

1 **Resolution 1-05 To Affirm the Church’s Essential Nature and Freedom to Celebrate the Divine**
2 **Service**

3 **(Derived from Overture 1-05.)**

4 Overview: During the course of the pandemic the Government issued orders that shut down all
5 religious services by including them among “non-essential activities.” It later restricted religious
6 services to ten people or less, and eventually required those attending to wear masks. All these
7 actions placed restrictions on the Church’s ability to celebrate the Divine Service, and on God’s
8 people who wish to attend and receive the Means of Grace. This has raised questions that
9 need to be addressed about the Government’s right to dictate restrictions to the Church
10 regarding the celebration of the Divine Service.

11 Resolution:

12 WHEREAS, to obtain saving faith God has given the Word and Sacraments and instituted the
13 Office of the Ministry to administer these gifts (Matthew 28;18-20; John 20:21-23; AC V.1-3; AC
14 XIV), and

15 WHEREAS, the Church is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is purely
16 preached and the holy sacraments are administered according the Gospel (AC VII.1), and God
17 has commanded his people to gather to hear his Word and receive His Sacraments (Acts 2:42; 1
18 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25), just as the Lutheran Church confesses
19 that the Sacrament of the Altar is celebrated every Lord’s day (Ap. XXIV.1), and

20 WHEREAS, this is the essential function which only the Church fulfills as God brings salvation to
21 the whole person, body and soul (Romans 5:1; Philippians 1:23; John 11:25-26; Philippians
22 3:21), and

23 WHEREAS, God has designed His creation with three estates – the Family, the Church, and the
24 Government, and

25 WHEREAS, these Three Estates remain (and continue their defining functions) until the end of
26 time, even during pandemic, famine, war, etc., and

27 WHEREAS, the authority of the Government in relation to the Fourth Commandment is derived
28 from the estate of the Family, “For all other authority is derived and developed out of the
29 authority of parents” (LC I.141), and

30 WHEREAS, the government is given by God to reward good and punish evil and maintain order
31 as defined by God’s holy will (Romans 13; AC XVI.1-2), and deals with bodies and goods, not
32 spiritual matters (AC XXVIII.11), and

33 WHEREAS, the Church rightfully operates in God’s right hand rule through the Gospel as she
34 seeks to bring forgiveness and salvation through Christ’s Means of Grace, and

1 WHEREAS, the Government rightfully operates in God's left hand rule, as it works through the
2 Law to maintain order and restrain sin, and

3 WHEREAS, the Church is not entirely independent of the Government's left hand rule as she
4 deals with non-spiritual matters of operation (zoning laws, building permits, occupancy permits,
5 etc.), and

6 WHEREAS, the Government has no God given authority over the spiritual matters of the
7 Church's administration of the Means of Grace as they take place in the Divine Service;
8 therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, that we affirm the Church's essential nature, purpose, and ongoing function in this
10 world until Christ comes again in His glory, and be it further

11 RESOLVED, that we affirm the Church's and Family's status as having their God-given role in
12 caring for both body and soul, and be it further

13 RESOLVED, that we confess that the Government has no God given authority to place
14 restrictions on the Church's ability to celebrate the Divine Service, and on God's people who
15 wish to attend and receive the Means of Grace, and be it further

16 RESOLVED, that we affirm that in time of pandemic or public crisis the Church in Christian
17 freedom should seek to implement measures that serve the public good while continuing to
18 carry out her essential role of offering the Word and the Sacraments in the Divine Service, and
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, that we exhort and encourage one another to confess boldly the essential nature
21 and function of the Church, especially in the event of future government mandated shut downs
22 or restrictions to the celebration of the Divine Service, and be it further

23 RESOVLED, that we confess to the world that only the Gospel of the death and resurrection of
24 the Lord Jesus Christ can provide final victory over sin, sickness, and death; and finally, be it

25 RESOLVED, that the congregations of the SID will take notice of all government actions
26 regarding public health and while "seeking to live at peace with all men" the Church will
27 implement those actions that in her own judgment do not interfere with her God-given
28 functions, while respectfully disregarding any government decree, mandate, executive action,
29 law, or court order which does so interfere.

1 **Resolution 1-06 To Clarify the Synod’s Teaching regarding the Soul**

2 **(Derived from Overture 1-06.)**

3 WHEREAS, The Small Catechism teaches us to say, “I believe that God has made me and all
4 creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason
5 and all my senses, and still takes care of them” (First Article); and

6 WHEREAS, The Synod’s first Explanation of the Small Catechism, the Dietrich Explanation,
7 explicitly affirms that the soul is immortal: “But why do you believe in the resurrection of the
8 body only? Because, properly speaking, only that shall rise which has perished; but the body
9 only has perished; therefore only the body shall rise again. The soul can literally neither die nor
10 rise again, because it is immortal. Matt. 10:28, Eccl. 12:7, Acts 7:59, 1 Pet. 3:19, Rev. 6:9, Wis.
11 3:1” (Qu. 312); and

12 WHEREAS, The Schwan Explanation (Qu. 205), the 1943 Explanation (Qu. 197), and the 1991
13 Explanation (Qu. 190) all implicitly affirm that the soul is immortal; and

14 WHEREAS, The 2017 Explanation has these questions and answers:

15 *223. What happens to me as a Christian when I die?*

16 When I die, the God-given unity of my body and spirit will be broken. I will immediately
17 be in the presence of Christ, in heaven, but my body will remain in the grave until the
18 resurrection.

19 *224. What will happen to me when I am raised from the dead on the Last Day?*

20 I will enjoy being with Christ in His new creation, in body and soul, forever.

21 and

22 WHEREAS, *Confessing the Gospel* [Samuel H. Nafzger, ed., *Confessing the Gospel: A Lutheran*
23 *Approach to Systematic Theology* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2017), 1:285, and
24 see footnote 68] says:

25 *What does the scriptural understanding of body and soul mean for the “immortality of*
26 *the soul”?* It denies this view, if by “soul” one means, as is usually intended, a separate
27 principle that a human being has or receives. But to reject the immortality of the soul as
28 a separate principle is not to affirm that the soul ceases to exist at the death of the
29 body.

30 and

31 WHEREAS, The 1969 Commission on Theology and Church Relations position paper “A
32 Statement on Death, Resurrection, and Immortality” states: “To reject the teaching that the
33 soul is by nature and by virtue of an inherent quality immortal, as the pagans thought and as is
34 taught in a number of fraternal orders today. This concept denies the Christian Gospel of the
35 resurrection of our Lord and of the resurrection of the believers through Him alone.” (III, 6, 3);
36 and

- 1 WHEREAS, We believe in the immortality of the soul and the resurrection of the body
- 2 (Philippians 1:23); therefore be it
- 3 RESOLVED, That the Southern Illinois District in convention affirm the immortality of the soul;
- 4 and be it finally
- 5 RESOLVED, That we ask the CTCR to clarify its teaching regarding the immortality of the soul.

1 **Resolution 1-07 To Establish a Partnership with the Seminario Concordia El Reformador**

2 **(Derived from Overture 1-10.)**

3

4 WHEREAS, our Lord Jesus Christ in the last chapter of Matthew says “Go therefore and make
5 disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy
6 Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20); and

7 WHEREAS, the Lord Jesus told His disciples at His ascension into heaven, “You will be My
8 witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8);
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the Southern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod supports the
11 work of making disciples of all nations by beginning in the location of each congregation, and
12 continuing outward as circuits, district and Synod; and

13 WHEREAS, the Southern Illinois District enjoyed an eighteen year partnership with the Lutheran
14 Church in Southern Africa which concluded with the last District Convention; and

15 WHEREAS, Resolution 1-02 of the 58th Convention of the Southern Illinois District of The
16 Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod empowered the Mission Board to explore a new mission
17 partnership with a recommendation given to the 2021 SID Convention; and

18 WHEREAS, the work of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod is bearing fruit in Latin America
19 and the Dominican Republic; and

20 WHEREAS, the Seminary Concordia El Reformador has been established for the training of men
21 for the pastoral ministry and women for the deaconess ministry in Latin America. Students
22 come from the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Spain
23 and Panama; and

24 WHEREAS, the overall emphasis of the residential pastoral formation program is to form
25 pastors who are evangelists and will return to their home countries to plant churches; and

26 WHEREAS, a partnership with the Seminario Concordia El Reformador will assist the training of
27 men who will establish congregations throughout Latin America; and

28 WHEREAS, a partnership in this hemisphere will make it easier for short-term mission trips and
29 visits to visit the Dominican Republic, the Seminary and its mission work; therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED, that the Southern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod establish
31 a partnership with the Seminario Concordia El Reformador in the Dominican Republic; and
32 therefore be it further

33 RESOLVED, that members, congregations and schools of the Southern Illinois District regularly
34 pray for this partnership, promote it within their ministry context and support it with their
35 financial gifts above and beyond their regular mission offerings; and therefore be it further
36 resolved

1 RESOLVED, that the SID Mission Board seek people who will advocate for this partnership
2 within our District, maintain regular communication including reports with the seminary in the
3 Dominican Republic and keep this partnership alive and active for as long as the Lord wills it;
4 and therefore be it finally

5 RESOLVED, that a special offering be gathered by this convention and upon passage of this
6 resolution, the convention assembly will rise and sing the Common Doxology.

7

8

9 **Resolutions for Floor Committee Two - Mercy**

10

11 **RESOLUTION 2-01 To Disband the Board of Congregational Support (Derived from Overture**
12 **2-07)**

13 Whereas

14 the advance of technology has made District communication with congregations and schools
15 much easier (email, video conferencing, etc), and

16 Whereas

17 the Schools and General executive, as well as other boards already in existence help with many
18 of the purposes laid out for the Board of Congregational Support, and

19 Whereas

20 Synod's Office of National Mission and Concordia Publishing House provide materials on many
21 subjects for all congregations to use, and

22 Whereas

23 filling the various boards of district with willing people is already difficult, and disbanding the
24 Board for Congregational Support would free these men and women for other service, and

25 Whereas

26 the few items the Board has been tasked with over the past several years (see report) could be
27 done by the Board of Spiritual Care, Board of Directors, or ad hoc committees, therefore be it

28 Resolved

29 That the Southern Illinois District in Convention give thanks for the many dedicated men and
30 women who have served on the Board for Congregational Support in the past, and be it

31 Resolved

32 That the Southern Illinois District disband the Board of Congregational Support, and be it

1 Resolved

2 That the Southern Illinois District Bylaws be amended as follows:

3 ~~Present/~~Proposed Wording

4 G. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5

6 2.41 Membership

7 The voting membership of the Board of Directors shall be constituted as follows: The
8 President of the District, the Vice Presidents of the District, the Secretary of the District, the
9 Treasurer of the District, eight laymen, the chairman of the Board of Missions, ~~the chairman of~~
10 ~~the Board of Congregational Support~~, one Circuit Visitor, and ~~two~~ three commissioned
11 ministers. (Therefore, the Board of Directors is composed of nine lay members and nine
12 professional church worker members.) The Schools and General Executive of the District shall
13 serve as an advisory member. Other staff shall serve as advisory members as determined by
14 the Board of Directors.

15

16 and

17

18 ~~VII. THE BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT~~

19

20 ~~7.01 Membership~~

21 ~~— The Board of Congregational Support shall consist of eight members. Two members of~~
22 ~~the board shall be ordained ministers, two members of the board shall be commissioned~~
23 ~~ministers, and four members of the board shall be laity. One of the two commissioned~~
24 ~~ministers shall be elected chairman by the District Convention, who, as chairman, shall be a~~
25 ~~member of the Board of Directors. The Schools and General Executive will be an advisory~~
26 ~~member of this Board.~~

27

28 ~~7.03 Purpose~~

29 ~~— a. The purpose of this board shall be to work in support of congregations as it provides~~
30 ~~services to the congregations, helping equip them meet the various needs expressed. The~~
31 ~~areas identified in which these services may fall include: Administration, Education,~~
32 ~~Evangelism, Family Life, Human Care, Stewardship, and Youth.~~

33 ~~— b. This board will also assist the Schools and General Executive in providing support for~~
34 ~~congregations, school boards, and principals in the promotion, operation, and expansion of~~
35 ~~Christian day schools, pre-schools, and high schools. This might include areas such as: legal~~
36 ~~matters, educational resources, accreditation, funding, starting a new school, leadership~~
37 ~~training, etc.~~

38 ~~— c. To accomplish its purpose the board may adopt any goals, policies, procedures, and~~
39 ~~guidelines it deems necessary. These are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.~~

40 ~~— d. Should it desire to do so, the board may also form various sub-committees, task forces~~

1 ~~to focus on specific areas or issues, or assign specific members of the board to concentrate on a~~
2 ~~designated area.~~

3 ~~—— e. The board shall develop and submit its annual budget request at the time designated~~
4 ~~by the finance committee of the Board of Directors.~~

5
6 **7.05 Meetings**

7 ~~—— The Board will meet at least four times a year.~~

8
9 **RESOLUTION 2-02 To Restate and Amend the Articles of Incorporation of the Southern Illinois**
10 **District (Derived from Overture 2-03)**

11 **Rationale**

12 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in its 2016 convention passed Resolution 9-02A
13 regarding the Articles of Incorporation of the Districts of the LCMS, and also amended the
14 Synod’s Bylaws, adding Bylaw 1.5.3.6, which says,

15 Notwithstanding anything in the Bylaws to the contrary, the Articles of Incorporation or
16 other governing documents of each agency shall provide:

17 (a) That all provisions of its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the
18 provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the Synod in
19 convention; and

20 (b) That in the event of dissolution other than by direction from the Synod in
21 convention, the assets of such agency, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred,
22 consistent with applicable state and federal laws, as follows:

23 (1) In the case of a synodwide corporate entity, district, university, college, or
24 seminary, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as may be more specifically
25 described elsewhere in these Bylaws;^{[[SEP]]}

26 (2) In the case of a corporation formed by an agency (as defined in these Bylaws),
27 to the agency that formed the dissolving corporation, or if such forming agency is
28 not then in existence, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod itself.

29 An agency may submit any concerns related to the inclusion of subsections (a) or
30 (b) in its governing documents to the Board of Directors of the Synod, and the
31 Board of Directors may determine to permit the removal or modification of these
32 provisions for an affected agency.

33
34 In order to comply with Bylaws of the LCMS, the Southern Illinois District restated its
35 Articles of Incorporation at its 2018 convention. The restated Articles of Incorporation are as
36 follows:

37
38 **Article I Name, Duration, Registered Office, and Agent**

39 a. The name of this corporation shall be "The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod,

1 Southern Illinois District".

2 b. The period of duration of the corporation is perpetual.

3 c. The address of the registered office of the corporation as of February 1982 is 2408
4 Lebanon Avenue, Belleville, Illinois 62221-2597.

5 d. The registered agent of the corporation is the District President.

6
7 Article II Purposes

8 The purposes of this corporation shall be:

9 a. To unify in a corporate body the congregations, pastors, and commissioned ministers
10 who are members of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod situated or residing within
11 the geographical bounds of the Southern Illinois District, and

12 b. To carry out with the resources of the Southern Illinois District the objectives of The
13 Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution,
14 and Bylaws of said Synod.

15 c. All provisions of these Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the
16 provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of The Lutheran Church—
17 Missouri Synod.

18
19 Article III Membership

20 The membership of this corporation is the congregations, and the ordained and
21 commissioned ministers of religion of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod situated
22 within the geographical bounds of the Southern Illinois District. The power of this
23 corporation shall be lodged with the accredited pastoral and lay delegates of those same
24 congregations of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod which are situated within the
25 geographical bounds of the Southern Illinois District.

26
27 Article IV Meetings

28 This corporation shall have general meetings in the years prescribed by the HANDBOOK
29 of Synod. Special meetings may be called in such manner as may be provided by the
30 constitution and bylaws of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

31
32 Article V Officers

33 a. The officers of this corporation shall consist of a President, Vice Presidents as
34 specified by the bylaws of this corporation, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

35 b. The Board of Directors of the corporation shall be comprised of the President, the
36 Vice Presidents, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of this corporation, and such additional

1 directors shall be elected from time to time in accordance with the bylaws of this
2 corporation.

3 c. The officers and members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the general
4 meetings of the corporation for such terms as shall be specified by the bylaws of this
5 corporation and shall serve until their successors are duly elected and have qualified.

6 7 Article VI Property

8 This corporation shall have power to acquire by gift, grants, demise, devise, bequest,
9 purchase, or otherwise, property of every kind and description, real, personal, or mixed;
10 to hold and use such property and deal with, or dispose of, any or all such property by
11 sale, exchange, or gift, when necessary or expedient to carry out the objectives and
12 purposes of the corporation; provided that all such property shall be acquired, dealt
13 with, or disposed of in a manner not in conflict with the laws of the State of Illinois or the
14 laws of any State in which said property is located.

15 16 Article VII Constitution and Bylaws

17 a. The constitution of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod shall govern this
18 corporation.

19 b. The bylaws of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod shall be primarily the bylaws of
20 this corporation; and this corporation shall have and make such additional bylaws as may
21 be necessary to accomplish its purposes and shall have power to create such offices,
22 committees, and other subordinate bodies as may be necessary to accomplish its general
23 and special objectives.

24 25 Article VIII Dissolution

26 a. In the event this corporation is dissolved or its existence is otherwise terminated all of
27 its assets minus liabilities shall be transferred to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

28 b. If, however, on the date of such proposed dissolution, The Lutheran Church--Missouri
29 Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, is no longer in existence, or shall not be
30 operated for purposes specified in or shall not otherwise qualify under Section 501(C)(3)
31 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as the same may hereafter be amended and
32 supplemented, then in such event the assets of this corporation, under its dissolution
33 and liquidation shall be transferred, conveyed and distributed to such other nonprofit
34 organization or organizations as may be provided by Illinois law, but in any event, each
35 such distributee organization shall be organized and operated exclusively for purposes
36 similar to those for which this corporation is organized, and shall further be exempt
37 under the provisions of Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as the
38 same may hereafter be amended or supplemented; it being understood that in no event
39 shall the assets of this corporation upon its dissolution and liquidation be distributed for

1 purposes and uses other than those set forth in Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue
2 Code of 1954, as the same may hereafter be amended or supplemented.

3
4 Article IX Amendments

5 Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a regularly
6 called meeting of this corporation by a majority of the voting delegates present at such
7 meeting, provided such amendments are not inconsistent with the Constitution or the
8 laws of the United States or the State of Illinois or the Constitution or Bylaws of The
9 Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, and with prior approval of the Commission on
10 Constitutional Matters of said Synod.

11
12 These restated articles were adopted at a meeting of members entitled to vote on
13 February 9, 2018 by the affirmative vote of the members having not less than the
14 minimum number of votes necessary to adopt such amendment, as provided by 805 ILCS
15 105/110.20, the articles of incorporation, or the bylaws.

16
17 After adoption, these Articles of Incorporation were submitted to the Illinois Secretary
18 of State's office. In May 2018, the Secretary of State returned these Articles of Incorporation
19 without accepting them. The Secretary of State responded with several areas where the
20 Articles did not conform to their expectations.

21
22 In order to comply with the expectations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and
23 the Secretary of State of Illinois, the Southern Illinois District Commission on Bylaws has
24 prepared new restated Articles of Incorporation that are in conformity with the expectations of
25 the Secretary of State. These Articles of Incorporation have also been reviewed and approved
26 by the Synod Commission on Constitutional Matters.

27
28 Therefore be it

29 *Resolved*, That the Southern Illinois District in convention replace its existing Articles of
30 Incorporation with

31
32 Article I Name, Registered Office, and Agent

33 a. This corporation was originally incorporated as "The Southern Illinois District of the
34 German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States" on January 17,
35 1917. This name of this corporation was renamed to "The Southern Illinois District of the
36 Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States" on June 26, 1938 and was
37 further renamed to "The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, Southern Illinois District" on

1 November 18, 1948.

2 b. The registered agent of the corporation is Rev. _____, the District
3 President, 2408 Lebanon Avenue, Belleville, Illinois 62221-2597.

4
5 Article II Purposes

6 a. The purpose of this corporation shall be a religious not-for-profit corporation.

7 b. To unify in a corporate body the congregations, pastors, and commissioned ministers
8 who are members of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod situated or residing within the
9 geographical bounds of the Southern Illinois District, and

10 c. To carry out with the resources of the Southern Illinois District the objectives of The
11 Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution,
12 and Bylaws of said Synod.

13 d. This corporation is not a condominium association under the Condominium Property Act,
14 a Cooperative Housing Corporation as defined in Section 216 of the Internal Revenue Code
15 of 1954, or a Homeowner's Association which administers a common-interest community as
16 defined in subsection (c) of Section 9-102 of the code of Civil Procedure.

17
18 Article III Membership and Directors

19 a. The membership of this corporation is the congregations, and the ordained and
20 commissioned ministers of religion of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod situated within
21 the geographical bounds of the Southern Illinois District. The power of this corporation
22 shall be lodged with the accredited pastoral and lay delegates of those same congregations
23 of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod which are situated within the geographical bounds
24 of the Southern Illinois District.

25 b. The Board of Directors of the corporation shall be comprised of the President, the Vice
26 Presidents, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of this corporation, and such additional
27 directors shall be elected from time to time in accordance with the Bylaws of this
28 corporation.

29
30 Article IV Meetings

31 This corporation shall have general meetings in the years prescribed by the HANDBOOK of
32 Synod. Special meetings may be called in such manner as may be provided by the
33 Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

34 Article V Officers

35 a. The officers of this corporation shall consist of a President, Vice Presidents as specified
36 by the bylaws of this corporation, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

37 b. The officers and members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the general
38 meetings of the corporation for such terms as shall be specified by the Bylaws of this

1 corporation and shall serve until their successors are duly elected and have qualified.

2

3 Article VI Property

4 This corporation shall have power to acquire by gift, grants, demise, devise, bequest,
5 purchase, or otherwise, property of every kind and description, real, personal, or mixed; to
6 hold and use such property and deal with, or dispose of, any or all such property by sale,
7 exchange, or gift, when necessary or expedient to carry out the objectives and purposes of
8 the corporation; provided that all such property shall be acquired, dealt with, or disposed of
9 in a manner not in conflict with the laws of the State of Illinois or the laws of any State in
10 which said property is located.

11

12 Article VII Constitution and Bylaws

13 a. The Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is also the Constitution of
14 this corporation.

15 b. The Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall primarily be the Bylaws of
16 this corporation. This corporation may adopt additional bylaws that are not in conflict with
17 the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

18 c. All provisions of these Articles of Incorporation and associated Bylaws are subject to
19 the provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of The Lutheran
20 Church—Missouri Synod in convention.

21

22 Article VIII Dissolution

23 a. In the event this corporation is dissolved or its existence otherwise terminates or is
24 terminated, all of its assets, minus its liabilities, shall be transferred to The Lutheran
25 Church—Missouri Synod.

26 b. If, however, on the date of such proposed dissolution, The Lutheran Church—Missouri
27 Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, is no longer in existence, the assets of the
28 corporation may be distributed to any other Section 501(c)(3) organization as designated by
29 the Board of Directors.

30

31 Article IX Amendments

32 Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a regularly
33 called meeting of this corporation by a majority of the voting delegates present at such
34 meeting, provided such amendments are not inconsistent with the Constitution or the laws
35 of the United States or the State of Illinois or the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran
36 Church--Missouri Synod, and with prior approval of the Commission on Constitutional
37 Matters of said Synod.

38

1 These restated Articles were adopted at a meeting of members entitled to vote on February
2 ___, 2021 by the affirmative vote of the members having not less than the minimum number
3 of votes necessary to adopt such amendment, as provided by 805 ILCS 105/110.20, the
4 Articles of Incorporation, or the Bylaws.

5
6
7 **RESOLUTION 2-03 To Direct the Southern Illinois District Board of Directors to Pursue Legal**
8 **Action (Derived from Overture 2-02)**

9
10 Whereas,

11 The 3rd Commandment is: “Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy,” and

12 Whereas,

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

16 Whereas,

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

20 Whereas,

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

23 Whereas,

24 The recent emergency stay at home orders by the Governor of the State of Illinois have
25 contradicted the Scriptures, forbidding Christians from gathering according to the Word of God
26 specifically to corporately hear the Word of God preached, receive the Sacrament of the Altar
27 and to pray, praise and give thanks, and

28 Whereas,

29 St. Paul (Acts 25) and Sts. Peter and John (Acts 4) appeal to the governing authorities when such
30 authorities act contrary to the Word of God or the laws of the state, either with respect to their
31 own station or with respect to the stations of others, and

32 Whereas,

33 Through Legal representation and action thereof is a means by which citizens, individual or
34 corporate, make an appeal to the governing authorities, and

1 Whereas,

2 It is the duty of the Southern Illinois District Board of Directors to “Engage legal counsel and
3 other professional or technical personnel deemed necessary or advisable to carry out District
4 policies or programs” (SID Bylaws G. The Board of Directors 2.47.g.) and

5 Whereas,

6 Some of the policies and programs of the Southern Illinois District are stated in the Constitution
7 of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod such as, “Provide protection for congregations,
8 pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their duties and the
9 maintenance of their rights”, (LCMS Constitution, Article III:9), and

10 Whereas,

11 Civil disobedience is an option for the church (“We must obey God rather than men” Acts 5:29),
12 therefore let it be

13 Resolved,

14 that the Southern Illinois District in convention direct the District Board of Directors to engage
15 legal counsel on behalf of the congregations of the SID (with the consent of the LCMS Board of
16 Directors) and to consider legal action so that congregations are free to worship in person
17 (including the reception of Holy Communion) should they be forbidden from doing so by the
18 federal, state or local governments.

19 **RESOLUTION 2-04 To Consider a Transition Period upon the Election of a New District**
20 **President (Derived from Overture 2-06)**

21 WHEREAS, the bylaws of the Southern Illinois District do not provide for transition time
22 between district presidents; and

23 WHEREAS, a transition period is beneficial for the current district president, the district, the
24 incoming district president, and his place of service; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, that the Southern Illinois District Board of Directors present a transition period
26 amendment to the district bylaws at the 2025 convention.

27 **RESOLUTION 2-05 To appoint a Task Force to evaluate the current parameters for qualifying**
28 **as an electoral circuit at conventions of the Synod. (Derived from Overture 2-08)**

29 Rationale:

30 The Principle of Franchise in the Synod

31 The basic principle of franchise in the Synod at the time of its formation in 1847 involved two
32 essential components. The first essential component was that the Synod consisted of equal
33 (*Pfarrgemeinde*),[1] (pastor-congregation) no matter their numerical size, and it was these
34 *Pfarrgemeinde* (pastor-congregations) that held the franchise. The second essential component

1 was the maintaining of a “balance of power” in the conventions of the Synod between the
2 clergy and the laity. To accomplish this principle of franchise, the 1847 Constitution of the
3 Synod assigned the franchise to each member *Pfarrgemeinde* of the Synod, with each
4 *Pfarrgemeinde* to receive two votes, one to be cast by its pastor and the other, by the lay
5 delegate accredited by the congregation.

6

7 In 1924, when the Constitution was translated into English from German, the term “parish” was
8 used in reference to situations in which a pastor served more than one individual congregation
9 and the term “congregation” was used to reference situations in which a pastor served only
10 one congregation. Thus, each congregation or parish (in this specific limited sense) was entitled
11 to two votes, one by its pastor, and the other by its accredited lay delegate. Today the term
12 “parish” has been replaced with “multi-congregation parish”, Article XII 10 a.

13

14 The Historic Practice of Franchise at the Conventions of the Synod

15

16 At the time of its inception every congregation or parish was entitled to send its pastor and a
17 lay delegate to the conventions of the Synod. When the Synod divided into districts this did not
18 change. Each congregation or parish sent two delegates to both the conventions of the Synod
19 and the District. The entire Synod would meet in convention every three years and the districts
20 would meet in convention annually.

21

22 Originally conventions were held in one of the congregations of the synod. As a result of the
23 growth of the synod, it was becoming difficult to find host congregations large enough to
24 provide the necessary housing for all the delegates. Therefore, it was proposed to the 1864
25 convention to begin to hold delegate conventions. However, the congregations in Fort Wayne
26 and St. Louis assured the convention that they would have no problem serving as hosts, so no
27 changes were adopted. [*Proceedings*, 1864, p. 3] However, by 1869 this assurance proved to
28 be unrealistic, and C.F.W. Walther suggested establishing delegate conventions. Professor
29 George Schick was given the responsibility to develop a plan. This tentative plan was for two or
30 more congregations to select one pastor and one lay delegate. When the plan was adopted in
31 1872 it was specified that the pastor and lay delegate should be selected from between two to
32 seven congregations. [*Proceedings*, 1872, pp. 96-97] Presumably, small congregations would
33 form large groupings and large congregations would form small groupings. While the

1 convention was originally scheduled for 1875, the first delegate convention was convened a
2 year earlier in 1874.

3

4 The suggestion for a delegate convention, proposed in 1869, was actually the second grouping
5 of congregations within the Synod. Prior to this formation of electoral circuits, visitation circuits
6 had been established by the Synod at its 1866 convention. While the two existed side by side,
7 they were created for completely different purposes. Electoral circuits functioned only for the
8 purpose of selecting delegates to conventions of the Synod. However, the concept behind the
9 establishment of visitation circuits was to address a concern considered crucial from the very
10 beginning of the Synod, which was to ensure and retain the unity of doctrine and commitment
11 to the Scriptures and Confessions within the Synod.

12

13 At the founding of the Synod in 1847 the responsibility for visitation to ensure unity and
14 faithfulness to the Scriptures and Confessions was assigned to the President of the Synod.
15 When the Synod divided into districts in 1854, one of the major concerns was maintaining this
16 unity within the Synod, and it was resolved by giving the responsibility of visitation not only to
17 the president of each district of the Synod, but also to the President of the Synod as well.
18 However, with the rapid growth of the number of congregations in the Synod, it became
19 impossible for the President of the Synod to carry out this duty of visitation. Therefore, the
20 1864 the convention removed the duties of visitation from the general President and
21 essentially entrusted all duties of visitation of the congregations and individual members of the
22 Synod to the district president. The one exception specified was that if the President of the
23 Synod was convinced that a district president had erred in his dealing with a congregation or
24 individual member, the President of the Synod himself was authorized to investigate personally.
25 [*Proceedings*, 1864, p. 4; *1873 Handbook*, p. 89.]

26

27 Again, due to the growth of the Synod, these visitation responsibilities quickly proved to be too
28 great for a district president alone to carry out. Therefore, the 1866 convention adopted a
29 resolution establishing visitation circuits of two to seven congregations in order to help the
30 district presidents carry out their visitation responsibilities. [*Proceedings*, 1866, p. 85]

31

32 When the decision to have delegate conventions was adopted at the 1872 convention, while
33 the guidelines were also set at two to seven congregations being given one pastor and one lay
34 delegate, which was the same numbers as used for visitation circuits, there does not seem to

1 have been any effort to have these two types of circuits coincide, or even an indication that
2 they should. In both cases, districts were free to group them as they pleased.

3

4 In the ensuing years a significant variation in the size of electoral circuits developed
5 among the various districts, with many districts having electoral circuits of two or three
6 congregations. In an effort to reduce the number of delegates at synodical conventions the
7 1893 Synodical convention adopted a resolution calling for circuits to number between five to
8 seven congregations. [*Proceedings*, 1893, p. 125] However, there was no change in Article III
9 "Membership" as the 1899 edition of the *Synodical Handbook* does not reflect this continuing
10 to read: "The power of this corporation shall be lodged with the accredited clerical and lay
11 delegates of the congregations in actual membership with this synod. Not less than two and
12 not more than seven congregations being entitled to one clerical and one lay representative in
13 this organization at the option of said congregations, and only such delegates shall be entitled
14 to a vote at the meetings of this Synod." [1899 *Handbook*, Fourth Edition, page 54]

15

16 Synodical President Dr. Ludwig Fuerbringer reported to 1908 convention of the Synod that 77
17 of the 245 electoral circuits did not conform to this rule adopted by the 1899 convention, and
18 he recommended enlarging electoral circuits to at least ten congregations. However, no action
19 was taken until the 1917 convention, which would then become effective with the 1920
20 convention. This convention also adopted a resolution indicating that visitation and electoral
21 circuits should coincide as much as possible. [1917 *Proceedings* pp. 108-109] The following
22 resolution is noteworthy as it explains the reasoning for the change.

23

24 Reducing Number of Delegates

25

26 On the past scale of representation in the Delegate Convention, Synod has
27 become too large a body, both for effective dispatch of business and even more so
28 with respect to the quartering of delegates. After considering various
29 propositions, Synod

30

31 *Resolved*, 1. That henceforth from five to ten congregations shall combine
32 to form an electoral circuit, with the understanding that the relative size of
33 congregations shall determine how many shall constitute a circuit, provided,
34 however, that no circuit comprise less than five nor more than ten congregations;

1 each circuit, as heretofore, to be represented by a clerical and a lay delegate.

2 [Proceedings, 1917 - English, p. 52]

3
4 These parameters remained in effect until the 1944 convention when a change was
5 made, again prompted by the perception that the conventions were becoming too large. Note
6 the reasons specified in the resolution adopted:

7 Whereas, The number of delegates to synodical conventions is steadily
8 growing larger; and

9 Whereas, This causes great difficulty in providing proper housing; and

10 Whereas, An equal reduction of delegates will not infringe upon the
11 representation rights of any congregation; therefore be it

12 *Resolved*, That Art. IV, A, page 19 of the *Synodical Handbook* be revised to
13 read: "Every ten to fifteen member congregations shall form an electoral circuit,
14 which shall elect one pastor and one layman and their alternates to represent
15 them at the conventions of Synod".

16 [Proceedings, 1944, p. 207]

17
18 The Synodical Survey Commission Report, written by Dr. August Suelflow in 1959
19 indicated that in nine of the districts, the electoral and visitation circuits were usually identical.
20 The other two thirds of the districts used a system which treated the two types of circuits
21 independently in one degree or another. The report concluded that it is legitimate to question
22 the degree to which the districts followed the encouragement of the 1917 resolution. Note the
23 following from the 1960 *Handbook*, which sets the parameters, but makes no specific
24 connection between electoral and visitation circuits.

25
26 1.51 An electoral circuit shall comprise from 10 to 15 member
27 congregations. Each electoral circuit shall be represented by one pastor
28 and one layman. Large congregations shall form small circuits, and small
29 congregations shall form large circuits. A fractional portion remaining after
30 the circuits have been formed shall be entitled to the same representation
31 as a complete circuit.

1 The 1967 convention proposed a manner of electing delegates to conventions in a way
2 which would ensure that there was some kind of an ongoing relationship between the
3 congregations involved in the electoral circuits. It did this by both changing the parameters of
4 an electoral circuit and tying visitation circuits to electoral circuits. It also proposed a means by
5 which an electoral circuit, which did not meet the parameters, could request an exemption
6 from the office of the president. Note the following sections from the overture proposed in the
7 *1967 Convention Workbook*:

8
9 Considerable confusion and dissatisfaction exist with reference to the election of
10 delegates to the convention of the Synod and their accountability. For example:

11
12 1. *Electoral Circuits* (1.51). These have often been artificially created
13 entities, with little cohesiveness, hindering effective postconvention action in
14 implementing resolutions and even in transmitting information. We propose that
15 representation be on the basis of the regular, permanent *visitation circuits*.

16
17 2. *Number of Congregations* (1.51). Present requirement: from 10-15
18 member congregations shall form an electoral circuit. Some visitation circuits
19 have fewer than 10 congregations. If two visitation circuits are combined (we are
20 proposing that provision be made for that possibility), the electoral circuit may
21 well number more than 15 congregations. Furthermore, many have felt that
22 representation should be based not on the number of congregations but on the
23 number of communicant members involved. We propose a method based on
24 *both* number of congregations and number of communicants, with a wide enough
25 spread between minimum and maximum requirements in each category to take
26 care of most situations and with a prescribed procedure which permits the
27 President of the Synod to deal with those cases which still prove to be
28 exceptional.

29
30 4. *Functions of the Delegate*. What does the delegate do? Presumably he
31 attends the convention, studies, listens, dialogs, makes judgments, votes. And
32 then, according to the present paragraph 1.55, he reports to the circuit the action
33 of the Synod. And this is all? This delegate has just had the experience of a
34 lifetime. He has been caught up in a great cause. He has gained fresh insights. He
35 has grown tremendously in the faith. A fresh love for his Synod and for his Savior
36 lives in his heart. And then he goes home. To what? We are of the opinion that

1 the Synod should dignify this position and therefore recommend that the delegate
2 be elected for a 2-year term, to serve until the next convention of the Synod.
3 What a source of power this man can be for the mission of the church!

4
5 Proposed Wording 1.51:

6
7 Voting delegates shall consist of one pastor and one layman from each
8 electoral circuit. An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or of two adjacent
9 visitation circuits, as shall be determined by each District, on the basis of the
10 following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20
11 member congregations, involving an aggregate communicant membership ranging
12 from 1,500 to 10,000. Exceptions to these requirements and limitations can be
13 made only by the President of the synod upon the request of a district Board of
14 Directors. Voting delegates shall serve a 2-year term, beginning with the
15 convention; after the convention they shall function as resource persons in their
16 circuit and assist in the dissemination and implementation of the synodical
17 resolutions in their area. [*Convention Workbook*, 1967, 124-125]

18
19 The convention adopted the proposed wording for electoral circuits. *Proceedings*, 1967
20 pp. 121-122. The 2019 Handbook retains essentially the same wording with a slight change in
21 structure and wording. Bylaw 3.1.2 (a)-(d).

22 23 Current Trends

24
25 Due to demographic changes over the past several convention cycles, it has become
26 necessary for more and more visitation circuits either to request an exemption from the
27 President of the Synod or to be combined in order to qualify to meet the parameters for an
28 electoral circuit. The result has been a gradual decrease in the number of electoral circuits
29 within the Synod and the number of delegates attending conventions.

30
31 The following table is compiled on the basis of the *Proceedings* from the various
32 convention years and *The Lutheran Annual*. (Note the figures for 1967, 1969, and 1986

1 included the three Canadian Districts and the Argentina / Brazil District*, which have since
 2 formed their own church body.) The 1967 convention was held prior to the adoption of the
 3 current parameters. The percentage in parenthesis for 1986, 2007, 2016, and 2019 states the
 4 percentage of visitation circuits which were also electoral circuits. The number of exemptions
 5 is unknown.

6

7 Year Electoral Circuits Delegates Visitation Circuits Congregations

8

9 1967 424 (441)* 882 ? 5904

10

11 1969 478 (503)* 1006 ? 5765

12

13 1986 558 (580)* (89%) 1160 624 5933 (6150)*

14

15 2007 639 (99%) 1278 643 6168

16

17 2016 568 (89%) 1136 633 5968

18

19 2019 551 (86%) 1102 636 5875

20

21 2023 ? ? 625 5777

22

23 The current estimate for the 2023 convention is that approximately 20% of the visitation
 24 circuits currently do not qualify as electoral circuits, which would be about 125 of the 625
 25 visitation circuits. This in turn would mean that if no exemptions to the parameters were
 26 granted by the President of the Synod, there would be about 500 electoral circuits sending
 27 delegates to the 2023 Synod convention and about 1000 voting delegates.

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What is unknown in the above table is the number of exceptions granted for each convention to visitation circuits that did not qualify as an electoral circuit and the number of visitation circuits that were joined together to form an electoral circuit.

These numbers indicate that a growing number of visitation circuits, because of demographic reasons, no longer qualify as electoral circuits. In addition, the current Bylaws provide no guidelines to the President of the Synod for determining whether or not to grant an exception, or the basis on which exemptions are to be considered. This ambiguity could result in questions being raised regarding why one visitation circuit is granted an exception while another is not. Another complicating factor involving circuits and voting, not covered by the Bylaws, is the fact that there are currently 13 multi-congregation parishes which cross district lines, as well as an additional 50 multi-congregation parishes within districts which are in different visitation circuits. This generates confusion in these situations regarding voting for a circuit visitor, eligibility to represent an electoral circuit, and voting at district conventions.

All of this points to the advisability for the Synod, due to demographic changes, to again consider the parameters for the electoral circuits which select delegates to conventions of the Synod to determine if they are adequate as they are or should be changed. In addition, it would be helpful for the Synod to clarify some of the ambiguity in the Bylaws regarding multi-congregation parishes which cross district or circuit lines.

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the Synod in convention establish a task force to consider the parameters for electoral circuits, and to clarify any ambiguities in the Bylaws regarding exceptions to the electoral circuit parameters and to address situations of multi-congregation parishes which cross district and circuit lines.

1 [1] The German term used was *Pfarrgemeinde*, and it was defined in a footnote to the
2 1847 Constitution as “either one single congregation or the sum of the individual congregations
3 which the pastor serves [*bedient*], as, in Germany, the territory in which he serves is called
4 *Kirchspiel* or *Kirchensprengel*. The pastor may serve 3 or 4 or more congregations, locally
5 separated; they are in relation to him essentially only one congregation.”

6
7 **RESOLUTION 2-06 To the District Convention for Salary Guidelines Revisions (Derived from**
8 **Overture 2-04)**

9 WHEREAS, the extra duties asked of our called commissioned ministers in some of our
10 congregations may exceed in time and effort the extra compensation provided for them under
11 our current salary guidelines; and

12 WHEREAS, there currently is no provision in our salary guidelines encouraging congregations to
13 offer a paternity leave for our 12-month male workers; and

14 WHEREAS, there currently is no provision in our salary guidelines encouraging congregations to
15 provide a sabbatical leave for their pastors; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, that the following addition be made to the Southern Illinois District Salary
17 Guidelines under “Adjustments to Salary from Basic Schedule” for Teachers/DCE/Deaconess on
18 page 7: “These percentages are to be the minimum additional compensation for these
19 activities. Congregations should consider increasing the percentage or provide appropriate
20 release time during which these extra duties can be addressed based upon the amount of
21 additional work that is expected (e.g. the number of sports teams supervised by the Athletic
22 Director, the number of choirs led by the Music Director, the amount of activities supervised by
23 the Youth Director, etc.)”; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, that the following addition be made to the Southern Illinois District Salary
25 Guidelines under “Employee Benefits” (after “Vacations” on page 12) and entitled “Paternity
26 Leave”:

- 27 A. While maternity leaves fall under the Concordia Health Plan for female workers, it is
28 recommended that congregations should consider giving their male 12-month workers
29 an extra two weeks of paid time off after he and his wife have had a baby.
30 B. The above applies to 10-month workers only during their designated time of service;
31 and that it be finally

1 RESOLVED, that the following addition be made to the Southern Illinois District Salary
2 Guidelines, creating this new section for “Sabbatical Leave” under “Employee Benefits” (after
3 Emergency Leave and before Anniversary and Retirement on page 12).

4 I. Objective

5 To assist our veteran parish pastors with a time for personal refreshing,
6 professional study, academic travel, directed reading/writing, expanded
7 experiences and prepared planning for future ministry and to benefit our
8 congregations with pastors who are renewed in their zeal for continued parish
9 ministry in their current pastorate.

10
11 II. Rationale

12 The word “sabbatical” is derived from the Biblical “Sabbath” rest (Genesis 2:1-
13 4a; Exodus 20:8-11). Sabbatical leaves include time for travel, rest, prayer, and
14 the experiencing of different cultures. Sabbaticals give both pastor and
15 congregation new appreciation and fresh energy for their covenant in ministry,
16 with the goal of renewed pastorates. Pastors that are personally and
17 professionally healthy workers are better able to serve congregations in a
18 spiritually healthy way. A good sabbatical meets a mutual need between pastor
19 and people.

20
21 III. Qualifications

22 Congregations whose pastors have been in the parish ministry for at least 15
23 years and who have served in their current parish for at least seven (7) years are
24 eligible and should be considered for up to a three (3)-month sabbatical leave.

25
26 IV. Procedures

- 27 A. A pastor who desires to take a sabbatical leave should prepare a proposal
28 and submit it for approval to both his congregation’s leadership (e.g. Council,
29 Elders, or Voters Assembly) and the Southern Illinois District President.
- 30 B. While a goal of the sabbatical leave is rest and refreshment away from
31 regular parish responsibilities, it is not intended to be a “vacation.” (Thus full
32 vacation time still should be granted to the pastor during the year of his
33 sabbatical leave.)

- 1 C. The sabbatical leave should be used for personal improvement and/or
2 professional development. This could include the following: taking a short-
3 term missionary trip; finishing an advanced academic degree; writing a book;
4 visiting church history sites in Europe or biblical sites in the Middle East;
5 planning worship, evangelism and stewardship programs for the
6 congregation's future; or visiting other congregations and interviewing fellow
7 pastors in similar ministry situations.
8 D. At the completion of the sabbatical leave, the pastor is encouraged to give a
9 written report of his activities both to his congregation's leadership and to
10 the Southern Illinois District President showing he fulfilled the goals of his
11 sabbatical leave proposal.
12

13 V. Funding

- 14 A. The pastor should receive his regular salary and benefits (except auto
15 allowance) during the time of his sabbatical leave.
16 B. The cost to cover guest preaching and visitation in the congregation during
17 the pastor's sabbatical leave should be paid by the congregation. This could
18 be accomplished:
19 1. Through the congregation's regular budget; or
20 2. By special gifts from members of the congregation to a designated
21 Sabbatical Fund; or
22 3. By applying for grants from professional agencies such as The Alban
23 Institute or the Lilly Foundation; or
24 4. By establishing an escrow account into which both the congregation and
25 the pastor regularly contribute money over the course of seven (7) years
26 to be used by the congregation to pay for pastoral care coverage during
27 the pastor's absence, and to be used by the pastor for his approved
28 sabbatical expenses. If the pastor leaves before or without taking a
29 sabbatical, his portion of the account would be returned to him, while
30 the congregation could save its portion for its next pastor eligible for a
31 sabbatical leave.
32
33

1 **RESOLUTION 2-07 To Amend District Bylaw 2.97 (Derived from Overture 2-09)**

2 Rationale

3 As needs for communication throughout the Southern Illinois District changes, delegating
4 district wide communication to four individuals may be overwhelming and taxing to volunteers.
5 Allowing the Commission on Communication certain flexibility in its make-up will allow for a
6 more flexible and manageable oversight of district communications.

7 Therefore be it

8 *Resolved*, That District Bylaw 2.97 be amended as follows:

9 ~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

10 *2.97 Membership*

11 The Commission of Communications shall consist of at least four members appointed by
12 the Board of Directors. ~~One shall be an ordained minister, one shall be a commissioned~~
13 ~~minister, and two shall be laity.~~ There shall be at least one ordained minister, at least one
14 commissioned minister, and at least two lay members on the Commission. The commission will
15 elect its own chairman, and is responsible to the Board of Directors.

16

17 **Resolutions from Floor Committee Three – Life Together**

18 **Overture 3-01 TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO ENHANCE THEIR OLDER ADULT**
19 **MINISTRIES (Derived from Overture 3-01)**

20 WHEREAS: The Church of God is made up of people of all ages, all of whom receive God's
21 grace, mercy, and peace, AND

22 WHEREAS: according to congregations' statistics from LCMS Research Services, through 2020
23 in the Southern Illinois District, there are more than 8,000 Christians over the age of 65 in need
24 of pastoral care, AND

25 WHEREAS: there are almost 6,400 additional Christians between the ages of 50-64 in our
26 congregations, making up a total of 44% of the baptized membership in our district that is over
27 the age of 50, AND

28 WHEREAS: older adults possess gifts, talents, and wisdom that can be used for the ministry of
29 the congregations; AND

30 WHEREAS: spiritual growth is an integral part of the aging process; THEREFORE, BE IT

31

1 RESOLVED: that the Southern Illinois District Older Adult Advisory Committee be encouraged
2 to help congregations promote and plan a ministry of, to, for, and with older adults; AND BE IT
3 FURTHER

4 RESOLVED: that congregations encourage ministries that bless older adults and encourage
5 them to have a vibrant faith response in service to Jesus Christ all the way through life, AND BE
6 IT FURTHER

7 RESOLVED: that congregations be encouraged and equip leaders to see the value of older
8 adults in their ongoing ministries and as a critical resource for outreach into the community as
9 the number of older adults continues to grow, AND BE IT FINALLY

10 RESOLVED, that congregational leaders be encouraged to appoint an Older Adult Coordinator
11 (staff or lay volunteer) to distribute materials and news to intentionally embrace, enhance, and
12 enlarge an older adult ministry in their congregations.

13

14 **OVERTURE 3-02 “To Thank God for the Ministry of the Rev. John Lukomski” (Derived**
15 **from Overture 3-02)**

16 WHEREAS the Lord of the Church called the Rev. John Lukomski to serve in the Office of the
17 Holy Ministry at the dual parish of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, New Athens and Trinity Lutheran
18 Church, Darmstadt in the Southern IL District in 1978 until his retirement in 2019, and

19 WHEREAS Rev. Lukomski served the Southern IL District in a variety of capacities throughout
20 his career including serving as Circuit Visitor, 1st 6 Vice President, Chair for the Board of
21 Missions, Chair for District Youth Gatherings, and member of the Board of Spiritual Life, and

22 WHEREAS Rev. Lukomski served The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod at large throughout
23 his career including hosting the KFYO radio show “Wrestling with the Basics” and writing
24 various materials for Concordia Publishing House, and

25 WHEREAS Rev. Lukomski was faithfully supported in his pastoral ministry by his wife Jan, until
26 she was called to heavenly glory, and later by his wife Lynn.

27 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southern IL District in its 2022 convention give thanks
28 to the Lord of the Church for Rev. Lukomski’s faithful and continual service to St. Paul’s and
29 Trinity, and be it further

30 RESOLVED that the Southern IL District in its 2022 convention give thanks to the Lord of the
31 Church for Rev. Lukomski’s faithful and continual service to the Southern IL District, and be it
32 further

33 RESOLVED that the Southern IL District in its 2022 convention give thanks to the Lord of the
34 church for the aid provided by Jan (+) and Lynn Lukomski during the ministry of Rev. Lukomski,
35 and be it finally

36 RESOLVED the Southern IL District in its 2022 convention rise and sing the common doxology
37 giving thanks to the Lord of the Church for Rev. Lukomski’s service to the Church.

38

1 **OVERTURE 3-03 “To Extol the Blessing of Retired Pastors by Upholding our Beloved**
2 **Confessions” (Derived from Overture 3-03)**

3

4 Overview: Our church body is blessed with many retired pastors who still have the gift of proper
5 division of Law and Gospel and the wisdom of many years of experience. For those retired men
6 who still have strength and desire to serve, the church body ought wisely and faithfully utilize
7 them in the good order Christ established for His Church, as confessed in Augsburg Confession
8 XIV.

9

10 Overture:

11 WHEREAS, A pastor may retire and still retain his divine Call from a congregation to serve the
12 people of God, and

13 WHEREAS, Many pastors, upon retirement, also choose to resign their Call to the congregation
14 they have served, and

15 WHEREAS, Many retired pastors nevertheless retain the strength and desire to serve the
16 church in pulpit supply, vacancy situations, communion of the hospitalized, etc., and

17 WHEREAS, Our Lutheran Confessions rightly confess that “no one is to preach and teach
18 without a rightly ordered call” (AC XIV), and

19 WHEREAS, Congregations which are not actively seeking to call a pastor and are utilizing
20 retired pastors, and

21 WHEREAS, The notions of “once called, always called” are not Lutheran in their theology, but
22 more similar to the Roman Catholic notion of “indelible character” and thus, ought to be
23 repudiated, and

24 WHEREAS, A rightly ordered Call is a divine partnership between God, congregation, and
25 pastor; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED That the Southern Illinois District president encourages congregations not actively
27 calling, to consider calling retired pastors, and that retired pastors be open to considering a
28 divine call; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED The Southern Illinois District President encourages his fellow district presidents to
30 advocate and adopt this model throughout all districts.

31 **OVERTURE 3-04 To Promote and Commend the Leadership of Pastors in Parish School**
32 **Worship (Derived from Overture 3-04)**

33 WHEREAS, our Lord Himself desires children to come to Him (Matt. 19:13-15, Mark 10:14-16)
34 and sternly warns those who teach the faith to children how serious this task is (Matt. 18:6, Mark
35 9:42, Luke 17:2); and

36 WHEREAS, God holds pastors accountable for the souls placed under their care (Heb. 13:17,
37 Ezek. 33:7-9); and

1 WHEREAS, Lutheran schools are not entities unto themselves but assist the pastor in his duty
2 of instructing the young in the faith; and

3 WHEREAS, Martin Luther in his Preface to the Small Catechism pleads with pastors,
4 “Therefore, I beg you all for God’s sake, my dear sirs and brethren, who are pastors or
5 preachers, to devote yourselves heartily to your office (1 Timothy 4:13). Have pity on the people
6 who are entrusted to you (Acts 20:28) and help us teach the catechism to the people, and
7 especially to the young.” (Enchiridion SC Preface, par. 6); and

8 WHEREAS, in describing the salutary ceremonies which Lutherans observe, the Confessors
9 state:
10 “The children sing psalms in order that they may learn. . . . Among us the pastors and ministers
11 of the churches are encouraged publicly to instruct and hear the youth. This ceremony produces
12 the best fruit” (Ap. AC XV, par. 40-4); and

13 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Confessions state: “Our churches teach that no one should publicly
14 teach in the Church . . . without a rightly ordered call.” (AC XIV); and

15 WHEREAS, the Synodical Constitution assumes the leadership of pastor in school as well as
16 church, as when it prescribes as a condition of membership the “Exclusive use of doctrinally
17 pure agenda, hymn books, and catechisms in church and school” (Article VI); and

18 WHEREAS, the Synod in convention has encouraged all Lutheran schools to strengthen their
19 Lutheran ethos, including through:
20 “A pastor who supports a school by eagerly serving the school as its spiritual leader, faithfully
21 ministering with faculty, students, and their families,” and “A joyful affirmation and use of the
22 historic, liturgical orders of the church in the worship life of students at school and at home”
23 (Res. 8-01A, 2016); and

24 WHEREAS, the Lutheran day school classroom setting also provides a rich environment for
25 integrating devotional times led by those other than the pastor (e.g. special mission speakers,
26 object lessons, teacher-led devotionals) throughout the week in classrooms and school
27 assemblies; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, that the Southern Illinois District in convention commend its pastors eagerly to
29 take up their duties as spiritual leaders working with principals, administrators, and teachers
30 within our Lutheran schools and congregations; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, that the Southern Illinois District in convention encourage its schools to welcome
32 pastors as leaders for worship and to use their designated chapel times for the worship services
33 that will instruct our children in liturgy and regular worship life of the Christian Church; and be it
34 further

35 RESOLVED, that the Southern Illinois District in convention give thanks to God for our faithful
36 Lutheran school teachers who extend the catechesis of congregational and school worship in
37 their classrooms; and be it further

38 RESOLVED, that the Southern Illinois District actively promote pastoral leadership in school
39 worship through the visitation and work of the District Educational Executive; and be it finally

1 RESOLVED, that the Southern Illinois District in convention memorialize the Synod in
2 Convention to promote and commend the leadership of pastors in parish school worship
3 throughout all the schools of our Synod.

4 **OVERTURE 3-05 To Strengthen Oversight of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program**
5 **(Derived from Overture 3-05)**

6 WHEREAS, The Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program was established by 2007 Resolution
7 5-01B; and

8 WHEREAS, Specific ministry pastors serve the Church under supervision because their
9 theological education has been formed in part by and for a specific ministry context (Bylaw
10 2.13.1(b)); and

11 WHEREAS, This supervision is essential for the ministry as well as the confidence of those
12 served and the Church at large that the ministry is conducted in a manner consistent with the
13 Holy Scriptures and the pastor's unconditional subscription to the Lutheran Confessions; and

14 WHEREAS, This supervision is not a perfunctory task, but one requiring close attention to the
15 needs of the specific ministry and the conduct of that ministry; and

16 WHEREAS, Any change in ministry context is by its nature inconsistent with the purpose of the
17 SMP Program and the theological education of the specific ministry pastor and therefore should
18 be considered only in extreme circumstances; and

19 WHEREAS, It is essential that a student beginning his theological education in a specific
20 ministry context be known by the people he serves; and

21 WHEREAS, The Bylaws of the LCMS are vague as to acceptable rationale for allowing a specific
22 ministry pastor to be offered or accept a call outside of his specific context; and

23 WHEREAS, Confidence in the SMP Program will be raised by more clarity regarding the
24 oversight and supervision of the program; therefore be it

25 Resolved, An "SMP Program Oversight Committee" be established; and be it further

26 Resolved, The SMP Program Oversight Committee shall consist of the First Vice-President of
27 the Synod as chairman, the Secretary of the Synod (or his designated representative), a district
28 president appointed by the Council of Presidents, a representative of each seminary, and two
29 at-large members, selected by the committee, one who is an ordained minister (who currently
30 serves as a supervisor for an SMP Pastor), and one who is a lay person; and be it further

31 Resolved, That prior to acceptance by the seminaries into the SMP program and initial
32 placement as SMP vicars, the SMP Oversight Committee shall approve the placement of all
33 vicars enrolling in the SMP Program as well as all calls, whether first or subsequent, to ensure
34 that the ministry context is consistent with the purposes of the program and the specific
35 education and training of the specific ministry pastor; and be it further

36 Resolved, If a district president determines that a specific ministry pastor may be offered a call
37 to a context in any way distinct from the ministry to which he is currently called then this action
38 must be pre-approved by the SMP Program Oversight Committee before such a call is issued;
39 and be it further

- 1 Resolved, Every vicar enrolled in the SMP Program shall serve in the congregation in which he
2 is a member and has been a member for at least three years; and be it further
- 3 Resolved, When a specific ministry pastor serves within a parish which is also served by an
4 ordained minister who is not a specific ministry pastor, then that specific ministry pastor shall be
5 supervised by a pastor of that parish; and be it further
- 6 Resolved, When a specific ministry pastor serves in a parish which is not served by an ordained
7 minister who is not a specific ministry pastor then the specific ministry pastor shall be
8 supervised by an ordained minister who resides within the circuit containing the parish or within
9 similar physical proximity; and be it further
- 10 Resolved, Excepting the required supervision of the district president, no ordained minister shall
11 be the supervisor of more than one specific ministry pastor; and be it further
- 12 Resolved, The ministers of religion—ordained records maintained by district presidents as well
13 as the official membership roster of the Synod shall include the ordained minister under whose
14 supervision a specific ministry pastor serves; and be it further
- 15 Resolved, The Commission on Handbook update the Bylaws of the LCMS to reflect these
16 resolutions; and be it finally,
- 17 Resolved, That the Southern Illinois District submit this resolution to the 2022 LCMS
18 Convention.

19

20 **RESOLUTION 3-06 To Encourage Congregations To Enhance Their Support For The Bob**
21 **Streuter Memorial Golf Tournament**

22

23 *Whereas*, SID Annual Bob Streuter Golf Tournament Committee is seeking enhanced support
24 from all SID Congregations represented at this Convention, AND

25

26 *Whereas*, realizing a \$50,000 annual grant from the Werner Foundation ended their
27 commitment by leaving the Southern Illinois District Student Aid Scholarship in jeopardy, SID
28 Board of Directors began researching and organizing their own funding for these Scholarships,
29 AND

30

31 *Whereas*, the Southern Illinois District Student Aid Scholarship provides important grants to
32 students attending a synodical university or seminary, and who are studying to be professional
33 church workers in the LCMS church family, AND

34

35 *Whereas*, Determined to find a solution, in 2004 the SID Board of Directors Finance Committee
36 suggested an Annual District Sponsored Golf Tournament to raise funds for the scholarships,
37 the 1st SID Scholarship Golf Tournament was approved by the Board of Directors, AND

38

39 *Whereas*, Observing the passing of original committee-member, Bob Streuter in 2008, the
40 tournament was renamed: Annual Bob Streuter Memorial - SID/LCMS Golf Tournament, AND

41

1 Whereas, Reiterating the sole purpose of raising funds, all profits resulting from golfer entry
2 fees, and 100% profit coming from congregation, corporate and individual sponsorships were
3 retained in the SID Student Aid Endowment Fund AND
4

5 *Whereas*, Continuing sponsorships with fewer participating members and golfers have gradually
6 impacted the event funds, and for the past 18 years the Golf Committee has desperately tried
7 encouraging participation with monetary gifts, encouraging members and golfers, AND
8

9 *Whereas*, Sadly, of the ninety-one Southern Illinois Congregations, church participation has
10 resulted in only two or three Congregation Sponsorships, per year, AND
11

12 *Whereas*, Endorsing the 18th Annual Bob Streuter Memorial - SID/LCMS Golf Tournament,
13 scheduled for Saturday, June 11, 2022 at Roland Barkau Memorial Golf Course in Okawville,
14 Illinois; therefore, be it . . .
15

16 *Resolved*: All congregations support the **Southern Illinois District Student Aid Endowment**
17 **Fund**; through its Congregational Chairman, Pastor, or Delegates, and be it further . . .
18

19 *Resolved*: All congregations be encouraged to create an annual budget item sponsoring the
20 **Southern Illinois District Student Aid Endowment Fund** via the Annual Bob Streuter Memorial -
21 SID/LCMS Golf Tournament, be it finally . . .
22

23 *Resolved*: All delegates share announcements, bulletins, flyers, encouraging their church and/or
24 individual members to consider tournament sponsorship, giving a monetary gift, or
25 participating in the Annual Bob Streuter Memorial - SID/LCMS Golf Tournament.