



## The Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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December 21, 2017

TO: All Congregations, Rostered Church Workers of the LCMS Mid-South District, and  
Congregational Presidents

FROM: Rev. John P. Gierke, District Secretary

RE: 2018 District Convention Nomination Ballots

Dear Fellow Redeemed in the Mid-South District:

### Greetings in the Lord, who is our Rock, our Fortress, and our Salvation!

In preparation for the 2018 District Convention in Memphis, TN (June 28-30, 2018), it is my responsibility as District Secretary, six months before the opening date of the convention, to provide you with nomination ballots for the various offices and positions of service in the district to be elected at the district convention for the 2018-2021 term of office. Accompanying this letter are the various official nomination ballots for your congregation, and/or individual members of the Synod in your congregation, to nominate where applicable, and to submit with the names of nominees **before the deadline of February 28, 2018.**

There are a few process changes in this convention cycle due to certain 2016 Synod Convention resolutions/bylaw amendments. To summarize these changes pertinent to the nomination processes, the Synod now enables nominations of commissioned and lay members for the board of directors and the district nominating committee who reside outside of your congregation's electoral region. In other words, if your congregation or a rostered member would like to nominate an individual who resides outside of your region for an office in their region for which they are eligible, that is now permissible as well as for those individuals within your own region.

The 2015 district convention adopted bylaw amendments enabling the district board of directors to amend the district bylaws to correspond with any Synod convention bylaw changes which affect the district bylaws. This process is in its final stages with a review by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM). After a favorable decision by the CCM, the board of directors will be able to formally adopt the proposed amended bylaws by a 2/3 majority vote. These bylaws changes will then go into effect. The CCM will be meeting to give approval, and the board will vote to approve them shortly after receiving the results of the CCM's review. The bylaws referenced below will be the same once finalized (or very similar if the CCM recommends slight editorial changes). Areas underlined or bolded are simply highlighted to call attention to who may nominate whom.

With this packet, you are receiving a nominating ballot for:

- **District President** – each member congregation shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod two ministers of religion—ordained as candidates for president of the district. [District Bylaw 8.3.1 (a)]
- The secretary of the district shall tabulate the nominations and shall report to the convention in the convention workbook the names of all ministers of religion—ordained who have been nominated, in addition to those who appear on the slate of candidates. [District Bylaw 8.3.1 (c)]

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- **Regional Vice-President** – Each member congregation of a region shall have been given opportunity to nominate two ministers of religion—ordained from the clergy roster of the district with residence in its designated region as candidates for regional vice-president. [District Bylaw 8.3.2.1 (a)] (NOTE: Region 1 congregations nominate clergy with residence in Region 1; Region 2 congregations nominate clergy with residence in Region 2; Region 3 congregations nominate clergy with residence in Region 3; Region 4 congregations nominate clergy with residence in Region 4)
- The secretary of the district shall receive such nominations (signed by the president and secretary of the nominating congregation). [District Bylaw 8.3.2.1 (c)]
- **District Secretary** – each member congregation and individual members of the Synod in the district shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the district two ministers of religion—ordained as candidates for secretary of the district. [Bylaw 8.3.3.1 (a)]
- At least two candidates and at least one alternate shall be selected by the nominations committee (District Bylaw 6.1.1.2). In the event of a tie among the top nominees, the nominations committee shall consider all names involved in the tie, together with the qualifications of the individuals for the position. The secretary of the nominations committee shall notify each candidate of their nomination. [District Bylaw 8.3.3.1 (d)]
- The nominations committee shall have the right to provide additional nominations. [District Bylaw 8.3.3.1 (g)]
- **Regional Board of Directors Members (Ministers of Religion—Commissioned)** - each member congregation and individual members of the district shall have been given opportunity to nominate two ministers of religion—commissioned from the roster of the Synod with residence in the designated combined electoral regions as candidates for regional commissioned member of the board of directors. [District Bylaw 8.3.4.1 (a)] (NOTE: Nominations may be made from across regional lines, but the nominee must be a resident of the combined electoral region. For example, a congregation or church worker from Region 1 in Arkansas could nominate a commissioned minister from either Region 1 or Region 2 for the combined electoral Region 1/Region 2 position, as well as a commissioned minister from either Region 3 or 4 in Tennessee/Kentucky for the combined electoral Region 3/Region 4 position. However, a congregation or individual member can nominate no more than two total for one or both combined electoral regions, not a total of two candidates nominated per combined electoral region for a potential total of four nominations)
- **Regional Board of Directors Members (Layperson)** - each member congregation and individual members of the district shall have been given opportunity to nominate two laypersons, with residence in the designated electoral region, as candidates for regional layperson member of the board of directors. [District Bylaw 8.3.4.2 (a)] (NOTE: Nominations may be made from across regional lines, but the nominee must be a resident of the combined electoral region. For example, a congregation or church worker from Region 1 in Arkansas could nominate a layperson or two from Region 1 for their region's position, and/or a layperson from either Regions 2, 3, or 4 for the respective regional position. However, a congregation or individual member can nominate no more than two total for one or more electoral regions, not a total of two candidates nominated per electoral region for a potential total of eight nominations.)
- **Circuit Visitors** – The procedures for the nomination, selection, and the election of the circuit visitors shall be those specified in the *Handbook* of the Synod. [Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.2]
- The nominations for circuit visitor from the congregations shall be received by each circuit's respective circuit visitor no later than the day prior to the circuit forum. [District Bylaw 8.3.5.2]
- **District Nominations Committee** – The nominations committee shall consist of a total of six (6) members, as follows:
  1. Two (2) ministers of religion—ordained
  2. Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned
  3. Two (2) laypersons
 One of each category shall be from electoral regions 1 and 2 combined, and one of each category shall be from electoral regions 3 and 4 combined. [District Bylaw 6.1.1.1] (NOTE: The bylaws do not place a limitation on how many individuals may be nominated by a congregation or an individual member of the Synod in the district for these positions. Those nominated may also be from a region different than the region of the congregation or individual proposing the nomination.)
- **2019 LCMS Convention Committee for Convention Nominations** – The Mid-South District has been designated in this convention cycle to elect a layperson and an alternate layperson from the Mid-South District to the Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations. This committee will be responsible for selecting two (2) or more candidates and at least one alternate for all elective offices, boards, and commissions to be filled by the Synod convention excluding President, First Vice-President, and regional vice-presidents. The committee will base its decisions upon review of biographical and evaluative information regarding candidates whose names were submitted by persons from throughout the Synod. Members of the Committee for Convention Nominations (CCN) may also be asked to serve at the time of the convention to process nominations from the floor.
- Persons elected to this committee must be prepared to serve at the call of the Secretary of the Synod at least six (6) months prior to the next Synod convention and to participate in one or more meetings, as needed, in St. Louis in the months immediately following. The anticipated first meeting date is January 10-12, 2019.

- “The Committee for Convention Nominations is to be regarded as an ad hoc convention committee, to which limitations on holding multiple offices [*Synod Bylaw 1.5.1.2*] do not apply. [Synod Bylaw 3.12.3]
- In preparation for a convention of the Synod, one-half of the districts shall elect through their regular convention procedures at the district convention one member to the Committee for Convention Nominations and an alternate... [Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.1] In preparation for the following convention, the remaining districts shall elect in the same manner: ...Mid-South [Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.2]
- One-half of the electing districts shall be designated by the Secretary of the Synod to elect a professional church worker and the other half a layperson, with roles reversed every six years. [Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.3]

The following bylaws stipulate the terms of office and which current office holders are eligible for reelection:

- All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered to be nominees. [Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.4 (d)]
- The offices of district president and of the circuit visitors shall be three (3)-year terms, without limit as to reelection. [District Bylaw 8.4.1]
- All other elected or appointed officers and members of other district organizational entities may serve a total of no more than three (3) successive full three (3)-year terms in the same office. They may be elected or appointed to the same office after an interval of three (3) or more years. [Synod Bylaw 3.2.4.2, District Bylaw 8.4.3]

With the exception of regional vice-presidents and circuit visitors, “The district, assembled in convention, shall have the right to alter the slates of nominees, and voting delegates may make additional nominations from the floor with the prior consent of the nominee(s) and pertinent information about the nominee(s) provided in writing. [District Bylaw 8.1.4]

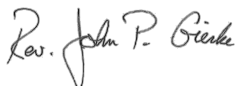
With the exception of the nominating ballots for Circuit Visitors, all other “Nominating ballots and receiving of ballots from the congregations and individual members shall be the responsibility of the secretary of the district, ballots to be received by the congregation and individual members six (6) months prior to the opening date of the convention, and from the congregations and individual members four (4) months prior to the opening date of the convention.” [Bylaws 8.3.1 (b), 8.3.2.1 (b), 8.3.3.1 (b), 8.3.4.1 (b), and 8.3.4.2 (b)]

*Please mail the completed nomination ballots, with the required signatures, to the attention of either the District Secretary or the Nominations Committee as noted on the ballots, at the district office address **postmarked by the deadline of February 28, 2018.***

Therefore, my encouragement to you as congregational leaders is that you include, as soon as possible, an agenda item for prayerful action by your congregation, in accord with your local governing practice as per your congregation’s bylaws, e.g. voters’ assembly, board of directors, church council, etc., to nominate candidates for these various offices and positions of service in our district and Synod. As individual members of the Synod, please prayerfully consider your peers and their gifts and abilities as servant-leaders. Please prayerfully consider serving, if asked to serve as well.

For more information on the responsibilities and duties of the various offices, please see the 2016 Synod *Handbook*, Sections: 4.4 (District President); 4.5 (District Board of Directors); 4.7 (District Nominating Committee); 5.2 (Circuit Visitors), and the District Bylaws, Sections 3.2 (Officers); 4.1-4.3 (Board of Directors); 6.1.1-6.1.1.2 (District Nominations Committee); and 8.1-8.3.5.5 (Election and Vacancy Procedures for the various offices). If you have any questions regarding the nominations process, or the upcoming district bylaw amendments due to Synod convention actions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (501) 329-3854, or via email at [jpgierke@peaceconway.org](mailto:jpgierke@peaceconway.org), or President Roger Paavola at (901) 373-1343 or [rpaavola@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:rpaavola@mid-southlcms.com).

In Jesus’ saving name,



Rev. John P. Gierke, Secretary

Enclosures for Congregations – 13

Nomination Ballots:

<i>District President (1)</i>	<i>Circuit Visitor (1)</i>
<i>District Regional Vice President (1)</i>	<i>District Nominations Committee – Ordained (1 – may make additional copies as needed)</i>
<i>District Secretary (2)</i>	<i>District Nominations Committee – Commissioned (1 – may make additional copies as needed)</i>
<i>District Board of Directors – Commissioned (2)</i>	<i>District Nominations Committee – Lay (1 – may make additional copies as needed)</i>
<i>District Board of Directors – Lay (2)</i>	<i>LCMS Committee for Convention Nominations – Lay (1 – may make additional copies as needed)</i>

Enclosures for Rostered Members – 10

Nomination Ballots:

<i>District Secretary (2)</i>	<i>District Nominations Committee – Commissioned (1 – may make additional copies as needed)</i>
<i>District Board of Directors – Commissioned (2)</i>	<i>District Nominations Committee – Lay (1 – may make additional copies as needed)</i>
<i>District Board of Directors – Lay (2)</i>	<i>LCMS Committee for Convention Nominations – Lay (1 – may make additional copies as needed)</i>
<i>District Nominations Committee – Ordained (1 – may make additional copies as needed)</i>	