



FINAL Resolutions (02-01-15 to 02-8-15) ***Floor Committee 2 – Administration & Finance***

Click the resolution number to view the complete resolution.
Unless noted, the resolution was PASSED by the voting delegates.

RESOLUTION -02-01-15: To Amend District Bylaws For Compliance With 2013 Synod Convention Resolutions And Bylaw Amendments

RESOLUTION -02-02-15: To Realign Visitation Circuits And Determine Electoral Circuits

RESOLUTION -02-03-15: To Amend District Bylaws For Improved Administration

RESOLUTION -02-04-15*: To Rename Nashville North And Nashville South Circuits And Amend District Bylaw 8.1.7

(*NOT PASSED, amended and replaced with RESOLUTION 02-08-15)

RESOLUTION -02-05-15: To Encourage Men To Study For The Office Of The Holy Ministry

RESOLUTION -02-06-15: To Improve Transparency And Accountability For Financial Gifts From God's Stewards

RESOLUTION -02-07-15: To Respectfully Decline Overture 02-03-15

RESOLUTION -02-08-15: To Rename Nashville North And Nashville South Circuits And Amend District Bylaw 8.1.7

RESOLUTION: 02-01-15

SUBJECT: To Amend District Bylaws for Compliance with 2013 Synod Convention Resolutions and Bylaw Amendments

(Reference Overture 02-08-15 printed on page 150 of the Convention Workbook)

PREAMBLE: The Synod continued to format its structure at the 2013 Convention as a result of learning from the districts and its own structural changes after the 2010 LCMS Convention. As a result, the Mid-South District's bylaws need to be revised to be brought into harmony and not conflict with the Synod's bylaws.

WHEREAS, The necessary revisions (explanations highlighted in green in the convention workbook, Appendix A, pages 151-166) are summarized as the following groups:

1. To change terminology required by Synod convention action or updating of language in the 2013 *Handbook* of Synod;
2. To update terminology to be consistent with the 2013 *Handbook* of Synod;
3. To enable district boards of directors to appoint up to three voting members with particular skill sets;
4. To comply with Synod bylaws dealing with responsibilities for district and regional nominations, selections, and elections, as well as those connected with the process for the election of the Synod President;
5. To authorize the District Board of Directors to determine the composition of electoral circuits prior to a Synod convention;
6. To promote stewardship in the district via a formalized process;
7. To enable circuits to utilize e-meeting technologies for circuit forums; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has reviewed and offered various recommendations for the proposed bylaws to be in harmony with the 2013 *Handbook* of Synod; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws, as shown below, be amended accordingly to comply with the 2013 *Handbook* of Synod, as shown (2015 Mid-South District Convention Workbook, Appendix A, pages 151-166):

Group 1

1.2.2 (p. 152), 1.3.1 (p. 153), 3.2.1.2, 3.2.3.2 (p. 154), 3.2.5, 3.2.5.1, 3.2.5.2 (p. 155), 5.2.2 (p. 157), 6.1.1.2 (p. 158), 8.1.2.6, 8.1.3, 8.1.5 (p. 160), 8.3 (p. 161), 8.3.5, 8.3.5.1, 8.3.5.2 (p. 164), 8.3.5.4, 8.3.5.5, 8.4.1, 8.4.5, 8.5.4 (p. 165)

Group 2

1.2.5, 1.2.6 (p. 152), 2.2.5, 3.2.1.1, 3.2.2.2 (p. 154), 4.3.1, 4.3.2 (n) (p. 156), 4.3.2 (p) (p. 157), 8.4.3 (p. 165), 8.55 (p. 166)

Group 3

1.3.2 (7) (p. 153)

Group 4

3.2.3.2, 3.2.3.3 (p. 154), 8.1.2, 8.1.2(2), 8.1.2(4) (p. 159), 8.1.2(6), 8.1.3(1), 8.1.3(2), 8.1.3(3), 8.1.5, 8.2.1.1 (p. 160), 8.2.4, 8.3.1 (a) (p. 161), 8.3.2-8.3.2.1(g) (p. 162), 8.3.2(h), 8.3.4 (p. 163), 8.3.5, 8.3.5.1, 8.3.5.2 (p. 164), 8.3.5.4, 8.3.5.5 (p. 165)

Group 5

4.3.2 (m) (p. 156)

Group 6

6.4-6.4.4 (p. 159) *the reference was incorrectly printed in Convention Workbook as 7.4 on page 119, and 7.4.- 7.4.4 on page 159

Group 7

8.3.5.3 (p. 164) *the reference was incorrectly printed in Convention Workbook as 8.3.4.3 on page 119; and be it further

RESOLVED,

That these amended bylaws be submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod for review and approval; and be it finally

RESOLVED,

That the Mid-South District, meeting in convention, authorize the Mid-South District Board of Directors to finalize and formally adopt any changes to these bylaw amendments required by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod in their review, and communicate to the district that the bylaws are effective upon the approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod.

RESOLUTION: 02-02-15

SUBJECT: To Realign Visitation Circuits and Determine Electoral Circuits

*(Reference Overture 02-05-15, 02-06-15, 02-07-15 as printed on pages 147-149 of the
Convention Workbook)*

WHEREAS, The 2013 *Handbook* of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod requires each electoral circuit to consist of a minimum of seven (7) geographically contiguous member congregations, and no less than one thousand five hundred (1,500) aggregate communicant members [2013 Synod *Handbook*, Bylaw 3.1.2 (a)]; and

WHEREAS, The District Board of Directors may determine the composition of its electoral circuits prior to each Synod convention for the purpose of retaining or maximizing electoral votes/delegates to the Synod convention; and

WHEREAS, The Chattanooga Electoral Circuit’s number of aggregate communicant members, according to reported 2014 statistical information, has fallen below the minimum level of 1,500 aggregate communicant members; and

WHEREAS, The Little Rock-North Electoral Circuit’s number of aggregate communicant members, according to reported 2014 statistical information, has fallen below the minimum level of 1,500 aggregate communicant members; and

WHEREAS, The Memphis Electoral Circuit is approaching the size of being able to divide into two electoral circuits in the near future by number of congregations and aggregate communicant membership; and

WHEREAS, Districts shall establish [visitation] circuits according to geographical criteria (Synod Bylaw 5.1.2); and

WHEREAS, Moving Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Loudon, TN to the Chattanooga Visitation and Electoral Circuit would bring the Chattanooga Electoral Circuit above the minimum 1,500 aggregate communicant members; and

WHEREAS, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Loudon, TN is geographically the closest congregation to the Chattanooga Circuit within the Knoxville Circuit, and has provided prayerful and financial support to district mission opportunities in the Chattanooga Circuit; and

WHEREAS, The Knoxville Electoral Circuit will retain electoral circuit status with more than 7 congregations and above the minimum 1,500 aggregate communicant members; and

WHEREAS, Moving Christ Lutheran Church, Little Rock from the Little Rock-South Visitation and Electoral Circuit to the Little Rock-North Visitation and Electoral Circuit would bring the Little Rock-North Electoral Circuit above the minimum 1,500 aggregate communicant members; and

WHEREAS, Christ Lutheran Church, Little Rock is geographically bordering the Little Rock-North Circuit, and both Little Rock Circuits meet together and cooperate in various mission and ministry endeavors; and

WHEREAS, The Little Rock-South Electoral Circuit will retain electoral circuit status with more than 7 congregations and above the minimum 1,500 aggregate communicant members; and

WHEREAS, Moving Trinity Lutheran Church, Dyersburg, TN from the Paducah Visitation and Electoral Circuit to the Memphis Visitation and Electoral Circuit would increase the potential for an additional electoral circuit for the current Memphis Circuit; and

WHEREAS, The Paducah Electoral Circuit would still qualify as its own electoral circuit at 7 congregations and above the minimum 1,500 aggregate communicant members; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Loudon, TN be moved from the Knoxville Visitation (#5) and Electoral Circuit to the Chattanooga Visitation (#1) and Electoral Circuit by the Mid-South District 2015 convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Christ Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR be moved from the Little Rock-South Visitation (#7) and Electoral Circuit to the Little Rock-North Visitation (#6) and Electoral Circuit by the Mid-South District 2015 convention; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That Trinity Lutheran Church, Dyersburg, TN be moved from the Paducah Visitation (#11) and Electoral Circuit to the Memphis Visitation (#8) and Electoral Circuit by the Mid-South District 2015 convention.

RESOLUTION: 02-03-15

SUBJECT: To Amend District Bylaws for Improved Administration

(Reference Overture 02-04-15, 02-08-15 as printed on pages 146 and 150 of the Convention Workbook)

PREAMBLE: During the last triennium, the District's Board of Directors and Nominations Committee recognized a few areas where clarification, updating, or revision would be helpful to better reflect the current needs and emphases of the district for carrying out the district's mission:

As an alliance of congregations and schools, the Mid-South District provides leadership resources, and encouragement for reaching the lost for Christ's kingdom and equipping the found for service in our churches, communities, and in the world.

WHEREAS, The proposed revisions (explanations highlighted in yellow and blue in the convention workbook, Appendix A, pages 151-166) are summarized in the following groups:

1. To enable the district board of directors to amend the district's bylaws to comply with Synod convention resolutions and subsequent Synod Handbook updates, rather than waiting for the next district convention to do so;
2. To provide more flexibility in the makeup of the board of directors, while still providing for wide-spread representation on the board;
3. To provide for a timeline of pre-convention materials that is more in line with the district's needs rather than the timeline necessary for Synod convention preparation;
4. To specifically allow for electronic balloting as an option and the official reporting of the ballots;
5. To empower the district board of directors to establish or realign visitation circuits within the district according to geographical criteria, after consultation and mutual concurrence with the congregations of the respective circuit(s);
6. To specify who may submit specific nominations to the district nominations committee, mirroring Synod bylaws and helping to clarify the process for the district;
7. To further clarify and outline the nomination, selection, and election process via the nominations committee, regarding the district secretary, as called for in district Bylaws 8.1.3 and 8.2.1.1;
8. To change the date of assumption of office for the district president, vice-presidents, and members of the board of directors to mirror the

date of Synod's terms of office and coincide with the calendar year, which the district now operates under for its fiscal matters;
9. To utilize general, rather than specific, terminology; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has reviewed and offered various recommendations for the proposed bylaws to be in harmony with the 2013 *Handbook* of Synod; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws, as shown below, be amended accordingly, as shown (2015 Mid-South District Convention Workbook, Appendix A, pages 151-166):

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Group 1 | 1.1.3 (p. 152) |
| Group 2 | 1.3.2, final paragraph (p. 153) |
| Group 3 | 2.2.2 (p. 153) |
| Group 4 | 2.2.4.1 (p. 153)
8.2.2 (p. 160)
8.2.6 (p. 161) |
| Group 5 | 4.3.2 (l)–4.3.2 (r) (p.156) *due to subsequent re-lettering, however content is not changed with the exception of (l) and (m) |
| Group 6 | 6.1.1.2 (a) (p. 158)
6.1.1.2 (c) (p. 158) |
| Group 7 | 8.3.3 (p. 163) |
| Group 8 | 8.4.4 (p. 165) |
| Group 9 | 1.2.4 (p. 152), 1.3.3 (p. 153), 2.2.5 (p. 154)
3.1.3 (p. 154), 4.1.2 (p. 155), 5.1.1 (p. 157)
5.2.2 (p. 157), 5.2.6 (p. 157), 5.2.7 (p. 157); |

and be it further

RESOLVED, That 4.3.2 (l) (p. 156), which was initially printed in the Convention Workbook, Appendix A on page 163, be replaced with
(l) establish, or realign, visitation circuits according to geographical criteria [Synod Bylaw 5.1.2], after consultation and mutual concurrence with the congregations of the respective circuit(s); and be it further

RESOLVED, That 8.3.3.1 (b) (p. 163), which was initially printed in the Convention Workbook, Appendix A on page 163, be replaced with
8.3.3.1 (b) nominating ballots and receiving of ballots shall be the responsibility of the secretary of the district, ballots to be received by the congregation six (6) months prior to the opening date of the convention, and from the congregations four (4) months prior to the opening date of the convention.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That these amended bylaws be submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod for review and approval; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Mid-South District, meeting in convention, authorize the Mid-South District Board of Directors to finalize and formally adopt any

changes to these bylaw amendments required by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod in their review, and communicate to the district that the bylaws are effective upon the approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod.

Rev. John Gierke (Chairman)

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RESOLUTION: 02-04-15

SUBJECT: To Rename Nashville North and Nashville South Circuits and Amend District Bylaw 8.1.7

(Reference Overtures 02-01-15, 02-02-15 printed on pages 143-144 of the Convention Workbook)

WHEREAS, Districts shall establish circuits according to geographical criteria (2013 LCMS *Handbook* Bylaw 5.1.2); and

WHEREAS, The names of the circuits Nashville North and Nashville South do not accurately reflect their geographic areas; and

WHEREAS, None of the congregations in the Nashville South Circuit are in the city of Nashville, but rather stretch from Columbia, TN, to Crossville, TN; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the current Nashville North Circuit (#9) be renamed Nashville Circuit; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the current Nashville South Circuit (#10) be renamed Cumberland Circuit; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That district bylaw 8.1.7 be amended to reflect these name changes, reading:
Region 3: The congregations in the Memphis, ~~Nashville North~~ Nashville, ~~Nashville South~~ Cumberland, and Paducah visitation circuits.

RESOLUTION: 02-05-15

SUBJECT: To Encourage Men to Study for the Office of the Holy Ministry

(Reference Overture 02-10-15 printed on page 150B of the Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** In Luke 10:2, Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Pray therefore earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest”; and
- WHEREAS,** The number of men preparing for the office of the holy ministry in residential programs at the seminaries has significantly declined over the past 8 years; and
- WHEREAS,** The total number of candidates graduating from both seminaries has been less than the number of calling congregations seeking new graduates for the past several years; and
- WHEREAS,** Approximately one-third of LCMS pastors are at or near retirement age; and
- WHEREAS,** There are multiple factors which could inhibit men from entering or completing seminary preparation, including significant student debt (from an average of \$50,000 and sometimes reaching over \$100,000), rising healthcare and benefit costs, concern about placement, traditionally low starting salaries, etc.; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That pastors and congregations encourage male youth and men to consider studying for the office of the holy ministry; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That congregations and individuals consider providing financial support to reduce the burden of costs to attend seminary (for example, a budget line item or special offerings); and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District and Synod shall set as a high priority the preparation and financial support of men for the office of the holy ministry; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District, meeting in convention, memorialize the Synod with this resolution as an overture to the 2016 Synod convention.

RESOLUTION: 02-06-15

SUBJECT: **To Improve Transparency and Accountability for Financial Gifts
from God’s Stewards**

(Reference Overture 02-09-15 printed on page 150A of the Convention Workbook)

WHEREAS, Monies for special appeals requested by LCMS, Inc. (i.e. following natural disasters) are reported only in part in Synod publications (such as *The Reporter* and *The Lutheran Witness*, and sometimes only annually); and

WHEREAS, Donors and members of Synod are interested in the impact of funds raised and a fuller accounting of special appeals and appreciate improved financial transparency; and

WHEREAS, LCMS, Inc. recognizes the need to improve financial reporting from all areas of Synod, including special appeals; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Mid-South District, meeting in convention, commend the various financial offices of LCMS, Inc. (such as the fund development office) for their efforts to date to improve financial transparency and accountability; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the financial offices of LCMS, Inc. continue to recognize the desire of donors and members of Synod to improve processes of reporting and work to provide clear, timely, and transparent accounting for all funding and special appeals so that the Body of Christ may experience the joy of Gospel-centered mission and ministry beyond the local context or community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Mid-South District encourage The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Board of Directors and national leadership team to pursue all reasonable avenues to enhance such reporting through its varied communication channels, including the dissemination of an official Synod annual report (in addition to the annual special Lutheran Witness “State of the Synod” issue) as well as annual fiscal conferences; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Mid-South District submit this resolution as a memorial to the 2016 Synod Convention.

RESOLUTION: 02-07-15

SUBJECT: To Respectfully Decline Overture 02-03-15

(Reference Overture 02-03-15 printed on page 145 of the Convention Workbook)

WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reasons, that the following overture should be declined, therefore be it;

RESOLVED, That the following overture be respectfully declined for the reason given:

Overture 02-03-15 To Ensure that the Attention of the District Convention is Primarily Focused on Business

Reason: Synod Bylaw 4.2.1 has broader stated objectives for the purposes of district conventions in addition to the conduct of business.

Rev. John Gierke (Chairman)

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RESOLUTION: 02-08-15

SUBJECT: To Rename Nashville North and Nashville South Circuits and Amend District Bylaw 8.1.7

(Reference Overtures 02-01-15, 02-02-15 printed on pages 143-144 of the Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** Districts shall establish circuits according to geographical criteria (2013 LCMS *Handbook* Bylaw 5.1.2); and
- WHEREAS,** The names of the circuits Nashville North and Nashville South do not accurately reflect their geographic areas; and
- WHEREAS,** None of the congregations in the Nashville South Circuit are in the city of Nashville, but rather stretch from Columbia, TN, to Crossville, TN; and
- WHEREAS,** Members of the Nashville Circuits have requested new names for these circuits; and
- WHEREAS,** This involves a bylaw amendment; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the current Nashville North Circuit (#9) be renamed Nashville Circuit; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the current Nashville South Circuit (#10) be renamed Middle Tennessee Circuit; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That district bylaw 8.1.7 be amended to reflect these name changes, reading:
Region 3: The congregations in the Memphis, Nashville, Middle Tennessee, and Paducah visitation circuits; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That these amended bylaws be submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod for review and approval; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District, meeting in convention, authorize the Mid-South District Board of Directors to finalize and formally adopt any changes to these bylaw amendments required by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod in their review, and communicate to the district that the bylaws are effective upon the approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod.