

THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD



THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

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

THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT

We see every ministry reaching the lost and discipling the found.

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SECTION A

CONVENTION INFORMATION AND AGENDA

INFORMATION TO ASSIST CONVENTION DELEGATES

SERVANTS OF CHRIST

Your election as a voting Convention delegate indicates the high regard your fellow members have for you as their representative. We pray for God's blessing on you and all delegates so your leadership glorifies Him, serves His Church and gives you joy. Officially your delegate role from your congregation continues for three years until the next Convention in 2021! Our 2018 Mid-South District Convention will have a strong mission tone that places before us the urgency and opportunity for bold witness in our world to Christ's death and resurrection. ***"The Lord is My Rock, My Fortress, My Salvation"*** based on Psalm 18:2 will serve as our theme throughout the Convention.

CONVENTION PURPOSE

The thirty-five Districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod hold Conventions every three years according to bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. This 20th Convention in our Mid-South District's history of 52 years will bring together delegates from Arkansas, Tennessee and southern Kentucky and guests from our District and beyond. Convention sessions provide opportunities for member congregations, through their delegates, to receive important information, conduct District business and provide direction on behalf of and in service to the congregations. You will return to your congregation with an expanded picture of how we serve as partners in the Gospel in the Mid-South District and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We are grateful for all who used their gifts and invested significant time and energy in planning this gathering!

Convention Goals

- > Rejoice in and praise God for the gift of our salvation through Jesus Christ
- > Tell the stories of Jesus and His love, of God at work in and through us
- > Conduct elections and business to move the Mid-South District forward
- > Establish and grow in Christian fellowship with Convention delegates and guests
- > Hear from our Synodical First Vice President about Mid-South District/LCMS partnership in the Gospel
- > Give and receive encouragement for bold witness in reaching the lost for Christ's Kingdom
- > Provide delegates with information and helpful resources for their congregations

LOCATION AND DETAILS

Our Convention site is the **Hilton Hotel** (Ridgelake Blvd). **Registration will be on Thursday, June 28, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Late registration will also take place from 6:30-8:00 a.m. on Friday. Floor Committees' open hearings will occur from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in designated rooms. Delegates are invited to the open hearings to express views on various Convention overtures. When you register, look for the meeting places for the Floor Committees.

In the presence and with the blessing of the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the first session will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoon. The Convention Communion Service will be held on Thursday, 7:30 p.m., at **Christ the King Lutheran Church in Memphis, Tennessee**. Transportation arrangements and a map will be provided when you register. **Reverend Dr. Herbert Mueller, Jr.**, First Vice President of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, will be the preacher for the opening service. The offerings including those from District Sunday that will be brought on behalf of all congregations by their lay delegate have been designated by the Board of Directors for the Scholarship Fund for Pastors and Commissioned Church Workers burdened with significant educational debt.

DELEGATES, CIRCUIT CAUCUSES, AND CONVENTION SESSIONS

Voting Delegates: A member congregation is entitled to two voting delegates, one pastoral and one lay, unless there is more than one congregation being served by one called pastor. In that case, together they will elect one lay delegate to represent them, with the alternate lay delegate often coming from the congregation other than the one providing the voting lay delegate. Throughout the Convention, voting delegates wear identifying badges issued to them when they present their credentials to the Convention Registration Committee. Seating for voting delegates will be in a particular area to facilitate voting in elections and on resolutions. During sessions, only voting delegates should be in the seating area designated for them.

Advisory Delegates: Advisory delegates will also have a special seating area. Advisory delegates may participate in floor debate, but are not permitted to vote or to introduce motions.

Circuit Forums: At 4:20 p.m. on Friday, June 29, all electoral circuits will be choosing their pastoral and lay delegates to the 2019 Synodical Convention in St. Louis. The alternate delegate from dual parishes does have voting rights in these circuit caucuses. Your Circuit Visitor is prepared to lead the elections, with directions from the District President. Please contact him if you have questions about the election procedures.

In all visitation Circuits, a ballot will also be necessary to determine the Circuit Visitor.

Sessions: A proposed agenda is included with this workbook to give delegates an overview of how the sessions will be arranged and when different individuals will be making presentations.

Reports and Overtures

Your Workbook pages provide reports from a variety of servant-leaders who are accountable to the District as they fulfill their responsibilities. The reports represent service to our Lord and His Church for which we are grateful! To facilitate the best use of our Convention time, most reports are provided in written form. By reading the material before sessions, you are preparing to be an informed delegate who will participate with greater confidence and knowledge.

Overtures to the Convention are also included in the Workbook. Overtures express an action desired on the part of the Convention. Each Overture has been assigned to the appropriate Floor Committee, with representation from Convention delegates, appointed by the District President. After consideration of the overtures, the Floor Committee may bring the overture as a resolution in original form to the Convention, modify or amend it, or decline to offer it for proper reasons.

ELECTIONS

During the Convention, delegates elect the District President, four Regional Vice Presidents, the District Secretary, the Board of Directors, a Nominations Committee, a lay member to the Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations, and ratify the slate of Circuit Visitors, which shall constitute their election. Nominations for District President and Vice Presidents were generated from congregations through a process guided by the District Secretary. The Nominations Committee will provide nominees for all other elected positions. Voting delegates may nominate from the floor with the prior written consent of and written pertinent information about the nominees, with the exception of the election of Vice Presidents. Included in this workbook is a slate of candidates developed by the District Secretary and the Nominations Committee and biographical data.

HAVE A PRODUCTIVE, ENJOYABLE CONVENTION!

Approximately 300 people, including delegates, advisors, officers and guests are anticipated. Often, a number of guests and family members will also be in attendance on a part-time basis. Convention sessions are open to guests who are seated in a designated section on the Convention floor. Guest badges will be available at the registration table.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE AS A DELEGATE

1. Pray that the Lord's will be done among us and through us!
2. Be faithful in attendance at all sessions.
3. Observe the agenda schedule and be prompt at your seat for beginning times.
4. Print out a copy of the Convention Workbook from the flash drive and bring it to all sessions. Keep summary handouts and good notes for reporting to your home congregation.
5. Wear your badge at all times as a voting or advisory delegate.
6. Use the floor microphone closest to your seat when addressing the chair or the Convention.
7. Be attentive, courteous and prepared to contribute to and receive from your brothers and sister in Christ.
8. Make the Chairman, a District officer or staff member, the Convention Committee, or a page, aware of any special concerns or needs (transportation, personal, etc.) that you may have during at the Convention.
9. Browse through the display areas and speak with representatives. Pick up available materials that interest you.

10. Take the initiative to establish new acquaintances and renew existing ones with fellow delegates and guests. You will be moved to thank God for the gifts, trust and spirit of Gospel partnership represented among those present.
11. When the Convention is in session, please turn off cell phones and all other communication devices. Please do not use them inside the convention hall.
12. If voting or advisory delegates are unable to be present at all or a portion of the Convention due to unusual circumstances, please submit a written excuse to:

**Convention Registration Committee
Mid-South District Convention
1675 Wynne Road
Cordova, Tennessee 38016
Email: rpaavola@mid-southlcms.com**

CONVENTION SPECIAL STANDING RULES

1. Each member of the Convention, when recognized by the Chair, shall state his/her name. He/she shall also state the name and location of the congregation he/she represents.
2. The two minute rule shall apply for all who speak from the floor.
3. While any voting delegate may call the question at any time, after every 15 minutes of debate on any one motion, there shall be an automatic call of the question by the Chair.
4. All main motions, substitute motions, and amendments made from the floor must be submitted to the presiding officer in writing and signed by the Delegate making the motion, including the name and location of the congregation he/she represents.
5. If a substitute motion is offered, the Convention shall first decide by majority vote whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute resolution is adopted, the original resolution fails. If the substitute resolution does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original resolution is again before the house. (This is the so-called "Behnken Rule" for dealing with substitute resolutions.) [Synod standing rules refers to "motion" rather than "resolution".]
6. Questions of privilege shall be addressed in writing to the Chair, or his appointee, instead of consuming Convention time.
7. Resolutions prepared by the Floor Committees, which are not acted upon by the Convention before adjournment, die. The subject matter may be reintroduced at the next Convention by means of an Overture.
8. The preface, preambles, and the whereas section shall be considered an integral part of the Resolution, Overture, and/or Memorial, and as such, subject to the same serious consideration and adoption in all its parts as the main motion itself.
9. Cellular phones shall be off. All communication devices shall not be used in the convention hall during voting.
10. Unless covered by these standing rules of the Convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by **Robert's Rules of Order.**

**THE 20TH REGULAR CONVENTION OF
THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD
JUNE 28-30, 2018**

THE CONVENTION THEME

“The Lord is My Rock, My Fortress, My Salvation”



Psalm 18:2

THE CONVENTION
PROGRAM

Synodical Representatives: *The Reverend Matthew Harrison*
President
The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod

The Reverend Dr. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr.,
First Vice-President
The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod

Opening Service of Holy Communion:
Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
Christ the King Lutheran Church
Memphis, Tennessee
The Rev. Dr. Herbert Mueller, Preacher

Thursday, June 28, 2018

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Floor Committee Meetings
- 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. REGISTRATION – Atrium**
- 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Open Hearings by Floor Committees
- Missions – Promenade 1
 - Ministry – Promenade 2
 - Elections – Promenade 3
 - Business and Finance – Tennessee D
 - Governance – Tennessee E
- 1:00 p.m. Exhibits Open (Tennessee Grand Foyer)

“The Lord is My Rock, My Fortress, My Salvation”
THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2018
FIRST CONVENTION SESSION

Chaplain for the Day: The Reverend Gerald Meyer
Emeritus Pastor, Crossville, TN

- 2:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Seating and Singing – ***Ms. Martha Israel***
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Opening Devotion
The Reverend Gerald Meyer
- 3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Welcome, Introductions and Orientation
The Reverend Dr. Roger Paavola, President
Mrs. Angela Fowler
- 3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Greetings from Presidents Emeriti
- 4:00 p.m. – 4:55 p.m. President’s Report
The Reverend Dr. Roger Paavola
- 4:55 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Lutheran Church Extension Fund Greetings
The Reverend Bart Day, LCEF President
- 5:15 p.m. – 5:20 p.m. Announcements – ***Mrs. Angela Fowler***
Closing Prayer – ***The Reverend Gerald Meyer***
- 5:45 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. Dinner at Christ the King, Memphis provided by LCEF
(Bus Transportation to Christ the King will be provided)
- 7:30 p.m. Opening Service – ***Christ the King Lutheran Church***
5296 Park Avenue, Memphis, TN
Sermon: ***The Reverend Dr. Herb Mueller***

Friday, June 29, 2018

“The Lord is My Rock, My Fortress, My Salvation”

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2018

SECOND CONVENTION SESSION

Chaplain for the Day: The Reverend Gilbert Pingel
Emeritus Pastor, Chattanooga, TN

6:30 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.	Breakfast (Southeast Ballroom)
6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Registration Continues
7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Seating and Singing – <i>Ms. Martha Israel</i>
8:00 a.m. – 8:20 a.m.	Opening Devotion – <i>The Reverend Gilbert Pingel</i>
8:20 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.	Report of Credentials and Registration Announcement of New Congregations Received into Synodical Membership Reception of Ordained and Commissioned Ministers
8:40 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Candidates for District President <i>Rev. Ken Shaw, Chair</i> <i>Elections Committee</i>
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Elections
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Floor Committee Business
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Seating and Singing – <i>Ms. Martha Israel</i>
10:20 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	LCMS President’s Report (and video) <i>Reverend Dr. Matthew Harrison</i>
11:20 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	Q&A with President Harrison
11:50 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.	Announcements Special Greetings Meal Prayer
11:55 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch

Friday, June 29, 2018 (Continued)

“The Lord is My Rock, My Fortress, My Salvation”

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2018

THIRD CONVENTION SESSION

1:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.	Seating and Singing – <i>Ms. Martha Israel</i>
1:10 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<i>Bishop Emmanuel Makala</i> Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese, Tanzania
1:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Floor Committee Business
3:15 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.	Break
3:35 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.	Seating and Singing – <i>Ms. Martha Israel</i>
3:40 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.	Floor Committee Business
4:10 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.	Announcements – <i>Mrs. Angela Fowler</i> Closing Prayer – <i>The Reverend Gilbert Pingel</i>
4:20 p.m.	Orientation and Dismissal to Circuit Caucuses <i>District President Roger Paavola</i>
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	President’s Reception (Southeast Ballroom) Dinner on your own

Saturday, June 30, 2018

“The Lord is My Rock, My Fortress, My Salvation”

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 2018

FOURTH CONVENTION SESSION

Chaplain for the Day: The Reverend Darrell Kobs
Emeritus Pastor, Russellville, AR

6:30 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.	Breakfast
7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Seating and Singing – <i>Ms. Martha Israel</i>
8:00 a.m. – 8:20 a.m.	Opening Devotion – <i>The Reverend Darrell Kobs</i>
8:20 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Elections Continue
8:45 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	<i>Reverend Joseph Randrianasolo</i> LIME Institute, Malagasy Lutheran Church, Madagascar

Saturday, June 30, 2018 (Continued)

9:05 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Floor Committee Business
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Announcements – <i>Mrs. Angela Fowler</i> Special Greetings – <i>The Reverend Darrell Kobs</i>
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch – Southeast Ballroom Current Board of Directors’ Luncheon – Davidson Ballroom Pastors’ Wives Luncheon – Directors 3

<p><i>“The Lord is My Rock, My Fortress, My Salvation”</i> SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 2018 FIFTH CONVENTION SESSION</p>
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1:00 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.	Seating and Singing – <i>Ms. Martha Israel</i>
1:10 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.	Floor Committee Business
2:10 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Installation of Newly Elected Officers – <i>The Reverend Dr. Herb Mueller</i> Closing Devotion – <i>The Reverend Darrell Kobs</i>
2:40 p.m.	Adjournment
2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Photos of Newly Elected Groups and Individuals
3:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting (Incoming Members)

**THE REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
TO THE 2018 MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION**

MEET OUR FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

*A Brief Biography of
Reverend Dr. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr.*



As first vice-president and a member of the Praesidium of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), the Rev. Dr. Herbert C. Mueller Jr. serves to assist the president in carrying out his responsibilities and oversees the colloquy program. Mueller was first elected to this position in 2010 and was re-elected in 2013 and 2016.

Previously, Mueller served as president of the LCMS Southern Illinois District (1994-2010). Prior to that, he held district offices from 1988 to 1994, including serving as secretary, second vice-president and first vice-president. Between 1979 and 1994, he served as a pastor at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois; Zion Lutheran Church, Bethalto, Illinois; and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Waterloo, Illinois.

A native of Grand Forks, North Dakota, Mueller graduated from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1973; the former Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1975; and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1979. Mueller received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana in 2012.

Mueller served on the LCMS Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support from 1998 to 2007, the Synod Colloquy Committee from 1999 to 2000 and the Council of Presidents Program Committee from 2003 to 2009. Between 1997 and 2010, Mueller participated in six mission trips to southern Africa.

Mueller and his wife, Faith, live in Waterloo, Illinois, and are members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Columbia, Illinois. They have two grown sons, one grown daughter and four grandchildren.

THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

1675 Wynne Road
Cordova, Tennessee 38016
901-373-1343 or 866-373-1343
901-373-4826 (Fax)

THE OFFICERS AND STAFF OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT

District President *Reverend Dr. Roger Paavola*
Vice President – Region 3 First Vice President..... *Reverend Charles Neugebauer*
Vice President – Region 2 Second Vice President..... *Reverend James Walter*
Vice President – Region 1 *Reverend Paul Hass*
Vice President – Region 4 *Reverend Richard Elseroad*
District Secretary..... *Reverend John Gierke*
Treasurer..... *Mr. Larry Vickers*

Executive Director for Business and Finance..... *Mrs. Angela Fowler*
Executive Director for Schools and Early Childhood..... *Mr. Allen Piepenbrink*
Lutheran Church Extension Fund Vice President and
Executive Director for Development *Mr. Paul Reaves*
LCEF Communications and Marketing Specialist..... *Mrs. Renae McElwain*

Executive Administrative Assistant *Mrs. Alison Hawkins*
Administrative Assistant..... *Mrs. Julie Tyler*
Administrative Assistant..... *Ms. Carolyn Metzger*

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Reverend Dr. Roger Paavola
Reverend Charles Neugebauer
Reverend John Gierke
Reverend James Walter
Reverend Richard Elseroad
Reverend Paul Hass
Mrs. Tessa Brasher
Dr. Fred Guengerich
Mr. Marc Higgins
Mrs. Shirley Piepenbrink
Mr. David Snellings
Mr. Larry Vickers
Mr. Larry Zehnder

THE CIRCUIT VISITORS

Chattanooga Circuit	<i>Reverend Gilbert Pingel</i>
Fayetteville Circuit	<i>Reverend Robert Herring</i>
Fort Smith Circuit	<i>Reverend Darrell Kobs</i>
Johnson City Circuit	<i>Reverend Steven Harmon</i>
Jonesboro Circuit	<i>Reverend Joel Krogen</i>
Knoxville Circuit	<i>Reverend Michael Miller</i>
Little Rock – North Circuit	<i>Reverend Kevin Conger</i>
Little Rock – South Circuit	<i>Reverend Jonathan Beyer</i>
Memphis Circuit	<i>Reverend Mark Goble</i>
Middle Tennessee	<i>Reverend Gerald Meyer</i>
Nashville	<i>Reverend Kenneth Shaw</i>
Paducah Circuit	<i>Reverend Larry Peters</i>
Stuttgart Circuit	<i>Reverend Don White</i>

<p align="center">2018 MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION FLOOR COMMITTEES</p>
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Floor Committee 1 – Missions

Reverend Kevin Conger (Chairman)

Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, AR

Reverend David Graves (Vice-Chairman)

Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wartburg, TN

Ministers of Religion – Ordained

Reverend Curt Hoover, Faith Lutheran Church, Thompson's Station, TN

Reverend Michael Schleider, Zion Lutheran Church of Avilla, Alexander, AR

Reverend Dr. Wes Toncre, St. John's Lutheran Church, Russellville, AR

Reverend Andrew Toopes, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY

Reverend Neil Vanderbush, Faith Lutheran Church, Bentonville, AR

Minister of Religion – Commissioned

TBD

Lay Member

Bob Allen, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, White House, TN

Floor Committee 2 – Ministry

Reverend Robert Portier (Chairman)

Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN

Reverend Gerald Meyer (Vice-Chairman)

Emeritus, Crossville, TN

Ministers of Religion – Ordained

Reverend Joel Krogen, Hope Lutheran Church, Batesville, AR

and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waldenburg, AR

Reverend David McMinn, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, McMinnville, TN

Reverend Dr. Mark Press, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY

Reverend Joshua Willadsen, Bethel Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, AR

Reverend Adam Woldt, The Point, Knoxville, TN

Reverend JD Zischke, Mid-South District Church Planter, Fayetteville, AR

Minister of Religion – Commissioned

Tessa Brasher, St. John's Lutheran Church, Lafe, AR

Lay Member

TBD

Floor Committee 3 – Business & Finance

Larry Zehnder (Chairman)

Member, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

Lloyd Wessels (Vice-Chairman)

Member, Trinity Lutheran Church, Pine Bluff, AR

Ministers of Religion – Ordained

Reverend Gordon Besel, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rogers, AR

Reverend Luther Hasz, Christ Lutheran Church, Paris, TN

Reverend Stewart Marshall, Trinity Lutheran Church, Pine Bluff, AR

Reverend Chris Sheets, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

Reverend Don White, St. John's Lutheran Church, Stuttgart, AR

Minister of Religion – Commissioned

Jennifer Whitely, Faith Lutheran Church, Collierville, TN

Lay Member

Jeff Harper, Faith Lutheran Church, Collierville, TN

Floor Committee 4 – Governance

Reverend Robert Herring (Chairman)

Grace Lutheran Church, Holiday Island, AR

David Snellings (Vice-Chairman)

Member, St. John's Lutheran Church, Russellville, AR

Ministers of Religion – Ordained

Reverend John Gierke, Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR

Reverend Barry Hildebrandt, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

Reverend Brian Truog, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Loudon, TN

Reverend David Vandercook, Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church, Maumelle, AR
and Trinity Lutheran Church, North Little Rock, AR

Minister of Religion – Commissioned

Barbara Hasz, Christ Lutheran Church, Paris, TN

Lay Member

Diane MacDowell, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Murray, KY

Floor Committee 5 – Elections

Reverend Ken Shaw (Chairman)

Trinity Lutheran Church, Gallatin, TN

Shirley Piepenbrink (Vice-Chairman)

Minister of Religion – Commissioned, Emeritus, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Minister of Religion – Ordained

Reverend Ron Bacic, First Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR

Lay Members

Dan Jacobs, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

Robert Morris, Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR

2018 MID-SOUTH DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Reverend Carl Wenck (Chairman)

Grace Lutheran Church, Murfreesboro, TN

Minister of Religion – Ordained

Reverend Russell Shewmaker, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Jonesboro, AR

Ministers of Religion – Commissioned

Mr. Todd Baringer, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Mrs. Brenda Walter, Christ Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR

Lay Members

Mr. Shannon Freeman, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Paragould, AR

Mr. Robert Nerger, Jr., St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wartburg, TN

<p>2018 MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION COMMITTEES</p>

Convention Planning Committee

Reverend Dr. Roger Paavola (Chairman)

District President

Reverend John Gierke

District Secretary

Mrs. Angela Fowler

Mrs. Alison Hawkins

Mrs. Nancy Lee

Mrs. Renae McElwain

Mrs. Stephanie Weiser

Convention Publicity Committee

Mrs. Renae McElwain (Chairman)

Mrs. Judy Otto

Reverend David Callies, Advisor

Mrs. Genie Swan

Photographer - TBD

Convention Office Staff

Mrs. Alison Hawkins (Convention Office Manager)

Mrs. Julie Tyler

Mrs. Stephanie Weiser

Mrs. Gwen Wenck

Convention Staff

Mrs. Rhonda Anderson

Mrs. Nancy Lee

Mr. Michael McDowell

Ms. Carolyn Metzger

Convention Musician

Ms. Martha Israel

Opening Service of Holy Communion

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, Tennessee

Reverend Dr. Herbert Mueller, Proclaimer

Reverend Charles Neugebauer, Officiant

SECTION B

ATTENDANCE ROSTERS, OFFICIAL ACTS ANNIVERSARIES

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2018 CHATTANOOGA CIRCUIT-Region 4</p>
--

The Reverend Gilbert Pingel, Circuit Visitor

<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE & ALTERNATE</u>
Athens Athens Lutheran		
Chattanooga Cross of Christ	Rev. Barry Hildebrandt	(D) Tony Pessini
Chattanooga First		(D) Janice Meissner (A) James Avriett
Chattanooga Good Shepherd	Rev. H. Christopher Sheets	(D) Dan Jacobs
Chattanooga Spirit of Joy	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Chattanooga St. Philip	Rev. Joseph Jacks	(D) Percy Williams
Cleveland First	Rev. Robert Seaton	(D) Shane Castelow
Dayton Prince of Peace	Rev. Timothy Matthew	(D) Paul Unterborn (A) Travis Raby
Loudon Christ Our Savior	Rev. Brian Truog (A) Rev. Mark Rhoads	(D) Charles Anderson

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2018 FAYETTEVILLE CIRCUIT - Region 1</p>

The Reverend Robert Herring, Circuit Visitor

<u>ARKANSAS</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE & ALTERNATE</u>
Bella Vista Bella Vista	Rev. Paul Hass	(D) Craig Johnson (A) Mark Bernthal
Bentonville Faith	Rev. Neil Vanderbush	(D) Keith Brummett (A) Sean Schommer
Fayetteville St. John	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Harrison First	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Holiday Island Grace	Rev. Robert Herring	(D) Bruce Bleser (A) Thomas Mancuso
Lowell Living Savior	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Pea Ridge Messiah	Rev. Richard Mayer	(D) Duane Jones
Prairie Grove Peace	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Rogers Holy Trinity	Rev. Gordon Besel	(D) Jim Williams (A) Duane Wright
Siloam Springs Christ	Pastoral Office Vacant	(D) Jay Williams
Springdale Salem	Rev. Mark Krause (A) Rev. Brandon Martin	(D) Bryan Gordley

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2018 FORT SMITH CIRCUIT- Region 1</p>
--

The Reverend Darrel Kobs, Circuit Visitor

<u>ARKANSAS</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE & ALTERNATE</u>
Fort Smith Bethel	Rev. Joshua Willadsen	(D) Amy Willadsen (A) Miranda Pitsch
Fort Smith First	Rev. John Merrill	(D) Gary Roberts
Fort Smith Our Redeemer	Rev. John Treude	(D) Benny Fant (A) Sandra Fant
Greenwood Grace	Rev. Jason Zirbel	(D) Glenn Fleer
Lamar River Valley Grace		(D) Jerry Holman (A) Patti Holman
London (Augsburg) Zion	Rev. Reed Shoaff	(D) Jeffrey Schlittenhart
Mena Trinity	Rev. Timothy Henning	(D) Stephen P. Gregor
Russellville St. John	Rev. Dr. Wes Toncre	(D) Brooks Morton (A) William Butzlaff

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2018 JOHNSON CITY CIRCUIT - Region 4</p>

The Reverend Steven Harmon, Circuit Visitor

<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE & ALTERNATE</u>
Elizabethton Redeemer	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Johnson City Bethlehem	Rev. Steven Harmon	
Kingsport Concordia		
Morristown Our Savior (Dual - Harrogate)		
<u>VIRGINIA</u>		
Abingdon, VA Grace	Pastoral Office Vacant	

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2018 JONESBORO CIRCUIT - Region 1</p>
--

The Reverend Joel Krogen, Circuit Visitor

<u>ARKANSAS</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE & ALTERNATE</u>
Batesville Hope (Dual-Waldenburg)	Rev. Joel Krogen	
Blytheville First	Rev. Bruce Hanson	(D) C. Vincent Shemwell
Cherokee Village Peace	Rev. Brian Pummill	(D) Mark Cave (A) Glorya Murphy
Corning St. Matthew		
Horseshoe Bend Shepherd of the Hills	Rev. David Tews	(D) James Bicker
Jonesboro Pilgrim	Rev. Russell Shewmaker	(D) Bryan Mattes
Lafe St. John	Rev. Aaron Neugebauer	(D) Ben Johnson
Mountain Home Peace	Pastoral Office Vacant	(D) William Schutte
Mountain Home Redeemer	Rev. John Easterling (A) Rev. Thomas Presley	(D) Edward L. Clark (A) John Fox
Mountain View Grace		
Paragould Redeemer		
Waldenburg Zion (Dual-Batesville)		

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION – 2018 KNOXVILLE CIRCUIT - Region 4</p>
--

The Reverend Michael Miller, Circuit Visitor

<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE & ALTERNATE</u>
Harriman Redeemer	Rev. Michael Miller	(D) Wayne Turner
Harrogate Christ of the Cumberland (Dual-Morristown)		
Knoxville Christus Victor	Rev. William Ondracka	(D) David Goulde
Knoxville First	Rev. Floyd Smithey, Jr.	(D) Albert Collver
Knoxville Grace	Rev. Richard Elseroad	
Knoxville The Point	Rev. Adam Woldt	(D) Shane Bryant (A) Jeff Grebe
Maryville Praise	Rev. Derek Roberts	(D) Jim Vesper
Oak Ridge Faith		
Sevierville St. Paul	Rev. Robert Portier	(D) Robin Brown
Seymour Celebration	Pastoral Office Vacant	(D) Raymond Krieg
Sharps Chapel Chapel of the Good Shepherd	Rev. Paul Kritsch	(D) Jeffry Landis
Wartburg St. Paul	Rev. David Graves	(D) Jack Anderson (A) Ira Jones

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2018 LITTLE ROCK-NORTH CIRCUIT - Region 2</p>
--

The Reverend Kevin Conger, Circuit Visitor

<u>ARKANSAS</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE & ALTERNATE</u>
Cabot Our Savior	Rev. Dan McDougall	
Conway Peace	Rev. Mark Tooley (A) Rev. John Gierke	(D) Robert Morris (A) Chad Peterson
Conway St. Matthew	Rev. David Mohr	(D) Craig Olsen
Fairfield Bay Faith		(D) John Foster (A) David Hidy
Jacksonville Hope	Rev. Kevin Conger	(D) Terry Aukes
Little Rock Christ	Rev. Daniel Hauser	(D) John Bruhl
Little Rock First	Rev. Ronald Bacic	(D) Mark Hagge
Maumelle Shepherd of Peace North Little Rock Trinity (Dual Parish)	Rev. David Vandercook	(D) Paul Koehler (A) Esther Mahnken
Searcy Our Shepherd	Pastoral Office Vacant	

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2018 LITTLE ROCK-SOUTH CIRCUIT - Region 2</p>
--

The Reverend Jonathan Beyer, Circuit Visitor

<u>ARKANSAS</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE & ALTERNATE</u>
Alexander Immanuel	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Alexander Zion of Avilla	Rev. Michael Schleider	(D) James Sieving (A) Walter Jones
Benton First		(D) Michael Hill (A) Steve Sohl
Bryant Friends in Christ	Rev. Emil Woerner	(D) Andy Queck (A) John Carpenter
Hot Springs First	Rev. Jonathan Beyer	(D) James Cozzetto
Hot Springs LakePointe		
Hot Springs Village Faith		(D) Don Montgomery (A) David Olson
Little Rock Community of Faith	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Little Rock Grace	Rev. James Walter	(D) James Robinson (A) Gary Proud
Malvern St. Luke	Pastoral Office Vacant	

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2018 MEMPHIS CIRCUIT - Region 3</p>
--

The Reverend Mark Goble, Circuit Visitor

<u>ARKANSAS</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE & ALTERNATE</u>
Forrest City Faith	Pastoral Office Vacant	
West Memphis St. Paul	Pastoral Office Vacant	
<u>MISSISSIPPI</u>		
Olive Branch Beautiful Savior	Pastoral Office Vacant	(D) Gary Kinne (A) Jim McGee
<u>TENNESSEE</u>		
Collierville Faith	Rev. Robert Harbin (A) Rev. Clayton Sellers	(D) Jeff Harper (A) Mike Brugge
Cordova Grace Celebration	Rev. Jim Belles	(D) Ann Sands
Dyersburg Trinity	Rev. Bill Stevenson	(D) Ramona Stevenson
Jackson Concordia	Rev. Eric Rudsenske	(D) Rick Ribble (A) Michael Rapp
Memphis Christ the King	Rev. Charles Neugebauer (A) Rev. Mark Goble	(D) Gary Lucius
Memphis Cross of Calvary	Rev. Russell Belisle	(D) Edward Marshall (A) Terry Mobley
Memphis Immanuel	Rev. William Miller	(D) Ed Mell

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2018 MEMPHIS CIRCUIT - Region 3 <i>(continued)</i></p>

The Reverend Mark Goble, Circuit Visitor

<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE & ALTERNATE</u>
Memphis Messiah	Rev. Donald Schmidt	
Memphis Trinity	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Munford GracePoint	Pastoral Office Vacant	(D) Becky Stewart
Oakland Holy Spirit	Rev. Jerry Stobaugh	(D) Leona Stobaugh

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2018 MIDDLE TENNESSEE - Region 3</p>

The Reverend Gerald Meyer, Circuit Visitor

<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE & ALTERNATE</u>
Columbia Trinity	Rev. William Wagner	
Cookeville Heavenly Host	Rev. Andrew Smith	(D) Glenn Racine (A) Michele Racine
Crossville Shepherd of the Hills	Rev. Andrew Abraham	(D) Steve McLalland
McMinnville Shepherd of the Hills	Rev. David McMinn	(D) Paul Cathcart (A) James Hayes
Murfreesboro Grace	Rev. Carl Wenck	(D) Dale Miller
Smyrna Hope	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Thompson's Station Faith	Rev. Curt Hoover (A) Rev. Alabachew Teshome	(D) Ed McIntyre
Tullahoma Faith		(D) Ramah Cosby

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2018 NASHVILLE CIRCUIT - Region 3</p>
--

The Reverend Ken Shaw, Circuit Visitor

<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE & ALTERNATE</u>
Burns St. John	Rev. Nathan Jansen	(D) Dan Falkenstein (A) Susan Ficken
Gallatin Trinity	Rev. Ken Shaw	(D) Tom Riesterer (A) Doug Howard
Hermitage Emmanuel	Rev. Keith Enko (A) Rev. Tim Hunze	(D) Mark Gudlin
Madison Ascension	Rev. Gregory Bauch	(D) Judie Mader
Nashville Concordia	Rev. Eric G. Phillips	(D) Kathy Riggs
Nashville Our Savior	Rev. Lane Reuter (A) Rev. Erik Christensen	(D) Doug Werth (A) Steve Martens
Nashville Redeemer	Rev. Philip Young	(D) Fred Guengerich
White House Prince of Peace	Pastoral Office Vacant	(D) Bob Allen (A) Randy Sakach

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2018 PADUCAH CIRCUIT - Region 3</p>
--

The Reverend Larry Peters, Circuit Visitor

<u>KENTUCKY</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE & ALTERNATE</u>
Bowling Green Holy Trinity	Rev. Andrew Toopes (A) Rev. Dr. Mark Press	(D) Amy Wieting (A) Mike Bryant
Hopkinsville Faith	Rev. Michael Croom	(D) Cheryl Croom
Murray Immanuel	Rev. James Dunn	(D) Diane MacDowell
Paducah St. Paul	Rev. David Appold	(D) Benjamin Kirchner
<u>TENNESSEE</u>		
Clarksville Grace	Rev. Daniel Ulrich (A) Rev. Larry Peters	(D) Charles Plotz (A) Shann Barnett
Paris Christ	Rev. Luther Hasz	(D) Charles Sharitt (A) Stephen Rowlett
Union City Faith	Pastoral Office Vacant	

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2018 STUTT GART CIRCUIT - Region 2</p>

The Reverend Don White, Circuit Visitor

<u>ARKANSAS</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE & ALTERNATE</u>
Brinkley Our Savior Ulm Zion (Dual Parish)	Rev. Johnny Graham	(D) Dennis Davenport
Crossett St. John	Pastoral Office Vacant	
DeWitt St. Luke Gillett St. Paul (Dual Parish)	Rev. M. Chad Philipp	(D) Joni Philipp
El Dorado Our Savior	Rev. Charles Johnson	
Magnolia Faith	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Pine Bluff Trinity	Rev. Stewart Marshall	(D) Lloyd Wessels (A) Donna Marshall
Stuttgart St. John's	Rev. Don White	(D) Ray Vester

<p align="center">ATTENDANCE REGISTER OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY DELEGATES REGISTERED TO ATTEND THE 2018 DISTRICT CONVENTION</p>

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Reverend David Callies EM, Brentwood, TN, *President Emeritus*
Reverend Erik Christensen, Nashville, TN
Reverend Paul Donner EM, Paducah, KY
Reverend John Gierke, Conway, AR
Reverend Mark Goble, Memphis, TN
Reverend Norman Groteluschen EM, Germantown, TN, *President Emeritus*
Reverend Darrell Kobs EM, Russellville, AR
Reverend David Lampman EM, Crossville, TN
Reverend Clarence Martin EM, Memphis, TN
Reverend Gerald Meyer EM, Crossville, TN
Reverend Dr. Mark Press, Alvaton, KY
Reverend John Schulz EM, Knoxville, TN
Reverend Dr. Terry Tieman, Cordova, TN
Reverend Louis Trebus EM, Seymour, TN
Reverend JohnDavid Zischke, Fayetteville, AR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mrs. Tessa Brasher, Paragould, AR
Dr. Fred Guengerich, Nashville, TN
Mr. Marc Higgins, Maumelle, AR
Mrs. Shirley Piepenbrink, Cordova, TN
Mr. David Snellings, Russellville, AR
Mr. Larry Vickers, Nashville, TN
Mr. Larry Zehnder, Chattanooga, TN

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Mrs. Barbara Hasz, Jackson, TN
Mr. Chuck Merriman, Bella Vista, AR
Mr. Chris Miller, Memphis, TN
Mrs. Jennifer Whitely, Collierville, TN

**THE ROSTER OF EMERITUS, CANDIDATE,
OTHER PASTORS AND OTHER WORKERS OF
THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT
AS OF APRIL 15, 2018**

ORDAINED MINISTERS EMERITI

Reverend Richard Ames, Hot Springs Village, AR
 Reverend Arthur Avery, Harrogate, TN
 Reverend Arthur Baisch, Fairfield Bay, AR
 Reverend William Barthel, Loudon, TN
 Reverend Henry Behling, Hot Springs Village, AR
 Reverend Hubert Bernthal, Bella Vista, AR*
 Reverend Brian Bibler, Bella Vista, AR
 Reverend Roy Bingenheimer, Concordia, MO
 Reverend Andrew Brondos, McKinney, TX
 Reverend David Callies, Brentwood, TN
 Reverend Dean Clausing, Benton, AR
 Reverend William Couch, Knoxville, TN
 Reverend Linsey Dettmer, Sevierville, TN
 Reverend Paul Donner, Paducah, KY
 Reverend Albert Eichelberger, Knoxville, TN
 Reverend James Evers, Oak Ridge, TN
 Reverend John Freitag, Rogersville, TN
 Reverend David Gadbow, Mountain Home, AR
 Reverend Norman Groteluschen, Germantown, TN
 Reverend Fred Hagemeier, Lakeview, AR
 Reverend Kenneth Haydon, Eureka Springs, AR
 Reverend Gary Heckmann, Cookeville, TN
 Reverend Clarence Helmich, Oviedo, FL
 Reverend Gene Henke, Murfreesboro, TN*
 Reverend Clifford Herd, Chattanooga, TN
 Reverend Donley Hesse, Mena, AR
 Reverend David Hudak, Bella Vista, AR*
 Reverend Roy Jacob, Hot Springs, AR
 Reverend Paul Jilg, Little Rock, AR
 Reverend Stanley Jones, Bella Vista, AR
 Reverend Arthur Kaufmann, Bristol, TN
 Reverend Robert Kellerman, Casa Grande, AZ
 Reverend Darrell Kobs, Russellville, AR
 Reverend David Krause, Bella Vista, AR
 Reverend Thom Lakso, Knoxville, TN*
 Reverend John Lindner, Bella Vista, AR
 Reverend Erwin Lueker, Elizabethton, TN
 Reverend Robert Mader, Clarksville, TN
 Reverend Larry Marhenke, Hot Springs Village, AR
 Reverend Gerald Meyer, Crossville, TN
 Reverend Robert Miskimen, Bella Vista, AR
 Reverend Jan Munch, Athens, TN
 Reverend Donald Neiswender, Paducah, KY
 Reverend Hiram Nunez, Granbury, TX
 Reverend Daniel Otto, Nashville, TN
 Reverend Marvin Otto, Kingsport, TN
 Reverend Robert Pfaff, Spring City, TN
 Reverend Gilbert Pingel, Chattanooga, TN
 Reverend Chris Powell, Nashville, TN
 Reverend Albert Quoss, Bella Vista, AR
 Reverend David Rubke, Tullahoma, TN

ORDAINED MINISTERS EMERITI

Reverend Thomas Sayre, Fairfield Bay, AR
 Reverend John P. Schulz, Knoxville, TN
 Reverend Larry Seiferth, North Little Rock, AR
 Reverend Merlin Sepmeyer, Crossville, TN
 Reverend Stephen Skov, Rockwood, TN
 Reverend Floyd Smithey, Knoxville, TN
 Reverend Dr. Wesley Toncre, Conway, AR*
 Reverend Louis Trebus, Sevierville, TN
 Reverend Paul Wiegert, Crossville, TN
 Reverend David Wollenburg, Belleville, IL
 Reverend Frank Zirbel, Harrison, AR

ORDAINED MINISTERS – CANDIDATES

Reverend Duncan Cox, Pea Ridge, AR*
 Reverend Shawn Found, Little Rock, AR
 Reverend Shawn Hunze, Cordova, TN*
 Reverend Jasson Kalugendo, LaVergne, TN
 Reverend Mark Kophamer, Bristol, TN
 Reverend Q.L. Mark Louderback, Arlington, TN
 Reverend Steven Teske, North Little Rock, AR*

**ORDAINED MINISTERS – SPECIAL
MINISTRIES**

Chaplain Richard Graves, Colorado Springs, CO
 LCMS Board for Mission Services
 Reverend Dr. Terry Tieman, Cordova, TN
 Currently serving as President of Transforming
 Churches Network

VICARS

2015-2016

Vicar Timothy Gall
 Faith Lutheran Church, Tullahoma, TN
 Vicar Matthew Hoag
 First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN
 Vicar Casey Kegley
 The Point Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN
 Vicar Thomas Presley
 Heavenly Host Lutheran Church, Cookeville, TN

2016-2017

Vicar Jose Mauricio Franco
 Salem Lutheran Ministries, Springdale, AR
 Vicar Philip Girardin
 Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Searcy, AR
 Vicar Michael Metzler
 Faith Lutheran Church, Tullahoma, TN

2017-2018

Vicar Loucan Sailing
 Faith Lutheran Church, Tullahoma, TN

**CERTIFIED PARISH ASSISTANT SERVING
IN MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS**

Mrs. Frauke Darnell
 Concordia Lutheran Church, Kingsport, TN

<p style="text-align: center;">SYNODICALLY ROSTERED DIRECTORS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, DIRECTORS OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH, AND OTHER MINISTERS OF RELIGION – COMMISSIONED OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT AS OF APRIL 15, 2018</p>

Brasher, Tessa

Director of Christian Education
 St. John's Lutheran Church, Lapeer, AR

Brown, Logan

Youth Minister
 Christ Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR

Cooper, Jennifer

Director of Christian Education & Youth
 Faith Lutheran Church, Oak Ridge, TN

Easterday, Paul

Director of Christian Education
 Our Savior Lutheran Church, Cabot, AR

Finke, Emilie

Director of Christian Education
 The Point Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

Goines, Connie Soso

Deaconess-At-Large
 Fort Smith, AR Circuit

Merriman, Charles

Family Life Minister
 Bella Vista Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, AR

Miller, Christopher

Youth Minister
 Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Pullman, Cameron

Director of Christian Education
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rogers, AR

Russell, Charles

Director of Parish Music
 Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR

Stuckwisch, David

Director of Christian Education
 St. John's Lutheran Church, Stuttgart, AR

Thomack, Jo-Ann

Director of Christian Education (PT)
 Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, TN

Tooley, Katherine

Director of Worship (PT)
 Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR

Vega, A.J.

Director of Christian Education
 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Weyhrich, Richard

Director of Music (PT)
 Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Crossville, TN

Whitely, Jennifer

Director of Parish Music
 Faith Lutheran Church, Collierville, TN

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, HIGH SCHOOL, PRESCHOOLS OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT AS OF April 15, 2018

*Roster of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

ARKANSAS

Avilla Christian Academy

Alexander, AR (PS, K-8, 9-12)

Meyers, Richard Principal
Bacic, Frances*
Barnard, Anne *
Brown, Amy
Brown, Rachel
Dunavant, Elizabeth
Greenwell, Jennifer
Hawley, Alyssa
Henry, Kate
Hooper, Bawana (Spec. Ed. Consult)
Kelly, Lesley
Kirkpatrick, Rachel
Schleider, Rev. Mike*
Simmons, Joy
Young, Glenda
Shell, Amber (Adm. Asst.)

First Lutheran School

Fort Smith, AR (PS, K-6)

Nieting, Kathryn* Interim Principal
Ballard, Kimberly
Brown, Brook
Davis, A. Kathleen
Donahue, Kerri
Fowler, Kerri
McAlvain, Mary Beth
Merrill, Rachel
Nix, Debra
Weidler, Peggy L.*
Guillory, Sonja (Adm. Asst.)

Concordia Christian Academy

Jonesboro, AR (PS, K-8)

O'Brien, Kory Principal
Baker, Blake
Dodson, Ashley
Hampton, Wendy
O'Brien, Cara
Shewmaker, Nancy
Tacker, Lea Ann
Walker, Sara*
White, Sarah*
Yearta, Elizabeth
Zirbel, Megan
Grogan, Christy (Adm. Asst.)

Christ Lutheran School

Little Rock, AR (PS, K-8)

Jerry, Heidi* Principal
Baker, Jennifer
BodemanN, Daniel*
Boyd, Pam
Brown, Ashley
Fleischmann, Karen
Koch, Sarah*
Koss, Virginia
Koch, Mike

Nosari, Robyn
Olson, Shawn
Pelayo, Emilie*
Steely, Cara
Wierciak, Anna
Witte, Megan*
McKnight, Catherine (Adm. Asst)

St. John's Lutheran School

Stuttgart, AR (PS, K-6)

Dabbs, Kristian Principal
Brown, Averie
Erstine, Amy
Feilke, Sally
Hayes, Ashlee
Helms, Meredith
Hillman, Karlyn
Hoskyn, Elizabeth
McGee, Janith
Rodgers, April
Smith, Sarah
Stovesand, Mary Brook
Stuckwisch, Dave*
White, Bonnie
Meins, Brenda (Sec.)
Byers, Lauren (Asst. Sec.)

KENTUCKY

Holy Trinity Lutheran School

Bowling Green, KY (PS, K-6)

Hiskey, William R.* Principal
Jones, Kristen
Keltner, Christina
King, Marty
Li, Guodong
Markel, Beth
Nelson, Melissa
Parsley, Michael
Reeder, Angela
Smith, Rachel
Toopes, Rev. Andrew*
Upton, Jennifer
Willis, Jill
Whittamore, Jennifer (Adm. Asst.)

TENNESSEE

Belvoir Christian Academy

Chattanooga, TN (PS, K-8)

Topp, David* Principal
Butterworth, Cathy Asst. Prin.
Bilsten, Peggy
Bolden, Ann
McCall, Erin*
Mietzner, Becky*
Silva, Ed
Streufert, Frank*
Streufert, Randi
Webb, Brittany
Woodrow, Jennifer

Heavenly Host Lutheran School

Cookeville, TN (PS, K-8)

Otto, Reid Principal
Olson, Linda
Salter, Kevin
Underwood, Amy
Waller, Jeffrey
Wells, Amber
York, Jennifer
Rodgers, Pamela (Adm. Asst.)

First Lutheran School

Knoxville, TN (PS, K-8)

Hofman, Lindsey* Interim Principal
Bissell, Ann Marie*
Debord, Heather
Hickson, Kashina
Irwin, Kay*
Irwin, Jessica
Newell, Jamie
Parker, Susan
Rodgers, Erin*
Wiberley, Lori
Steele, Ceci (Adm. Asst.)

Christ the King Lutheran School

Memphis, TN (PS, K-8)

Laury, Ann* Principal
Accera, Angie
Albertini, Debbie
Calhoun, Felicia
Conway, Jessica
Freeberg, Lindsay*
Gable, Donna*
Henderson, Susannah
Lawrence, Kyle*
Legge, Jean*
Madden, Tammy
Martin, Natalie*
Novy, Michella
Shepard, Deborah
Theil, Lauren
Teal, Karen*
Zagel, Irene (Adm. Asst.)

Immanuel Lutheran School

Memphis, TN (PS, K-8)

Baringer, Todd* Principal
Anderson, April*
Baringer, Brooke*
Barnes, Richard*
Collins, Marianne*
Glanzer, Stephanie*
Herron, Judy
Mell, Lori
Pollan, Rebecca*
Pudwell, Kris*
VanCanneyt, Brooke
Williamson, June*
Yates, Jason
Bruno, Sally (Adm. Asst.)

**PROFESSIONAL WORKERS OF THE PRESCHOOLS OF
THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT AS OF April 15, 2018**

**PRESCHOOLS / DAY CARE CENTERS /
DIRECTORS (Free Standing **)**

ARKANSAS

Alexander, AR

Avilla Christian Academy Preschool

Director: Forsyth, GeorgeAnn

Fayetteville, AR **

St. John Lutheran Child Care Center

Director: Layne, Michelle

Fort Smith, AR

First Lutheran Preschool

Director: Dufresne, Gretchen

Gillett, AR **

St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool

Director: Philipp, Joni

Jonesboro, AR

Concordia Christian Academy

Director: Baker, Blake

Little Rock, AR **

Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Development
Center

Director: Moorman, Colleen*

Little Rock, AR

Christ Lutheran Preschool

Director: Jerry, Heidi*

Springdale, AR

Salem Lutheran Educational Center

Director: Busch, Kris

Stuttgart, AR

St. John's Lutheran Preschool

Director: Ellis, Laura

KENTUCKY

Bowling Green, KY

Holy Trinity Lutheran Preschool

Director: Bugsch, Gretchen

TENNESSEE

Chattanooga, TN

Belvoir Christian Academy Preschool

Director: Swafford, Melissa

Clarksville, TN **

Grace Lutheran Preschool

Director: Cribbs, Linda

TENNESSEE (continued)

Collierville, TN **

Faith Lutheran Preschool

Director: Foshee, Dina*

Columbia, TN **

TLC Childcare Ministry

Director: Lyons, LaDonna

Cookeville, TN

Heavenly Host Lutheran Preschool

Director: Blyly, Terri

Cordova, TN **

Grace Celebration Child Development Center

Director: Taylor, Pam

Crossville, TN **

Shepherd's Little Flock Lutheran Preschool

Director: Gunderson, Sabrina

Gallatin, TN **

TLC (Trinity Childcare)

Director: Hartley, Marilyn

Hermitage, TN **

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Learning Center

Director: Tew, Crystal

Knoxville, TN

First Lutheran Preschool

Director: Eimmerman, Shirley

Memphis, TN

Christ the King Early Childhood

Director: Beaudry, Lorene

Memphis, TN

Immanuel Lutheran Preschool

Director: Maples, Karlene

Nashville, TN

Our Savior Lutheran Academy

Director: Tompkins, Rachel

Tullahoma, TN **

Faith Lutheran Childcare

Director: Brewer, Diania

Wartburg, TN **

St. Paul Lutheran Preschool

Director: Turner, Wanda

(BOD Liaison)

***Roster of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod**

**COMMISSIONED WORKERS – CANDIDATES, EMERITI,
SCHOOLS OPENED, SCHOOLS CLOSED
OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT AS OF APRIL 15, 2018**

CANDIDATES

Baringer, Brooke Memphis, TN
Chiles, Jill..... Hickory, NC
Duclos, Rebecca Nolensville, TN
Fritz, Katie Russellville, KY
Froiland, Amy Boiling Springs, SC
Fryman, Sharon Bartlett, TN
Kieschnick, Donna Hot Springs Village, AR
Kleimola, David Bowling Green, KY
Klotz, Debra Rogers, AR
Klotz, Lance Rogers, AR
Needler, Melinda..... Little Rock, AR
Rhoden, Rebecca..... Brentwood, TN
Schmidt, Mary Knoxville, TN
Schoenbeck, Jennifer..... Hendersonville, TN
Schroeder, Julie Almo, KY
Scott, Renee..... Lakeland, TN
Syverson, Sarah..... Rome, GA
Tilla, Katherine Murfreesboro, TN
Wilkerson, Jessica Nashville, TN
Winter, Jeremy Memphis, TN

EMERITI

Baisch, Evelyn..... Fairfield Bay, AR
Behmer, Arlene Little Rock, AR
Breite, Mary Little Rock, AR
Choate, Carolyn..... North Little Rock, AR
Cholcher, Norma Fort Smith, AR
Duderstadt, Lorna J. Chattanooga, TN
Gable, Donna Bartlett, TN
Gehrs, Pauline A. Oak Ridge, TN
Haberhern, Dennis..... Crossville, TN
Haberhern, Jean..... Crossville, TN
Hasz, Barbara Jackson, TN
Hauer, Raymond..... Spring Hill, TN
Knapp, Ronald..... Fayetteville, AR
Kogelmann, Gerald Ocheyedan, IA
Kosinsky, John Wirtz, VA
Krohe, Lois..... Monroe, MI
Leibig, Rebecca..... Stuttgart, AR
McKinney, Elaine..... Springdale, AR
McNabb, Sally..... Little Rock, AR
Meyer, Susan E. Crossville, TN
Parscale, Brenda..... Little Rock, AR
Piepenbrink, Shirley Cordova, TN
Pitsch, Leland..... Fort Smith, AR
Rogalski, Sue..... Memphis, TN
Schmand, Mary Ann Bartlett, TN
Schmidt, James..... Mountain Home, AR
Schroeder, Linda Chattanooga, TN

EMERITI (continued)

Shane, Toni..... Bella Vista, AR
Skov, Fredricka A..... Rockwood, TN
Stein, Mary Kathryn North Little Rock, AR
Steinbach, Arlon J. Mountain Home, AR
Steinbach, Carol Mountain Home, AR
Timm, Eunice Chattanooga, TN
Walter, Brenda Little Rock, AR
Wendt, Susan..... Fort Smith, AR
Winter, Catherine Memphis, TN
Winter, Ellis Memphis, TN

SCHOOLS OPENED AND SCHOOLS CLOSED

OPENED

none

CLOSED

Little Lambs Lutheran Preschool
(Closed 05-27-16)
Hot Springs, AR

Concordia Christian Academy
(Closed High School Only 5-30-17)
Jonesboro, AR

Christus Victor Early Childhood Development Center
(Closed 10-30-15)
Knoxville, TN

Our Savior Lutheran Academy
(Closed Elementary Only 05-31-15)
Nashville, TN

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 15, 2015 TO April 15, 2018**

ENTERED THE DISTRICT - ORDAINED MINISTERS

ABATELLI, KIRK W.	<i>From District:</i> Michigan	Installed as Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Oak Ridge, TN, on June 25, 2017 by Rev. Michael Miller.
ABRAHAM, ANDREW	Eastern	Installed as Pastor of Shepherd of the Hills, Crossville, TN, on August 13, 2016 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
BAUCH, GREGORY D.	Grad CTSFW	Ordained and Installed as Pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church, Madison, TN, on June 19, 2016 by Rev. Ken Shaw.
BELLES, JAMES	SMP Colloquy	Ordained and Installed as Pastor at Grace Celebration Lutheran Church, Cordova, TN, on March 18, 2018 by Rev. Roger Paavola.
BENKE, ROBERT J.	Minnesota North	Installed as Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Hot Springs Village, AR on August 30, 2015, by Rev. James Walter.
BOHLKEN, PHIL	Northwest	Emeritus, November 11, 2017
CHRISTENSEN, ERIK	Grad CSL	Ordained at St. John Lutheran Church, Hamilton, TX on June 12, 2016 by Rev. John Heckmann. Installed as Associate Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN, on July 24, 2016 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
COULTER, DONALD GLENN	Ohio	Candidate, June 1, 2017
DUNN, JAMES AARON	Missouri	Installed as Sole Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Murray, KY, on January 15, 2017 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
FERGUSON, TRAVIS WILLIAM	Grad CSL	Ordained at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Kansas City, KS, on May 28, 2017 by Rev. Lee Hovel. Installed as Associate Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN, on July 30, 2017 by Rev. Richard Elseroad.
FOUND, SHAWN J.	New Jersey	Candidate, April 27, 2017
GIRARDIN, PHILIP	Grad CSL	Ordained and Installed as Sole Pastor at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Searcy, AR on May 28, 2017 by Rev. Peter Ave-Lallemant.
HANSON, BRUCE C.	Southern	Emeritus, January 03, 2017
HAWKINS, DANIEL D.	Texas	Installed as Missionary at Large for the Mid-South District, assigned to Redeeming Grace Lutheran Church, Munford, TN on January 24, 2016 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
JOBST, JAMES M.	Kansas	Installed as Missionary at Large for the Mid-South District, assigned to Faith Lutheran Church, Magnolia, AR on September 3, 2015 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
KOPHAMER, MARK A.	Nebraska	Candidate, November 6, 2015.
KOPHAMER, MARK A.	Texas	Candidate, July 25, 2017.
KRUEGER, KENNETH J.	Grad CSL	Ordained and Installed as Pastor at Grace Celebration Lutheran Church, Cordova, TN, on July 19, 2015 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
LINDNER, JOHN T.	Texas	EM, May 16, 2015

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 15, 2015 TO April 15, 2018**

MARHENKE, LARRY E.	<i>From District:</i> Texas	EM, August 1, 2015
MARSHALL, STEWART A.	Southern	Installed as Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Pine Bluff, AR, on August 14, 2016 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
MARTIN, CLARENCE L.	Southern	Emeritus, October 30, 2017
MATTHEW, TIMOTHY C.	Missouri	Installed as Pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Dayton, TN on November 15, 2015 by Rev. Gilbert Pingel.
MERRILL, JOHN F.R.	Michigan	Installed as Pastor at First Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, AR on November 25, 2015 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
PRAUNER, GREGORY JAMES	Missouri	Installed as Associate Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN on 07/16/2017 by Rev. Charles Neugebauer.
PRESLEY, THOMAS T.	Grad CTSFW	Ordained at Grace Lutheran Church, Huntsville, AL on August 13, 2017 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola. Installed as Associate Pastor/Church Planter at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Mountain Home, AR on September 17, 2017 by Rev. Joel Krogen.
PRESS, MARK G.C.	Minnesota South	Candidate, February 27, 2017
ROSSE, ANDREW (DREW)	Northern Illinois	Candidate, June 10, 2016
ROSSER, EDWARD K.	Southern	Emeritus, June 13, 2016
RUDESENKE, ERIC MICHAEL	Grad CTSFW	Ordained and Installed at Concordia Lutheran Church, Jackson, TN, on July 23, 2017 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
SCHMIDT, EDWARD H.	Rocky Mountain	Installed as Sole Pastor at First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN, November 12, 2017 by Rev. Michael Miller.
SHOAF, REED	Grad CTSFW	Ordained and Installed as Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, London, AR, on June 19, 2016 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
STOBAUGH, GERALD	SMP/Colloquy	Ordained and Installed as Pastor at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Oakland, TN, on March 10, 2018 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
TESHOME, ALEBACHEW E.	Southeastern	Installed as Associate Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Thompson's Station, TN, by Rev. Gerald Meyer, on October 15, 2017.
TOOLEY, MARK D.	SMP	Ordained and Installed as Specific Ministry Pastor at Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR, on June 14, 2015 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
ULRICH, DANIEL M.	Grad CTSFW	Ordained and Installed as Associate Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, TN, on July 12, 2015 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
VANDEBUSH, NEIL S.	Texas	Installed as Sole Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Bentonville, AR, by Rev. Robert Henning, on October 8, 2017.
VANDERCOOK, DAVID D.	Texas	Installed as Pastor at Shepherd of Peace Lutheran, Maumelle, AR, and Trinity Lutheran, North Little Rock, AR, on September 18, 2016 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
WITTE, DAVID R.	Colloquy	Installed as Assistant Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR, on May 31, 2015 by Rev. James Walter.

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 15, 2015 TO April 15, 2018**

WOLDT, ADAM TIMOTHY	Grad CSL	Ordained at King of Kings Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE, on 05/27/2017 by Rev. Mark Zehnder. Installed as Pastor of The Point Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN, on July 9, 2017 by Rev. Steven Skov.
ZISCHKE, JOHNDANVID K.	Grad CSL	Ordained and Installed as Missionary-At-Large/Church Planter to Fayetteville, AR, at Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR, on June 17, 2017 by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.

CHANGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT - ORDAINED MINISTERS

APPOLD, DAVID	From Associate Pastor to Sole Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY. Installed by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola on Feb. 5, 2017.
AVE-LALLEMANT, PETER	Installed as Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Fairfield Bay, AR, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola on December 4, 2016
BAUMANN, PAUL	Installed as Sole Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Paragould, AR, by Rev. Charles Neugebauer, on October 8, 2017.
BUSHUR, PAUL J.	Installed as Senior Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola on March 12, 2017.
COULTER, DONALD G.	Installed as Sole Pastor, Athens Lutheran Church, Athens, TN, by Rev. Gilbert Pingel, on November 5, 2017.
EASTERLING, JOHN	From Associate Pastor to Sole Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Mountain Home, AR, on January 15, 2017.
GIERKE, JOHN P.	From Sole Pastor to Senior Administrative Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR, May 14, 2015.
HANSON, BRUCE C.	Installed as Sole Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Blytheville, AR, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola on March 5, 2017.
HENNING, TIMOTHY J.	Installed as Sole Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mena, AR by Rev. Darrell Kobs, on October 8, 2017.
JACKS, JOSEPH L.	Installed as Intentional Interim Pastor, St. Philip Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN, by Rev. Gilbert Pingel, June 21, 2015.
KRITSCH, PAUL E.	Installed as Sole Pastor at Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sharps Chapel, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, March 19, 2017.
KROGEN, JOEL	Installed as Sole Pastor at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waldenburg, AR, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, February 7, 2016.
LAKSO, THOMAS E.	Active to Emeritus Status, March 1, 2016.
LAMPMAN, DAVID P.	Installed as Intentional Interim Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Union City, TN, by Rev. Corey Aker, May 29, 2016.
NELSON, TRACY T.	Installed as Associate Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN, by Rev. David Callies, February 21, 2016.
PETERS, LARRY	Status change from Sole to Senior Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, TN, on July 31, 2015
RAKE, TIMOTHY A.	Installed as Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Russellville, AR, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, November 29, 2015.

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 15, 2015 TO April 15, 2018**

ROSSER, EDWARD K.	Installed as Assistant Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN, December 3, 2017.
RILEY, DWIGHT DAVID	Installed as Intentional Interim Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Paragould, AR, June 1, 2015.
SMITHEY, FLOYD	Installed as Associate Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN, March 18, 2018.
TONCRE, WESLEY	Installed as Sole Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Russellville, AR, March 25, 2018.
VANDEBUSH, NEIL S.	Installed as Sole Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Bentonville, AR, October 8, 2017.
WAGNER, WILLIAM	Installed as Sole Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbia, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, September 25, 2016.
WALTER, JAMES C.	From Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR, May 31, 2015.

INACTIVE, CANDIDATE, NON-CANDIDATE OR EMERITUS - ORDAINED MINISTERS

BAISCH, ARTHUR H.	Active to Emeritus	Dec. 24, 2016
CLAUSING, DEAN	Active to Emeritus	July 01, 2016
FITZPATRICK, DENNIS G.	Active to Emeritus	Jan. 01, 2017
GADBAW, DAVID R.	Active to Emeritus	Jan. 01, 2017
LAKSO, THOMAS E.	Active to Emeritus	Mar. 01, 2016
TONCRE, WESLEY M.	Active to Emeritus	Sep. 18, 2016

TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS - ORDAINED MINISTERS

AKER, COREY	to South Dakota	July 29, 2016
BACHERT, ALAN H.	to Missouri	Feb 12, 2016
BELL, JUSTIN A.	to Nebraska	Oct. 31, 2015
BUSHUIAKOVISH, MARK R.	to Michigan	May 15, 2017
CARSTENS, GARY J.	to Southern	Nov. 14, 2017
COOPER, ROBERT C.	to Florida-Georgia	Feb. 12, 2016
DETRIE, JACE	to New Jersey	Mar. 01, 2017
ESCHER, CHRISTOPHER	to Florida-Georgia	Sep. 19, 2016
FITZPATRICK, DENNIS G.	to Northern Illinois	Mar. 28, 2017

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 15, 2015 TO April 15, 2018**

FOSTER, CHARLES (CHAD)	to Indiana	May 27, 2016
HATCHER, JOSHUA	to Missouri	Dec. 31, 2016
HEINE, JACOB P.	to Northern Illinois	Feb. 29, 2016
HEMINGWAY, JEFFREY L.	to Texas	Feb. 12, 2016
HORMANN, DAVID L.	to Minnesota South	Nov. 18, 2016
INGLE, CHAD M.	to Southern	Jan. 01, 2016
JOBST, JAMES MARVIN	to Minnesota South	Aug. 01, 2017
KOPHAMER, MARK A.	to Texas	Feb. 13, 2017
KRUEGER, KENNETH JAMES	to Missouri	Jan. 01, 2017
LAMPE, KENNETH E.	to Missouri	June 06, 2017
MCCRORY, MARK K.	to Pacific South West	Jan. 03, 2016
MULLER, LYLE D.	to Florida-Georgia	Jan. 30, 2017
NIEDERSTADT, JEFFREY WILLIAM	to Minnesota South	July 14, 2017
PEEPLES, MATTHEW JOSEPH	to New Jersey	Jan. 02, 2017
RILEY, DWIGHT DAVID	to Nebraska	July 21, 2017
ROSSE, ANDREW	to North Dakota	April 28, 2017
SAILER, ARMAND DAVID	to Southeastern	July 23, 2015
SCHNACK, RANDOLPH J.	to Wyoming	Dec. 14, 2015
SCHUTZ, ROLAND D.	to Texas	June 05, 2017
TRUWE, GREGORY RUBEN	to Missouri	Mar. 06, 2017

DECEASED - ORDAINED MINISTERS

BAUER, DEAN M.	Mar. 27, 2017
BOYSEN, ALBERT M.	Mar. 25, 2017
GOEHNER, EDWARD C.	April 20, 2017
KLEPATZ, HERBERT	April 18, 2017
MCWHIRTER, JOHN A.	Feb. 10, 2016
RINGHARDT, WESLEY	Aug. 31, 2016
ROBERSON, JAMES R.	Aug. 13, 2017
SCHMIDT, DONALD W.	Jan. 24, 2017
SCHMIDT, PHILIP	June 01, 2017

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 15, 2015 TO April 15, 2018**

SMITH, HARRY D.	Apr. 07, 2017
STRAND, AHLERT J.C.	Nov. 16, 2015

REMOVED FROM ROSTER - ORDAINED MINISTERS

GRAY, AMOS O.	Apr. 7, 2018
MAYERHOFF, PAUL D.	Jan. 12, 2016
RAKE, TIMOTHY A.	Jan. 29, 2018
SAUER, KARL	Dec. 16, 2015

ENTERED THE DISTRICT - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

	<i>From District:</i>	
BODEMANN, DANIEL EDWARDS	Grad CUTX	Commissioned and Installed as Teacher, Christ Lutheran Church and School, Little Rock, AR, by Rev. Daniel Hauser on August 14, 2016.
DUCLOS, REBECCA L.	Michigan	Candidate, 01/30/2018
EASTERDAY, PAUL R.	Michigan	Installed as DCE at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Cabot, AR, by Rev. Dan McDougall on September 20, 2015.
FINKE, EMILIE	Grad CUTX	Commissioned and Installed as DCE of Women's & Social Media, The Point, Knoxville, TN, by Rev. Matt Peeples on September 18, 2016.
FREEBERG, LINDSAY	Grad CUW	Commissioned and Installed as Teacher, Christ the King Lutheran Church and School, Memphis, TN, by Rev. Charles Neugebauer on August 07, 2016
FRUSTI, PHILIPP	Eastern	Installed as Principal, First Lutheran School, Ft. Smith, AR, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, on August 2, 2015.
GOINES, CONNIE R.	Grad CTSFW	Installed as Deaconess-At-Large, Grace Lutheran Church, Greenwood, AR by Rev. Jason Zirbel, on March 20, 2016.
HABERHERN, DENNIS	Ohio	Emeritus, 12/15/2015
HABERHERN, JEAN	Ohio	Emeritus, 12/15/2015
KLEIMOLA, DAVID A.	Michigan	Candidate, 10/29/2015
KUHL, AMANDA B.	Indiana	Candidate, 01/01/2016
LAURY, ANN M.	Colloquy, CUC	Commissioned and Installed as Principal, Christ the King Lutheran Church and School, Memphis, TN, by Rev. Charles Neugebauer on 08/06/2017
PELAYO, EMILIE M.	Grad CUTX	Commissioned by Rev. John Gierke at Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR, on August 7, 2016. Installed as Teacher, Christ Lutheran Church and School, Little Rock, AR, by Rev. Dan Hauser on August 14, 2016.
RUSSELL, CHARLES P.	Grad CUWI	Commissioned and Installed as Director of Parish Music by Rev. James Walter at Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR, on September 3, 2017.

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 15, 2015 TO April 15, 2018**

SCHLAK, STEPHANIE M.	Michigan	Candidate, 09/22/2016
SCHMIDT, MARY J.	Rocky Mountain	Candidate, 10/20/2017
TUBANDT, NICOLE M.	Nebraska	Non-Candidate, June 25, 2015*
VEGA, AARON JOSEPH	Grad CUTX	Installed as DCE, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN, by Rev. Will Miller, on May 29, 2016.
WALKER, SARA R.	Texas	Installed as Teacher, Concordia Christian Academy, Jonesboro, AR, by Rev. Russell Shewmaker on August 6, 2017.
WHITELY, JENNIFER R.	Southeastern	Installed as Worship Leader/Mission Minister at Faith Lutheran Church, Collierville, TN, by Rev. Robert Harbin on August 27, 2017.

CHANGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

KOCH, SARAH E.	Installed as Teacher at Christ Lutheran Church and School in Little Rock, AR, by Rev. Daniel Hauser on August 9, 2015.
PIEPENBRINK, ALLEN C.	Installed as Education Executive for the Mid-South District, Cordova, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola on October 23, 2016.
SCHLAK, STEPHANIE M.	Installed as DCE, Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN, by Rev. Mark Bushuiakovish on January 8, 2017
WHITE, SARAH G.	Installed as a Teacher at Concordia Christian Academy in Jonesboro, AR, by Rev. Russell Shewmaker on August 9, 2015.

INACTIVE, CANDIDATE, NON-CANDIDATE OR EMERITUS - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

CHILES, JILL	Teacher, Active to Non-Candidate status, February 5, 2016*
EICKMEIER, HANS W.	Teacher, Active to Non-Candidate status, August 4, 2015*
FRYMAN, SHARON	Teacher, Active to Candidate status, July 01, 2016
HAGGE, JOHN B.	DCE, Active to Candidate status, January 1, 2016
MCNABB, SALLY	Teacher, Active to Emeritus status, May, 26, 2015
PARSCALE, BRENDA	Teacher, Active to Emeritus status, May 31, 2016
PERRY, CHERYL LYNN	Teacher, Active to Non-Candidate status, May 26, 2016*
ROGALSKI, SUSAN	Teacher, Active to Emeritus status, January 2, 2018
SCHOENBECK, JENNIFER A.	DCE, Non-Candidate to Candidate status, September 1, 2015
SCOTT, RENEE L.	Teacher, Active to Candidate status, August 01, 2016
WALTER, BRENDA J.	Teacher, Active to Emeritus status, June 01, 2016
WENDT, SUSAN K.	Teacher, Active to Emeritus status, May 18, 2015

**All those on Non-Candidate status were granted Candidate status effective July 13, 2016 per Synod Resolution 12-03.*

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 15, 2015 TO April 15, 2018**

TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

BEETHE, NATHAN A.	to Michigan	Dec. 27, 2015
BERNAU, REBEKAH L.	to Minnesota South	July 01, 2017
BLACKWELL, RUTH M.	to Southeastern	Aug. 07, 2015
BRAKHAGE, CARLA J.	to Southern	July 01, 2016
EICKMEIER, HANS W.	to Nebraska	Aug. 04, 2015
FRUSTI, PHILIP J.	to Kansas	Jan. 01, 2017
GEISLER, REBECCA	to California-Nevada-Hawaii	Sept. 22, 2015
GEYER, THOMAS W.	to Texas	July 01, 2016
HAGGE, JOHN B.	to North Dakota	July 15, 2016
JACOB, DOROTHEA B.	to Texas	Jan. 18, 2017
KUHL, AMANDA	to Rocky Mountain	Nov. 1, 2017
KURTZ, AMY LYNN	to Southern Illinois	June 06, 2016
MCCRORY, CHRISTI	to Pacific Southwest	Jan. 03, 2016
MEYER, SHANNON E.	to Nebraska	July 31, 2015
MORRIS, WENDY E.	to Missouri	July 01, 2015
ROBERTSON, HAILEY M.	to Ohio	May 18, 2016
ROGERS, CHERYL L.	to Southern	Apr. 19, 2016
SCHROEDER, BRET A.	to Texas	June 30, 2017
SORGATZ, JAMES F.	to Michigan	Jan. 19, 2016
SORGATZ, MARIAN A.	to Michigan	Jan. 19, 2016
TUBANDT, NICOLE M.	to Kansas	July 01, 2017
WILT, JOHN THOMAS	to Texas	Jan. 01, 2018

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 15, 2015 TO April 15, 2018**

DECEASED - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

BRADDOCK, JEAN M.	Mar. 09, 2016
KIESCHNICK, OSCAR	Aug. 11, 2017
LINK, ALLEN W.	Mar. 26, 2016
MCPHERSON, DEBRA J.	Dec. 21, 2017
WALWICK, PAUL A.	Dec. 25, 2015

REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

BANKS, CAMERON M.	Nov. 17, 2015
COLLINS, MEGAN C.	March 01, 2016
ILLIAN, JACQUELINE L.	Aug. 19, 2016
SPRECHER, CHRISTINE H.	Feb. 01, 2016

ACTIVITY AMONG CONGREGATIONS AND CIRCUITS

CONGREGATIONS:

ARKANSAS: None

TENNESSEE: None

MISSISSIPPI: Beautiful Savior was transferred from the Southern District to the Mid-South District on September 02, 2016.

CIRCUITS:

LITTLE ROCK, AR Christ Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR moved from Little Rock-South Visitation (#7) & Electoral Circuit to Little Rock-North Visitation (#6) & Electoral Circuit by the MDS 2015 Convention, June 26-28, 2015; Res. #02-02-15.

PADUCAH CIRCUIT Circuit Visitor Change: Rev. Corey Aker (transferred to SD) replaced by Rev. Larry Peters on August 01, 2016

STUTTGART CIRCUIT Circuit Visitor Change: Rev. Dean Clausing (retired) replaced by Rev. Don White on July 1, 2016.

DYERSBURG, TN Trinity Lutheran Church, Dyersburg, TN, moved from Paducah Visitation (#11) & Electoral Circuit to Memphis Visitation (#8) & Electoral Circuit by MDS 2015 Convention, June 26-28, 2015; Res. #02-02-15.

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 15, 2015 TO April 15, 2018**

LOUDON, TN	Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Loudon, TN moved from Knoxville Visitation (#5) & Electoral Circuit to Chattanooga Visitation (#1) & Electoral Circuit by MDS 2015 Convention, June 26-28, 2015; Res. #02-2-15.
NASHVILLE NORTH & NASHVILLE SOUTH	To Rename Nashville North Circuit to Nashville Circuit and Nashville South Circuit to Middle Tennessee Circuit, MDS 2015 Convention, June 26-28, 2015; Res. #02-08-15.
THOMPSON'S STATION, TN	Faith Lutheran Church, Thompson's Station moved from Nashville Circuit to Middle Tennessee Circuit, approved on August 16-17, 2015 by the Board of Directors; Res. #3.12

NEW CHURCH START

SHARPS CHAPEL, TN	CHAPEL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, May 24, 2015
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CONGREGATIONS ACCEPTED INTO SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP

SHARPS CHAPEL, TN	CHAPEL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, May 29, 2016
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CONGREGATIONS REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP

BERRYVILLE, AR	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church closed on August 21, 2017.
MOUNTAINBURG, AR	Our Savior Lutheran Church closed on January 22, 2018.

SCHOOLS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS - CLOSED

HOT SPRINGS, AR	Little Lambs Lutheran Preschool, Hot Springs, AR, closed on May 27, 2016.
KNOXVILLE, TN	Christus Victor Early Childhood Center, Knoxville, TN closed on October 30, 2015.
NASHVILLE, TN	Our Savior Lutheran Academy, Nashville, TN, closed on May 31, 2015. (Preschool remains open)

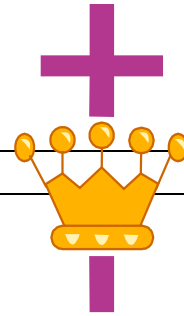
CONSTITUTION REVISIONS APPROVED

BENTONVILLE, AR	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors' Meeting, November 27-28, 2016
HOLIDAY ISLAND, AR	GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors' Meeting, January 24-25, 2016

<p align="center">THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 15, 2015 TO April 15, 2018</p>

LITTLE ROCK, AR	FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors' Meeting, January 28-29, 2018
MAUMELLE, AR	SHEPHERD OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors' Meeting, January 24-25, 2016
MAUMELLE, AR	SHEPHERD OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors' Meeting, May 10, 2015
MENA, AR	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors' Meeting, May 9, 2016
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors' Meeting, May 10, 2015
PARAGOULD, AR	REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors' Meeting, November 1-2, 2015
ROGERS, AR	HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors' Meeting, August 27-28, 2017
RUSSELLVILLE, AR	ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors' Meeting, November 1-2, 2015
HOPKINSVILLE, KY	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors' Meeting, August 21-22, 2016
OLIVE BRANCH, MS	BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors' Meeting, November 5-6, 2017
CLARKSVILLE, TN	GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors' Meeting, August 21-22, 2016
SHARPS CHAPEL, TN	CHAPEL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors' Meeting May 9, 2016

THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD



Ordained Ministers Celebrating Anniversaries in 2016

60 Years

Rev. Richard Ames (EM)
Hot Springs Village, AR
Rev. Paul Jilg (EM)
Little Rock, AR
Rev. Hubert Bernthal (EM)
Bella Vista, AR

55 Years

Rev. Daniel Otto (EM)
Nashville, TN

50 Years

Rev. Luther Hasz
Christ Lutheran Church, Paris, TN

45 Years

Rev. Erwin Lueker (EM)
Elizabethton, TN
Rev. David Wollenburg (EM)
Belleville, IL

35 Years

Rev. Merlin Sepmeyer (EM)
Crossville, TN
Rev. Daniel McDougall
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Cabot, AR
Rev. Carl Wenck
Grace Lutheran Church, Murfreesboro, TN
Rev. John Lindner (EM)
Bella Vista, AR

30 Years

Rev. Thomas Sayre (EM)
Fairfield Bay, AR
Rev. Brian Bibler (EM)
Bella Vista, AR
Rev. Paul Becker
Concordia Lutheran Church, Kingsport, TN

25 Years

Rev. David Gadbaw (EM)
Mountain Home, AR
Rev. James Walter
Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR
Rev. Donald White
St. John's Lutheran Church, Stuttgart, AR
Rev. Arthur Baisch (EM)
Fairfield Bay, AR

20 Years

Rev. Lane Reuter
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN
Rev. John Gierke
Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR

15 Years

Rev. Kevin Conger
Hope Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, AR

10 Years

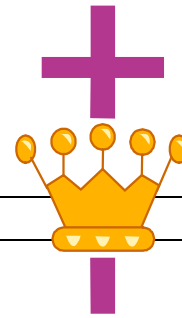
Rev. Derek Roberts
Praise Lutheran Church, Maryville, TN
Rev. Curtis Hoover
Faith Lutheran Church, Thompson's Station, TN
Rev. Floyd Smithey
First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

5 Years

Rev. William Ondracka
Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN
Rev. David Ficken
Rhythm City Lutheran Church/OSLC, Nashville, TN

Well done good and faithful servants!

THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD



Ordained Ministers Celebrating Anniversaries in 2017

65 Years

Rev. Robert Miskimen (EM)
Bella Vista, AR

60 Years

Rev. Paul Donner (EM)
Paducah, KY

Rev. Donley Hesse (EM)
Mena, AR

Rev. John Schulz (EM)
Knoxville, TN

55 Years

Rev. Dr. Wesley Toncre
St. John Lutheran, Russellville, AR

Rev. Fred Hagemeier (EM)
Lakeview, AR

50 Years

Rev. James Evers (EM)
Oak Ridge, TN

45 Years

Rev. Peter Ave-Lallemant
Faith Lutheran Church, Fairfield Bay, AR

Rev. William Barthel (EM)
Loudon, TN

Rev. Paul Baumann
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Paragould, AR

Rev. Gary Heckmann (EM)
Cookeville, TN

40 Years

Rev. Jan Munch (EM)
Athens, TN

Rev. Dr. Mark Press
Holy Trinity Lutheran, Bowling Green, KY

Rev. Don Schmidt
Messiah Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

35 Years

Rev. Keith Enko
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Hermitage, TN

Rev. Stewart Marshall
Trinity Lutheran Church, Pine Bluff, AR

Rev. Richard Mayer (EM)
Bentonville, AR

30 Years

Rev. Steven Harmon
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Johnson City, TN

Rev. H. Christopher Sheets
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

Rev. Russell Shewmaker
Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Jonesboro, AR

25 Years

Rev. Jon Bischof
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Corning, AR

20 Years

Rev. Mark Goble
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Rev. Mark Louderback
Arlington, TN

Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola
Mid-South District President

Rev. Andrew Smith
Heavenly Host Lutheran Church, Cookeville, TN

15 Years

Rev. Tracy Nelson
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN

Rev. Chad Philipp
*St. Luke Lutheran Church, DeWitt, AR
and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Gillett, AR*

Rev. Kenneth Shaw
Trinity Lutheran Church, Gallatin, TN

10 Years

Rev. Donald Coulter
Athens Lutheran Church, Athens, TN

Rev. Daniel Hauser
Christ Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR

Rev. Robert Portier
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN

Rev. Neil Vanderbush
Faith Lutheran Church, Bentonville, AR

Rev. David Vandercook
*Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church, Maumelle, AR
and Trinity Lutheran Church, North Little Rock, AR*

5 Years

Rev. William Stevenson
Trinity Lutheran Church, Dyersburg, TN

Rev. Joshua Woodrow
First Lutheran, Chattanooga, TN

Well done good and faithful servants!

THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD

Ordained Ministers Celebrating Anniversaries in 2018

60 Years

Rev. Henry Behling (EM)
Hot Springs, AR

55 Years

Rev. William Couch (EM)
Knoxville, TN

50 Years

Rev. Kenneth Haydon (EM)
Eureka Springs, AR

Rev. Arthur Kaufmann (EM)
Bristol, TN

Rev. Stephen Skov (EM)
Rockwood, TN

Rev. David Tews
*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church,
Horseshoe Bend, AR*

45 Years

Rev. Barry Hildebrandt
*Cross of Christ Lutheran Church,
Chattanooga, TN*

Rev. Paul Kritsch
*Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
Sharps Chapel, TN*

40 Years

Rev. Johnny Graham
*Our Savior Lutheran Church, Brinkley, AR
Zion Lutheran Church, Ulm, AR*

Rev. Gene Henke (EM)
*Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,
White House, TN*

Rev. Robert Herring
Grace Lutheran Church, Holiday Island, AR

35 Years

Rev. Thom Lakso (EM)
Celebration Lutheran Church, Seymour, TN

Rev. Charles Neugebauer
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Rev. Robert Pfaff (EM)
Spring City, TN

Rev. Robert Seaton
First Lutheran Church, Cleveland, TN

Rev. Larry Seiferth (EM)
North Little Rock, AR

Rev. Dr. Terry Tieman
Memphis, TN

Rev. Andrew Toopes
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY

Rev. Brian Truog
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Loudon, TN

30 Years

Rev. Russell Belisle
Cross of Calvary, Memphis, TN

Rev. Mark Krause
Salem Lutheran Ministries, Springdale, AR

Rev. Randy Loux
Clarksville, TN

Rev. Steven Teske
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexander, AR

Rev. William Wagner
Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbia, TN

20 Years

Rev. Robert Harbin
Faith Lutheran Church, Collierville, TN

Rev. Philip Young
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

15 Years

Rev. Paul Hass
Bella Vista Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, AR

Rev. Shawn Hunze
Memphis, TN

10 Years

Rev. Shawn Found
Little Rock, AR

Rev. Brandon Martin
Salem Lutheran Ministries, Springdale, AR

Rev. Theodore McMinn
Shepherd of the Hills, McMinnville, TN

Rev. William Miller
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Rev. Aaron Neugebauer
St. John Lutheran Church, Lape, AR

Rev. Gregory Prauner
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Rev. Mark Rhoads
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Loudon, TN

Rev. Gordon Smith
*Christ of the Cumberland, Harrogate, TN
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Morristown, TN*

Rev. Jason Zirbel
Grace Lutheran Church, Greenwood, AR

5 Years

Rev. David Graves
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wartburg, TN

Rev. Joseph Jacks
St. Philip Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

Rev. David Mohr
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Conway, AR

Rev. Clayton Sellers
Faith Lutheran Church, Collierville, TN

Rev. Alan Thoe
Grace Lutheran Church, Murfreesboro, TN

Well done good and faithful servants!

SECTION C

REPORTS

THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the triennium of 2015-2018, the Board of Directors of the LCMS Mid-South District met regularly to perform the duties given to them in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and District. The Board of Directors for the Mid-South District consists of thirteen members: The District President; four (4) Regional Vice Presidents (one ordained Minister from each electoral region); the District Secretary (an ordained minister); the Treasurer (a layperson appointed by the Board); two Ministers of Religion - Commissioned (one from Regions 1 and 2 combined, and one from Regions 3 and 4 combined); and four lay representatives (one from each region).

The Board of Directors is "...responsible for establishing and overseeing policies by which it governs itself, the district officers, staff, and the overall organization, consistent with the district mission in fulfilling the Lord's work." It is also "accountable to the District Convention, and the staff of all organizational agencies of the district shall be accountable to the board of directors through the office of the district president." Part of that accountability to the Convention is this written report to the Convention.

The Board of Directors meets regularly, four times per year, and at other times as necessary via electronic mediums. The board's internal advisory committees also meet and prepare items for consideration between meetings. Usual items of business for the Board of Directors include: reviewing reports by the District President and the District's executive staff; review and approval of the District's annual budget; receiving the annual audit report from outside auditors (LCMS Internal Audit Department); approval of congregations' constitutions and bylaws upon recommendation from the District's Constitution Committee and the District President; receipt and review of approvals by the Finance Committee of loans made through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) in the amounts of one million dollars or below, and approval or disapproval of LCEF loans that are over one million dollars. In addition, the Board of Directors annually sets the base salaries used in the Mid-South District Compensation Guidelines, the salary of the District President, and the percentage range of salary increases of the executive and support staff. The Board of Directors is also responsible and has the privilege to extend calls to workers to do work on behalf of the entire District, such as church planters and rostered executive staff.

Among the significant items of business conducted by the Board of Directors during this triennium are the following:

- Joyfully received the new congregation of Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sharps Chapel, TN into membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- Joyfully received Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Olive Branch, MS, by transfer into the LCMS Mid-South District from the LCMS Southern District.
- Gave thanks to God for the mission and ministry carried out over the years by the following congregations, which closed during this triennium: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Berryville, AR; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Mountainburg (Van Buren), AR
- Paid the mortgage early for the District Office, and burned the note during a board meeting, with thanks to God for a generous donor who provided extra funds enabling the early payoff.
- Established the working budgets of the District for years 2016, 2017, and 2018, thanking God for the generosity of the congregations and their members.

- Worked with the remaining former members of Redeemer, Memphis and the Tennessee court system to enable the Redeemer Fund to support mission projects in Tennessee, beyond the original designated area of Memphis only.
- Finalized and amended the District Bylaws provisionally adopted at the district convention, which needed a final review by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters before adoption by the board. (District Convention Resolution 02-03-15, See Board of Directors – Appendix A)
- Worked to carry out the various 2015 District Convention Resolutions, which applied to the Board of Directors. (See Board of Directors – Appendix B)
- Amended the District Bylaws to comply with 2016 LCMS Convention Bylaw amendments, under the authority granted in Bylaw 1.1.3, after receiving approval of the proposed amendments from the CCM in Opinion 17-2855 (See Board of Directors – Appendix C)
- The Board of Directors finalized discussion and reached agreement on the ownership of The Rock House in Fayetteville. The District continues to use the facilities for campus ministry and outreach.
- Worked with Concordia Plan Services for a calculating tool on their website to assist congregations Synod-wide in setting salaries for their called workers.
- Further developed the C.A.R. (Congregational Assessment Resource) Tool for congregational assessment of operations, with an expansion in process for schools.
- Reviewed the trends of attendance and membership within the congregations and their schools of the Mid- South District.
- Continued implementation of the COMPASS Program to assist in the strategic direction and revitalization of congregations and schools within our District.
- Are in review of the governance policies of the Board of Directors with the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod.
- Held Circuit-wide Town Hall meetings led by President Paavola and others from the District.
- Continued the education and leadership programs for pastors, teachers, principals, ECC directors, and the licensed deacon program/lay ministry associates of the Mid-South District.
- Accepted the resignation of Rev. David Hormann from District Executive Director of Missions and Ministry.
- The Executive Committee, with input from the Vice-Presidents, conducted various interviews for the Executive Director for Mission and Ministries. Four divine calls have been sent, and each one was declined after prayerful consideration.
- Called Mr. Allen Piepenbrink to serve as the Executive Director for Schools and Early Childhood.
- Elected Mr. David Snellings to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Connie Soso-Goines as Lay Representative for Region 1, who resigned upon her commissioning and call as a Deaconess.
- Elected Mrs. Shirley Piepenbrink to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Dina Foshee, who resigned as the Commissioned Representative for Regions 3 and 4 on the Board of Directors.
- Called Rev. Daniel Hawkins as Missionary at Large for Munford, TN for a replant.
- Called seminary candidate, JohnDavid Zischke, as Missionary at Large for Fayetteville, AR.
- Called seminary candidate, Thomas Presley, to be an associate pastor for growing a family and youth ministry at Redeemer Lutheran, Mountain Home, AR.
- Received and established or revised various funds for Church Work Student Financial Aid and Debt Reduction (i.e. *MinistryFocus* Scholarship Fund; Carl F. Walter Professional Church Workers Scholarship Fund; SMP Colloquy Fund; 2018 District Convention Offering)
- Revised the Special Education Endowment Fund, after time requirements for restrictions set at the creation of the fund had lapsed, as the original donor had passed away and annual replenishments by that donor to the endowment had ceased. This will allow for Special Education Grants of \$8,500 to still be made annually as a budget line item beginning in the 2019 budget, while the endowment funds would be transferred to a Steward Account with LCEF at the end of 2018.
- Raised \$8,000 through Crowd Funding to buy computers and set up a computer lab for the LIME Institute in Madagascar, a part of the Malagasy Lutheran Church.
- Reallocated \$7,000 from the ELVD Tanzania Pledge Payable account (funds withheld after the ELVD had ordained two women in 2011) to the LIME Institute in Madagascar for infrastructure repairs and

internet provider upgrades. The District received a special dispensation from LCMS International Missions to send funds directly to Madagascar for these needs.

- Approved the theme of the 2018 District Convention: “The Lord is My Rock, My Fortress, My Salvation” – Psalm 18:2
- Thanked Rev. Richard Elseroad for over a decade of service on the Board of Directors as the number of terms he could serve will reached at the end of this triennium, as well as Mr. David Snellings for his service on the board, as he chose to not let his name stand for re-election at the end of this triennium.

In closing, I wish to thank President Roger Paavola, Board of Directors Chairman, Rev. Chuck Neugebauer, the executive and support staff of the Mid-South District Office, and the members of the Board of Directors for the privilege of serving alongside of them as Secretary of the District. The dedication and commitment of these individuals, and the use of their God-given spiritual gifts, have been a blessing in our partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the sake of the harvest.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. John P. Gierke
Mid-South District Secretary



THE REPORT OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Our Blessings

A young former shepherd named David wrote a Psalm about his great deliverance by God from his enemies, and King Saul. David wrote, “*The Lord is my Rock and my Fortress and my Deliverer, my God, my Rock, in whom I take refuge, my Shield, and the horn of my Salvation, my Stronghold*” (Psalm 18:2). We have taken David’s thoughts of affirmation and praise for this, our Twentieth District Convention theme. Despite the decline in membership and congregation commitments, the gracious Lord has allowed the Mid-South District to be stronger and to offer more resources and services to our workers and congregations. Without God’s direction, grace, and mercy, our work would be difficult, if not impossible.

Yet, in the last triennium, the Mid-South District has been privileged to serve in the Kingdom of Christ, celebrating in His divine grace and guidance. The Board of Directors, the staff, the dedicated church workers, and the supporting congregations of the Mid-South District are to be commended for their work on behalf of the missions and ministries we support. But, as a result of living in a changing world, a great many events and circumstances have happened and had a huge impact on what the Mid-South District does and what it looks like.

The Mid-South District celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary, dating back to our charter in 1966, when the Western District was divided into the Missouri District and the Mid-South District. The emphasis of our “birth” was to touch the lives of the people in our communities across the Mid-South – Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, plant churches, and support missions around the world. Finding opportunities for missions within our District led the Mid-South to grow from the original 77 congregations to our current congregation membership of 123 vital congregations, making a “footprint” of our precious Lutheran heritage. Therefore, for our entry into our Twentieth Regular Convention of the Mid-South District, we have chosen the theme: “The Lord is My Rock, My Fortress and My Salvation.”

For the last fifty-two years, the leadership of dedicated and faithful servants of God brought the Mid-South District to become a leader in The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, built on the conviction of evangelism and church planting. The Mid-South District continues to seek new opportunities to be about the work of the Great Commission, when Jesus called His Church into ministry to bring the Good News of eternal salvation through God’s grace for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ – our Rock and our Fortress.

For the last six years, the Mid-South District has focused on six specific areas of goal concentration:

- I. Assisting congregations, schools, and ECCs to retain Word and Sacrament ministry
- II. Resourcing, equipping, and strengthening existing congregations, ECCs, and schools for Kingdom effectiveness and efficiency
- III. Recruiting, supporting, and mentoring professional church workers
- IV. Planting churches
- V. Achieving financial stability and long-range fiscal accountability
- VI. Staffing for effective ministry support by developing effective marketing and public relations

I. Assisting Congregations, Schools, and ECCs

During this last three years, two of our Mid-South congregations have closed: Our Redeemer Lutheran, Berryville, AR, and Our Savior Lutheran, Mountainburg, AR. However, a vibrant and very active congregation has been planted: Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sharps Chapel, TN. Additionally, Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Olive Branch, MS, has re-joined the Mid-South District, requesting its new affiliation from the Southern District. The net result is an increase of 30 baptized members to the Mid-South District's total membership.

Where congregations wish to pool their resources for the continuation of mission and ministry, dual parish arrangements have become common place in The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. The Mid-South District is no different. In the last three years there have been three dual-parish/cooperative congregation arrangements created. Trinity Lutheran, North Little Rock and Shepherd of Peace Lutheran, Maumelle successfully worked out arrangements to become cooperative congregations. The congregations in Batesville and Waldenburg, AR, found a meaningful way to continue and grow their ministries by making a dual-parish arrangement. Then, in a little more unusual arrangement because it crosses District boundaries, the congregations of St Matthew Lutheran, Corning, AR, and Trinity Lutheran in Doniphan, MO, joined in a cooperative arrangement to support their mission and ministry efforts.

Because of the continuing need to keep the Lutheran “footprint” in strategic locations, the Mid-South District initiated an effort to “re-plant” congregations by infusing new approaches to the ministries where outreach had not gained new members. Faith Lutheran, Magnolia, AR, had formerly been a dual-parish with El Dorado. When El Dorado became a single parish, the District placed a “Church Re-planter” to re-energize the Faith Lutheran membership. Even though the effort was given two years, the pastor took another Call leaving the District to re-consider its option. However, when GracePoint Lutheran, Munford, TN, received a gift of a church building and land, the District Called another “Re-planter” in the person of Rev. Daniel Hawkins. The congregation grew quickly and forced the congregation to consider building a larger and more diverse building.

The Mid-South District's mission activities, however, are not limited to our own geographic territory. In addition to our annual support of the International Missions of the Synod, specific international missions that directly receive support from the District and our supporting member congregations include the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Africa. Our support there has gone on to teach dozens of native Tanzanians to become Lutheran pastors, and train seminary professors at our Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.

In the last three years we have begun supporting the Malagasy Lutheran Church as it works toward Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. The Malagasy Lutherans are one of the fastest growing Lutheran bodies in the world. They have opened a college (called LIME) to train young people in basic business and professional skills, who then can compete for jobs in Madagascar. They are strongly opposed by the Muslim population of Madagascar, but have managed to grow by the thousands. Our support has been for specific new church plants and support for the LIME Institute.

Trinity HOPE missions in Haiti is yet another of the international missions supported by the Mid-South District and its congregations. Since it began in 1999, Trinity HOPE has expanded to support schools and provide daily meals for over 25,000 children in this impoverished country. The efficiency and effectiveness of this ministry has successfully competed with poverty and a heavy voodoo influence in that culture. The efficiency of the meal delivery system can truthfully declare that over

95% of the donated dollars that go to Trinity HOPE go to support the schools and meals. Each meal is delivered to a child for less than \$0.30 a meal!

II. Resourcing, equipping, and strengthening existing congregations, ECCs, and schools for Kingdom effectiveness and efficiency

Much of the daily activities of the Mid-South District staff focuses on resourcing, equipping, and strengthening our member congregations and organizations. In the past years, the District exclusively developed and revised the COMPASS and C.A.R. programs that help congregations, schools, and ECCs in the Mid-South District define their ministries and missions. The programs have had 48 congregations go through the C.A.R. (Congregational Assessment Resource) report which defines 425 of the most common indicators of congregation activity when compared to all of the other congregations in the information pool.

COMPASS is a program also developed by the Mid-South District where a team of four or more surveyors visit a congregation (by its invitation) to speak with the leadership, the pastor(s), members, community, and others about the mission and ministry opportunities presented to the congregation. The results of the visit are presented in a comprehensive report that can be used to assist a congregation in its strategic planning, and includes demographic data to help in mission and outreach activities. A “Navigator” is assigned to each congregation after the COMPASS visit to help where needed in the congregation. The report is not a prescription, but a description of what the members and community already think of mission and ministry.

At the 2015 District Convention, an initiative called, “Each 1 – Reach 1” was unveiled. In preparation for E1-R1, Dr. Mark Wood from Synod visited the District six times to explain the Synod initiative – “Everyone His Witness.” As we move on from this Convention, I am honored to develop a partnership with the Mid-South District LWML to launch the second phase of E1-R1 into each circuit and congregation. The idea is to *Equip, Enable, Encourage, and Empower* our membership to become the “salt and light” to a dark world. Our thanks goes to Diane Reimold, the President of the Mid-South District LWML for partnering with us to touch the lives of the unchurched community.

After the 2015 District Convention, and the subsequent 2016 Synod Convention, the Mid-South District took affirmative action to bring the dedicated men and women of our District into compliance with the Lutheran Confessions (Augsburg Confession XIV and Apology XIV) on Word and Sacrament ministry. For years, these dedicated people worked as the only ones who could serve many of our remote and small congregations. Through the efforts of the Synod, our Concordia University System, and our two seminaries, men who were serving in regular Word and Sacrament ministry were given a one-week intensive class on Lutheran theology, and the ability to apply for colloquy to become ordained pastors. The first of the few deacons to be ordained in the Synod came from our District. In all, twenty-two men will be eligible for ordination pending a successful colloquy through the Synod. Additional training for men and women who wish to work in the ministry that is not Word and Sacrament ministry, will be facilitated through the Concordia University System for visitation, outreach, Sunday school teaching, Catechism and the like.

The re-introduction of the Rural and Small Town Ministry (RSTM) efforts by the Mid-South District has seen four workshops conducted by the Synod’s facilitator, Rev. Todd Kolbaum. Future efforts will focus on “Best Practices” of small and rural congregations that have employed unique efforts in missions and ministries that can be explained and used by other RSTM congregations.

During several Town Hall Meetings, District personnel explain the resources that are available to the congregations and educational ministries of the District. During these meetings, the District seeks to gain efficiencies in its operations by conducting “Essential Services” surveys. Through these surveys, the District can better plan for the expressed needs of the congregations it serves.

III. Recruiting, supporting, and mentoring professional church workers

Recruitment of professional church workers is becoming an increasingly more difficult task facing every district. In the 2017 placement services, the Mid-South District was fortunate enough to fill all six of our requests for candidates from our seminaries. Three of those placements were for specific “Church Planting” type ministries (The Point in Knoxville, Grace Lutheran, Knoxville, and Mountain Home, AR). However, the number of candidates available for placement is rapidly declining. The chart below indicates the trend from 2014 to 2018 graduating classes. In addition, the projections for retirements from the current roster of pastors and teachers exceed 30% of our professional church workers over the next 5 to 7 years. That would leave a deficit of filled Calls to more than 1500 pastors within seven years!

Placement of Seminary Candidates

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
St. Louis	41	59	78	63	53
Fort Wayne	40	43	58	32	44
Total:	81	102	136	95	97

Through the efforts of our SMP (Specific Ministry Pastor) options, and with aggressive recruiting with our young high school students, the Mid-South District will pledge every God-given effort to fill vacancies as quickly as possible. We will support SMP and traditional seminary tracks as an incentive for young men and second career men to consider work toward ministry. There are twenty deacons eligible for application to the SMP-Colloquy with seventeen of them already in or completed with the process as of this writing.

At this writing, the Mid-South District is privileged to have only two vacancies pending Calls. That is a 1.6% vacancy rate, compared to the Synod average of 8.1%. The table below indicates another trend beyond vacant pastoral positions. The number of congregations seeking part-time pastors is increasing at a remarkable rate. Through comprehensive searches for the best qualified candidates to fill vacant pastorates, the Mid-South District has become a place of ministry opportunities.

LCMS Vacancy Report

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Sole Pastors	352	302	329	359
Senior Pastors	44	37	47	54
Associate Pastors	63	83	60	54
Total:	459	422	436	467
Part Time Pastors	432	360	324	288
Congregation starts	8	5	25	11
Congregations closed	6	5	8	15

Over the past three years, the Mid-South District, through its supporting congregations and members, has provided significant financial support for men and women going through the Concordia University System for church work and attending our seminaries. Each year, the District's Scholarship Committee awards over \$80,000 in direct financial aid to students from the Mid-South District. In addition, President Paavola serves on the Board of Directors for *MinistryFocus* – a program, recognized by Synod as an RSO (Recognized Service Organization) – that provides debt relief for professional church workers experiencing significant debt burdens. This year, all three of the District's applicants were selected by the Application Review Committee to receive scholarships to help reduce their student debts. The District set aside \$6000 to be awarded to District professional church workers.

IV. Planting Churches

From the start, the Mid-South District was – and continues to be – committed to the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations. Planting Churches has been a hallmark of the District for the past 52 years and will continue into our next triennium and beyond. As noted above, three of the 2017 seminary candidate placements were for church plant-type ministries. In years past, the placement of third- or fourth-year vicars to our Training Centers proved that our investments into these young men did not always result in achieving a placement when they completed their seminary education. Furthermore, church planting that was not largely sponsored by a “mothering” church or group of churches was unsuccessful. Our “batting average” needed to be improved as faithful stewards of the commitments made by dedicated members of the District and our supporting congregations. In this triennium, and currently, the Mid-South District supports several church plants in various stages of development. Those include 1) Northwest Arkansas plant* (Rev. JD Zischke, planter, Fayetteville); 2) Redeemer Lutheran, Mountain Home Family Ministry (Rev. Thomas Presley, planter); 3) GracePoint Lutheran, Munford, TN* (Rev. Dan Hawkins, Planter); 4) Salem Hispanic Ministries, Springdale, AR* (Rev. Brandon Martin, Planter); and 5) Mekane Yesus Ethiopian Ministry, (Rev. Alebachew Teshome, Planter). In addition, church plants in various stages of development include a plant in 6) West Little Rock, AR (Christ, Little Rock development); 7) Arkadelphia, AR (LakePointe and First Lutheran development); 8) Franklin, KY (Holy Trinity, Bowling Green development, Rev. Mark Press, Planter); 9) Southeast Arkansas/Delta Plant (co-opted with Synod and the Southern District); and 10) Jonesboro, AR (Jonesboro Circuit development). *Mid-South District funding included.

V. Achieving financial stability and long-range fiscal accountability

As the members of a congregation become stronger in personal fiscal stewardship, the stronger the congregations will be in stewardship, missions, and ministry. The stronger the congregations become, the stronger the District will be in stewardship, ministry and missions. The stronger the District becomes, the stronger the Synod and the world-wide Lutheran Church will be in stewardship, missions and ministry. Nearly every congregation has the difficulty of dealing with the fiscal balancing of maintenance, mortgage, mission, and ministry.

Consistent with biblical stewardship planning, the District sponsored a program in any congregation that wished to have a field-tested program for their people. Fortunately the Dave Ramsey organization, Financial Peace University offered a reduced rate for the 10-week program for Mid-South District families. At the end of successfully completing the FPU course, the Mid-South District rebated the entire cost of the program to the participants who completed the course.

The District is not exempt from fiscal concerns. As you read the report from Mr. Larry Vickers, the District Treasurer and Angela Fowler, Executive for Business and Finance, you will quickly notice that the ability of the District to rely on congregation commitments for operations is down to 58% of our operating budget. The dollars we receive from congregation commitments is the same amount of actual dollars we received in 1991.

The services of the District's operations, however, have continued to increase in those twenty-seven (27) years. Six years ago, we were faced with the same struggle to pay operating expenses and use reserved dollars to cover operations. The hard work of the staff and Board of Directors, however, has made it possible for us to increase our efficiency, expand our effectiveness, and seek other sources of funding to supplement the deficit. I am honored to announce that the Mid-South District is in a position that is fiscally sound and compliant with sound biblical principles of operations. Through the elimination of the mortgage on District's office facilities (thanks to a large private grant), restructuring staffing, and establishing "Means Testing" for all future fiscal ventures, the District is strong.

Through Development efforts of the District, *IMPACT* raised just over \$1.4 million to help cover the deficit. In addition, Development has introduced two additional programs that provide meaningful dollars for the District to support all its efforts and needed resources to our member congregations and professional workers. "Funding the Ministry" is a Development effort that raised over \$1.75 million for congregations to expand ministries or make improvements to their existing ministries. Well over 90% of those dollars raised remain with the twelve congregations that have used the program.

"Leaving A Legacy" is a Development program that earmarks future dollars from members who can benefit from current designations, rather than delaying their financial advantage through their estate. At this time, over a dozen congregations have hosted the program highlights that could be of interest to willing and dedicated donors in their estate planning.

The Lutheran Federal Credit Union (LFCU) began operations in this last triennium. It has loans and savings deposits available to any Lutheran, as would be the case of any other certified credit union.

VI. Staffing for effective ministry support by developing effective marketing and public relations

Dealing with the trends of American Christianity, the Mid-South District and The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod are not immune to the decline in membership affecting every mainline denomination in America. The decline can be identified as resulting from the major changes that reflect a changing demographic of cultures in the United States. Not only are fewer people identifying with church membership in the last 25–50 years, but traditional family units have become smaller and more concentrated away from the farm and nearer to the cities.

The Mid-South District has been required to change the ways in which we deliver the support and resources to our congregations, schools, and professional church workers. The needs for support and services have increased while the commitment from congregations has declined, creating a larger demand on creative financial support. The number of executive staff has been reduced, along with supporting staff. Yet, the ability to meet the needs of our congregations and professional workers allowed us to do more with less staff.

Regionalization that captures the skills and resources of existing staff that are deployed throughout the District has enabled the District to respond positively to congregations' needs, and reduced the travel

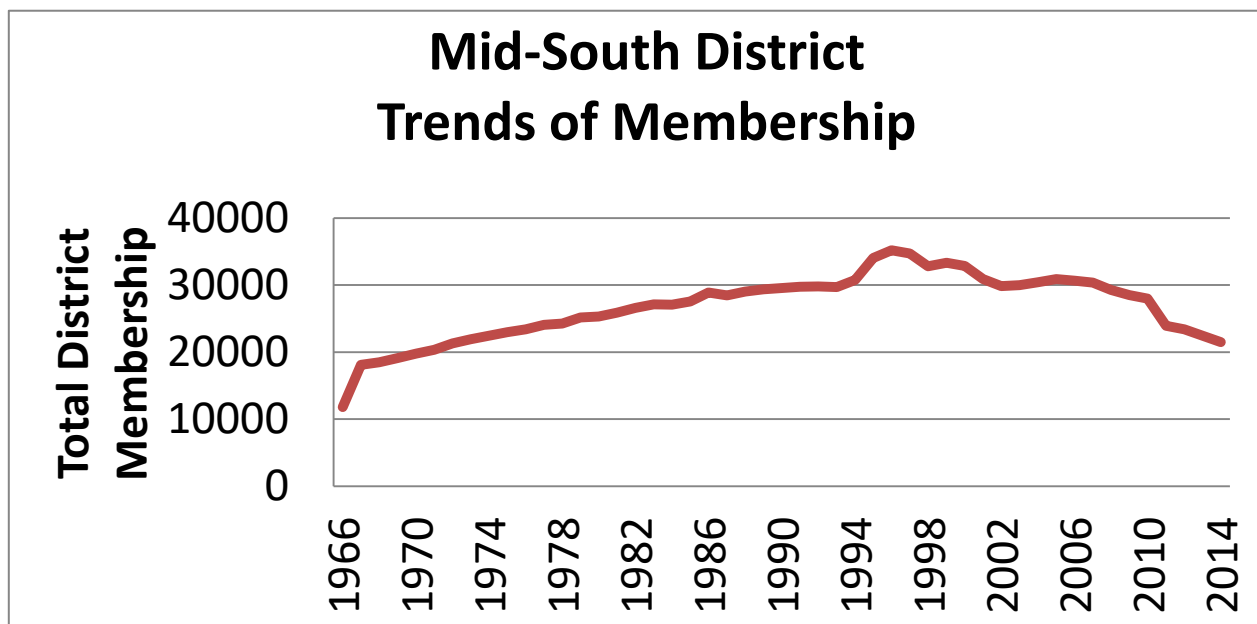
time required in a large geographic District. We have relied on the resources of the Synod in areas of Small and Rural Congregations; and Outreach and Evangelism. The importance of the role of each congregation and each member of the congregations is stressed by the fact that, without the individual support, the District could not operate in its role as an extension of the Synod in this place.

The marketing and public relations functions of the District have offered information about the essential services of the District that will respond to the needs of the people we serve. The new Mid-South District website is now designed to offer in-depth information and an ease of access for anyone interested in services available through the District. Our staff members have been selected to represent the Synod in vital services for congregations and workers, indicating the vital service the Mid-South District offers beyond the borders of our enclave. The Mid-South District personnel serve at a Synodical level in international missions; business and financial leadership; worker pensions, disability, and healthcare; and educational development.

The celebration of our Fiftieth Anniversary started two years of bringing the name of the Lutheran Church into communities throughout the District in conjunction with the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Highlighting our church planting efforts, offering a choral concert featuring historic Lutheran hymnody, and hundreds of volunteers involved in community outreach projects were ways in which the Mid-South District partnered with the congregations and workers of the District. *Cycle and Serve* with cyclist Rev. Bill Ondracka, brought a large turnout of volunteers reaching over 1,200 miles, stretching across the length of the geographic District. The Anniversary Banquet featured a keynote address by Synodical President Matthew Harrison, an historic video, service projects, and Bible studies meant to strengthen our walk of faith in God's grace.

The Outlook for the Future of The Mid-South District

The membership trends of each circuit and the Mid-South District overall draws our attention to the needs of each community, and especially the places where we currently have a Lutheran "footprint." The membership trends of the overall District demonstrates that the "high-water" mark of membership, congregations, and commitments were achieved before the turn of the century, and in some cases almost thirty years ago.



We will forge a team effort with the Mid-South District LWML to engage, equip, encourage, and enable each member of our District – all 24,000 of the saints in the District – to become the ambassadors of the Gospel of Christ. We will establish a task force for ***Reaching the Lost by Arming the Saints*** in personal evangelism, consistent with the Synodical Resolution calling for us all as - “Every One His Witness.”

Additionally, consistent with the Synodical Resolution, we will establish a ***Lutheran Identity Task Force*** that will develop materials and information to members that can share our Lutheran heritage with confidence and boldness. Along with the personal relation aspect of outreach, we will work with local communities on the best ways to bring programs such as *The Lutheran Hour*, *Mainstreet Living*, and similar Lutheran-based programming to the communities of the Mid-South District.

We will expand ***Tuesday Sermon Studies*** to provide assistance and discussion for pastors and interested laity to a deeper understanding of God’s Word. It will ideally include study of the original languages that demonstrate God’s overflowing, pure grace and love for His people. We will continue every possible effort to quickly move the dedicated men who have served in Word and Sacrament ministry as deacons to become ordained pastors, consistent with Synodical Resolution 13-02A, and from the Book of Concord’s Augsburg Confession (AC XIV) and Apology to the Augsburg Confession (AP XIV). Through the ***SMP Colloquy***, financial assistance to the SMP track in our seminaries, and further training of laity to be supports of the pastoral ministry, the Mid-South District will provide every possible opportunity to meet the needs of each congregation in our District.

We will continue to expand ***Town Hall Meetings*** where we will offer information about the resources offered by the District, and, through ***Essential Services Surveys*** solicit questions, concerns, and advise from members on what the District needs to do and to be to best serve our constituencies.

We will expand the resources and content of our small and rural ministry support by offering ***“Best Practices Forums”*** that highlight and offer helpful information on what other successful ministries in the RSTM can share with other congregations and schools.

We will continue to expand and promote the Mid-South District’s strategic planning instrument, ***COMPASS***, along with the revised C.A.R. – ***Congregational Assessment Resource***, that offers intricate detailed information on the current operations of every congregation, compared to the other congregations in the C.A.R. pool. The COMPASS and C.A.R. tools offer observation of the thoughts and recommendations acquired from current congregational activities, members, congregation leadership, demographics, and the community.

We will begin a pilot study on what the Mid-South District Business and Finance division can offer our congregations and schools to provide ***Data and Fiscal Reporting*** consistent with comprehensive accounting practices. With accurate and timely information, congregations and schools will be able to provide a more accurate analysis of their own operations.

We will increase our activity to ***Identify Future Church Workers*** from within the congregations of the District – either from graduating high school students or second-career men and women who show aptitude and skills to serve in the Church. Current projections indicate that retirement of a potential of nearly 30-35% of our current professional church workers may happen within the next seven to ten years. Providing additional ***Student Scholarships*** and assistance in ***Education Debt Relief*** will help remove much of the deterrent facing potential servants of the Church.

We will, because of the influx of multi-cultural ethnic groups moving into our District, identify additional opportunities to ***Expand Ethnic Ministries*** in partnership with our local congregations. Middle Eastern, African, Asian, and Hispanic opportunities provide abundant ministry possibilities in most, if not all, of the areas within the Mid-South District.

We will refine and assess the matrix of ***Church Planting*** in order to maximize the potential successful planting opportunities in accordance to the Will of God. The demographics of a changing geography will be stressed along with means testing that will minimize the risk of extended plantings that do not/will not result in a chartered congregation. We will include long-range efforts for the successful church plants to be “mothering” congregations to plant additional congregations, stemming from the matrix of the church plant’s experience and demographics.

We will partner with congregations, schools, and ECCs where there is excess and unused capacity of their facilities to explore the possibilities of ***Planting Schools and Early Childhood Centers***. Most of our congregations open their doors for only a few hours during a week. Where it is possible for ***Virtual Schools*** (which could include virtual high schools) to exist as an alternative to the risks that exist in the minds of parents with children in large public and parochial school, and social interaction that can be accomplished as an alternative to home schooling, our congregations may consider either virtual schools or congregation-sponsored schools that will serve as an outreach link to the community and a safe environment with a ministry wrap-around. Designated and restricted funds that have gone unused for years can be deployed in significant ways to plant ministries that will bring the Lutheran message to a larger community.

We will expand the offering of ***Biblical Stewardship*** training for the members of our member congregations. Through Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University, the Mid-South District is finding ways to strengthen the local congregation in its stewardship education, thereby making the congregation, the District, and the Synod able to continue to provide essential services for our Church and the workers who serve Christ’s people.

We will continue to ***Support Lutheran International Missions and Ministries*** for those developing missions around the world. Our support for the SELVD (Tanzania), the Malagasy Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Trinity HOPE Ministries will continue with the generous and dedicated support of the members of our Mid-South District congregations. The support will include continued contributions to the ministry education of the workers in those countries, and seminary education in our LCMS Seminaries for future professorial workers that enables those ministries to gain local and indigenous support.

We will work with local congregations that express an interest in providing ***Housing for the Elderly and Condominium Development*** (The over-65 population is becoming the fastest growing segment of the American population.) Availability of housing, the Mid-South’s moderate climate, the Mid-South’s friendly tax environment, and creative financing mechanisms mean a way in which congregations can create their own worshiping community and improve their fiscal soundness at the same time.

Conclusion

It has been a deep honor to serve as President of the Mid-South District since 2012. I pray that God would continue to lead and guide us together in a partnership where the “talents” given to our members and leadership can be about the work of the Great Commission. I would be remiss if I did not give full credit to the outstanding leadership of the members of the Board of Directors for the Mid-

South District. Through their dedicated efforts, we have created a working environment that is second-to-none! Every member brings special skills and talents that God has seen fit to provide for this great organization. But, what is more, the dedicated and hard-working staff of the District has made it possible for us to offer greater efficiencies and effectiveness for the good of our member congregations and professional church workers.

When I hear about what is happening in other Districts, what concerns they have, and the many distractions they face, I must thank our staff, the Board of Directors, and the supportive and dedicated people in our membership, that, I believe, we have the best District for this time, and in this place with which God has blessed us.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, President
Mid-South District, LCMS



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR REGION ONE

The Fayetteville, Fort Smith and Jonesboro Circuits make up Region One of our District. These three circuits cover most of the northern portion of Arkansas. The Lord has blessed our region with three faithful and dedicated Circuit Visitors:

Rev. Robert Herring, Fayetteville Circuit,
Rev. Darrel Kobs, Fort Smith Circuit,
Rev. Joel Krogen, Jonesboro Circuit.

There are 31 congregations in Region One with a combined communicant membership of approximately 4,713. There are two elementary schools and four early childhood programs.

These congregations are involved in the vital ministry of Word and Sacraments as they seek, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow inwardly and reach outwardly to their communities and to the end of the earth. Each congregation faces its own unique set of challenges and opportunities in sharing the Gospel. Yet each congregation and every called worker in these congregations finds strength in the Lord of the Church who has promised to be with us to the end of the age. In the following synopses you can get a brief overview of what the Lord is doing in and through the congregations in Region One.

Fayetteville Circuit:

As of the beginning of 2018, the Fayetteville Circuit consists of 11 congregations with 1,943 communicant members serving the region of Northwest Arkansas plus the area eastward to Boone County along the Missouri border. There are also two early childhood education ministries in the circuit at St. John, Fayetteville and Salem, Springdale. Additionally, a new mission start has begun in Washington County, focusing on the western side of Fayetteville. Rev. JD Zischke is our Mission Planter.

Faith, Bentonville installed their pastor, **Rev. Neil Vanderbush** in the fall of 2017 and continues to minister to their community.

St. John, Fayetteville remains a vacant congregation and is served by **Rev. Duncan Cox**. Their ministry includes their preschool which brings Jesus to many families.

First, Harrison is also vacant and is served by **Rev. Michael Wanner**. The congregation has just completed the sale of their building and property and has moved to another site in their community to continue their witness of their faith.

Grace, Holiday Island is served by **Rev. Robert Herring**. The congregation continues to reach out to all residents in Holiday Island and Eureka Springs plus the adjoining Missouri counties in their area.

Peace, Prairie Grove is a vacant congregation where several retired pastors continue Word and Sacrament ministry.

Holy Trinity, Rogers has been served by **Rev. Gordon Besel** for over 20 years and continues to see growth in their Anglo and Hispanic outreach ministries.

Salem Lutheran Ministries, Springdale under the leadership of **Rev. Mark Krause** and **Rev. Brandon Martin** bring the Word of God alive through traditional, Hispanic, and early childhood ministries in their area. Salem also shepherds the Campus Ministry program at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Bella Vista, Bella Vista continues to see their ministries change as their community moves from a retirement development to a multi-generational structure. **Rev. Paul Hass** serves as pastor.

Living Savior, Lowell is also vacant and is served by **Rev. Duncan Cox**.

Messiah, Pea Ridge has grown from a mission start of several years ago to a thriving congregation sharing the name of Jesus with the community. **Rev. Richard Mayer** serves as their pastor.

Christ, Siloam Springs is vacant at this time and **Rev. David Hudak** serves them on a part-time basis.

Our Redeemer, Berryville dissolved as a congregation in 2017.

Fort Smith Circuit:

There are nine congregations in the Fort Smith Circuit located in western Arkansas, who have a combined communicant membership of approximately 1,220. Among the parishes in the circuit there is one elementary school and one early childhood program. The Fort Smith Circuit is an active circuit, with a “Winkel” meeting monthly (except in the summer) at one of the churches in the circuit.

Bethel Lutheran Church, Fort Smith is served by the **Rev. Joshua Willadsen**. Since Pastor Willadsen came, the congregation has been growing. The average worship attendance has increased to 52 in one service. Throughout the year they hold Wednesday evening services followed by a Bible study. They have almost reached their goal of \$10,000 for the purchase of a new heating/air conditioning unit in the Fellowship Hall.

First Lutheran Church & School, Fort Smith was vacant for about two years in the pastoral office and for about a year in the office of school administrator (principal). Currently, First Lutheran is served by the **Rev. John Merrill**. **Mr. Samuel Fishburn** of Affton, Missouri, has accepted the call to be the new principal of the school and will be installed in late July or early August. Recently the congregation decided to go back to two Sunday services instead of one to meet the needs of the congregation and visitors.

Grace Lutheran Church, Greenwood is served by the **Rev. Jason Zirbel**. The people of Grace must take the Third Commandment seriously. Out of a baptized membership of 94, 77 worship on average at Grace. In 2015 the congregation purchased land to build a new facility.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Smith is served by the **Rev. John Treude**. Pastor Treude teaches two Bible classes every Wednesday, at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. The local chapter of the LWML, even though meeting every other month, actively supports various charities in the community such as the Community Services Clearinghouse, a kids’ backpack program, Community Rescue Mission, Mercy Hospice, as well as quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

River Valley Grace Lutheran Church, Lamar is served by the ***Rev. Herbert Swanson***. Last year Pastor Swanson officially retired, but he continues to do pretty much what he has always done, even at age 79. River Valley Grace offers two services every Sunday: a 9:00 a.m. service with contemporary Christian music and an 11:15 a.m. service using the Lutheran Service Book. In various ways, the congregation continues to reach out to the community for Christ.

Saint John's Lutheran Church, Russellville is vacant but currently served by the ***Rev. Dr. Wesley Toncre*** as Transitional Interim Pastor. The congregation is rebounding from a troubling time at the end of 2017. The Lord has great plans for this congregation though, as He promises in Jeremiah 29:11.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Mena is served by the ***Rev. Timothy Henning*** who was installed as their Pastor on a half time basis October 8, 2017. Even though small, the congregation has plans for growing in the coming years under the leadership of Pastor Henning.

Zion Lutheran Church, Augsburg is served by the ***Rev. Reed Shoaff***. A graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Reed was ordained and installed as Pastor of Zion, Augsburg, on June 19, 2016. Pastor Shoaff has established a catechetical program for all ages in his congregation. The increase in worship attendance (70-80 each Sunday) has reflected just one of the positive benefits of establishing such a program. Also, Zion continues to feed the hungry with a monthly Food Pantry Give-away program that witnesses Christ's care for the community. A new building was recently dedicated for this purpose.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Mountainburg has closed its doors as of the end of January 2018. Even though the Rev. Hubert Bernthal had served the fledgling congregation for two years as vacancy pastor, worship attendance had dwindled to 8 – 10 each Sunday. Leaving a debt of \$30,000, the church's property is now in the hands of the Mid-South District.

The Jonesboro Circuit:

There are 11 congregations in the Jonesboro Circuit with a combined communicant membership of approximately 1,550. There is 1 elementary school and 1 early childhood program.

Hope Lutheran Church, Batesville is served by ***Rev. Joel Krogen***. A Community Christian school operates at their facility. Rev. Krogen does chapel services for them, and there is opportunity for interaction with many families in the area. Hope is now in a dual parish relationship with Zion, Waldenburg.

First Lutheran Church, Blytheville is served by part-time pastor, ***Rev. Bruce Hanson***, as they seek to reach out with the Gospel in far eastern Arkansas in a community still struggling with economic challenges.

Peace Lutheran Church, Cherokee Village is served by ***Rev. Brian Pummill***. Members at Peace continue to explore new and more effective ways to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to a changing community.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Corning is served by ***Rev. Jonathan Bischof***. They are striving to provide solid Word and Sacrament ministry of hope to a rural area facing the challenges of changing times.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Horseshoe Bend is served by ***Rev. David Tews***. The congregation brings Word and Sacrament faithfully to a largely retirement-based community, and has enhanced its shut-in ministry, involving many of the congregation's members.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Paragould is being served by ***Rev. Paul Baumann***. They continue to wrestle with the changing nature of Paragould's rapid population growth, seeking to find effective ways to bring Christ to their community.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Jonesboro, served by ***Rev. Russell Shewmaker***, continues their community outreach efforts. The Christian Day School, Concordia Christian Academy, a joint venture between, Zion, Waldenburg, and Pilgrim, continues to provide quality Christian education to the Jonesboro area and opportunity to interact with school families.

St. John Lutheran Church, Lapeer is served by ***Rev. Aaron Neugebauer***. They continue their community outreach with their spacious and well-equipped Family Life Center that is being used for a wide range of need-based ministries, as well as sponsoring an off-site Bible class for young adults in Paragould. The congregation is also assisted by ***DCE Tessa Brasher***.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Mountain Home is served by ***Rev. John Easterling*** and ***Rev. Thomas Presley***. Redeemer is a local leader in coordinating care ministries in the Mountain Home area to meet the spiritual and temporal needs of their neighbors.

Peace Lutheran Church, Mountain Home is led by ***Deacon Bill Schutte***, who has applied for colloquy as a Specific Ministry Pastor. The people at Peace joyfully serve their neighbors in Christ's name through their community activities.

Grace Lutheran Church, Mountain View is served by part-time pastor ***Rev. Kenneth Taglauer*** (Emeritus) of Mountain Home, with a special emphasis on care for vacationers coming into the area.

Zion Lutheran Church, Waldenburg is served by ***Rev. Joel Krogen***. Zion is now in a dual parish relationship with Hope, Batesville. They continue to co-sponsor Concordia Christian Academy in Jonesboro along with Pilgrim congregation, and have provided Word and Sacrament ministry to their rural setting now for over 130 years.

There have been a lot of changes in the congregations of Region One since our 2015 Convention. Several new missions and ministries were started within congregations, and we have begun one new Church Plant in Fayetteville. In all those changes, one thing did not change. Our Lord Jesus Christ and the message of His Cross remain unchanging. We have a changeless Christ and changeless Message for a changing world and culture.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Paul Hass

Mid-South District Vice President, Region One



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR REGION TWO

The Lord of the Church continues to pour out His blessings upon His people throughout Region Two of the Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, for He is our Rock, our Fortress and our Salvation and we are His witnesses in this part of His Kingdom.

The congregations of Region Two of the Mid-South District are found in a wide variety of settings, urban, suburban, small town, retirement communities and rural areas in which the Lord of the Church gives out His gifts through the faithful service of professional church workers, ordained and commissioned, and in which lay people use their time, talent and treasure to support the Lord's work both in their locale as well as supporting the work of the District and Synod. Region Two is geographically found in central and southeast Arkansas and is composed of The Stuttgart Circuit, the Little Rock-North Circuit and the Little Rock-South Circuit. Reflecting the Church at-large some of these congregations are experiencing significant growth while others may be in various states of decline, though the harvest fields are still ripe for the harvest. Some of the congregations in our region are provided pulpit supply as they are unable to afford a full-time pastor, also a trend in the Church at-large, while other congregations have expanded staffs to meet the spiritual needs of their parishioners, equipping them to be witnesses of God's grace and mercy in their communities.

As the Congregations of the Mid-South District assemble in Convention under the theme, "The Lord Is My Rock, My Fortress and My Salvation!" we are reminded that this past October the congregations of our District gathered in various ways and provided a variety of activities in celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. What a great time that was and continues to be for those who are Lutheran Christians. At the same time congregations in Region Two marked various milestones in their history, giving thanks and praise to God for keeping His promises through the person and work of Jesus Christ. The oldest congregation in Region Two is **First Lutheran Church – Little Rock**. This year, 2018, is the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of First. They will be celebrating that anniversary throughout this year culminating with The Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, former Speaker of The Lutheran Hour, preaching at their anniversary celebration on December 9th. So too, **St. Paul – Gillett** is observing its one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary in 2018. They did so with a special Service in February. **Trinity – North Little Rock** marks the sharing of the Gospel for seventy-five years during this year. In 2017, **First Lutheran – Hot Springs** marked their one hundredth anniversary, as they also celebrated Reformation 500. They did so holding special Services throughout the year. **Grace Lutheran – Little Rock** celebrated their seventy-fifth anniversary with a special Service on Reformation Sunday in 2016, with former Mid-South District President, The Reverend David Callies, a son of Grace, preaching. Also in 2016, **Shepherd of Peace – Maumelle** observed their twenty-fifth anniversary in April with a special Service and dinner. Other congregations in Region Two observed various anniversaries for their congregation and for some of their professional church workers during the last three years since our last District Convention.

The Reverend Donald White, St. John Lutheran Church – Stuttgart, serves as Circuit Visitor for **the Stuttgart Circuit**. He was appointed to that position following the retirement of The Reverend Dean Clausung who faithfully served in that position for several years. In the Stuttgart Circuit there are challenges filling the pulpits at **St. John in Crossett (1964)** and at **Faith in Magnolia (1960)**. We

pray that the Lord will bless these small congregations with growth through the efforts of its laity and those who serve their vacancies.

St. John – Stuttgart (1882) where Pastor White has served for the last six years continues to support a Lutheran School with Preschool that begins at six weeks and runs through the Sixth Grade. Enrollment continues to be very positive, showing steady growth. During the 2017 year St. John attempted to do something Reformation oriented on the last Sunday of each month leading up to the celebration on Reformation Sunday. Those activities culminated with a Reformation Walk and lots of German food.

Zion – Ulm (1881) and **Our Savior – Brinkley (1951)** are a dual parish served by The Rev. Johnny Graham since 2006. Their Wednesday evening study sessions at Zion have centered in study of the Lutheran Confessions. During this past year Zion followed Synod's recommendation to read and study The Augsburg Confession as they celebrated the Reformation's 500th year, even as the members of both Zion and Our Savior were encouraged to participate in circuit and district celebration events.

Our Savior – El Dorado (1931), served by **The Reverend Charles Johnson**, who also serves the vacancy at **Faith – Magnolia (1960)**, invited the community to its Reformation Service and meal. They filled their sanctuary to standing room only, and after Service those in attendance feasted on a meal which featured the preparation of a whole hog. The congregation will attempt to make this an annual event.

St. Paul – Gillett (1893) and **St. Luke – DeWitt (1945)** have been served the last sixteen years by The Reverend Chad Phillip. That represents Pastor Phillip's entire time in ministry. St. Paul – Gillett sponsored a Reformation Walk and its first ever Oktoberfest for Reformation 500 and has continued celebrating into this year observing its 125th anniversary on February 5th. St. Paul continues to operate a pre-school for three and four year olds. Their quilters are prolific in support of the Lutheran World Relief Care Van.

Trinity – Pine Bluff (1894) received their new Pastor, **The Reverend Stewart Marshall**, as he was installed there in August, 2016. Their Reformation tradition of a Service followed by a dinner was observed. For the 500th anniversary Trinity arranged to show on site, the movie, "Martin Luther – The Idea That Changed the World."

The Reverend Kevin Conger, Hope Lutheran Church – Jacksonville, serves as Circuit Visitor for the **Little Rock – North Circuit**. Currently the congregation of **Our Shepherd – Searcy (1981)** is vacant in the Little Rock – North Circuit. All of the other pulpits are filled.

Hope – Jacksonville (1969) Pastor Conger has served in ministry for eighteen years, all of which as Pastor at Hope – Jacksonville. For the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Hope hosted an Oktoberfest which included a 'Luther 5K Run'. This event raised funds for First Responders of Jacksonville with Hope presenting checks in the amount of \$3,000 to the local Police and Fire Departments respectively. Hope will observe its fiftieth anniversary next year.

First – Little Rock (1868) **The Reverend Ronald Bacic** has also served his entire ministry as Pastor of First where he began serving in 2009. First continues to host the Central Arkansas Reformation Service and Oktoberfest Dinner which follows this Service that is attended by area Pastors and members from area congregations who gather to celebrate our Lutheran heritage. This Reformation 500 year was no different. Throughout this past year the Men's Network at First watched the Lutheran

Hour Ministry series “A Man Named Martin: The Man, The Moment and The Movement.” As mentioned previously this is the 150th anniversary of First. A Service of Thanksgiving was recently held in April as part of that celebration which observed the 130th anniversary of their current sanctuary.

Christ – Little Rock (1980) The Reverend Daniel Hauser has served as Pastor of Christ Church and School the last six years. John Mathis is currently a SMP vicar raised up to serve at Christ. In observance of Reformation 500 a sermon series entitled “Sola Alone” was presented along with a special study of Rick Steves’ “Luther and the Reformation” as well as use of the “A Man Named Martin” video series from Lutheran Hour Ministries. In the last three years they have renovated their ‘Mothers’ Day Out ‘facility to expand their services to include year round care for six weeks to two years old in addition to their Day School which covers Pre-School through Eighth Grade. Outreach activities have included the continuation of their seasonal “Egg Dash” and “Trunk or Treat” drawing up to 2,000 people at each event. In 2016 they partnered with a local high school and have raised over \$7,000 to date to help impoverished children and their families through this charitable outreach effort.

Peace – Conway (1964) The Reverend John Gierke, who also serves as Mid-South District Secretary, has served Peace for sixteen of his twenty-two years in ministry. Peace recognized Pastor Gierke’s twenty years in the ministry in 2016 with a festive celebration and dinner. The Reverend Mark Tooley, a SMP Pastor who was ordained in 2015 and completed his SMP work in 2017, serves Peace as Assistant Pastor, Psychologist and Director of Family Ministry. Katherine Tooley continues to serve Peace as part-time Director of Worship, a role she has had for ten years. Celebrating Reformation 500 Peace hosted a viewing of “Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World” at a local Conway theatre, hosted an Oktoberfest with a Reformation theme and had celebration Services on October 29th. They have repurposed their Family Life Center to serve as a temporary sanctuary, replacing the sanctuary that was built in 1966, as they make plans for its future facilities.

St. Matthew – Conway (1998) The Reverend David Mohr serves as Pastor of St. Matthew which is in its twentieth year in 2018. Pastor Mohr served a deferred vicarage at St. Matthew which was converted to a Call to serve as their Pastor. He has now served them as Pastor the last five years. During his pastorate the congregation purchased the facilities of Advent Lutheran Church (ELCA) which now serves as their permanent home.

Shepherd of Peace – Maumelle (1991) and Trinity – North Little Rock (1943) These two congregations became a dual parish in 2016 and The Reverend David Vandercook was installed as their Pastor in the fall of 2016. In the spring of that year Shepherd of Peace celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary with a special Service and dinner. 2018 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary for Trinity which was formed originally from First – Little Rock, as was Grace – Little Rock during that same time of expanding the ministry in the Little Rock area.

Faith – Fairfield Bay (1972) The Reverend Peter Ave-Lallemant celebrated his forty-fifth anniversary as an Ordained Pastor last November, the first anniversary of his serving as Pastor of Faith. In July of 2017 Faith celebrated Reformation 500 by inviting Dr. Eric Herrmann, Professor of Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to preach for their Service.

Our Savior – Cabot (2003) The Reverend Daniel McDougall has served as Pastor of Our Savior since 2011. During this year Our Savior will observe its fifteenth anniversary.

The Reverend Jonathan Beyer, First Lutheran Church – Hot Springs, serves as the Circuit Visitor for the **Little Rock – South Circuit**. Vacancies at **Immanuel – Alexander (1880)**, **Community of Faith – Little Rock (1997)** and **St. Luke – Malvern (1965)** are being filled responsibly so that ministry to God’s people in those locations continues without full-time church workers.

First – Hot Springs (1917) where Pastor Beyer has served for twenty-four of his thirty-three years in ministry, celebrated its one hundredth anniversary in 2017 and continues to reach out with the Gospel by touching lives of many students in the Hot Springs public schools. Following Services on Reformation Sunday, First had an evening Reformation celebration with talent and speeches by Martin Luther (played by Rev. Bob Benke, Faith – Hot Springs Village) and Martin Luther King, Jr. (played by Clyde Hughley). First currently has a Vicar that is being trained in the Synod’s EIIT ministry track.

LakePointe – Hot Springs (2005) has been served since its beginning by its mission planter **The Reverend Greg Bearss**, who served his vicarage at First – Hot Springs. In observance of Reformation 500 discussions were a part of the Sunday previous to Reformation Sunday and those discussions served as the beginning of a message series done by Pastor Bearss. LakePointe has been averaging 150 Baptisms a year, baptizing 36 this past Easter where 1,500 people attended to hear about Jesus’ Resurrection.

Zion – Avilla (1881) is served by **The Reverend Michael Schleider**. Pastor Schleider was installed as Pastor at Zion in 2009 and has served his entire ministry there. In 2017 Zion’s original historic structure, which also housed its offices and its food pantry and clothes closet, was tragically destroyed by the actions of an arsonist. Regardless of their loss they have continued this successful outreach ministry to their community. Avilla Christian Academy, organized in 1990, serves students from PK through 12th grade. They have had three graduating classes from their high school. For Reformation 500 the people of Zion read through the entire Bible in a year with daily devotional reading in honor of the Reformation and along with First – Benton and Friends in Christ – Bryant hosted “Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the Word” at a theatre in Benton.

Friends in Christ – Bryant (1999) has been served by **The Reverend Emil Woerner** since he was installed as their Pastor in 2009. Pastor Woerner’s entire ministry has been at Friends in Christ. For Reformation 500, Friends in Christ used the CPH Vacation Bible School program “Mighty Fortress” and joined with Zion – Avilla and First – Benton for the Luther movie. Pastor Woerner used the month of October, that they deemed “Red October”, to preach a sermon series on the Reformation encouraging its members to wear red every Sunday in October. In support of their ministry to children in need of clothing called “Kid’s Closet”, Friends held their Fourth Annual Oktoberfest.

First – Benton (1960) has been served by **The Reverend James Burns** since 2002. In celebration of Reformation 500, First had weekly Wednesday night classes during September and October dealing with the history and theology of the Lutheran Reformation. Along with Zion – Avilla and Friends in Christ – Bryant, the members of First enjoyed the Martin Luther movie which was shown in Benton.

Faith – Hot Springs Village is served by **The Reverend Robert Benke** who has served in ministry for over forty years, first as a Commissioned Teacher, and since 1985 as an Ordained Minister. Pastor Benke portrayed Martin Luther at the Reformation celebration at First – Hot Springs and for Faith’s LWML / Ladies’ Aid Christmas luncheon. Faith also sponsored a viewing of the Martin Luther movie for the Reformation 500 observance. Faith is a very active congregation serving in that retirement community.

Grace – Little Rock, which celebrated their seventy-fifth anniversary in 2016, supports an Early Childhood Development Center that serves the congregation and the community providing care and education for children six weeks to Pre-K 3 and 4 year olds. Mr. Charles Russell was Called to serve Grace as Director of Parish Music in the summer of 2017. Charlie is a graduate of Concordia University – Wisconsin. Grace used the CPH Vacation Bible School program “Mighty Fortress”, held its annual Reformation Sunday Service and New Member Potluck, hosted the Luther movie at a Little Rock theatre offering free admission the next evening, and on Reformation Day held a Harp and Organ recital and Vespers Service to observe Reformation 500. I have been privileged to serve as Pastor of Grace for twenty-three years.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James C. Walter
Mid-South District Vice President, Region Two



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR REGION THREE

It has been a tremendous blessing and growing experience to have worked with many congregations in Region Three within the Mid-South District. Serving as Board of Directors Chairman with President Roger Paavola has been a real privilege and personal challenge as we have sought the very best for God's Kingdom and His people through our shared ministries in the Mid-South. May God bless our efforts led by His Spirit, and may the Gospel be shared in winsome ways to both those who love Him and to those who are lost without Him.

MEMPHIS CIRCUIT REPORT, Rev. Mark Goble, Circuit Visitor

There are 14 congregations in the Memphis Circuit – two in Arkansas, one in Mississippi, and eleven in Tennessee

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ FORREST CITY, AR

Faith Lutheran is keeping the doors open for the unbelievers to enter in. They are using the "Every One His Witness" core module to help prepare members to reach out with God's Work to the people in their communities, especially those who may be moving into the area to work at a new factory which will employ 800 workers (they plan to begin operations this fall.) The people of Faith are praying that some of them will also find a church home at Faith Lutheran to fulfill their spiritual needs. Deacon Earl Burghart serves the congregation at Faith Lutheran Church.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ WEST MEMPHIS, AR

The congregation of St. Paul continues to provide a Word and Sacrament ministry to about fifteen people. Over the years many have gone to be with their Lord so the makeup of the congregation may change but rarely number of members. A baby girl was baptized this past year, while the newest adult member was elected as the congregation president. Pastors Ron Wiese and Phil Schmidt provided Word and Sacrament ministry for several years. Quite frankly, they are the reason the doors of St. Paul Lutheran Church are still open. Their ministry was both a gift and a blessing. Deacon Tom Moore has served at St. Paul for about 18 years. His previous congregation, Christ the King Lutheran, Memphis, is now a partner in the Gospel with Rev. Neugebauer serving as Deacon Moore's supervising pastor. St. Paul has served the nursing home directly behind the church for about twenty years with reading of timely and appropriate Scripture along with hymns. It has been an opportunity to educate and train in the Gospel. St. Paul has maintained a ministry team for the nursing home that is there **every** Sunday after Bible class. They wait daily for what God has in store for them. They have been blessed and they know it.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ OLIVE BRANCH, MS

Beautiful Savior offers a worship service at 10:15 every Sunday morning. They also have a Sunday morning and a Wednesday evening Bible Study. There are 5 youth in confirmation class. Once per month, they deliver meals to Rolling Hills, a senior low-income housing facility in Olive Branch. Several of the women have started a Prayer Shawl Ministry that meets on Tuesday mornings. These women crochet and knit shawls, scarves, baby caps, lap blankets, etc. These items are distributed to various locations, including St. Jude, assisted living facilities and hospice care facilities. They provide a puppet ministry that performs several times per year. Their LWML organization is very active and conducts several projects throughout the year, including an Angel Tree ministry at Christmas time.

Beautiful Savior participates in the Olive Branch Chamber of Commerce and the Olive Branch Christian Coalition which gives them numerous opportunities to network in the community. They also have adopted an elementary school and provide breakfast for the teachers a couple of times per year.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ COLLIERVILLE, TN

The pastors, Rev. Rob Harbin and Rev. Clayton Sellers, and the people of Faith Lutheran Church and preschool, Collierville, TN, were excited to welcome Jenny Whitely as their new Music Leader and Missional Minister at the end of 2017. Now with four Called staff, Faith Lutheran looks to expand its music ministry and outreach into the preschool and community.

Faith Lutheran Preschool was identified by *The Lutheran Foundation* as one of the top six early childhood centers within The LCMS. The assessment was based on growth, church-school relationship and community involvement.

Faith Lutheran Preschool has also been asked to beta-test a new evaluation tool for the NLSA accreditation process. It's an honor that NLSA chose Faith to help develop this prototype.

GRACE CELEBRATION LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ CORDOVA, TN

Highlights of the ministry at Grace Celebration include a variety of outreach events and celebrations. Recently, Rev. Jim Belles was ordained and installed. This spring, members of the congregation provided desserts and served lunch at the Memphis Union Mission. Last fall, over 250 "blessings bags" were filled with essential hygiene and snack items and distributed to people experiencing homelessness in our community. During the Christmas season, the local elementary students created hand-made gifts to give to their family and friends. Since 1993, Grace has continued its mission of "reaching out, caring for, and building up people toward maturity in Christ."

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ DYERSBURG, TN

Trinity Lutheran Church is served by Rev. Bill Stevenson.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ JACKSON, TN

There has been lots of exciting activity at Concordia this year. They recently received Alex Lobo as their music and outreach director in order to begin the process of fulfilling the congregation's long-time goal of founding a music and arts academy. This being his direction, they will be hosting a music workshop in June of 2018 led by very well credentialed musicians who specialize in a variety of instruments, ranging from piano and organ to harp and hand bells. They look forward to seeing how this program will serve their community in Jackson and provide new resources for enriching the music in their Divine Service.

Rev. Eric Rudsenske and his wife have greatly enjoyed his first year as Concordia's pastor. He is so thankful for the people that God has placed under his care, and also for all of the support from fellow pastors in the Mid-South District. He looks forward to the years to come as they see the blessings God has in store for their little Lutheran oasis in Jackson!

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ MEMPHIS, TN

Christ the King has embarked on a major capital fund effort to raise monies for new buildings and ministry expansion. Christ the King is actively involved in the Memphis community, as well as world missions. This congregation is served by Rev. Chuck Neugebauer and Rev. Mark Goble.

CROSS OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ MEMPHIS, TN

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church is served by Rev. Russell Belisle. The congregation continues to develop their small group ministry, and they are beginning the visioning process.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ MEMPHIS, TN

On July 16, 2017, Immanuel welcomed Rev. Greg Prauner to the ministry team. He was installed as the new Associate Pastor, and serves alongside Senior Pastor, Will Miller. Immanuel has a variety of ministries which serve her members and the greater Memphis community.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ MEMPHIS, TN

The neighborhood in Raleigh is undergoing a lot of changes; the old mall is torn down and new buildings are going up. People are interested in investing in property again, so that is a good thing. The people of Messiah are happy about their mission project to help the military. Messiah has a number of military families. They have been working with *Faith Comes by Hearing* to support MP3 players (called Bible Sticks, cost \$25 per family) to the military.

Chaplains (military) have said younger generations don't read the Bible but they listen. In 2017 we were able to raise \$6500 and have a dollar for dollar match so the total was \$13,000 to military personnel and vets in Veterans Hospitals. It is a project that works well in the community – the money doesn't go to Messiah, but for the mission project. A quarterly sale of leftover estate items is stored, organized, and sold through internet ads. The first project in 2018 brought in \$2,600. Rev. Don Schmidt's goal for this year is \$20,000.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ MEMPHIS, TN

Trinity is being served by Rev. Dr. Terry Tieman. With the blessing of church leadership, many initiatives are underway to reach out into the community with the Gospel.

GRACEPOINT LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ MUNFORD, TN

Since hitting the reset switch in 2016, GracePoint has realigned its vision from inward to outward, from country club to community center. They have planted several points of entry, launched attractional events, and pushed out a strong presence through social media. GracePoint is currently working with Laborers for Christ and LCEF in pursuit of a greater impact in its community for Christ by launching the very first LCMS congregation in Tipton County, Tennessee. The vision of their future first phase includes a coffee house, community center and new worship center. God is good all the time. And all the time, God is good.

HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ OAKLAND, TN

Holy Spirit is maintaining a presence in the community by offering a monthly activity for Junior High youth in the county. They open their fellowship hall for the youth to come and be supervised for a couple of hours in a safe environment. The congregation has faced some challenges with their facility but, by the grace of God, has overcome them. While Holy Spirit Lutheran Church hasn't experienced significant growth, the church stands and meets the needs of its members. They have recently moved from a deacon-led congregation to SMP Pastor-led, and they pray God will continue to bless and sustain them into where He leads. Rev. Jerry Stobaugh is the pastor at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church.

PADUCAH CIRCUIT REPORT, Rev. Larry Peters, Circuit Visitor

There are seven congregations in the Paducah Circuit –four in Kentucky and three in Tennessee.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ BOWLING GREEN, KY

Holy Trinity Church and School continue to grow. They continue to be served by Pastor Andy Toopes and have added Pastor Mark Press as Associate (part-time). They are working on a mission site in the Franklin, KY, area and Pastor Press is leading this effort. The school continues to innovate under the leadership of Bill Hiskey, who serves as Director of School Ministries for the congregation.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ HOPKINSVILLE, KY

Faith Lutheran Church was able to construct a wall separating the sanctuary from the fellowship space, replacing and updating lighting, replacing the roof, and generally renewing the facility to serve them better. Part of this was accomplished by a successful Funding the Ministry campaign. Faith Lutheran Church continues to be served by Pastor Michael Croom.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ MURRAY, KY

Immanuel called Pastor Jim Dunn as their new pastor in January of 2016, after Pastor Chad Foster accepted a call to Columbus, IN. They have also enjoyed having Linda Dunn serve as organist. Immanuel is located across from Murray State University. The congregation added on fellowship space and did some major remodeling recently as well.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ PADUCAH, KY

St. Paul called Pastor David Appold first as associate pastor and then, when Pastor Corey Aker accepted a call to South Dakota, they called Pastor Appold to serve as sole pastor. The congregation remodeled the historic worship space after a mold issue and has enjoyed the renewed facility. The congregation continues to grow.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ CLARKSVILLE, TN

In July of 2015 the congregation saw the ordination and installation of their new associate pastor, Pastor Daniel Ulrich, who came to Grace upon assignment from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne. He joins Pastor Larry Peters who celebrated 25 years at Grace and was honored with a special hymn festival in January of 2018. The congregation continues to be served part-time by DCE Jo-Ann Thomack. The Preschool has a hundred students and is directed by Mrs. Linda Cribbs.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ PARIS, TN

Christ Lutheran Church is small but stable and has been served part-time by Pastor Luther Hasz. They have completed the full remodeling of the space in their building to serve them and the needs of the congregation well. Since the last convention they have welcomed new members into the congregation.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ UNION CITY, TN

Faith was served by Intentional Interim Pastor David Lampman for 14 months and is now being served by Pastor Shawn Hunze. They have entered a pastor sharing arrangement with Trinity Lutheran Church in Dyersburg and the hope is that this arrangement will be formalized and Pastor Hunze called to serve as the permanent pastor of both congregations. Both congregations are small but stable and look forward to a renewed future.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CIRCUIT REPORT, Rev. Gerald Meyer, Circuit Visitor

There are eight congregations in the Middle Tennessee Circuit.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ COLUMBIA, TN

Trinity Lutheran Church continues their efforts to share the love of Christ with the community through their Three Star rated Child Care ministry, vegetable garden ministry, participation in the “People’s Table” soup kitchen to feed the hungry, and their evangelistic presence at the “Mule Day” festival each year. Trinity is served by Rev. Bill Wagner.

HEAVENLY HOST LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ COOKEVILLE, TN

Heavenly Host celebrated the arrival of Mr. Reid Otto as the school’s administrator, celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of the congregation, and celebrated the Five Hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. Thanks be to God! Rev. Andrew Smith is the pastor at Heavenly Host.

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ CROSSVILLE, TN

Shepherd of the Hills in Crossville, TN, has been experiencing tremendous growth in membership due to people moving into the area and responding positively to their warm and receptive fellowship. Celebrating five hundred years since the posting of the Ninety-five Theses has been a highlight. The emphasis on sound, liturgical practice, faithful adherence to and study of Sacred Scripture and commitment to weekly Holy Communion all serve as defining characteristics in their ministry as a sign of God’s kingdom in the local community. They are thrilled to be expanding their Fellowship Hall. Rev. Andrew Abraham serves as pastor at Shepherd of the Hills.

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ MCMINNVILLE, TN

At Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, McMinnville, God continues to bless the congregation through the preaching of the Word and the administration of the sacraments. Christ is faithful on the days when the pews are close to full, and when there is plenty of room left over. Thanks be to God. Shepherd of the Hills is served by Rev. David McMinn.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ MURFREESBORO, TN

Rev. Carl Wenck and Rev. Alan Thoe serve as pastors at Grace Lutheran Church. Grace continues to find ways to make their presence known in the community. They have Adult Confirmation each year. They completed a remodel of the sanctuary, added a new Johannus Organ and a seven foot grand piano.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ SMYRNA, TN

Hope Lutheran Church in Smyrna, TN, is a small group meeting on Saturday evenings and served as a vacancy by Rev. Eric Phillips from Nashville. They are few but faithful, and while there is life, there is Hope.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ THOMPSON’S STATION, TN

Faith Lutheran, Thompson’s Station, is in its fourth year with Ethiopian Mekane Yesus membership with two rostered Ethiopian Associate Pastors in Rev. Fasil Alemayehu and Rev. Alebachew Teshome conducting the Diving Service in largely, the native Amharic language in their rented space in Antioch, TN, as well as joining into festival worship and fellowship within Thompson’s Station. Also, hosting a number of local groups, the congregation has been regular sponsors of a school and a half in Haiti through Trinity HOPE. Now in the seventh year, the annual “Festival of Hope” has been moved to a bigger space in a city park. Rev. Curt Hoover serves as the pastor at Faith.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ TULLAHOMA, TN

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL is now being aired on three Radio Stations! “Moments in Faith”, a 3-minute devotion from Faith Lutheran Church, airs Wednesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. on FM 105.1, reaching 250,000 people. “Gotta Minute?” 1-minute devotions from Faith twice a day, Monday-Friday, as well as a 15 minute spot each Sunday morning air simultaneously on CAT Country FM 101.5 and WHMT 740 AM, again, reaching 250,000 people. The Lord blessed Faith Lutheran Church with 17 new members last year! Faith is served by Rev. Martin Nutter.

NASHVILLE CIRCUIT REPORT, Rev. Ken Shaw, Circuit Visitor

There are eight congregations in the Nashville Circuit.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ BURNS, TN

St. John, Burns, continues to look for ways to serve its community. A Community Health Fair, Birthday Breakfast for Jesus, and Trunk-n-Treat have grown as more and more people are attending each year. St. John has created relationships with the American Red Cross to be a shelter and the YMCA to help out with their warming center for the homeless. Once again, they are having growth in worship after several years of static numbers, with an average of 92 on Sundays. In 2018, St. John’s church building will go through a face-lift, with a new LED sign, new carpet and tiles, fresh paint inside and outside, and updated audio and visual equipment in the sanctuary. Rev. Nathan Jansen serves as pastor at St. John.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ GALLATIN, TN

Trinity Lutheran Church, Gallatin, continues to faithfully serve the Lord and His people with God’s unchanging Word and Sacraments. They rejoice and give thanks that the Lord of the Harvest continues to enlarge His flock each year as He calls, gathers, and enlightens those who were formerly living in darkness. Rev. Ken Shaw is the pastor at Trinity.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ HERMITAGE, TN

Emmanuel Lutheran church is served by Rev. Keith Enko. Emmanuel continues sharing Christ through their preschool and their work with Trinity HOPE that feeds Haitian school children.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ MADISON, TN

Ascension Lutheran Church is served by Rev. Greg Bauch. Ascension was blessed since the past District Convention to call a candidate from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Rev. Bauch was ordained and installed in June 2016.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ NASHVILLE, TN

Rev. Eric Phillips serves as the pastor at Concordia. Concordia Lutheran Church, Nashville, is a warm and faithful congregations that’s been seeing slow growth for 6-7 years now and is about to triple its under-two population. Its modest sphere of influence is greatly expanded by a YouTube channel hosting professional-quality sermon videos and other videos on specific topics, including recent series on Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ NASHVILLE, TN

Rev. Lane Reuter serves as the Senior Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church. In the spring of 2016, Our Savior called Erik Christensen to be Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Families upon his graduation from the seminary and ordination. God has blessed this abundantly with much growth in these two areas. Their Academy continues to focus on early childhood education and is reaching many families in the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Their church continues to share the

Gospel with its members, community, and world through outreach to police, fire, EMT workers, military, and a local high school. In addition, through partnering with Trinity HOPE, they send people on mission trips to Haiti.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ NASHVILLE, TN

Redeemer Lutheran Church is served by Rev. Philip Young. They have been blessed to embark upon a renovation project of their nave.

RHYTHM CITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ NASHVILLE, TN

Rhythm City Lutheran Church, led by Rev. David Ficken, is committed to connecting disconnected people to Jesus and that continues to happen as they move into a new worship facility called “Clementine Hall” on the west side of Nashville. God’s provision is tremendous as they look to engage an entirely new neighborhood with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and by His grace, they will continue to grow so that they might be able to plant more churches in the surrounding area!

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ WHITE HOUSE, TN

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is served by Deacon Randy Sakach who is nearing completion of the SMP colloquy process. Deacon Sakach is supervised by Rev. Gene Henke.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Charles Neugebauer

Mid-South District Vice President, Region Three



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR REGION FOUR

It has been my privilege to serve East Tennessee as Vice President of Region 4 for a final term. It has been a shared blessing with Circuit Visitors **Michael Miller** in the Knoxville Circuit, **Steve Harmon** in the Tri-Cities, and **Gil Pingel** in the Chattanooga Circuit.

First Lutheran Church and School in Knoxville is served by **Pastor Edward Schmidt** who was installed in November of 2017. The school has seen a growing enrollment.

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Harriman is served by **Pastor Michael Miller**. In 2017 they hosted a Reformation 500/German Fest that was attended by over 250 people. In 2018 they welcomed a COMPASS team from the District and are planning to implement the suggestions they received.

Praise Lutheran Church is served by **Pastor Derek Roberts**. This growing and vibrant congregation has generously supported a foster parent association and foster children. They sponsor John Engwall as seminary student. Gretchen Roberts serves on the Board of Directors for Concordia Publishing House.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Loudon is led by two pastors, **Senior Pastor Brian Truog** and **Associate Pastor Mark Rhoads**. Jewel the Comfort dog has ministered all over including others states. Heaven Scent Blanket ministry (blankets for preemies) celebrated their 10,000th blanket. The church sponsored great events: The Case for Christ Movie, Being Lutheran by Pastor Trevor Sutton, Health Seminars and Veterans' Breakfast.

Christus Victor Lutheran Church is shepherded by **Pastor Bill Ondracka**. On May 5th of this year they will host the Regional Lutheran Hour Convention. The following day they will celebrate their 50th anniversary. They have been beautifying their campus and have seen new members entering the church.

The Point Lutheran Church in Knoxville is led by **Pastor Adam Woldt**. He arrived from the Seminary in June of 2017. The church has had to move to a new theater but has maintained its character and appeal to the community.

Celebration Lutheran Church in Seymour is served by retired **Pastor Lou Trebus**.

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg is served by **Pastor David Graves**. The church has a thriving pre-school. On June 4, 2017 it celebrated its 170th anniversary! It was to be expected (coming from a town named Wartburg) that they would greatly celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and they did! They also dedicated the Good Shepherd Memorial Garden on Good Shepherd Sunday.

Grace Lutheran Church in Knoxville, the church I serve as Senior Pastor, welcomed new **Associate Pastor Travis Ferguson**. The church has continued to grow, praise God! We became debt free in 2016. We have greatly improved our outreach using technology and served our community in a variety of ways.

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Sevierville is served by **Pastor Robert Portier**. The church heroically and sacrificially served the Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge communities when they were devastated with a deadly and destructive wild fire. St. Paul continues to grow, and supports many local, national and international ministries.

Faith Lutheran Church in Oak Ridge is led by **Pastor Kirk Abatelli**. In the past three years they have financially donated \$225,880 to local and national ministries. They started a “Send Me Sunday” a community service outreach. They are also very active in social ministry projects.

Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Sharps Chapel served by **Pastor Paul Kritsch** is a three year old church that has made great strides. They sponsor an amazing number of community outreach ministries. They have consistently grown and hope to break ground on their own building in 2019.

First Lutheran Church in Chattanooga is pastored by **Pastor Paul Bushur** as of 2017. They also supervise and support **Belvoir Christian Academy** in existence for 131 years along with **Good Shepherd Lutheran**.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Chattanooga is served by **Pastor Chris Sheets**. Along with **First** they have raised \$500,000 over a three year period to support the school. Good Shepherd has partnered with the Lutheran Church in Uganda training lay leaders and supporting missionary Rachel Meyer. The church has also started a new ministry called Grace Place and called **Pastor Ed Rosser** to lead it. It features a Saturday worship service that has already reached an attendance of 45.

Bridge City Lutheran Community led by **Pastor Josh Woodrow** in Chattanooga is unique in our District. It is an intentional multi-ethnic church plant pursuing racial reconciliation. They have earned a tremendous reputation and Chattanooga has given them a piece of property with a building on it.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Chattanooga is shepherded by **Pastor Barry Hildebrandt**. The church has sent many into the ordained ministry and currently has one to graduate in 2019 (Nate McCarty). They had a COMPASS evaluation and are working on the recommendations. They have further developed their Saturday Evening Contemporary Worship Service. Also, the church has had significant community outreach to an elementary school and to a homeless ministry.

Athens Lutheran Church is served by **Pastor Don Coulter**. He arrived in November of 2017 to serve this church which is the only Lutheran church in two counties. Already, Pastor Coulter has had two adult baptisms and the church has led a number of community outreach events.

First Lutheran Church in Cleveland has been faithfully served by **Pastor Robert Seaton** for the past 19 years. They are continually connecting with Lee University and averaging five adult confirmands every year.

Concordia Lutheran Church in Kingsport is served by **Pastor Paul Becker**. In 2017 they had a wonderful hymn festival as well as celebrating 500th Reformation Anniversary with a reader’s theatre musical presentation of “Martin and the Doors.” The church does community outreach at a local elementary school.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Johnson City is served by **Pastor Steve Harmon**. He has faithfully served at Bethlehem for 20 years. They have assisted three deacons on to the SMP process. They are exploring ministry to East Tennessee State University.

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Elizabethton was served by **Pastor Erwin Lueker**. Grace Lutheran Abingdon is served by **Steve Meier**. **Pastor John Freitag** and **Deacon Tom Kyner** serve faithfully in Hawkins County worship in Rogersville.

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Morristown and **Christ of the Cumberlands Lutheran Church** in Harrogate are a dual congregation served by **Pastor Gordon Smith**. Pastor Smith in his six years has seen both congregations grow. Our Savior is having its first junior Confirmation in the last three years.

Region 4 includes many retired pastors who are very, very active. The three circuits have well attended meetings and exhibit a great spirit of comradery.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Rich Elseroad
Vice-President, Region Four



**REPORT OF
THE DISTRICT SECRETARY ON NOMINATIONS
FOR THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, member congregations of the District received the official notices and ballots for nominations for the Office of District President before December 28th, 2017, “six months prior to the opening date of the convention.” [Bylaw 8.3.1 (b)]. Each member congregation was “entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod two ministers of religion--ordained as candidates for president of the district.” [Bylaw 8.3.1 (a)].

Thirty-five (35) congregations in the district nominated candidates. There were seven (7) rostered clergy who received at least one nomination for the Office of District President. Thus, the official tally [Bylaw 8.3.1 (c)] is reported alphabetically as:

The Reverend Jonathan M. Beyer, Hot Springs, AR (1)
The Reverend John P. Gierke, Conway, AR (2)
The Reverend Paul E. Hass, Bella Vista, AR (2)
The Reverend Charles J. Neugebauer, Memphis, TN (9)
The Reverend Roger C. Paavola, Memphis, TN (30)
The Reverend Lane B. Reuter, Nashville, TN (1)
The Reverend Andrew W. Toopes, Bowling Green, KY (2)

Note: The number in the parenthesis is the number of official nominations each one received.

According to District Bylaw 8.3.1 (d), the candidates for the Office of District President “shall be the five (5) ministers of religion—ordained receiving the highest number of votes on the nominating ballots of the congregations. The secretary of the district shall notify each of their nomination.”

The top five (5) nominees were contacted and requested to return written approval, within ten (10) days of notification, of their willingness to have their name included on the convention ballot. [Bylaw 8.3.1 (e)]

Of these five nominees, ***Reverend Paavola*** and ***Reverend Toopes*** consented to having their names on the convention ballot as candidates for the Office of District President for the 2018-2021 triennium. ***Reverend Gierke***, ***Reverend Hass***, and ***Reverend Neugebauer*** respectfully declined having their names on the ballot as candidates for the Office of District President for the 2018-2021 triennium.

According to Bylaw 8.3.1 (f), “In the event of death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee having the next highest number of votes shall be a candidate, upon his approval in writing.” The next nominees with the highest number of nominations were then contacted and requested to return their written approval for inclusion on the ballot, within ten (10) days of notification.

Reverend Beyer and **Reverend Reuter** respectfully declined having their names on the ballot as candidates for the Office of District President for the 2018-2021 triennium.

Therefore, at the Mid-South District Convention scheduled for June 28-30, 2018 in Memphis, TN, there will be two ordained candidates listed on the ballot for election for the Office of District President. The official candidates for the Office of District President of the Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod during the three-year term of 2018-2021 are:

The Reverend Dr. Roger C. Paavola, Memphis, TN
The Reverend Andrew W. Toopes, Bowling Green, KY

A brief biographical synopsis follows for each of the two candidates with the greatest number of votes in nomination and who have given their consent to serve if elected to the Office of District President of the Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. [Bylaw 8.3.1 (h)]

Bylaw 8.3.1 (i) states: “The convention shall have the right to alter the slate with floor nominations as provided in the bylaws.” (*referring to Bylaw 8.1.4: “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.”*)

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. John P. Gierke
District Secretary



**REPORT OF THE DISTRICT SECRETARY
BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF CANDIDATES
FOR THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

THE REVEREND DR. ROGER C. PAAVOLA

Address: 6062 Daybreak Drive
Bartlett, TN 38135

Educational Background: BA, Public Administration, University of Minnesota-Duluth (1969); MBA, Healthcare Administration, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (1977); MDIV, Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada (1997); DMIN, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana (2009)

Member of Synod Congregations: 70 years

Home Congregation: Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Synod Experience: Council of Presidents (COP)/District President (2012-present); Concordia Plan Services Board (2010-present)

District Experience: District President (2012-present); Secretary/2nd Vice-President (2009-2012)

Congregational Experience: Pastor, Heavenly Host Lutheran Church, Cookeville, TN (2000-2012); Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Beausejour, Manitoba, Canada (1997-2000).

Community and Other Experience: Hospital CEO in metropolitan medical centers (23 years); Preceptor and taught courses in administration for the University of Minnesota graduate program; served on numerous civic boards and councils: Regional Health Agency, hospital association legislative council, the board for the Communications Services to the Deaf, chairman for a state safety council; Habitat for Humanity; the American Cancer Society; the American Red Cross; lecturer on business, management, and Small Church Forums; published four books and several articles.

Brief Personal Statement: He and his wife, Pat, have been married since 1969 and have raised three children. Dr. Paavola chaired the Mission Action Council, and has served as speaker for Small Church Forums and Ministry Conferences. He has re-established the Rural-Small Town Ministry (RSTM) Task Force; developed a congregational diagnostic (C.A.R.); established an on-going Gifts and Development function (*IMPACT*); and established a strategic mission and ministry program (COMPASS).

THE REVEREND ANDREW W. TOOPES

Address: 334 Sylvan Circle
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Educational Background: BA, Concordia College, St. Paul, MN; MDIV, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN (1983)

Member of Synod Congregations: 61 years

Home Congregation: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY

Synod Experience: Convention Delegate (1992, 2016)

District Experience: Mission Board, Mid-South District (12 years); Mission Board Chairman, Eastern District (3 years); Mission Board, Florida-Georgia District (3 years); LWML Zone Counselor (14 years total)

Congregational Experience: Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY (6½ years); Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Stuttgart, AR (1½ years); Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Bradenton, FL (4 years); Pastor, Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, Malvern, PA (4 years); Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Avilla, AR (18½ years)

Community and Other Experience: Law Enforcement Chaplain for local law enforcement (30 years); Chaplain for ATF and DEA (25 years); Hospital Chaplain (35 years); Hospital Ethics Board (3 years)

Brief Personal Statement: I have been blessed to serve in the Mid-South under every District President we have had. All of these men have served the Lord faithfully in that office. I believe with all my heart that it is time for a change. We need to take a practical look at the office of District President. Do we need a full-time President or would a part-time position better serve our churches and show us as good stewards? Times are changing and just because a model worked 30 years ago does not mean it will work today.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT SECRETARY ON NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICES OF REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, member congregations of the District received the official notices and ballots for nominations for the Office of Regional Vice-President before December 28, 2017, “six months prior to the opening date of the convention.” [Bylaw 8.3.2.1 (b)]. Each member congregation was “entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod two ministers of religion--ordained as candidates for president of the district.” [Bylaw 8.3.2.1 (a)].

Thirty-one (31) congregations from the four electoral regions submitted nominations of at least one candidate. One nominating ballot was ruled ineligible, as the nominees proposed reside in a different geographic region than the region of the nominating congregation.

The nominees by electoral region (*incumbents are denoted by **) are listed below. Those who accepted nomination and will appear on the initial ballot for each region are in bold type.

Region 1 - Fayetteville, Fort Smith and Jonesboro Circuits

Total Number of Nominating Ballots Submitted: 8

<u>Nominee:</u>	<u>Number of Nominations</u>	<u>Acceptance/Declination</u>
* The Reverend Paul E. Hass	7	Accepted
<i>The Reverend Albert F. Quoss</i>	1	Respectfully Declined
The Reverend Joshua J. Willadsen	1	Accepted

Region 2 – Little Rock-North, Little Rock-South, and Stuttgart Circuits

Total Number of Nominating Ballots Submitted: 6

<u>Nominee:</u>	<u>Number of Nominations</u>	<u>Acceptance/Declination</u>
The Reverend Jonathan M. Beyer	1	Accepted
The Reverend Kevin R. Conger	1	Accepted
* The Reverend James C. Walter	4	Accepted

Region 3 – Memphis, Mid-Tennessee, Nashville, and Paducah Circuits

Total Number of Nominating Ballots Submitted: 6

<u>Nominee:</u>	<u>Number of Nominations</u>	<u>Acceptance/Declination</u>
<i>The Reverend Mark D. Goble</i>	1	Respectfully Declined
The Reverend William D. Miller	1	Accepted
* The Reverend Charles J. Neugebauer	4	Accepted
<i>The Reverend Lane B. Reuter</i>	1	Respectfully Declined
The Reverend Andrew W. Toopes	1	Accepted

Region 4 – Chattanooga, Johnson City, and Knoxville Circuits

Total Number of Nominating Ballots Submitted: 11

<u>Nominee:</u>	<u>Number of Nominations</u>	<u>Acceptance/Declination</u>
<i>The Reverend Barry C. Hildebrandt</i>	1	Accepted
<i>The Reverend Paul E. Kritsch</i>	1	Accepted
<i>The Reverend Michael M. Miller</i>	2	Respectfully Declined
<i>The Reverend Gilbert H. Pingel (EM)</i>	1	Accepted
<i>The Reverend Robert M. Portier</i>	3	Accepted
<i>The Reverend Derek A. Roberts</i>	4	Accepted
<i>The Reverend Robert G. Seaton</i>	1	Accepted
<i>The Reverend Brian M. Truog</i>	3	Accepted

According to Bylaw 8.3.2.1(d), the names of the five ministers of religion—ordained residing within the boundaries of each geographic region who receive the most nominating votes, and who give their consent to serve if elected, shall form the slate from which the district convention shall select by majority vote each regional vice-president. In the event of a tie for the final candidate position, all names involved in the tie shall be included as candidates. For the regional vice-presidential ballots, according to Bylaw 8.3.2.1(f), *“no opportunity shall be provided for additional nominations from the floor of the convention.”*

Upon the election of the regional vice-presidents, a final election will take place ranking the vice-presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority of voting delegates determining the first, second, third, and fourth vice-presidents in line of succession. [Bylaw 8.3.2.1(h)]

The Elections Committee will present these final ballots at the convention.

The biographical synopses submitted by the candidates are on the following pages.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. John P Gierke
District Secretary



**BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF CANDIDATES
FOR THE OFFICES OF REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT**

REGION 1

REV. PAUL E. HASS

Address: 6 Hallock Drive
Bella Vista, AR 72714

Educational Background: MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (2003); (currently in Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO DMIN program)

Member of Synod Congregations: 52 years

Home Congregation: Bella Vista Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, AR

Synod Experience: Convention Delegate (2010)

District Experience: Region 1 Vice-President (2012-present); Board of Directors Finance Committee – Chair (2012-2013), Member (2013-2015); Board of Directors Mission and Ministry Committee – Chair (2016-present); Convention Mission and Ministry Floor Committee – Chair (2015 Convention)

Congregational Experience: Pastor, Bella Vista Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, AR (2009 – present); Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Enid, OK (2003-2009)

Community and Other Experience:

Brief Personal Statement: None provided

REV. JOSHUA J. WILLADSEN

Address: 8012 Williamsburg Road
Fort Smith, AR 72903

Educational Background: BA, University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, WI; MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (2004)

Member of Synod Congregations: 41 years

Home Congregation: Bethel Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, AR

Synod Experience: Convention Delegate (2010, 2016); Floor Committee 11 Member – Structure & Administration (2016)

District Experience: Pastoral Counselor for Mid-South LWML District (2014-2016); Member of MDS Rural and Small Town Task Force (2015-present)

Congregational Experience: Pastor, Bethel Lutheran Church, Ft. Smith, AR (2013-present); Pastor/Founding Pastor, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Oakland, TN (2004-2013)

Community and Other Experience: Volunteer Reynolds Cancer Support House (2014-present); President, Oakland Regional Chamber of Commerce (2010); Board of Directors, Oakland Regional Chamber of Commerce (2009-2011)

Brief Personal Statement: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, Amen!

REGION 2

REV. JONATHAN M. BEYER

Address: 208 Brentwood
Hot Springs, AR 71901

Educational Background: BA, Concordia College, St. Paul, MN (1981); MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1985)

Member of Synod Congregations: 59 years

Home Congregation: First Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, AR

Synod Experience:

District Experience: District Vice-President (Region 2) (2003-2006); Circuit Counselor/Visitor (1997-2003, 2006-2009, 2015-present)

Congregational Experience: Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, AR (1994-present); Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, MO (1985-1994)

Community and Other Experience: YMCA Board of Directors (2002-2014); Community Counseling Services Board of Directors (2000-present)

Brief Personal Statement: My passion is seeing people come alive in their faith in Christ, be it the first time or as a lifelong member hungering more for the Word of God and stepping out in faith to share the Good News with others as a fully committed disciple of Jesus Christ.

REV. KEVIN R. CONGER

Address: 1204 Hill Street
Jacksonville, AR 72076

Educational Background: MDIV, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN (2001)

Member of Synod Congregations: 60 years

Home Congregation: Hope Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, AR

Synod Experience: Convention Delegate (2013)

District Experience: MDS LWML Junior Counselor, Senior Counselor (2010-2011); Circuit Visitor (2012-present); Convention Floor Committee Member (2012); Rural Small Town Ministry (RSTM) Chairman (2015-present)

Congregational Experience: Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, AR (2001-present)

Community and Other Experience: Lutheran High School Executive Board (2001-2008), Chairman (2003-2005), Personnel Committee (2005-2008); Little Rock Air Force Base Community Relations (2009-2010); Veteran Clergy Partnership (2016-present); V.A. Directed Mental Health Clinician Community Clergy Collaboration (MC4) (2018-present)

Brief Personal Statement: The ministry is a calling to service. May the Lord of the Church continue to direct and raise up faithful servants for the work of His kingdom here in the Mid-South District.

REV. JAMES C. WALTER

Address: 7807 Evergreen Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205

Educational Background: MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1991)

Member of Synod Congregations: 64 years

Home Congregation: Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR

Synod Experience: Convention Delegate (1992, 2004, 2010); Participant, Model Theological Conferences in Phoenix, AZ (2002, 2005)

District Experience: Circuit Counselor (Michigan District, 1994-1995, Mid-South District 2003-2006, 2014-2015); Regional Vice-President, Region 2 (2006-2012, 2015-2018), First VP (2009-2012), Second VP (2015-2018); Chairman, Mid-South District Board of Directors (2009-2012)

Congregational Experience: Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR (1995-present); Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, White Cloud, MI (1991-1995)

Community and Other Experience:

Brief Personal Statement: None provided

REGION 3

REV. WILLIAM D. MILLER

Address: 6229 Saint Elmo Road
Bartlett, TN 38135

Educational Background: MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (2008); (current PHD candidate, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO)

Member of Synod Congregations: 17 years

Home Congregation: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Synod Experience: Adjunct Faculty and Curriculum Writer for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (2011-2014)

District Experience:

Congregational Experience: Senior Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN (2014-present); Associate Pastor for Outreach and Church Planting, Messiah Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO (2012-2013); Associate Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN (2008-2011)

Community and Other Experience: Volunteer Coordinator for the Peace Center in St. Louis (2011-2012)

Brief Personal Statement: None provided

REV. CHARLES J. NEUGEBAUER

Address: 2082 Donnington Cove
Germantown, TN 38138

Educational Background: BA, University of Delaware; MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1983)

Member of Synod Congregations: 62 years

Home Congregation: Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Synod Experience: LCEF Promotions; LCEF Nominating Committee

District Experience: First Vice-President (2 terms); Board of Directors Chairman (2 terms); Boards – Evangelism, Youth, Church Planting, Campus, LWML District Pastoral Counselor (2 terms)

Congregational Experience: Pastor, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis (1995-present); Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church, Boston, MA (1988-1995); Pastor/Church Planter, Trinity Lutheran Church, Gallatin, TN (1983-1988)

Community and Other Experience: United States Navy (1972-1977); Rotary Club (1983-1988); Civic Associations (1983-present)

Brief Personal Statement: The Mid-South District has always been one of the most mission-oriented districts in the Synod. Sharing the Gospel with the lost has always been our main theme and purpose. Over the years, I have been blessed and privileged to seek to keep that focus alive in the midst of all the changes within both our District and Synod. If our gracious Lord grants me one last term in this office, I intend to reenergize and equip our congregations to be faithful to both our Confessions

and to help reignite our shared calling to make disciples of all nations.

REV. ANDREW W. TOOPES

Address: 334 Sylvan Circle
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Educational Background: BA, Concordia College, St. Paul, MN; MDIV, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN (1983)

Member of Synod Congregations: 61 years

Home Congregation: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY

Synod Experience: Convention Delegate (1992, 2016)

District Experience: Mission Board, Mid-South District (12 years); Mission Board Chairman, Eastern District (3 years); Mission Board, Florida-Georgia District (3 years); LWML Zone Counselor (14 years total)

Congregational Experience: Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY (6½ years); Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Stuttgart, AR (1½ years); Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Bradenton, FL (4 years); Pastor, Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, Malvern, PA (4 years); Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Avilla, AR (18½ years)

Community and Other Experience: Law Enforcement Chaplain for local law enforcement (30 years); Chaplain for ATF and DEA (25 years); Hospital Chaplain (35 years); Hospital Ethics Board (3 years)

Brief Personal Statement: I have been blessed to serve in the Mid-South under every District President we have had. All of these men have served the Lord faithfully in that office. I believe with all my heart that it is time for a change. We need to take a practical look at the office of District President. Do we need a full-time President or would a part-time position better serve our churches and show us as good stewards? Times are changing and just because a model worked 30 years ago does not mean it will work today.

REGION 4

REV. BARRY C. HILDEBRANDT

Address: 16 Johnson Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37415

Educational Background: AA, Concordia College, Austin, TX; Bachelor of Arts & Science, University of Texas (Austin) (1969); MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1973)

Member of Synod Congregations: 71 years (57 years since my confirmation)

Home Congregation: Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

Synod Experience: P.A.L.S. (1998-present); Convention Delegate & Floor Committee Member (Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Houston)

District Experience: Regional Vice-President (2006-2012); Circuit Counselor (1998-2006)

Congregational Experience: Pastor, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN (1994-present); Vicarage Supervisor (2003-2009); Long-Range Planning Committee Member (2000-2002)

Community and Other Experience: Member & Previous Chairman of Chattanooga Endeavors (Prison Ministry) Board of Directors (1996-present)

Brief Personal Statement: As a previous Circuit Counselor and Regional Vice-President, I was honored to serve in these two capacities and thoroughly enjoyed my involvement in District work. Both experiences put me together with wonderful pastors and fellow servants who had a real heart and dedication to our Savior's mission. It was easy and exciting to see the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives as we together focused on supporting existing ministries and pursuing new outreach opportunities. My prayer is that our District will continue to explore new mission ventures in the years ahead and that our Lord will bless us in these efforts.

REV. PAUL E. KRITSCH

Address: 400 Fishers Loop
Sharps Chapel, TN 37866

Educational Background: BA, Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne, IN (1969); MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1973)

Member of Synod Congregations: 71 years

Home Congregation: Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sharps Chapel, TN

Synod Experience:

District Experience: New Jersey District: First VP (2010-2012); Leaders & Learners Biblical Hermeneutics Instructor (2000-2012); Third VP (2004-2007); Circuit Counselor (1995-2004); Missions Committee (1988-1995); Slovak District (SELC): Circuit Counselor (1980-1988)

Congregational Experience: Pastor (45 years): Chapel

of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sharps Chapel, TN (2015-present); Redeemer Lutheran Church & School, Westfield, NJ (1988-2013); St. Paul Church & School, Westport, CT (1977-1988); Christ Lutheran Church, Aurora, Ontario, Canada (1973-1977)

Community and Other Experience: Second Harvest Food Distributions, Diapers & Baby Food Collections, Union County Christmas Charities, Thanksgiving Food Baskets, Patriot Day Dinners, Neighborhood Bible Breakfast (2015-present); Sunset Bay Scholarship Committee, Chairman (2018-present)

Brief Personal Statement: My first District President told me that each pastor should be willing to serve the larger church. Since then, I have sought to serve my districts by volunteering to serve on committees and as an elected officer. There are so many people in the Mid-South who need the Gospel. It would be an honor to serve alongside our District President who seeks to support and encourage congregations of all sizes from the smallest to the largest in every location from urban to rural.

REV. GILBERT H. PINGEL (EM)

Address: 8106 Carriage Crossing
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Educational Background: BA; MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1965); Graduate, U.S. Army Command & Staff College, and U.S. Army War College

Member of Synod Congregations: 79 years

Home Congregation: First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

Synod Experience: Under Call by LCMS to serve on active duty U.S. Army Chaplain (1974-2002)

District Experience: Circuit Counselor/Visitor (2006-present); Consecrated Stewards leader (2009-present)

Congregational Experience: Vacancy Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN (2015-2017); Vacancy Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN (2012-2013); Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN (2002-2008); Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Elizabeth, IL (1965-1973)

Community and Other Experience: President & Board Member U.S. Army Chaplain Corps Regimental Association (2012-present); Thrivent Chapter Officer (2008-2017)

Brief Personal Statement: I have always been open to serving the Lord and His Church where He leads me. The proclamation and sharing of God's forgiving love in the crucified, resurrected, and ascended Lord Jesus Christ is of eternal importance. If I can be of service to the Mid-South District and its congregations in fulfilling the Great Commission, I am willing to serve.

REV. ROBERT M. PORTIER

Address: 2070 James Road
Sevierville, TN 37876

Educational Background: Bachelor of Business Administration, National University, San Diego, CA (1988); MDIV, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN (2007)

Member of Synod Congregations: 31 years

Home Congregation: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN 37862

Synod Experience: Convention Delegate (2013)

District Experience: Administration and Finance Floor Committee Member (2012)

Congregational Experience: Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN (2007-present); Lay Minister, Grace Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, FL (2000-2002)

Community and Other Experience: Sevier County Right to Life (2007-2017); Women's Care Center Board of Directors (2011-2017); United States Navy (20 years)

Brief Personal Statement: I feel unworthy to serve in this position. However, if it be the will of this body I will gladly serve to the best of my ability, with God's help. Seeking to make the most God-pleasing use of his gifts to help our congregations to love God and our neighbors in the communities he has called us to serve.

REV. DEREK A. ROBERTS

Address: 1813 Oxford Dr.
Maryville, TN 37803

Educational Background: BS, University of Minnesota – Minneapolis (1998); MDIV, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN (2005)

Member of Synod Congregations: 42 years

Home Congregation: Praise Lutheran Church, Maryville, TN

Synod Experience: Missionary Training through Lumin (2005); Taught Summer Seminars in Siberia by invite from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne (2009); Convention Delegate and Stewardship Floor Committee Member (2016); Spouse of CPH Board Member (2010-present)

District Experience: Youth and Campus Ministry Boards (2007-2011); Pastoral Advisor for East Youth Board (2008-2009); Administration and Finance Floor Committee Member (2015); NLSA Accreditation Committee (2017)

Congregational Experience: Pastor, Praise Lutheran Church, Maryville, TN (2012-present); Associate Pastor, First Lutheran Church and School, Knoxville, TN (2006-2012); Campus Minister at the University of Tennessee – Knoxville (2006-2012)

Community and Other Experience: Taught children and adults of various ethnic backgrounds through Parks and Recreation (1990's); Secretary for Campus Ministry Council at University of Tennessee (2006-2011); Path training to become a Foster Parent (2018)

Brief Personal Statement: Blessed to serve Christ and congregation at Praise in Maryville and thankful to serve with faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in East Tennessee. "Let the Word of Christ dwell in your richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your heart to God." (Colossians 3:16)

REV. ROBERT G. SEATON

Address: 2825 Julian Ave. N.E.
Cleveland, TN 37312

Educational Background: AA, St. Paul College, Concordia, MO; BA, Concordia College, Ann Arbor, MI (1978); MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1982)

Member of Synod Congregations: 62 years

Home Congregation: First Lutheran Church, Cleveland, TN

Synod Experience: Convention Delegate (1989, 2010)

District Experience: Circuit Counselor, Chattanooga Circuit (1999-2006); Circuit Counselor, Southern District (1991-1997)

Congregational Experience: Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Cleveland, TN (1998-present)

Community and Other Experience: Cleveland Kiwanis Club

Brief Personal Statement: None provided

REV. BRIAN M. TRUOG

Address: 263 Ootsima Way
Loudon, TN 37774

Educational Background: BS, Concordia, Seward, NE (1977); MDIV, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1982); STM, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (1984)

Member of Synod Congregations: 61 years

Home Congregation: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Loudon, TN

Synod Experience: Convention Delegate (1983, 2016)

District Experience: Northern Illinois District: Pastor's Conference Program Committee; Circuit Counselor

Congregational Experience: Senior Pastor, Christ Our Savior, Loudon, TN (2011-present); Senior Pastor, Cross Lutheran Church, Yorkville, IL (2002-2011); Pastor, Cross Lutheran Church, Yorkville, IL (1987-2002); Pastor, Hope Lutheran Aurora, IL (1983-1987)

Community and Other Experience: Chairman, Loudon County Health Improvement Council (2015-present); Chamber of Commerce Ambassador (2015-2017); Fire Department Chaplain (1987-2011)

Brief Personal Statement: I would look forward to working with the President and Board of Directors to promote the Great Commission and the Great Command in our district. (Making Disciples and Loving Our Neighbors)

THE REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Nominations committee held one meeting on March 5, 2018.

The following slate was adopted for election at the 2018 Convention by the nominations Committee, subject to change by nominations from the floor. (* denotes incumbent)

THE NOMINEES FOR SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT

***REVEREND JOHN GIERKE**

Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR

Pastor Gierke has served at Peace since 2002. He is currently serving as the Mid-South District Secretary and as a District Reconciler. He has served as the Second Vice-President of the Mid-South District, Circuit Visitor, Convention Administration and Finance Floor Committee Chair and on the Constitution Committee. Pastor Gierke has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Dickson High Noon and Conway Rotary Clubs. He has served as Secretary and President of the Rotary Club of Conway and has been a member of the Conway Regional Medical Center Ethics Committee. Pastor Gierke states that if elected again, "He would continue to strive to serve with patience, humility, and integrity so trust is fostered and built with one another walking together in Christ's bond of peace."

REVEREND WILLAM ONDRACKA

Pastor, Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

Pastor Ondracka has served as Pastor at Christus Victor for 7 years. He has served as a Congregational President and has been a member of the LCMS for 16 years.

THE REGIONAL NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT

Commissioned Ministers of Religion

(Vote for 1 in Regions 1 & 2, and one in Regions 3 & 4)

REGIONS 1 and 2

***TESSA BRASHER** (Region 1)

Director of Christian Education, St. John's Lutheran Church, Lafe, AR

Ms. Brasher currently serves as Director of Christian Education at St. John's, Lafe focusing on children and youth ministry. She has served St. John's in many capacities and offices including Sunday School teacher, VBS Director, Women's Bible Study leader and organist. She has served on the District level in both youth ministry and LWML. Ms. Brasher has taught in both public schools and Lutheran schools in Arkansas. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Mid-South District for the past 3 years.

CONNIE SOSO - GOINES (Region 1)

Deaconess, Grace Lutheran, Greenwood, AR

Ms. Goines is currently serving as Deaconess at Grace Lutheran in Greenwood. She has served as the Mission Servants Committee chairperson of the River Valley LWML and has served on the Rural and Small Town Mission Committee of the Mid-South District. She has a background in social services with San Bernardino County, California. She worked there as a Staff Development Training Instructor for Foster Care, Medi-Cal and Cash/Food Assistance programs.

REGIONS 3 AND 4

LINDSEY HOFMAN (Region 4)

Teacher, First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

Ms. Hofman has served as a teacher at First Lutheran for 6 years and is has been serving as Interim Principal for 3 years. She has served First in many capacities and offices including Planning Council member for 3 years, Ex-officio School Board member for 5 years. Since 2016, she has been a member of the North Knoxville Business Professional Association and has worked with German Saturday school. She wishes to build up the Mid-South District and serve our ministries well. She believes success begins with prayer, focusing on Scripture and handling each situation with a balance of Law and Gospel.

***SHIRLEY PIEPENBRINK** (Region 3)

Teacher, Retired, Immanuel Lutheran Church

Ms. Piepenbrink is a retired Lutheran School teacher with 38 years of experience. She has served schools in Wisconsin, Tennessee and in Asia. She is currently on the Mid-South District Board of Directors and on the LWML West TN Zone Board. Her congregational service has been on the Board of Evangelism and Missions, and in the Choir and Bell Choir. She will be traveling to Tanzania for Gospel Outreach in May-June.

A.J. VEGA (Region 3)

Director of Christian Education, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Mr. Vega has been serving as the DCE at Immanuel since 2015. He is currently serving on the Mid-South District Youth and Family Ministry Board. He has experience as a Worship Leader and as an Outreach Coordinator. He loves sharing the gospel with young people both inside and outside the church.

THE REGIONAL NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT

Lay Persons

(Vote for 1 in each Region)

REGION 1

BRENT NELSON

Member, First Lutheran, Harrison, AR

Mr. Nelson is an IT Service Management Consultant. He currently serves his congregation as an Elder, and sings with the praise team. He previously served as co-chair of the worship committee and as the youth committee chair. If elected to the District's Board of Directors, Mr. Nelson would strive to help the District continue to share the good news of Christ with others.

JEFF PITTMAN

Member, Pilgrim Lutheran, Jonesboro, AR

Mr. Pittman is a Professor of Business Law at Arkansas State University. He has both his JD and MBA. He has previously been a representative to the District convention 2 times. He has served Pilgrim in almost every management capacity. He has served as the school board President of Concordia Christian Academy for the last 10 years. Mr. Pittman would serve faithfully if elected. He believes the LC-MS is grounded firmly in the Word but isn't connecting well with younger members of society.

3rd Candidate to be confirmed

REGION 2

***MARC HIGGINS**

Member, Shepherd of Peace, Maumelle, AR

Mr. Higgins has over 30 years managing Fortune 500 healthcare companies in various roles. He has served as the President of the congregation, Chairman of the Lay Ministry Board and as a church council member for 15 years. He has served on the Mid-South District's Board of Directors for the last 2 years.

TIM LOYD

Member, Grace Lutheran, Little Rock, AR

Mr. Loyd is a Realtor. He was a delegate to the District convention in 2015. He is currently the Chairman of the congregation for the last 3 years. Before that, he was the assistant to the Executive Director for 3 years and has been an Elder for about 15 years. Mr. Loyd has an interest in the workings of the District and the LCMS.

ROBERT MORRIS

Member, Peace Lutheran, Conway, AR

Mr. Morris is a Deacon and Congregational President at his congregation, serving since 2017. He previously served his congregation as an elder from 2003-2017, as well as Congregational President from 2009-2013. Mr. Morris is a Board member for the Conway Interchurch Housing Autumn Manor since 2014, and has been President since 2016.

REGION 3

JUDY GERMAN

Member, Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Olive Branch, MS

Mrs. Judy German is a retired public school teacher (46 years). She holds a Bachelors and Masters of Education. Judy currently serves her congregation as the Co-Chair of the Fellowship Committee. She sings in the choir. Judy previously served as the Chair of the Board of Daycare from 1996-2001.

***FRED GUENGERICH**

Member, Redeemer Lutheran, Nashville, TN

Dr. Guengerich is a Biochemistry professor at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Previously he was the Director of the Center of Molecular Toxicology. He has served on the Mid-South District's Board of Directors since 2015. He has also served on the Mid-South District's Constitution Committee since 2012. He has served his congregation as President and has been Head of the Board of Elders since 1986. Through his District involvement, he understands both our blessings and the challenges we face.

DOUG WERTH

Member, Our Savior Lutheran, Nashville, TN

Mr. Werth is a retired finance executive. He has served as a Board member of the Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation for 12 years. He was also on the ABLAZE Strategic Planning team for 3 years. He has served on his congregations Board of Directors, Church Council and Board of Elders for about 10 years. He served as a Board member and Board Chairman at the Hong Kong International (LCMS) School for 7 years. He's also served on the Lutheran Hour Ministries National Leadership Council since 2016. He believes we are sent to share the Good News with all those who are living in the dark.

REGION 4

RANDY BUECKMAN

Member, Grace Lutheran, Knoxville, TN

Mr. Bueckman is a Biomedical Engineering Manager and has also served as a robotics mentor at a STEM Academy since 2011. He has served his congregation in many capacities for over 40 years. He previously served on the Mid-South District's Board of Directors for 6 years.

JOHN CADDELL

Member, St. Paul Lutheran, Wartburg, TN

Mr. Caddell is currently retired. He has served his congregation in various capacities including the Board of Elders, Vice-President, President for 5 years and youth leader. He served as a youth Football coach for about 10 years. He has been a lay delegate to both the LCMS and Mid-South District conventions several times.

ALBERT COLLVER

Member, First Lutheran, Knoxville, TN

Mr. Collver worked for General Electric for 37 years. He owned a logistics consulting business for 6 years. He has served his congregation in various capacities, including President and Vice-President for 10 years, Board of Trustees Chair for 7 years and an Elder. He has been a lay delegate to a LC-MS convention and served on the Life Together committee. He was also actively involved with the Boy Scouts for 10 years.

BOB NERGER

Member, St. Paul Lutheran, Wartburg, TN

Mr. Nerger is a retired Engineer. He has served his congregation in several management positions over the last 40 years. At the Mid-South District level, he served on the Board of Youth for 6 years, the East Region Youth Board for 15 years and has been on the Nominating Committee once previously. He's also served with the local Thrivent chapter.

***LARRY ZEHNDER**

Member, Cross of Christ Lutheran, Chattanooga, TN

Mr. Zehnder was a Local Government Administrator for the city of Chattanooga for 40 years. He is presently a consultant with a Design and Engineering firm. He has served on the Mid-South District's Board of Directors and Finance Committee since 2012. He was also on the Mid-South District's Congregational Assessment Team in 2017. He has served his congregation as the President for 6 years, a Head Elder for 6 years and has been an Elder since 2000. On 2 occasions, he's been the President of a state professional association and is currently an officer of the American Red Cross' SE Tennessee District. He would gladly serve another term on the Board of Directors if elected.

NOMINEES OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

ORDAINED MINISTER

(Vote for one in Regions 1 and 2, and one in Regions 3 and 4)

REGIONS 1 and 2**REVEREND RON BACIC**

Pastor, First Lutheran, Little Rock, AR

Pastor Bacic has been serving First Lutheran since 2009. He served Risen Savior in Buffalo, Illinois for his vicarage. Pastor Bacic is a member of the Toastmasters and is involved with the VA Mentoring Program.

REVEREND JON BEYER

Pastor, First Lutheran, Hot Springs, AR

Pastor Beyer is a lifetime member of the LCMS and is currently serving at First Lutheran in Hot Springs, AR. He has served as a District Vice President and as a Circuit Counselor. For 14 years he was on the board of Directors for the YMCA and he is currently working with Community Counseling Services.

REVEREND STEWART MARSHALL

Pastor, Trinity Lutheran, Pine Bluff AR

Pastor Marshall has served congregations in Ontario, Canada, Texas, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, and Arkansas. He is also a retired Chaplain of the United States Army Reserves. Pastor Marshall has served the Southern District as a 3rd Vice President, Circuit Counselor, and on the Nominations Committee. He has been a member of the Kiwanis Club since 2010 and has served on several Ministerial Associations.

REGIONS 3 and 4

REVEREND DAVID GRAVES

Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran, Wartburg, TN

Pastor Graves has been the pastor at St. Paul Lutheran since 2013. He has been involved in the Morgan County Correction Facility and the Local Community Outreach Boards.

REVEREND ROBERT PORTIER

Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran, Sevierville, TN

Pastor Portier has been the pastor at St. Paul for the past 11 years. He has served on the Administration and Finance Floor Committee for the Mid-South District Convention and was a Circuit Rep. to the LCMS convention in 2013. Pastor Portier has served on the Sevier County Right to Life and on the Board of Directors of the Women's Care Center.

REVEREND CHRISTOPHER SHEETS

Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

Pastor Sheets has been the Senior Pastor at Good Shepherd since 2013. In his ministry he has served Congregations in both Arkansas and Illinois. At the District level he has been a Circuit Counselor, District Convention Floor Committee Chair and a Pastoral Delegate to the LCMS Convention. Pastor Sheets has served the community by working with the County Prison Ministry and the Kiwanis.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER

(Vote for one in Regions 1 and 2, and one in Regions 3 and 4)

REGIONS 1 and 2

DAVID STUCKWISCH (Region 2)

Director of Christian Education, St. John Lutheran Church, Stuttgart, AR

REGIONS 3 and 4

JUNE WILLIAMSON (Region 3)

Teacher, Immanuel Lutheran Church & School, Memphis, TN

LAY PERSONS

(Vote for one in Regions 1 and 2, and one in Regions 3 and 4)

REGIONS 1 and 2

THOMAS MANCUSO

Member, Grace Lutheran, Holiday Island, AR

Mr. Mancuso retired from NASA, Houston, TX, in 1999. He has served his congregation as President multiple times, as well as Trustee and Call Committee member. He is currently an Elder. Mr. Mancuso has been a Lay Representative to District and Synodical Conventions. He is active in the local Food Bank & Meals on Wheels ministries.

REGIONS 3 and 4

LARRY HOOD (Region 4)

Member, First Lutheran, Knoxville, TN

Mr. Hood is Editor and Design Director of Nation Monthly Trade Journal. He joined First Lutheran in 1987 and has served on the Board of Christian Day School and Board of Elders where he is currently serving as the chairman.

DON ISRAEL (Region 3)

Member, Our Savior Lutheran, Nashville, TN

Mr. Israel is a retired CPA and Financial Executive. He has served the Mid-South District as Treasurer and on the Board of Directors 2002-2010. At various times he has served Our Savior as Congregational President, Treasure, Board of Stewardship, School Board and Call Committees. He has chaired two Building Programs and is presently chair of the Endowment Committee.

DAN JACOBS (Region 4)

Member, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Chattanooga, TN

Mr. Jacobs served as a Delegate to the LCMS Convention in 2016 and was a Delegate to the Mid-South District Convention in 2015. As a member of Good Shepherd, he has served as the congregational President for 3 different terms. He has also served on various boards throughout the years. He was on the Board of Directors for the Goodwill Industries for 5 years and has been on the Executive Committee for the Goodwill. He is currently retired.

NOMINEES FOR LCMS COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS – LAY

ALBERT COLLVER

Member, First Lutheran, Knoxville, TN

Mr. Collver worked for General Electric for 37 years. He owned a logistics consulting business for 6 years. He has served his congregation in various capacities, including President and Vice-President for 10 years, Board of Trustees Chair for 7 years and an Elder. He has been a lay delegate to a LC-MS convention and served on the Life Together committee. He was also actively involved with the Boy Scouts for 10 years.

DAN JACOBS

Member, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

Mr. Jacobs served as a Delegate to the LCMS Convention in 2016 and was a Delegate to the Mid-South District Convention in 2015. As a member of Good Shepherd, he has served as the congregational President for 3 different terms. He has also served on various boards throughout the years. He was on the Board of Directors for the Goodwill Industries for 5 years and has been on the Executive Committee for the Goodwill. He is currently retired.

DOUG WERTH

Member, Our Savior Lutheran, Nashville, TN

Mr. Werth is a retired finance executive. He has served as a Board member of the Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation for 12 years. He was also on the ABLAZE Strategic Planning team for 3 years. He has served on his congregations Board of Directors, Church Council and Board of Elders for about 10 years. He served as a Board member and Board Chairman at the Hong Kong International (LCMS) School for 7 years. He's also served on the Lutheran Hour Ministries National Leadership Council since 2016. He believes we are sent to share the Good News with all those who are living in the dark.

LLOYD WESSELS

Member, Trinity Lutheran Church, Pine Bluff, AR

Mr. Wessels is a retired Grocer and a lifetime LCMS member. He has attended several LCMS Synod Conventions and has served the Mid-South District on the Board of Directors for two terms. At Trinity, Mr. Wessels has served as congregational President, Treasurer and Secretary. He is a Master Gardener and has had served as the Chairman of the Home and Garden show.

LARRY ZEHNDER

Member, Cross of Christ Lutheran, Chattanooga, TN

Mr. Zehnder was a Local Government Administrator for the city of Chattanooga for 40 years. He is presently a consultant with a Design and Engineering firm. He has served on the Mid-South District's Board of Directors and Finance Committee since 2012. He was also on the Mid-South District's Congregational Assessment Team in 2017. He has served his congregation as the President for 6 years, a Head Elder for 6 years and has been an Elder since 2000. On 2 occasions, he's been the President of a state professional association and is currently an officer of the American Red Cross' SE Tennessee District.



REPORT OF THE DISTRICT TREASURER

The District Treasurer is appointed triennially by the Board of Directors and is responsible for overseeing the finances of the District and assisting the Board of Directors in its responsibility for managing the business affairs of the District.

Financial Position

God has richly blessed the Mid-South District during the past three years and our financial position has been substantially strengthened. Assets of the District have increased from \$4.2 million at the end of 2014 to \$5.5 million at the end of 2017. This increase has been made possible from an increase in restricted funds of some \$1.7 million during this period. Restricted assets have increased from \$2.1 million at the end of 2014 to \$3.8 million at the end of 2017. Individuals and families faithful to our mission have provided significant gifts to support the District. These gifts are generally restricted and designated for specific local and world missions and are additionally restricted as to the amount that can be used in any given year. As restricted funds are utilized, it will be necessary that these be replenished through increased congregational support, direct gifts and other programs conducted by the District's Development Officer.

The major unrestricted asset category, property of \$1.1 million, reflects the investment in District Office land, building, equipment and other properties. The remaining \$600 thousand in unrestricted assets represents the operating funds for the District and a few miscellaneous assets such as prepaids, receivables, etc. Current liabilities of approximately \$165 thousand includes current accounts payable and various accrued expenses. The mortgage on the District Office was retired in 2016. Unrestricted net assets at 12/31/17 were approximately \$1.6 million.

The District President and staff have strengthened the financial position of the District through controlled spending, staff reductions and implementation of development programs such as *IMPACT* and *Funding the Ministry*. The *IMPACT* Program has provided significant funds to the District over the past few years with fewer restrictions. During the past three years the Board has continued to fund the operating and depreciation reserves to avoid future cash flow issues in unrestricted funds. These reserves have been funded through the controls addressed above. Additionally, the Board of Directors has implemented policies and practices to project availability of reserve and restricted funds in order to insure the District can operate effectively for a reasonable period should circumstances temporarily reduce cash flow. The Board has also implemented an investment policy in order to maximize earnings on restricted funds without placing assets at unreasonable risk. Yes, God has richly blessed our District. The current financial position of the District is strong. By working together with our congregations, and with prudent management, the District can continue to address mission opportunities that God may put before us.

Annual Audit

The financial statements are audited annually and the District continues to receive an unqualified opinion as to the fair presentation of its financial statements. All recommendations made by the auditors are addressed by management in the District Office. A copy of the audited financial statements for the year ending 12/31/2017 is included in Appendix D of this workbook.

Annual Funding and Spending Budget

The charts shown on the following pages display the funding sources as well as the allocation of funds to the various ministries of the district. As displayed on the sources chart, congregational support remains the largest source of revenue for funding the vision, goals and missions of the Mid-South District. In 1981, when the District became self-supporting, congregational support represented 96% of the annual budget. Although this percentage varies from year to year, it has steadily declined and mission offerings from congregations is projected to be approximately 55% of the \$2.7 million District budget for 2018. Actual dollars from congregations have declined by nearly 20% during the past ten years while the district budget has increased by approximately 6.5% during this same period. Each year the budget relies more and more on the District's Development Officer and his ability to develop new funding programs and to locate those individuals and families that God has raised up who are supportive of and faithful to the mission of the District. To date, individual donors who have made direct gifts to the District and funding through the *IMPACT* and other development programs have filled the gap. By utilizing available funds from these restricted gifts and the revenue projected from *IMPACT* and other development programs, the District 2018 Work Program is fully funded.

The need for effective church planting and assistance in restoring health to many of our congregations in the Mid-South District is great. Please pray for our church plants, for revitalization of our churches, for continued success of the District's development programs and that God will continue to raise up those individual donors who support the work of the District. We have a very capable and dedicated President and Executive Staff in the District Office. With God's help I am confident that we will continue to fund the visions, goals, and strategies developed and adopted by the District President and Board of Directors.

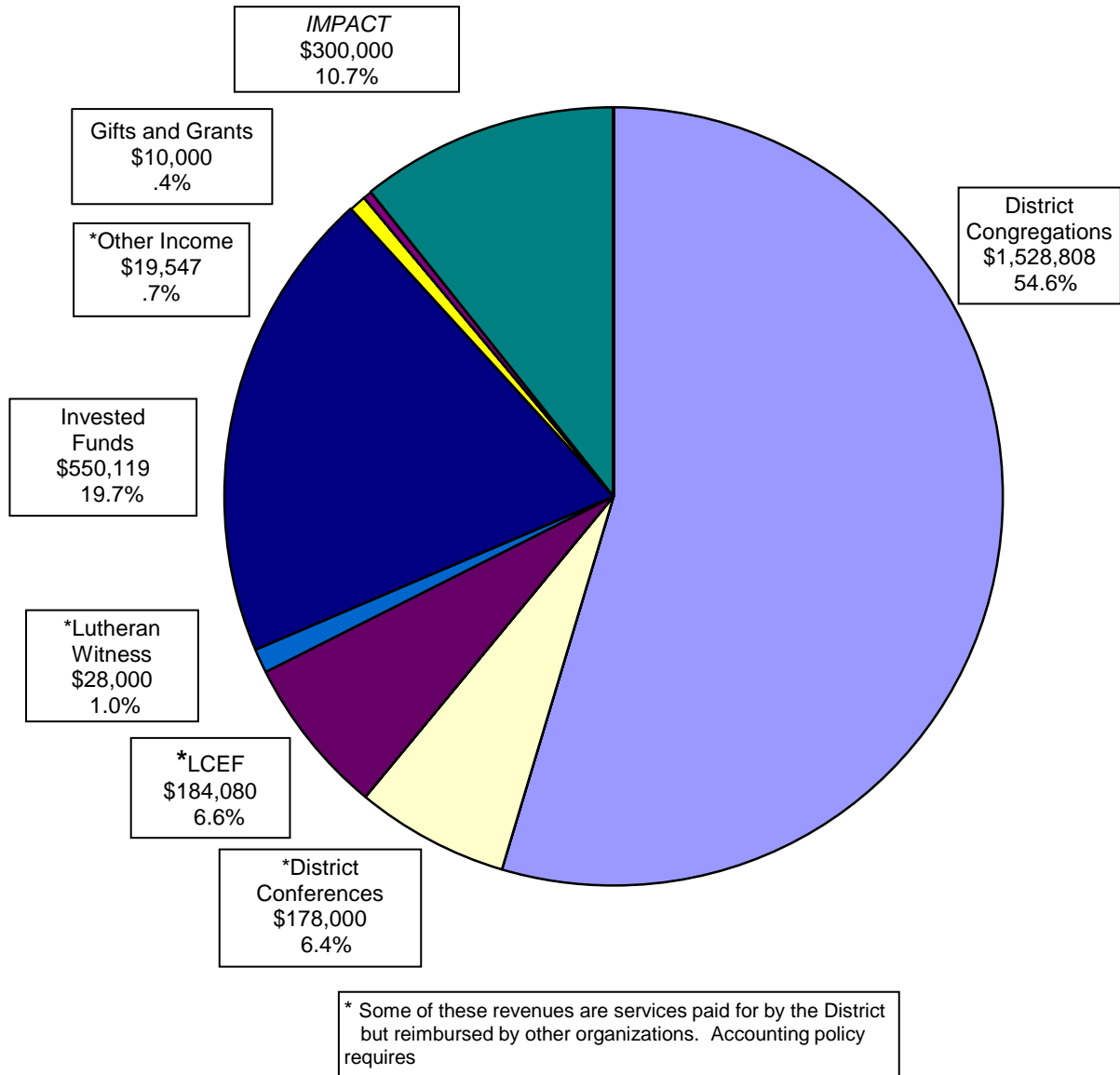
Respectfully submitted,

**Larry E. Vickers
District Treasurer**



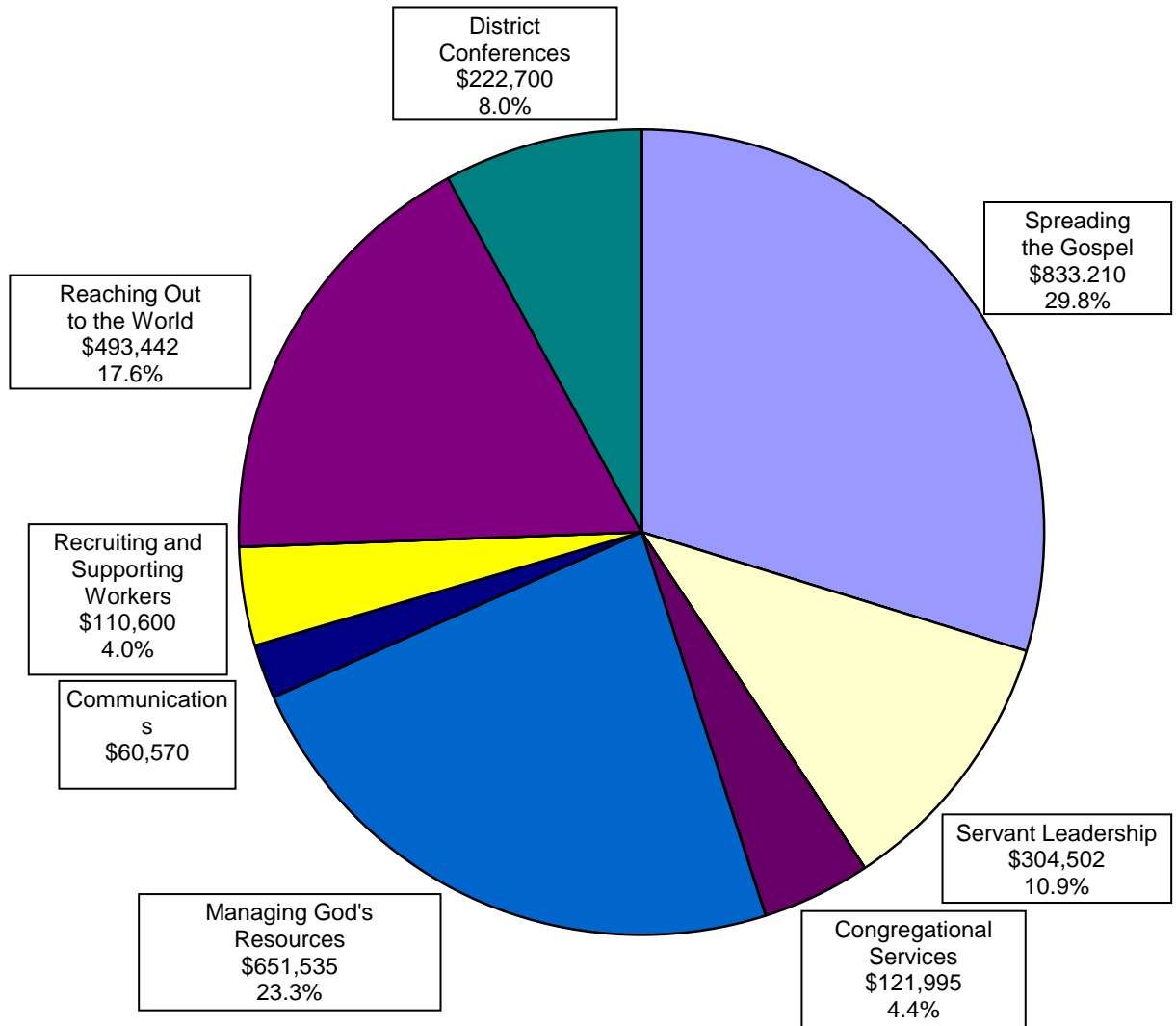
2018 Mid-South District LCMS Funding Sources

\$2,798,554



2018 Mid-South District LCMS Ministry Allocations

\$2,798,554



REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR BUSINESS AND FINANCE

The Mid-South District has been blessed during the last three years, just as we have been for the past fifty-two years since inception. God continues to be our loving and gracious God in so many varied and faithful ways. The Gospel is being proclaimed boldly not only in our three-state region, but throughout the world. This is possible because of your generous participation in the way of prayers, volunteer efforts and financial commitments. This report summarizes the significant business and financial developments in the Mid-South District since the 2015 Convention.

Congregational mission commitments for District and Synod have decreased from \$1,687,400 in 2015 to a projected \$1,576,100 in 2018. This represents a decrease of roughly 7% since 2015. This number has continued to decrease since 2009. Our high water mark was \$1,960,000 in 2009; since that time there has been a decrease of approximately 20% in congregational mission commitments. As you know from managing your own household finances and those of a congregation, it is difficult to maintain or provide the same or an increased level of activity year after year with less funding. With energy, wage and health insurance increases contributing to an extremely challenging financial cycle, we are nevertheless so very grateful for your continued partnership with us in this way. We praise God that congregations of the Mid-South District forwarded a total of more than \$4.8 million of their Sunday morning offerings for mission and ministry in the District, Synod and the world during the last three years.

The District continues to be a strong supporter of World Missions with a commitment of \$442,000 for 2018. This represents 30% of the mission commitment dollars received from congregations. The Board of Directors has committed itself to percentage giving at the District level and will seek to maintain this 30% benchmark in future years. The total Missions budget for the District is \$1.32 million for 2018, representing nearly 50% of our overall budget.

Coupled with your support of District mission work through congregational mission commitments is the gracious manner in which many individual donors have supported specific mission projects during the last three years. Records reflect that \$1.9 million in direct, designated gifts and/or pledges were received during the years 2015-18 for local mission work in various parts of the District; this amount includes pledges and outright gifts made through our *IMPACT* program. This is truly a wonderful outpouring of financial support for the making and nurturing of disciples of Jesus Christ in our Mid-South District. In addition, almost \$40,000 was received for disaster relief within the District as well as for those Districts impacted by Hurricanes. What a tremendous blessing, when our congregations continue to demonstrate God's love to others.

Starting in 2016 as part of the District's Stewardship Initiative, Financial Peace University rebates were offered to individuals that attended a FPU class at one of the congregations located in the Mid-South District. This is just one of the ways that the District partners with churches at the congregational level to help those struggling financially. To date, more than 2.5 million families have been impacted by FPU, nationwide, with the average family paying off \$5,300 in debt and saving \$2,700 in the first 90 days. We believe that FPU provides practical tools that allow individuals and families to take control of their money and put them on the road to long-term

financial success. We pray that more congregations will take advantage of this opportunity to help their members as well as reach out to those in their communities that need this valuable course.

The District continues to receive clean audit opinions. A copy of the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 is included with this report.

The Mid-South District remains committed to providing financial support to students from our congregations who attend Synodical universities and seminaries. Over the past three years, financial aid in the amount of \$243,000 has been provided to sixty students. This averages out to \$4,050 per student per year. Special thanks goes to the Mid-South District LWML for the faithful support of this program through annual grants.

I have served in the position of Executive Director for Business and Finance since June 2013. It has been a most rewarding and enjoyable experience and I want to personally thank the people of the District for the support and encouragement you have shown me. I pray that as the Lord presents new opportunities to share His saving message, we stand ready and willing to proclaim the love of Christ to those who need a personal relationship with Him.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Fowler
Executive Director for Business and Finance



REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT

In 2013, the Mid-South District launched IMPACT, a strategic plan focused on the following five critical initiatives:

1. Assisting congregations, unable to retain an ordained minister, in Word and Sacrament ministry.
2. Resourcing, equipping and strengthening existing churches and schools for Kingdom effectiveness.
3. Recruiting, supporting and mentoring professional church workers.
4. Creating an online Congregational Assessment Resource (C.A.R.) for ministry self-assessment.
5. Planting new churches.

By God's grace and the generosity of the people in the Mid-South District, I am pleased to share these Development highlights which have been instrumental in helping support the District's strategic plan:

- A formal development plan was initiated to support the District's strategic plan (IMPACT).
- A donor database was established to ensure proper tracking of donors and their gifts.
- IMPACT awareness events have been held around the District to increase visibility of the District's work.
- There has been an increase of over 40% of current giving donors.
- Over the five-year period, \$2,252,700 has been committed and over \$2,150,000 received for ministry in the Mid-South District.
- In addition, ten "Funding the Ministry" campaigns have been conducted in congregations resulting in over \$1.9 million being committed for ministry in the church.

Through faithful stewards, over \$4 million dollars has been committed for ministry since 2013. These dollars are over and above the tithes and offerings to the local congregations. Praise God for His people in the Mid-South District!

My prayer is that this tremendous support will continue. While we are making great strides in some communities, there is ample opportunity to share the Gospel. In order to do this, the continued support of our current donors, coupled with finding new donors, is imperative.

I am confident as new opportunities arise to share His Good News, the people in the Mid-South District will respond as they always have in the past. Thank you for your support and for your partnership in the Gospel!

Respectfully submitted,

**Paul Reaves
Executive Director for Development**



REPORT FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

Re-Vitality (COMPASS and C.A.R.)

C.A.R. and COMPASS were started in the Mid-South District and launched in 2013. Since that time, over 30 congregations have participated in one or both of these tools for their strategic positioning. Since 2015, the following congregations have been a part of this initiative:

- Zion Lutheran, Augsburg, AR*
- First Lutheran, Harrison, AR
- Cross of Christ, Chattanooga, TN
- Redeemer Lutheran, Harriman, TN
- Grace Celebration Lutheran, Cordova, TN
- Ascension Lutheran, Madison, TN
- Bella Vista Lutheran, Bella Vista, AR*
- Christus Victor Lutheran, Knoxville, TN*
- Grace Lutheran, Holiday Island, AR
- Holy Trinity Lutheran, Rogers, AR*
- Peace Lutheran, Conway, AR
- Pilgrim Lutheran, Jonesboro, AR
- Redeemer Lutheran, Mountain Home, AR
- St Paul Lutheran, Sevierville, TN*

* C.A.R. Tool only

Considering the COMPASS process:

- Beautiful Savior, Olive Branch, MS
- Faith Lutheran, Fairfield Bay, AR
- First Lutheran, Knoxville, TN
- Our Shepherd, Searcy, AR

Included in the entire COMPASS study program, there have been 61 congregations who have completed the C.A.R. tool for assessing congregational activity since 2013. There have been three other districts of the LCMS who would like to have C.A.R. assessments and the COMPASS program. At this time, we are unable to provide the services because of the demand for other resources in the Mid-South District.

The COMPASS and C.A.R. surveys have had remarkable results, at least for those who used the materials. Dramatic changes in fiscal health, ministry outreach, and service changes for the congregations and communities has occurred where thoughtful consideration of the observations are made. These are not prescriptive observations as other programs assert. Rather these become the observations of the leadership, the pastoral staff, the members, and the community in which the congregation lives that are applied to the strategies from the reports.

Church Planting

Church planting has been, is, and will continue to be a major emphasis of the Mid-South District. Since 1966, the Mid-South District has sought opportunities to plant, grow, and re-plant churches in our District. The emphasis is to bring about the presence of our rich Lutheran Confession into areas where there are those who do not yet know the joy of their salvation in our Savior Jesus Christ. To that end, there are new ministries that have developed throughout the District in the past triennium. Those include Sharps Chapel, TN; Springdale, AR; Northwest Arkansas, Fayetteville;

Munford, TN; West Little Rock, AR; Franklin, KY; Arkadelphia, AR; Nashville, TN; and Southeastern AR, Delta Region.

We thank God for these opportunities and for the people who support and assist in our church planting efforts. The message of the Gospel in all its truth and purity is an important responsibility given by Christ to His entire Church on earth. But, the great privilege for us to be about His work in the harvest field is a greater effort than any other.

According to the most recent information, 27% of Arkansas; 22% of Kentucky; and 24% of Tennessee can be found in a worship setting on any given Sunday. In some of our cities, less than 1% of the souls in that community are at worship on Sunday in our Lutheran congregations. We have a ripening harvest field that stands before our eyes. We want to partner with more congregations, circuits, and members of the Priesthood of Believers who want to be about the work of being the instruments of making disciples for the Kingdom of Christ and His beloved Church.

Each congregation will play an important part in finding the potential fields in their neighborhood where a church plant may be found. We will partner with those communities through every means possible to bring about a worshiping community. Yet, we must be faithful stewards of what God has given to us. We will partner with those who demonstrate an accountability that falls within the proper demographics, fiscal viability, and proper monitoring of progress enabled by God's divine guidance.

The Board of Directors adopted a governance model that focuses on Church Planting as a major discipline for our general operations. Members are charged with the responsibility to review "The One Plan" of a proposed mission plant; seek church planters to fill the role of gathering demographic and other pertinent data; and monitor the progress of the church plant in regard to the metrics needed in the specific church plants. The current members of the subcommittee are Rev. Paul Hass, Chairman; Rev. Rich Elesroad, Rev. Chuck Neugebauer, and President Roger Paavola.

In the coming years, the objective for mission development and church planting will produce congregations that will not only become self-sufficient, but will assist in planting other congregations with the District's cooperation and participation. We cannot plant churches, re-plant congregations, or extend the Kingdom of God with the Gospel of Christ without the generous and continuous commitment of the faithful and dedicated members of the Mid-South District. As of the 2018 Fiscal year, the Mid-South District Board of Directors has earmarked every dollar committed by our member congregations to our mission objective. In 2018, we project spending 102% of congregation commitments specifically on mission activity out of the District office. We pray God will continue to bless our efforts that those who still live in fear and darkness may come to the marvelous Light of our Savior Jesus Christ. May He bless our efforts as we partner in His Great Commission to make disciples of all people.

We thank you for your support and prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

**Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, President
Mid-South District, LCMS**



**REPORT OF
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOR SCHOOLS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Mid-South District LCMS

1 High School, 11 Elementary Schools and 24 Early Childhood Centers
(Total number of students in parentheses)

Circuits:

Chattanooga

Belvoir Christian Academy and Preschool, Chattanooga, TN – Infants - 8th grade (163)

Fayetteville

Salem Lutheran School, Springdale, AR – PK 3-4 (67)

St. John Lutheran Child Care Center, Fayetteville, AR – Toddlers - Age 4 (49)

Fort Smith

First Lutheran School and Preschool, Fort Smith, AR – Toddlers - 6th grade (66)

Johnson City

Jonesboro

Concordia Christian Academy, Jonesboro, AR – PK 4 - 8th Grade (68)

Knoxville

First Lutheran School, Knoxville, TN – PK 1 - 8th grade (178)

St. Paul Lutheran Preschool, Wartburg, TN – PK 3-4 (12)

Little Rock – North

Christ Lutheran School and Preschool, Little Rock, AR – Infant - 8th grade (166)

Little Rock – South

Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Dev. Center, Little Rock, AR – Infant - PK4 (56)

Avilla Christian Academy, Alexander, AR – PK 3 – 12th grade (103)

Memphis

Grace Celebration Child Development Center, Cordova, TN – Newborn - PK 4 (55)

Faith Lutheran Preschool, Collierville, TN – Toddlers - Jr. K 5 (243)

Christ the King Lutheran School, Memphis, TN – Toddler - 8th grade (216)

Immanuel Lutheran School, Memphis, TN – PK 3 - 8th grade (178)

Middle Tennessee

Faith Lutheran Preschool, Tullahoma, TN – PK 3-4 (12)

Shepherd's Little Flock Preschool, Crossville, TN – Infant - PK 4 (42)

TLC Childcare Ministry, Columbia, TN – PK 2.5 - 5yrs. (28)

Heavenly Host Lutheran School, Cookeville, TN – Infant - 8th grade (111)

Nashville

Our Savior Academy Preschool, Nashville, TN – MDO2's - age 5 (45)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Learning Center, Hermitage, TN – Age 1 - PK 5 (60)

Paducah

Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Bowling Green, KY – Age 2 - Grade 6 (129)

Grace Lutheran Church Preschool, Clarksville, TN – PK 3-4 (101)

Stuttgart

St. John's Lutheran School, Stuttgart, AR – 6 weeks - 6th grade (182)

St. Paul Lutheran Preschool, Gillett, AR – PK 3-4 (3)

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT EARLY CHILDHOOD CABINET

Our Early Childhood Centers continue to be served by the Mid-South District Early Childhood Cabinet consisting of the following consultants:

Dina Foshee, Faith Lutheran Preschool, Collierville, TN
Ann Laury, Christ the King Principal, Memphis, TN
Shirley Eimmerman, First Lutheran Preschool, Knoxville, TN

These consultants are responsible for assisting the Executive Director for Schools and Early Childhood. They serve as resource people, and plan the annual District Early Childhood Conference.

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT LUTHERAN SCHOOL STATISTICS

Preschool/Daycare – 1,452 students

Elementary – 871 students

High School – 10 students

All schools

Average - 13.5% Congregation support, 78.5% Tuition and fees, 8% other income

There were 25 baptisms during the 2016-2017 school year

There were 16 adults joining one of the churches during the 2016-2017 school year

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL ACCREDITATION TRAINED TEAM CAPTAINS

Elementary Schools Trained Captains and Consultants

Name	Title, School, City, State
Piepenbrink, Allen	Mid-South District, Education Executive
Baringer, Todd	Principal, Immanuel Lutheran School, Memphis, TN
Pudwell, Kris	Teacher, Immanuel Lutheran School, Memphis, TN
Williamson, June	Teacher, Immanuel Lutheran School, Memphis, TN
Meyers, Richard	Principal, Avilla Christian Academy, Alexander, AR
Jerry, Heidi	Principal, Christ Lutheran School, Little Rock, AR
Steely, Cara	Teacher, Christ Lutheran School, Little Rock, AR
O'Brien, Kory	Principal, Concordia Christian Academy, Jonesboro, AR
O'Brien, Cara	Teacher, Concordia Christian Academy, Jonesboro, AR
Laury, Ann	Principal, Christ the King Lutheran School, Memphis, TN
Lawrence, Kyle	Teacher, Christ the King Lutheran School, Memphis, TN
Madden, Tammy	Teacher, Christ the King Lutheran School, Memphis, TN
Hofman, Lindsey	Principal, First Lutheran School, Knoxville, TN
Streufert, Frank	Principal, Belvoir Christian Academy, Chattanooga, TN

Early Childhood Trained Captains and Consultants

Name	Title, School, City, State
Foshee, Dina	Director, Faith Lutheran Preschool, Collierville, TN
Gunderson, Sabrina	Director, Shepherd's Little Flock, Crossville, TN
Lyons, LaDonna	Director, TLC Childcare & Dev., Columbia, TN
Maples, Karlene	Director, Immanuel Lutheran Preschool, Memphis, TN
Moorman, Colleen	Director, Grace Early Childhood Dev. Ctr., Little Rock, AR
Tompkins, Rachel	Director, Our Savior Lutheran Academy, Nashville, TN

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

Elementary Schools	Location	Year of Accreditation	Year of Re-Accreditation
Avilla Christian Academy	Alexander, AR	2012	2018
Christ Lutheran School	Little Rock, AR	2014	2019
Concordia Christian Academy	Jonesboro, AR	2015	2020
First Lutheran School	Fort Smith, AR	2016	2021
St. John Lutheran School	Stuttgart, AR		
Holy Trinity Lutheran School	Bowling Green, KY	2013	2018
Belvoir Christian Academy	Chattanooga, TN	2014	2019
Christ the King Lutheran School	Memphis, TN	2015	2020
First Lutheran School	Knoxville, TN	2017	2022
Heavenly Host Lutheran School	Cookeville, TN	2015	2020
Immanuel Lutheran School	Memphis, TN	2016	2021
Early Childhood Centers			
Faith Lutheran Preschool	Collierville, TN	2013	2018

Preschools with schools are also accredited

DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

Early Childhood Conference, July 13-14, 2015 (Indiana District Attended) – *“On Your Mark, Get Set, GO”*

Administrators’ Conference, September 17-18, 2015 - *“God’s Mission - Unified”*

Mid-South District Teachers Conference, Nov. 22-24, 2015 – *“All In, There’s No Halfway”*

Early Childhood Conference, July 11-12, 2016 – *“Relax, Renew, Revive”*

2016 Lutheran Education Association Conference – October 13-15, 2016

2017 Principal & Early Childhood Dir. Workshops: Ten regional (5 east & 5 west) workshops held

National Lutheran School Accreditation Atlas Workshop – May 31, 2017

National Lutheran School Accreditation Training Session – June 22-23, 2017

Principals/EC Directors Workshop, July 9-10, 2017

Early Childhood Conference July 10-11, 2017 – *“It’s Still All About Him!”*

Mid-South/Southern District Teachers Conference, Nov. 19-21, 2017 – *“Inspired to Lead. Empowered to be Witnesses of Christ”*

2018 Principal & Early Childhood Dir. Workshops: Ten regional (5 east & 5 west) workshops planned

7-Up Conference – October 29-31, 2018 (7 District education executives)

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Piepenbrink

Mid-South District Executive Director for Schools and Early Childhood



REPORT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to support the Church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner of the LCMS, ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future.

Organization Overview

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is an organization that empowers ministry. Incorporated in 1978, LCEF continues a long history of extension fund service to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and its individual and corporate members. Through the dollars invested by thousands of individuals, congregations, schools, organizations and businesses, LCEF assists ministries with custom loans and ministry support services. Together, these partnerships have grown total assets to \$1.8 billion.

There are many ways to become a part of the LCEF ministry, collectively doing the work God has planned for us. Historically, church extension operations have centered on loans made possible through investments and gifts from dedicated church members and supporters. Today, LCEF has expanded its offerings to include resources that help put ministry in motion. VisionPath, Capital Funding Services (CFS) and Laborers For Christ (LFC) are examples of services offered to enhance and support ministries.

Bart Day serves as president/CEO and reports to a 12-member Board of Directors. LCEF employs some 110 people located in St. Louis and more than 50 employees in 30 member districts throughout the United States. The organization also counts on the service of hundreds of volunteers, such as Laborers For Christ and LCEF Advocates, to fulfill its mission.

In the national office, the investment processing area cares for nearly 60,000 LCEF investors, including individuals, LCMS ministries and entities, Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs), businesses and partner churches. LCEF's loan department serves LCMS ministries and Rostered Church Workers (RCW), providing customized loans including mortgages, construction loans and lines of credit. LCMS ministries connect to LCEF through their District Vice President (DVP), who works through the district office—they are a part of the Lutheran communities in which they serve. District Vice Presidents are supported by their district support staff as well as the national office staff in St. Louis.

Economic Overview

During fiscal 2017, the economy continued its moderate growth trend with unemployment improving throughout the year due to strong jobs reports. After the surprise presidential election of Donald Trump in November 2016, interest rates climbed quickly and equities reached new records in reaction to anticipated policy changes such as tax reform, stimulus packages, decreased regulations and the repeal of Obamacare. As of the end of June, the S&P index has risen nearly 14% since the November election in spite of the fact that Congress has not acted on the Trump agenda. Expectations for continued earnings growth—buoyed by strong employment, growing consumer and business confidence, housing demand and broad-based global growth—support the current valuations and prospects for additional growth into late 2017.

Improving economics has moved the U.S. out of the era of Quantitative Easing (QE). Rates have been increasing. At its December 2015 meeting, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) increased short-term rates by .25%, the first change since December 2008. Since then, the Federal Reserve has voted to increase rates by an additional .25% during each of the December 2016, March 2017 and June 2017 meetings. The prospects for another .25% increase during the December or January FED meeting are 78%.

From a market perspective, the three-year treasury rate (which correlates with the average term of LCEF's intermediate fixed-income portfolio) rose dramatically during the fiscal year from the post Brexit vote low in July 2016 of .71% to a high of 1.69% closing at 1.6% at the end of the fiscal year in June, 2017. The Federal Reserve continues to assure the markets that the return to a more normalized rate environment will be data driven, and it is expected that, unless inflation begins to increase at a faster pace, these adjustments will be gradual.

LCEF's investment portfolio is heavily weighted to fixed-income investments, and the rising rate environment, while providing increased yields over time, resulted in unrealized losses in its intermediate bond portfolio. To hedge against these losses, LCEF maintained a short duration approximating two years, and a longer-term portfolio of other investments that historically over time have proven to be non-correlated to rising interest rates. The good news during fiscal year 2017 is that the long-term portfolio generated market gains of \$6.0 million which offset in part the market value losses of \$10.55 million on the fixed income portfolio.

LCEF's Performance – Fiscal 2017 Highlights

Against the backdrop of the economic overview provided above, during fiscal year 2017 (FY17), LCEF was blessed to serve the ministries of the LCMS and achieved or exceeded many of the financial targets and goals outlined in the prior year Ministry and Business Plan. LCEF ended the year with total assets reaching \$1.8 billion and achieved net income of \$8.8 million. Once again, LCEF was able to distribute operating results to the LCEF Districts and to the Synod and also made an allocation approximating \$1.2 million to the Kaleidoscope Fund – a granting initiative sponsored by LCEF.

Details of the financial performance for FY 2017 are listed below:

- The Ohio District CEF consolidated its operations with LCEF effective April 01, 2017.
- The South Dakota CEF decided to consolidate its operations with LCEF effective October 15, 2017, the third CEF district entry in the past two years.
- Total Assets increased \$31.1 million or 1.7% to \$1.839 billion since June 30, 2016, due to the entry of the Ohio District CEF.
- Management continued to maintain high levels of liquidity with cash and investments totaling \$317.2 million or 19.6% of notes and support dollars payables at June 30, 2017.
- Maintained a strong capital ratio of 11.7%, an increase of .4% when compared to the prior year.
- Cost of Funds (COF - the base from which loan rates are set) remained stable at 1.875% during the year, translating to very low-cost loans to organizations and Rostered Church Workers in FY 17.
- LCEF continued the multi-year increase in investors, achieving a net increase of 1,264 new investor relationships. This increase resulted from the entry of the Ohio CEF transferring 765 investors, the continued success of ConnectPlus and PartnerPlus term notes and the Young Investors (Y.I.) offering during the year.
- Loans receivable increased by \$70 million to a balance of \$1.5 billion.
- LCEF's loan disbursements were \$95.7 million higher than the prior year, totaling \$270.1 million which exceeded loan principal repayments by \$50 million, resulting in a reduction in short-term investments.
- During FY 2017, the delinquency rate increased to .7% from .4% the prior year, still a historically low level of delinquencies.
- Impaired loans decreased from \$129.8 million at June 30, 2016, to \$104.8 million at the end of FY 2017. Impaired loans include nonaccrual loans and loans for which LCEF has modified repayment terms from the terms included in the original loans agreements.
- Nonaccrual loans decreased to \$72.1 million compared with \$87.3 million at June 30, 2017. Associated interest reserves totaled \$900 thousand.

- The total allowance, as of June 30, 2017, totaled \$29.4 million or 1.96% of the loan portfolio, compared to \$37.3 million or 2.6% at June 30, 2016. The decrease in reserves represent write-offs associated with the resolution of certain specific impaired loans.

LCEF continues to be blessed by the strong support of its investors and the dedicated commitment of its borrowers. Because of this partnership, LCEF is well positioned to serve the ministries of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod today and in the future.

LCEF Highlights in the Mid-South District During the Last Triennium

The Lord continues to bless the work of LCEF in the Mid-South District. Ministries impacted by LCEF loans in the last three years include:

- PRAISE LUTHERAN CHURCH (Maryville, TN) – Loan to purchase additional property
- TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (Columbia, TN) – Loan to renovate its church facilities
- GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (Murfreesboro, TN) – Loan to renovate its church facilities
- IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (Memphis, TN) – Loan to build a STEMM lab for the elementary school
- PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (Cherokee Village, AR) – Loan to replace the church's HVAC unit
- OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH (Cabot, AR) – Loan to assist in replacing the church's roof
- CHRISTUS VICTOR LUTHERAN CHURCH (Knoxville, TN) – Loan to replace the church's HVAC unit
- HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (Rogers, AR) – Loan to renovate the church's facilities
- BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (Johnson City, TN) – Loan to replace the church's roof
- REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH (Nashville, TN) – Loan to renovate the church's facilities

These loans and the wide array of services offered by LCEF are only possible because of the dollars entrusted to LCEF by members of our churches across our District and Synod. Currently, there are more than 2,700 LCEF investors in the Mid-South District with investments totaling more than \$60 million. The investments by Mid-South people not only support the congregation and school loans in our District, but help support loans to ministries across the world! Your dollars truly make a difference when you invest in LCEF. We praise God for our continued partnership in the Gospel which enables ministry to be enhanced and expanded.

Core Initiatives for Fiscal Year 2018

As outlined in LCEF's Ministry and Business Plan for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018 – 2020, LCEF is focused on the following core initiatives:

- Prepare for and adapt to internal and external change as we embrace the evolving needs of our customers and adjust to new leadership within the organization.
- Develop a greater partnership with LCMS entities and Synod, Inc., building upon synergies and strengths of the organizations in support of ministries we commonly serve.
- Ensure continued financial and operational health of the enterprise, having resources available in support of ministries and partner churches of the LCMS today and in the future.

Based on its financial forecast for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, and in line with the core initiatives outlined above, LCEF expects:

- Total assets to decrease \$14.1 million, or .01% to \$1.825 billion.
- Liquidity to remain strong, maintaining a ratio approximating 19% of notes & support dollars payables.
- Net assets to increase to \$223.1 million representing a capital-to-asset ratio of 12.2%.
- Loans receivable to increase to \$1.522 billion.
- Notes and support dollars payables to decrease to \$1.593 billion.
- Net income to total \$8.9 million.
- Loan delinquencies to remain at a level below 1.75% and non-income producing assets, non-accrual loans and real estate to decrease by \$12.1 million.

Other objectives include:

- Following three years of planning and preparation, two of three regional operations centers have opened their doors in Minneapolis/St. Paul, which is serving as the operational hub for Central Region and Mission Viejo, California, which is now serving as the operational hub for the West Region.
- One additional regional center is scheduled to open during the coming fiscal year with an office planned for Orlando, Florida. The East Region office will complete the first major phase of the larger de-centralization efforts designed to increase and improve LCEF's ability to first discern and then respond to the continually evolving needs of our customers across the country.
- National loan staff will actively engage and interact with district and regional support networks. They will seek increased opportunities with the non-congregational borrowing base, and in conjunction with the Lutheran Federal Credit Union, will expand the Rostered Church Worker (RCW) Loan Program to states beyond the current 16 where LCEF is licensed.
- Marketing will engage with and support the regional and district offices to better understand their unique needs so it can properly support their ministry efforts.
- Marketing will update the website to reflect a blog-centric content strategy and user-friendly 13 Annual Meeting 2017 experience. Marketing will implement a strategy to retire and/or redefine the investor products ensuring LCEF's product line remains strong and relevant offering investors a complementary mix of demand and term products.
- Laborers For Christ (LFC) will complete a comprehensive study and re-design of its business model to reflect current sociological and economic realities with a focus on long-term sustainability.
- Capital Funding Services will develop a capital campaign strategy utilizing a team approach of individual 'experts' within various components of a campaign for conducting campaigns in larger churches.
- District and National Operations (DNO) will continue dialogue with other synodical agencies to develop operational models for the future that seek to leverage the LCEF regional structure.
- Loans will seek opportunities to network with other synodical agencies in conjunction with product development, customer support and loan promotion efforts, and will actively participate in district and nationally hosted events, taking advantage of opportunities for key sponsorships.
- Loans will explore strategic partnerships with LCMS entities and partner churches and expand relationships with Recognized Service Organizations and associations of LCMS elementary and high schools.
- Information Technology will connect where appropriate with LCMS entities to increase communications in the areas of cyber security, customer relationship management and vendor management.
- Facilities Management will leverage existing relationships with partners such as Foundry Commercial, LCEF's real estate partner, to assist entities and customers with maintenance and management of physical infrastructure, analyzing building operations and suggesting improvements and opportunities for savings.
- Benefiting from networking opportunities with the Concordia University System through the National Student Marketing Competition, Marketing will host a high school entrepreneur

competition in the St. Louis area with a desire to have a nationwide program in the future. They will also organize networking events and mutual learning sessions with various LCMS entities.

- Ministry Support will consider partnering with the Office of National Mission (ONM) to develop a ministry geared to older LCMS members. In concert with the synodical stewardship group, Ministry Support will determine new stewardship opportunities for LCMS congregations.
- DNO will continue to place a strong emphasis on growing the roles of investing partners with the LCEF. Cultivation, development and ongoing maintenance of these investor relationships will drive lending activities for the foreseeable future.
- Loans will continue to work with impaired borrowers to return a significant portion of these loans to the active loan portfolio.
- Finance projects LCEF will achieve sufficient net income that will provide for distribution of operating results and contributions to the Kaleidoscope Fund. Finance will also expand awareness and focus of LCEF's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) process, ensuring accountability and engagement throughout the organization.

LCEF has truly been blessed with positive financial results, loyal support from its investors and faithful commitment from its borrowers. Through this support, LCEF has been able to meet the loan needs of ministries within the LCMS and maintain its strong financial position. LCEF once again distributed portions of its operating results to participating districts and the Synod along with ministry grants through the Kaleidoscope Fund. Management remains committed to supporting those ministries struggling financially, in a firm yet encouraging way, confident that God will provide a path for faithful ministries to continue to fulfill the mission of sharing the Gospel.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Reaves

LCEF Vice President, Mid-South District



REPORT OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT ARCHIVES

“I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient time...” Psalm 77:5

The District Archivist is appointed by the District President and approved by the Board of Directors. It is a voluntary position and six appointees, including the current Co-Archivists, have served in this capacity since the formulation of the District in 1966.

All historical records located at the District Office are now confined to one office. Over the last year, countless hours have been spent by office staff and volunteers in sorting and moving the many boxes of material, formerly located in the storage room of the District Office, to the new “Archive Office.”

Our responsibilities include assessing whether a piece of information is of value, and then storing the information in an appropriate manner. Photographs, documents, letters, audio recordings, and videos are all forms of records that can be preserved.

We would be pleased and happy to receive any information a congregation or individual has for the Archive Office of the Mid-South District. Contributions from the District congregations are a vital part of the historical records, and significant milestones, such as church anniversaries, dedications, ordinations, etc., can be sent to the District Office for archiving. We are determined to carefully examine and organize the records so that they will be preserved and arranged in such a way that the information can be accessed and understood now and in the future.

The opportunity to serve in this position has been very rewarding, and we look forward to continuing to serve the District as Co-Archivists to the best of our ability.

Respectfully submitted,

**Pat Boysen
Nancy Lee
Mid-South District Co-Archivists**



REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

The Constitution Committee is tasked with the review of new or amended constitutions and/or bylaws of congregations of the Mid-South District. The committee looks for items which may not conform to doctrine or policy of the Synod or be contrary to civil laws. However, what we mostly find is items which may be stated poorly, incompletely or confusingly. We will look at spellings and grammar and will make suggestions, which may improve the piece. This committee was Rev. Kenneth Haydon (chairman), Mr. Andy Grams, Dr. Fred Guengerich, Ms. Janet Simko, and Rev. James Walter.

Since the report for the 2015 convention, we have received and reviewed constitutions and/or bylaws for:

Faith, Bentonville, AR
Grace, Holiday Island, AR
First, Little Rock, AR
Shepherd of Peace, Maumelle, AR
Trinity, Mena, AR
Trinity, North Little Rock, AR
Redeemer, Paragould, AR

Holy Trinity, Rogers, AR
St. John, Russellville, AR
Faith, Hopkinsville, KY
Beautiful Savior, Olive Branch, MS
Grace, Clarksville, TN
Good Shepherd, Sharps Chapel, TN

When reviews are completed, approval with changes – as may be needed – the document(s) is recommended to the Board of Directors, which gives final approval and may ask for further clarifications. For best results, electronic copies of material should be submitted – preferably in WORD format – for easier marking and reporting as needed. The committee requests that if you are amending or changing parts of an existing document, deletions and additions be indicated (such as: cross out deletions and put additions in color). Synod requires that, for legal reasons, any references in the Constitution and Bylaws of congregations use the full, legal name of the Synod: **The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod**. Also, when listing the confessions within the Book of Concord, the committee highly recommends adding: “Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope” if it is not already listed. Even though Article II of Synod’s Constitution does not include it in the listing, as historically, it has been at times seen as included as part of the Smalcald Articles, it is indeed part of our official confession. When developing or revising your constitution and/or bylaws, please check these items.

I would like to thank and commend the committee members for their diligent important work in reviewing these documents. We pray God’s blessings for all our District’s congregations.

Respectfully submitted,

**Rev. Kenneth C. Haydon, Chair
Mid-South District Constitution Committee**



REPORT OF THE DEACON PROGRAM

Our present Deacon Committee is comprised of Deacons Earl Burghart and Bill Schutte, Pastors Curt Hoover and Russell Shewmaker, and President Roger Paavola. Ms. Alison Hawkins, President Paavola's assistant, keeps all our deacon information in good order. In addition to the committee, a task force was formed as per Resolution 01-03-15 of our last District Convention. This task force was made up of the above referenced committee plus Deacon Bob Allen, and Pastor David Gadbaw.

The training and utilization of licensed lay deacons has a long and important role in carrying out our Lord's work in the Mid-South District. Since the mid-nineties deacons have been instrumental in meeting the needs of our congregations. The initial development of a deacon program within our district was in response to the ministry needs of congregations without a pastor. Deacons were seen as a feasible, helpful, and workable way to address that need.

It soon became apparent that the course work developed for the training of men to assist in Word and Sacrament ministry would be helpful in more areas in the body of Christ. Courses in Old Testament and New Testament, doctrine, outreach, teaching, and Christian care have value to better equip many to carry one another's burdens and to enhance one's ability to give an answer for the hope that is in us. Such activities as teaching Bible classes, visiting the sick and shut-ins, planning and executing outreach efforts, and occasional preaching have also been the work of deacons.

Since our last convening as a district in 2015 there have been major developments that certainly affect the ministry of our deacons. The service of deacons has not been an area of consensus within the LCMS in the now 29 years since the 1989 Synodical Convention brought the subject to the fore. Much of this lack of consensus centered on the understanding of our Lutheran Confessions, in particular the ministry of deacons in carrying out some of the distinctive functions of the pastoral office in light of Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession. Resolution 01-03-15 of the 2015 Mid-South District Convention as well as Resolutions 13-01, 13-02A, 13-03, and 13-04A of the 2016 Synodical Convention addressed these concerns.

As a result of Resolution 4-06A of the 2013 Synodical Convention a task force was formed to "resolve questions about the service of licensed lay deacons." President Paavola was a part of that task force. After extensive efforts that included visits to districts, discussions with lay deacons and supervising pastors, input of the Synodical Council of Presidents, and thoughts from theologians within our church body, the Task Force issued its report in July of 2015 (interested individuals may access the report and its executive summary on the LCMS website). Consultation with deacons and supervising pastors of the Mid-South District, as well members of our District Deacon Task Force was part of the effort of the Synodical Task Force. The thorough work of the Synodical Task Force was a major resource for the development of the 2016 resolutions referenced above.

The resolutions provide a way for enhancing our work together as the body of Christ. Pathways have been provided to regularize and recognize the work of those deacons who have been faithfully serving as the primary deliverers of Word and Sacrament ministry in congregations in our District and throughout the Synod. Said Deacons now had the path of enrolling in one of our seminary programs leading to ordination, or applying for ordination through Colloquy, either in the General Pastor or Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) designation. Currently we have 1 man moving toward General Colloquy, and 11 men for SMP Colloquy. At this time, 1 man is pursuing enrollment in the SMP program at the Seminary.

At the same time, continuing need for training workers in our congregations to serve in many areas besides Word and Sacrament is recognized and encouraged. The following *Resolves* of 13-02A bear this out:

Resolved, That nothing in this resolution shall be construed as impeding the training, recognition, credentialing or service of deacons who do not publicly preach or administer the sacraments, namely, those who serve in ministries of mercy, education, or visitation, and so forth, or in an outreach role, assisting in evangelism and church planting (but not in public preaching and administration of the sacraments); and be it further

Resolved, That district presidents may continue to recruit, train, and credential new deacons for general varieties of service in the church that do not include public preaching and administration of the sacraments;

Currently the Mid-South District has 15 licensed deacons who are not in positions of administering the sacraments. They are serving, have served, and/or are available in the work of the church as stated above. The Mid-South District is committed to facilitating ongoing training for those with the desire and ability to meet the many needs in our congregations. Opportunities for such training should be flexible, available, and affordable.

The Lord is our Rock, our Fortress, and Salvation. Ongoing training for lay workers, men and women, in the church is another tool to help more remember that sure foundation when all else has washed away or to set foot on it for the first time in the midst of the rising waters around us.

In the Service of Christ,

**Russell Shewmaker
Mid-South Deacon Committee**

REPORT OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT RECONCILER TEAM

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...” Hebrews 10:23-24

Living and serving together as brothers and sisters in Christ involves our confession of faith. We, as God’s people, must be intentional to put into practice what we say we believe. The call to live in peace with one another is very real even though we live in a world that is full of tension and conflict. God in Christ has reconciled the world to Himself and in doing so He has made it possible for us to be reconciled to one another. It is in the peace of Christ that our hearts are moved *to stir up one another to love and good works*.

The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod has trained laity, commissioned workers and pastors in peacemaking. The desired goals are biblical, forgiveness and restoration of the relationship so they may work together and glorify God. When attempts to resolve issues and restore their relationships fail there is a Christian arbitration process that includes the LCMS Dispute Resolution Procedures.

The Mid-South District has four trained reconcilers: Mr. George Albers (layman, Bella Vista Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, AR), Mr. William Baessler (commissioned, Heavenly Host Lutheran Church, Cookeville, TN) The Reverend John Gierke (Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR), and The Reverend Carl Wenck (Grace Lutheran Church, Murfreesboro, TN). Since our last convention, Mr. George Albers has respectfully resigned and Mr. Marc Higgins (layman, Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church, Maumelle, AR), was appointed by the District Board of Directors in November 2016.

Since the District Convention held in June 2015, the following is a summary of the ways in which the district reconcilers have served.

- a. Served on a Dispute Resolution Panel: 0
- b. Served as a mediator within the district: 7 congregations
- c. Served as a Conflict Coach: 113 Reconcilers assisted people in working through issues so that they may speak about them in appropriate ways with others. This includes meeting with individuals and phone conversations.
- d. Reviewed the updates to the Dispute Resolution Process, issued in September and December of 2017
- e. Our District President, The Reverend Doctor Roger Paavola, serves a significant role as a peacemaker within our District and Synod. His service is not included in the numbers in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

**The Reverend Carl R. Wenck
Mid-South District Reconciler Team**



REPORT OF THE RURAL AND SMALL TOWN MINISTRY (RSTM)

From the beginning, the Mid-South District has had congregations that cover the spectrum of sizes. To be sure, these congregations have ranged from the upper 700's or greater down to the more modest or much smaller congregations that range below 100 or even less. Of course, each district throughout the Missouri Synod has this particular make-up of congregations. However, while larger congregations have their own set of issues, the smaller congregations find different challenges that need to be addressed in unique and innovative ways.

One reason for the special circumstances that surround the smaller or rural congregations may have to do with changing demographics. While some congregations have been around for many years the communities that they serve have NOT remained the same. Economic realities along with changing population trends have served to put a special pressure upon these smaller congregations and challenged their members to develop new and innovative approaches in reaching out to those they serve both internally and externally.

The fact is smaller and rural congregations are finding themselves to be much more than the David among the Goliath congregations. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit great things are happening. This is where the RSTM (Rural and Small Town Ministries) comes in to assist. With the backing and encouragement of the synodical office of RSTM the Mid-South District has been working to be that catalyst to jump start new ideas that will move the smaller congregations to be indispensable to the communities that they serve.

With the ideas that come through "Asset Mapping", smaller congregations are suddenly able to see, not what they don't have, but what they *do* have. Pairing talents of those in the congregations with those in the community is one way to build relations and raise awareness of a congregation's presence within the community. Taking a good long look at who that community is through demographic studies is another way for the smaller congregations to develop the ministries necessary to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Congregations that need or desire such a study can find this help through RSTM with the aid of LCEF who has offered such reports to all congregations – the larger and the smaller.

There has been much work done in the Mid-South District since early 2005 with Rural and Small Town Ministries. However that work continually finds additional challenges. The size of our district and the number of small congregations present enough work for a committee three times the size. Yet, those who are involved with the RSTM are committed to helping every congregation that desires the assistance and input of the RSTM.

In order for the Mid-South District to remain on the cutting edge of innovation, the RSTM group works closely with Reverend Todd Kollbaum, LCMS Director of RSTM. Through various meetings and conversations the Mid-South RSTM has opportunity to hear from Rev. Kollbaum about new and effective ideas that have been used across the Synod. While each community is unique in its own way there are various approaches that can be used (such as Asset Mapping) by each congregation. Much of what has been learned through our conversations with Rev. Kollbaum

is being inserted as tools used by the Mid-South RSTM. As a result our district RSTM has held one “Engaging Your Community” event in Arkansas in 2016 and one in Tennessee in 2017.

To continue our growth, in 2018, the RSTM of the Mid-South District will be hosting an “Engaging Your Community” event at Shepherd of the Hills in Crossville, TN on Saturday, September 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This gathering is intended to offer up ideas from around the Synod to help small congregations reach out to their communities.

In connection with the Synod’s committee, our district RSTM sent representatives to the 2016 National RSTM Conference in Wichita, with the theme, “Standing Where You are Planted – Your Vocation is Where God Planted You” and the 2017 Conference in Kansas City with the theme “Standing on Our Heritage – It’s All Still About Jesus.” These conferences have allowed us to examine our own structure and help to define our goals for the coming years as we reach out across the Mid-South.

The commitment of the Mid-South District is to strengthen small and rural congregations. This commitment will require a close working connection with all involved. This will mean regular contact with Rev. Kollbaum who has already provided information to our district in conference as well as with the Circuit Visitors, the District President and regional Vice Presidents. To be sure, it is good to know the national RSTM group is available to assist us as we move forward into the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Since the last district convention, the RSTM has taken on new members. Those now serving on the RSTM are: Deacon Earl Burghart; Reverend Kevin R. Conger, Reverend Dr. Roger Paavola, Deaconess Connie Soso-Goines, Reverend Josh Willadsen, Reverend Robert Herring, Reverend Ken Shaw, and Mr. Lee Smith. All are valued members who have contributed new ideas and suggestions to improve the presentations at our RSTM events.

I would ask for your prayers as each individual serves with one goal in mind: that the message of the cross of Christ continues to be heard loud and clear through all congregations within the communities that they serve whether they are large, medium, or small and rural.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend Kevin R. Conger
Chairman, RSTM, Mid-South District



REPORT OF MID-SOUTH DISTRICT WORLD MISSIONS

The Mid-South District has been a partner and supporter of the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese (SELVD) of the Lutheran Church of Tanzania since its establishment in 2013. Mission teams from the Mid-South District have been going into the area near Lake Victoria in Tanzania since 2002. We have worked in partnership first, with the East of Lake Victoria Diocese, mother diocese of the SELVD, going into many areas where the gospel message had never been heard.

The SELVD is located in an arid region, approximately half the size of the state of Tennessee, southeast of Lake Victoria with a population of 2,805,000.

The SELVD has experienced tremendous growth since its establishment. In 2013 the diocese had 3 districts with 34 parishes (mother churches) and 113 worship centers with 49,000 members served by 17 pastors. Today the Diocese has 10 districts with 62 parishes and 177 worship centers served by 61 pastors and the number of baptized members has grown by close to 20%.

The primary focus of the partnership of the Mid-South District with the SELVD has been to train Pastors and Deaconesses. This training has been done since 2013 in partnership with the LCMS and with Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) whose faculty comes to Tanzania and teaches in the two-year training-center program in Negezi. The training consists of 16 quarterly courses in two-week residential sessions. The training is held in the Negezi Training center located in a rural area outside of Shinyanga. Since the establishment of the Pastor Training, 21 pastors were ordained and 7 Deaconesses were commissioned in 2015 and 17 Pastors were ordained and 7 deaconesses were commissioned in 2017.

The second focus of the District support has been to train Pastors from the SELVD at one of our LCMS seminaries. Since its establishment, 2 SELVD Pastors have received their Doctor of Ministry degrees from CTSFW and one Pastor has completed his M.Div. and is working on his Doctorate at CTSFW.

Funding for these training programs have been possible by the support of the Mid-South District, CTSFW and by grants from the LCMS Global Seminary Initiative. Unfortunately funding from Synod for the Global Seminary initiative has been cut back because of financial issues making our support even more important for the survival of this educational process.

The District has been faithful in sending mission teams from Mid-South District to the SELVD. Since 2004, yearly mission trips have been made by district members who have witnessed the baptisms of thousands of men, women and children. They have gone into homes, churches, villages, schools, hospitals, orphanages and governmental offices to share the Word of the Lord.

As a result of these trips since the founding of the SELVD in 2013, mission teams from the Mid-South have been involved with and/or witnessed close to 10,000 baptisms. Many of these baptisms were in areas that had no church before the mission trip and as a result, many new congregations were formed and churches built to serve these new Christians.

Humanitarian efforts supported by donations from Mid-South District members have resulted in long lasting friendships, we have supplied food to those in need, and have provided eye glass clinics in remote villages.

Transportation has been provided to pastors and evangelists in the form of motorbikes and bicycles. Thousands of Swahili Bibles, Small Catechisms and hymnals have been given. Wells have been dug; hundreds of mosquito nets have been distributed to help prevent malaria. Clothing has been made and distributed to the needy. Altar paraments have been given to new congregations. Robes and stoles have been given to pastors who cannot afford them. Dollars and material donations have also helped to build and supply hospitals, roofed churches, and dormitories were constructed in Christian schools.

Teachers from the District have gone to teach English as a second language in the Lutheran secondary schools. Pastors have gone to teach at the Pastoral and evangelist training centers.

This partnership was formed with the idea of assisting the SELVD through training and the development of pastors and lay people, to do what they are best at – sharing the Gospel with the Sukuma people in their own villages and throughout the Diocese. This partnership has been truly instrumental in members of the District being involved in Witness and Mercy ministry. The gospel message has been shared to the Sukuma people; pastors, deaconesses and lay leaders have been trained; churches have been planted.

Come join us on a mission trip and see for yourself what God can do.

On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand,

Bob Allen, Director

Mid- South District World Missions



REPORT OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

“The Lord is my Rock, my fortress, and my salvation.” In a world where we have so much uncertainty and can seem as though the wind and the waves of troubles seek to do nothing but erode the foundations of our faith, it is a comfort and a source of strength that it is not sand on which our kingdom is built, but instead is a life-giving rock that is Jesus Christ. How appropriate that Luther compared our God to a fortress! He protects, shelters, and provides for us sanctuary found in the church from sin, death, and the devil. The world may be full of uncertainty but the rock upon which we stand is as certain as the strength of our God.

This is such encouragement for us as church leaders in difficult times. Now that we have this certainty, what do we do with it? Now that we have this strength, what do we use it for? The Lord tells us to use this for the expansion of his kingdom - the Great Commission. It's very easy to have the desire to do this, but more difficult to know how. So, the question for us now is most likely, “What does this look like in the real world?” It looks like cross-generational ministry, which is the purpose of Youth and Family in the Mid-South District.

Since 2015, the Youth Board has evolved to encompass youth and family. In September of 2016, Commissioned Members of the Board of Directors were assigned to lead an Advisory Subcommittee focusing energies on ministry development in our professional areas. President Paavola outlined the following goals for the Youth and Family Advisory Group:

- ✓ *Researches, develops and secures resources for Commissioned and volunteer youth leaders*
- ✓ *Develops resources to enable and equip Family Ministries, enabling a sharing of faith*
- ✓ *Considers meaningful service projects to be coordinated throughout the District*
- ✓ *Establishes resources to encourage full participation of young families in life-long ministry*

Through bringing workshop facilitators Professor Ben Freudenburg and Rev. Dr. Terry Dittmer, providing Winter Forum opportunities to include working with youth, the family, parents and research supporting youth ministry through equipping parents/grandparents to be faith leaders in lives of youth from cradle to grave, we have begun a paradigm shift. The LCMS Youth Symposium in January 2018 revealed research from youth who are now young adults, stating what the Youth and Family Board of the Mid-South District have been working on for the past 3 years...faith is passed on through relationships, not programs. With that said, there is still a need to have organized ways to communicate and equip so that the “how” and “why” are understood. We need to know, “What does this look like in real life?” Not cookie cutter programs, but a means of communicating needs, how to address them, and then equipping churches to be home support systems where the Gospel is shared first with the family, then community, then the world around them. Here are events provided by the Mid-South Youth and Family:

Fall Workshop – experts in youth and/or family ministry facilitate a two-day workshop. Facilitators have included Rev. Dr. Terry Dittmer, director of LCMS Youth Ministry and Professor

Ben Freudenburg of Concordia University, Ann Arbor Michigan, founder of the Family Friendly Partner Network and director of Concordia Center for the Family.

Winter Forum – Mid-South District Youth Team leads roundtable discussion, provides resources for leader to read through, offers a safe place for youth and family leaders to network, collaborate, innovate and encourage one another to serve the next generation. Hot topics, parental involvement, volunteers, and family ministry are ongoing discussions at these events. The district coordinator is also a resource for those seeking answers regarding fundraising, events, and travel to the NYG

National Youth Gathering District Event – The 2016 NYG District Event in New Orleans was one of the largest in years with nearly 500 youth and adults participating! A District Coordinator is appointed for each gathering to organize a district event and booth for gathering participants.

Mid-Winter Retreats – West Region hosts over 200 youth and adults LinkT Mid-Winter Retreats (Jr. High each Fall, Sr. High each February) at the Lutheran Camp on Mount Petit Jean, AR. Central Region hosted September Jr. High Retreats at Deer Run Retreat in Thompson Station, TN and Sr. High Mid-Winter Retreat at Land Between the Lakes, KY. Several Mid-Winters were cancelled due to winter weather.

LYF Leadership Training – Youth were selected from each region to attend Leadership Training in St. Louis, serving as advisory panel for youth event/ministry planning and sharing what was learned with their local youth groups and 2 others in their region.

Servant events and Mission Trips – Mission trip/servant event opportunities include clean up and restoration at Lutheran Camp at Mt. Petit Jean during LinkT Retreats, *#servemidsouth* (Nov. 2015, serve locally and post on Facebook) and 2018 Mission Trip to take place July 22-25 in New Orleans through Camp Restore. Youth Board will use established format from New Orleans Mission Trip to implement servant event in our own district on non-National Youth Gathering years.

Generation to Generation - Following our 2016 Fall Conference Workshop, the Mid-South District was asked to partner in a Family Ministry Pilot Initiative with Concordia Center for the Family – Family Friendly Partner Network, lead by Professor Freudenburg. Seven West Region churches began Orientation in January of 2018, committing to a two-year training series. We are now recruiting East Region congregations to begin in January of 2019.

This initiative brings cradle to grave ministry resources and training to congregations in the Mid-South District where servants of the church (called and volunteer) empower congregational families to be sustainable faith forming centers, helping families thrive for the sake of the Gospel. Faith in the home organically becomes ministry.

This training is created to build and enrich Christ-centered marriages, train parents in parent education and to equip parents with knowledge and skills to influence their child's faith through the developmental and family life cycle. Generation to Generation includes all life stages, including young adults, later years, non-nuclear families, human sexuality and cradle-to-grave faith formation.

The following data concerning each generation in America that has an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ includes some alarming statistics! As you look at the percentages, consider the

Christian faith of the parents in each generation declining: 1) Builders born before 1945: 60% 2) Boomers born between 1946 and 1965: 40% 3) GenXers born between 1966 and 1985: 25% 4) Millennials born between 1986 and 2005: 4-6%.

Many parents today believe that attending church once per month is regular attendance. The main influencers of a child's faith are close family members and friends. Children may or may not be raised by their parents. Grandparents are often stepping into parental roles, raising their grandchildren while continuing to raise their adult children. Many parents today do not understand their responsibility in passing their faith to their children. The likelihood that a young adult will remain faithful to church and the faith after graduation if the only influence comes from the church is 25% ...if from faith shared in the home, that number increases to 81%.

Parents are the greatest influence on the faith lives of children and youth as they become adults. We must empower and equip parents and other faith leaders of the home to take responsibility in being active in their child's faith life in the home. Youth and Family Team continues to bring awareness to this paradigm shift, where the home becomes the faith forming center, supported by the church. We must equip leaders of the home to be faith leaders for their children. ***This is what the Great Commission looks like, beginning in our own homes, teaching the foundation of Jesus Christ as our life-giving Rock.*** The world may be full of uncertainty but the rock upon which we stand is as certain as the strength of our God. Through Generation to Generation, we are equipping parents, children, and families of all shapes and sizes to stand upon that Rock.

In His Service,

Tessa Brasher-DCE

Youth and Family Advisory Subcommittee Chairman



Background Information on the Necessity of Amending and Restating the Articles of Incorporation of the LCMS Mid-South District

From 2016 LCMS Convention Resolution 9-02A

Rationale

As the various corporations of the Synod were established, different reversionary language was used to make clear that all property of its agencies is the “Property of the Synod” (with the exception of assets held by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod

As the various corporations of the Synod were established, different reversionary language was used to make clear that all property of its agencies is the “Property of the Synod” (with the exception of assets held by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod and by any agency in a fiduciary capacity such as administered by Concordia Plan Services or certain funds held by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation; see Bylaw 1.2.1 [q]). Such variety led the 1981 LCMS convention to adopt Res. 5-07 to provide “definite procedures and policies for the establishment of additional corporations within the Synod.”

More recently, legal counsel advised that it would be helpful for the unity and interests of the Synod if clear and consistent relationship and property reversionary language be included in the Articles of Incorporation of all corporate agencies, new and old. This interest resulted in the adoption by the 2004 LCMS convention of Res. 4-11, requiring the inclusion of “clear relational and property reversionary provisions in the Articles of Incorporation of all corporate agencies.” Such provisions were developed by the Commission on Structure with the assistance of special legal counsel, to be included verbatim in the Articles of Incorporation of all corporate entities of the Synod, “not to be altered or deleted without the approval of the Synod, in convention, or the Board of Directors of the Synod.”

Ongoing efforts by the CCM (including the creation of a model articles of incorporation document) to see to it that such language is found in all agency Articles of Incorporation has resulted in unforeseen difficulties and concerns, including not-for-profit corporation laws with requirements that vary from state to state. This was a subject of discussion at a joint meeting of the Council of Presidents, CCM, and Commission on Handbook on November 20, 2014, resulting in the naming of a “Resolution 4-11 Committee” to represent the three groups. The committee’s assignment was to recommend next steps for the implementation, modification, or rescission of Res. 4-11 while continuing to honor the intentions of the resolution (and those of 1981 Res. 5-07).

As the committee reviewed its assignment, it requested comments regarding the resolution from the corporate agencies of the Synod while also examining how the provisions of Res. 4-11 impact LCMS organizational documents. After a series of telephone conference meetings, the committee requested the assistance of the Synod’s legal counsel, Thompson Coburn LLP, to consider comments received in response to the letter to the corporate agencies, to review the interaction of Res. 4-11 with provisions of the LCMS organizational documents, and to consider a new approach to the entire matter of uniformity of reversionary language. The end result of the Resolution 4-11 Committee’s work is this overture to the 2016 LCMS convention, proposed with the assistance of LCMS legal counsel. It is consistent with existing LCMS organizational documents and advocates rescinding 2004 Res. 4-11, superseding pertinent portions of 1981 Res. 5-07, and adopting a new Bylaw 1.5.3.6.

Therefore be it

Resolved, That 2004 Res. 4-11 be herewith rescinded in lieu of the adoption of new Bylaw 1.5.3.6 by this convention to accomplish the same expectations but in a manner more amenable to legal and other requirements of the Synod’s various corporate agencies; and be it further

Resolved, That points three and four of 1981 Res. 5-07 pertaining to matters now addressed by the adoption of new Bylaw 1.5.3.6 are superseded by this convention action and its new Bylaw 1.5.3.6; and be it further

Resolved, That new Bylaw 1.5.3.6 be adopted as follows:

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

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

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

(1) In the case of a synodwide corporate entity, district, university, college, or seminary, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as may be more specifically described elsewhere in these Bylaws;

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

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

and be it finally

Resolved, That the agencies of the Synod shall comply with the requirements of this bylaw change in time for the CCM to report the status of compliance to the 2019 convention of the Synod.

The district's current Articles of Incorporation were adopted and filed with the State of Tennessee in 1966, upon the formation of the Mid-South District. No amendments or restatements had previously been adopted, and given the fact that the Synod had called for specific verbiage in certain articles, the Board of Directors determined it would be best to seek a total revision and restatement of the 1966 Articles of Incorporation. In preparation for the 2015 Mid-South District Convention, the Mid-South District Board of Directors sought the legal advice of Attorney Matthew Jared, of Jared and Jared Attorneys at Law, in Cookeville, TN, to prepare Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation for the Mid-South District to comply with the prior Synod resolutions, as were other districts and the other agencies of the Synod with their own legal counsel. A draft was prepared by Mr. Jared to incorporate the language required by the Synod. This draft was to be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration to send to the CCM for review and to the 2015 district convention, when the Synod's CCM and COP placed a moratorium on the review of agencies' articles of incorporation, due to the complications that were being noted by various districts and Synod corporations.

After the moratorium was lifted by the 2016 Synod convention with the adoption of Resolution 9-02A, the additional language that new Bylaw 1.5.3.6 also required was inserted into the previous draft for the following proposed Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The Board of Directors reviewed the draft and approved its presentation to the CCM for their review and approval, as required by LCMS Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3, and to the 2018 Mid-South District Convention for their consideration and adoption.

Due to the style and form of the District's 1966 Articles of Incorporation being significantly different to the style and form of the proposed Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, it is not possible to present the proposed articles entirely in a ~~Present~~/Proposed format. The following summary is intended to provide the congregations and delegates assistance in noting the substantive restatements and amendments.

The various paragraphs from the 1966 document are either summarized or further spelled out by the various articles which are titled by topic.

In Article I.e., the date will be changed to June 30, 2018, or the date of filing by Attorney Jared on behalf of the Mid-South District.

In Article I.f, the name of the registered agent will be filled in with the name of the elected District President.

Although the second-last paragraph of the 1966 Articles of Incorporation include the reversion of the assets of the district to the Synod upon dissolution and liquidation, the following bolded items in Articles VIII and IX were required to be included verbatim by the Synod in the 2004 convention resolution 04-11. Additionally, the words “in convention” were included at the very end of Article VII. b, as well as “other than by direction from the Synod in convention” in the first sentence, second line of Article VIII.a., from 2016 Resolution 9-02A and Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.6.

Article VIII Dissolution

- a. **In the event this corporation is dissolved or its existence otherwise terminates or is terminated, after the payment of the debts of the corporation, all right, title, and interest in and to its property, whether tangible or intangible and whether real or personal, shall thereupon automatically vest in or be transferred to the Synod, and this corporation covenants and agrees to execute and deliver to the Synod such documents and instruments and to take such other and further actions as the Synod may deem reasonably necessary or desirable, in order to evidence and give full effect to the foregoing. This provision may not be altered or deleted without the approval of the Synod in convention or the Board of Directors of the Synod.**
- b. If, however, on the date of such proposed dissolution, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, is no longer in existence, the assets of the corporation may distributed to any other Section 501(c)(3) organization as designated by the board of directors.

Article IX Relationship to the Synod

This corporation, as part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, acknowledges its allegiance to the Synod and to the convention of the Synod. It submits to the authority of the Synod and the convention. It accedes, recognizes, and accepts the doctrine taught and practiced in the Synod (Art. II) and also the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws of the Synod, as currently in effect and as may hereafter be amended from time to time.

- a. **In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the organizational documents of this corporation and the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, or Bylaws of the Synod, as may hereafter be amended from time to time, the Articles, Constitution, or Bylaws of the Synod shall control and govern.**
- b. **This provision may not be altered or deleted without the approval of the Synod in convention or the Board of Directors of the Synod.**
- c. **Neither The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod nor The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Incorporated is responsible for the debts or other obligation of this corporation nor do they represent or endorse the fiscal solvency of this corporation.**

Articles X and XI – Indemnification and Liability and Indemnification of Officers were added pursuant to the listed Tennessee annotated law codes regarding indemnification and liability matters. These were not specifically covered in the 1966 articles, other than in generalities of following the law code of the State of Tennessee.

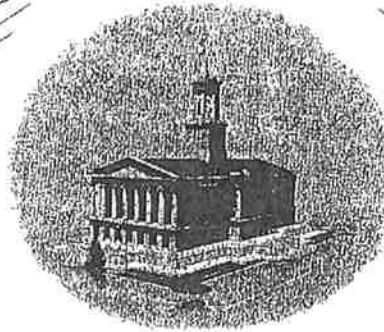
Article XII – Amendments, retains the stipulations that amendments of the Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a regularly called meeting of the corporation (district convention) by a simple majority of the voting delegates present at such a meeting, provided such amendments are not inconsistent with the constitution or laws of the United States of the State of Tennessee and the constitution and rules and regulations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. **What is added is that there must also be prior approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod, in compliance with LCMS Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3. and 4.1.3.**

LCMS Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 states: “The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall examine the articles of incorporation, bylaws, and policy manuals of every agency of the Synod to ascertain whether they are in harmony with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.”

LCMS Bylaw 4.1.3 states: “A district may incorporate or adopt such other convenient form of association as may be permitted by the civil laws under which the district carries on its activities. The form of incorporation or association and any subsequent proposed change thereof shall be submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod for review and approval before adoption by the district and before presentation to the proper civil authorities.

The proposed Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation were submitted to the Synod’s CCM on November 2, 2017 for their review. At their November 10-11, 2017 meeting, the CCM found the proposal to satisfy the requirements of 2016 Resolution 9-02A and LCMS Bylaw 1.5.3.6, and gave their approval for the presentation of the proposed articles to the district convention. Their official opinion is included in the text of the resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the Mid-South District in January 2018, presented to the convention as an overture to be considered by the convention and its floor committee.

State of Tennessee



Department of State

I, Joe C. Carr, Secretary of State of the
State of Tennessee, do hereby certify that the annexed Instrument
with Certificate of Acknowledgment was filed in my office and re-
corded on the 15th day of June 19 66

IN CORPORATION RECORD BOOK VOLUME O-26, PAGE 957

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my
Official Signature and by order of the Governor affixed the Great
Seal of the State of Tennessee at the
Department in the City of Nashville,
this 15th day of



June

15th

day of

A.D. 1966

Joe C. Carr
Secretary of State.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

BE IT KNOWN that Hubert L. Dellinger, Jr., M.D.,
Clarence O. Watson, Louis J. Juracek, Jr.,
Mose Walker, Jr., and Harold D. Allison,
and their successors chosen under terms and provisions of this Charter,
are hereby constituted a body politic and incorporate by the name and
style of "The Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod,"
a District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and maintaining an
office in Memphis, Tennessee, its registered agent at said office be-
ing:

DR. HUBERT L. DELLINGER Trinity Lutheran Church,
204 Washington Avenue,
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

The purpose of this corporation shall be the support of pub-
lic worship, the building and maintenance of churches, parsonages,
schools, hospitals, chapels, and such other religious, educational,
or benevolent instructions as may be necessary or proper to the work
of missionary bodies in the United States or in any foreign country,
and the maintenance of all missionary undertakings as a District of
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, effecting the purposes of and
carrying out the resolutions of the said Lutheran Church-Missouri
Synod.

In order to further the purposes of the corporation, the
objects of this corporation shall be the following; VIZ:

(a) To train ministers and teachers for service in the
Evangelical Lutheran Church.

(b) To assist and advise congregations, pastors, and
teachers affiliated with The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
and to exercise supervision over such pastors and teachers
as to doctrine, practice, and performance of their official
duties.

(c) To establish, build, conduct, and maintain theological
seminaries, colleges, academies, schools, and other institutions
of learning.

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(d) To assist in the establishment of Lutheran congregations and preaching stations.

(e) To spread the Gospel by means of radio and television broadcasting, visual education, and all other forms of missionary endeavor throughout the world.

(f) To print, publish, purchase, sell, and otherwise disseminate bibles, books, periodicals, literature, music, and other supplies for congregations, schools, Sunday schools, preaching stations, and institutions.

(g) To establish and conduct all such enterprises and endeavors and to exercise such further powers as may be necessary or expedient to carry out the objects and purposes for which this corporation is organized.

The persons named in this Charter of Incorporation shall be members of and constitute the first Board of Directors of such corporation, and they shall hold office until such time as their successors or the successors of any of them shall be chosen by the members of this corporation pursuant to the constitution, rules, and regulations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, which organization shall have authority to prescribe the terms of office and prescribe the manner of electing members to fill vacancies that may arise in such Board of Directors when either by death or resignation the said membership of Board of Directors shall become vacant before the expiration of the term for which said number was elected.

The general powers of this corporation shall be: To sue and be sued by its corporate name; to contract and be contracted with; to have and use a common seal which it may alter at its pleasure; and if no common seal is adopted or provided for, then the signature of the corporation by any duly authorized officer shall be legal and binding; to purchase and hold, and to receive, by gift or bequest, personal and real property in any amount, money, choses in action, or other things of value; and in addition to personal property owned, held, or received by the corporation, it may purchase and hold all real estate necessary for the purposes of the corporation and may own or hold any real or personal estate which may be given, devised, or bequeathed to the corporation, the same to be held and used for carrying on the corporate purposes; to purchase or accept real estate

in payment of any debt due the corporation and to sell the same; to borrow money to be used in payment for property bought by the corporation for erecting buildings and making improvements and for other purposes germane to the objects of the corporation; and to secure by mortgage, pledge, or deed of trust upon the property, and funds owned by it, the repayment of money borrowed; to accept, hold and manage, as Trustee, any property, money, or effects bequeathed or devised to it for any special purpose germane to the objects of the corporation; to make, by and through its directors, all bylaws and regulations necessary and deemed expedient for the management of its corporate affairs and not inconsistent with the laws of the United States or of the State of Tennessee, and not contrary to the constitution, rules, and regulations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the church or denomination with which it is affiliated and by which it may be controlled.

No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall within the meaning of the United States Federal Income Tax laws inure to the benefit of any private individual. The corporation shall not engage, nor shall its income and assets be used in carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, nor shall the corporation participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

The purpose of the organization of this corporation is for general welfare and not for profit, and any income derived therefrom shall not be paid out in dividends to any person or corporation but shall be used for the general welfare purposes and only for the purposes of said board or committees herein expressly provided for.

The corporation shall have the general powers, and be governed by the general statutes of the State of Tennessee, which have heretofore been passed and are now in force, and any statute subsequently passed governing, controlling, and directing the general conduct of corporations organized for the general welfare and not for profit, except insofar as such statutes may be in conflict with

the express provisions of Sections 48-1301 and 48-1305 Tennessee Code Annotated.

Subject to the exception hereinafter stated in this paragraph, upon dissolution and liquidation of this corporation the assets of this corporation shall be transferred, conveyed, and distributed to The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or to its successor or successors. An exception to the above manner of distribution on dissolution shall be made in such cases where a person, firm or organization, or corporation devises or bequeaths property to this corporation to be held in a separate fund, and specifies that any property remaining in said separate fund upon a certain date or upon the happening of some contingency such as the dissolution of this corporation, shall be distributed to a designated tax-exempt (that is, exempt from Federal Income Taxes) charitable, religious, scientific, literary, or educational corporation, organization, community chest fund, foundation, or other institution or association.

Amendments of these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a regularly called meeting of this corporation by a majority of the voting delegates present at such meeting, provided such amendments are not inconsistent with the constitution or laws of the United States or of the State of Tennessee and the constitution and rules and regulations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Robert L. Delinger, Jr.

Glenn C. Watson

Leif J. Henningsen

Mark W. G. Jr.

Harold D. Allison

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
) ss.
COUNTY OF SHELBY)

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Personally appeared before me, a Notary Public, the within
named incorporators, Hubert L. Dellinger, Jr., M.D.

Clarence O. Watson, Louis J. Juracek, Jr.

Mose Walker, Jr., and Harold D. Allison

and with whom I am personally acquainted, and who acknowledged that
they executed the within application for a Charter of Incorporation
for the purpose therein contained and expressed.

WITNESS my hand and official seal at office in Memphis

Tenn., this 28 day of May, 1966

John C. Rader, Jr.
Notary Public

My commission expires: 10-11-67

Amended and Restated
Articles of Incorporation
of
The Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The undersigned person under the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Act, T.C.A. 48-51-101 et seq. (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") adopts the following amended charter for the above listed corporation

ARTICLE I. Name, Duration, Registered Office, Agent and Incorporators

- a. The name of this corporation shall be “The Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.”
- b. The period of duration of the corporation is perpetual.
- c. This Corporation is a public benefit corporation
- d. This Corporation is a religious corporation organized and operated primarily for religious purposes.
- e. The address of the registered office of this corporation as of June 30, 2018 is 1675 Wynne Road, Cordova, Shelby County, Tennessee 38016.
- f. The registered agent of this corporation is _____.
- g. The name and address of each incorporator is:

ARTICLE II. Objectives

- a. The objectives of this corporation shall be to carry out within the Mid-South District the objectives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- b. The corporation shall have all general powers possessed by corporations organized under the Act, including all powers necessary or convenient to effect any or all of the corporate purpose determined by its members.
- c. This corporation is not for profit.
- d. The Corporation is organized primarily for religious purposes, but is also organized for charitable and educational purposes, including, without limitation, the making of distributions in furtherance of such purposes or to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

ARTICLE III. Membership

The membership of this corporation is the congregations and the ordained and commissioned ministers of religion of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who have affiliated with this district.

The voting power of this corporation resides in the congregations which are members of the corporation. These congregations exercise this voting power through the accredited pastoral and lay delegates of those same congregations of the Synod that have affiliated with this district.

ARTICLE IV. Meetings

This corporation shall have general meetings of its members in the years prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Special meetings may be called in such manner as may be provided by the Synod.

ARTICLE V. Officers and Board of Directors

- a. The officers of this corporation shall consist of a president, vice-presidents as specified by the bylaws of this corporation, a secretary, a treasurer and such others as bylaws identify.
- b. The board of directors of this corporation shall be of the size and composition as shall be determined in the bylaws of this corporation.
- c. The officers and members of the board of directors shall be elected at the general meetings of this corporation for such terms as shall be specified by the bylaws of this corporation and shall serve until their successors are duly elected and have qualified.

ARTICLE VI. Property

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

ARTICLE VII. Constitution and Bylaws

- a. The Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is also the Constitution of this corporation.
- b. The Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall primarily be the Bylaws of this corporation. This corporation may adopt additional bylaws that are not in conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod in convention.

ARTICLE VIII. Dissolution

- a. In the event this corporation is dissolved or its existence otherwise terminates or is terminated other than by direction from the Synod in convention, after the payment of the debts of the corporation, all right, title, and interest in and to its property, whether tangible or intangible and whether real or personal, shall thereupon automatically vest in or be transferred to the Synod, and this corporation covenants and agrees to execute and deliver to the Synod such documents and instruments and to take such other and further actions as the Synod may deem reasonably necessary or desirable, in order to evidence and give full effect to the foregoing. This provision may not be altered or deleted without the approval of the Synod in convention or the Board of Directors of the Synod.
- b. If, however, on the date of such proposed dissolution, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, is no longer in existence, the assets of the corporation may be distributed to any other Section 501(c)(3) organization as designated by the board of directors.

ARTICLE IX. Relationship to the Synod

This corporation, as part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, acknowledges its allegiance to the Synod and to the convention of the Synod. It submits to the authority of the Synod and the convention. It accedes, recognizes, and accepts the doctrine taught and practiced in the Synod (Art. II) and also the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws of the Synod, as currently in effect and as may hereafter be amended from time to time.

- a. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the organizational documents of this corporation and the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, or Bylaws of the Synod, as may hereafter be amended from time to time, the Articles, Constitution, or Bylaws of the Synod shall control and govern.
- b. This provision may not be altered or deleted without the approval of the Synod in convention or the Board of Directors of the Synod.
- c. Neither The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod nor The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Incorporated is responsible for the debts or other obligation of this corporation nor do they represent or endorse the fiscal solvency of this corporation.

ARTICLE X. Indemnification and Liability

- a. Pursuant to T.C.A. 48-52-102(b)(3) of the Act, as amended or modified from time to time, a trustee of the Corporation shall not be personally liable to the Corporation for monetary damages or breach of his fiduciary duty as a trustee; provided, that this provision shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a trustee (1) for any breach of the trustee's duty of loyalty to the Corporation; (2) for acts of omission not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law; or (3) for unlawful distributions pursuant to T.C.A. 48-58-403.
- b. Pursuant to T.C.A. 48-58-301 and T.C.A. 48-58-403, no trustee or officer of the Corporation shall be liable for any action taken as a trustee or an officer or any failure to take any action, if said trustee or officer reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the Corporation, and in compliance with the standards of conduct set forth in T.C.A 48-58-301 and T.C.A. 48-58-403, as amended or modified from time to time.
- c. To the fullest extent permitted by the provisions of T.C.A 48-58-501, et seq. as amended or modified from time to time, this Corporation shall indemnify an individual made a party to a proceeding because he or she is or was a trustee against liability if (1) said individual conducted himself in good faith and (2) said individual reasonably believed: (i) in the case of conduct in his official capacity with the Corporation, that his conduct was in his best interests, and (ii) in all other cases, that his conduct was at least not opposed to its best interests; and (3) in the case of any criminal proceeding, said individual had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent shall not, of itself, be determinative that the trustee did not meet the standard of conduct previously set forth in this article.
- d. The Corporation will not indemnify a trustee in connection with a proceeding by or in the right of the Corporation in which the trustee was adjudged liable to the Corporation, or in connection with any other proceeding charging improper personal benefit to him, whether or not involving action in his official capacity, in which he was adjudged liable on the

basis that personal benefit was improperly received by him. The corporation shall pay for or reimburse the reasonable expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by a trustee who is a party to a proceeding in advance of final disposition of the proceeding if (1) the trustee furnishes the Corporation a written affirmation of his good faith belief that he has met the standard of conduct previously set forth herein and in T.C.A. 48-58-502, (2) the trustee furnishes the Corporation a written undertaking, executed personally or on his behalf, to repay the advance if it is ultimately determined that he is not entitled to indemnification, and (3) a determination is made that the facts then known to those making the determination is made that the facts then known to those making the determination would not preclude indemnification under the law of the State of Tennessee then in effect. The indemnification and advancement of expenses will be undertaken in accordance with T.C.A. 48-58-501 et seq.

- e. Notwithstanding the above and since the Corporation is exempt from federal income taxation under 501(c)(3) of the Code, each trustee of the Corporation in accordance with intent of T.C.A. 48-58-601(b) and (c), shall be immune from suit arising from the conduct of the affairs of the Corporation, provided that trustee's conduct does not amount to willful, wanton or gross negligence.
- f. Any repeal or modification of this Article XI by the members of the Corporation shall not adversely affect any right or protection of a trustee or officer of the Corporation existing at the time of such repeal or modification or with respect to events occurring prior to such time.

ARTICLE XI. Indemnification of Officers

To the fullest extent permitted by the provisions of T.C.A. 48-58-507, as amended or modified from time to time, this Corporation shall indemnify and advance expenses to an officer to the same extent as to a trustee.

ARTICLE XII. Amendments

Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a regularly called meeting of this corporation by a majority of the voting delegates present at such meeting, provided such amendments are not inconsistent with the Constitution or the laws of the United States or the State of Tennessee or contrary to Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or the Constitution or the Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and with prior approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod.

ARTICLE XIII. Miscellaneous

All words used herein referring to the masculine, feminine, or the neuter shall include all genders, and all words used in the singular or the plural shall include the singular or the plural, unless the context specifically requires otherwise.

This charter shall be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State, or as the ___ day of _____.

SECTION D

OVERTURES



SUBJECT: To Reaffirm Church Planting

- WHEREAS,** Jesus commands all believers to go and make disciples by baptizing, teaching (*Matthew 28:18*) and seeking the lost as our foremost priority (*Luke 19:10*); and
- WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention set a goal, by God’s grace, of beginning 2000 new ministries by the year 2020; and
- WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has fallen short of its objective of 2000 new ministries; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has a rich history of starting new ministries which focus on reaching the lost; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has started many ministries which boldly share the Good News of Jesus while maintaining doctrinal and theological integrity; and
- WHEREAS,** Recent church planting initiatives have had many people reached with the Gospel who previously had little or no connection to the church; and
- WHEREAS,** The most recent self-sustaining church plants have come as a result of circuit and/or “mothering congregation” formats, therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention affirms the initiatives of the District’s Church Planting effort, and the congregations and pastors actively involved in new church planting activities that focus on reaching the lost; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District establish partnerships with circuits and congregations who are willing to initiate and support ongoing church planting efforts; and finally, be it
- RESOLVED,** That we give thanks to God for the congregations, workers, and members involved in planting new congregations which boldly share the Gospel of Jesus in their respective communities.

Respectfully submitted,

**The Mid-South Board of Directors
Rev. Charles Neugebauer, Chairman
Rev. John Gierke, Secretary**



SUBJECT: To Commend and Support the Work of Trinity HOPE in Haiti

- WHEREAS,** Christ in the Great Commission called us to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19-20a; and
- WHEREAS,** Christ’s words in Matthew 25:35-36 clearly show that we are to meet physical needs of others including feeding the hungry; and
- WHEREAS,** Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere with millions trapped in poverty so deep that children often do not even have food daily; and
- WHEREAS,** A large majority of the people are trapped in the darkness of the nation’s sanctioned religion, Voodoo; and
- WHEREAS,** There are huge and effective efforts by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and other Christian denominations to build the body of Christ in Haiti and bring the Good News of Jesus to those who do not know Him; and
- WHEREAS,** One of the most successful ways of doing this is through Christian schools affiliated with local churches and to provide a hot nutritious meal to the children who are often too hungry to learn; and
- WHEREAS,** Trinity HOPE is effectively and economically providing over 24,000 meals daily at a cost of \$0.25 each for the teachers and children in 119 of these schools; and
- WHEREAS,** These meals improve health, increase attention spans and are seen as a witness to the truth of the Good News being shared with them daily; and
- WHEREAS,** Through the work of the Holy Spirit the vast majority of these children come to faith and are then missionaries to their friends and families; and
- WHEREAS,** The Christian Churches of Haiti see the work of Trinity HOPE as one of their most effective outreach tools; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in Convention commends Trinity HOPE and its supporters for their work and encourages the district’s members and others in support of this work, which blesses children by supplying an opportunity for them to be fed both physically and spiritually.

Respectfully submitted,

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Board of Directors
Sarah Baker, Chair**



SUBJECT: To Continue a Relationship with the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese (SELVD) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania

- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has had a long relationship with the East of Lake Victoria and Southeast of Lake Victoria diocese, working in consultation with and encouraged by the office of the Synod President, Synod Board for Mission Services/Board for International Missions; and
- WHEREAS,** The Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese (SELVD) in convention has made a conscious effort to partner with a Confessional Lutheran Church Body and has strengthened the relationship with The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS); and
- WHEREAS,** Mid-South District leaders, in consultation with the President’s office of the LCMS and in conjunction with Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, have sought ways to provide solid confessional Lutheran education and training for pastors and leaders in the SELVD; and
- WHEREAS,** There continue to be great humanitarian needs in the country of Tanzania and in the regions of Shinyanga and Mwanza; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District continues working with the SELVD to encourage them to work diligently in their Confessional Lutheran identity; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That in this relationship, the Mid-South District focus its funding of \$12,500 on specific education and training held in Tanzania for pastors and lay evangelists of the SELVD in which LCMS instructors provide theological instruction in the area of Pastoral Ministry; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That in this relationship, the Mid-South District will work with leaders of the LCMS Synod and its seminaries in providing \$12,500 for scholarships for SELVD pastoral candidates to study for higher degrees in our LCMS seminaries; and be finally
- RESOLVED,** That congregations and schools in the Mid-South District be encouraged to continue supporting humanitarian efforts to assist the people living in Tanzania through short term mission trips in coordination with the Office of International Mission, and the Mid-South District Missions.

Respectfully submitted,

**The Mid-South Board of Directors
Rev. Charles Neugebauer, Chairman
Rev. John Gierke, Secretary**



SUBJECT: To Continue a Relationship with the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese (SELVD) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania

- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has had over a decade long relationship with the East of Lake Victoria and South East of Lake Victoria Diocese, working in Consultation with and encouraged by the Synodical Board for International Missions; and
- WHEREAS,** The South East of Lake Victoria Diocese (SELVD) in convention has made a conscious effort to partner with a Conservative Lutheran Church Body and has strengthened the relationship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS); and
- WHEREAS,** Mid-South District leaders, in consultation with the President's office of the LCMS and in conjunction with Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, have sought ways to provide solid confessional Lutheran education and training for pastors and leaders in the SELVD; and
- WHEREAS,** There continue to be great humanitarian needs in the country of Tanzania and in the regions of Shinyanga and Mwanza; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District continues working with the SELVD to encourage them in their Lutheran identity; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That in this relationship, the Mid-South District will focus its funding of the \$12,500 on training held in Tanzania for pastors and lay evangelists of the SELVD in which LCMS instructors will provide theological instruction in the area of Biblical Hermeneutics; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That in this relationship, the Mid-South District will work with leaders of the Synod and its seminaries in providing scholarships in the amount of \$12,500 for SELVD pastors to study for higher degrees in our LCMS seminaries; and be further
- RESOLVED,** That in this relationship, the Mid-South District will provide \$5,000 annually for training SELVD women in area deaconess programs; and be finally
- RESOLVED,** That congregations and schools in the Mid-South District be encouraged to continue supporting humanitarian efforts to assist the people living in Tanzania through short term mission trips in coordination with the Office of International Mission.

Respectfully submitted,

**Robert Allen, President
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, White House, TN**



SUBJECT: To Continue a Relationship with the Confessional Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar

- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has a growing relationship with the Malagasy Lutheran Church, working in consultation with and encouraged by the office of the Synod President, Synod Board for International Missions; and
- WHEREAS,** The Malagasy Lutheran Church in convention has made an overture to partner with a Confessional Lutheran Church Body and will most likely be formally received into altar and pulpit relationship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) at its next Synodical Convention; and
- WHEREAS,** Mid-South District leaders, in consultation with the President’s office of the LCMS and in conjunction with Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, have provided solid confessional Lutheran education and training for pastors and leaders in the Malagasy Lutheran Church; and
- WHEREAS,** There continues to be great humanitarian needs in the country of Madagascar; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has supported opportunities for students in Madagascar to attend the Malagasy Lutheran Church’s “Lutheran Institute of Managerial Enterprise (University)””; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District continues working with the Malagasy Lutheran Church to encourage them to work diligently in their Confessional Lutheran identity; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District encourage the Malagasy Lutheran Church to seek official relations with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That in this relationship, the Mid-South District focus its funding of \$25,000 on specific education and training held in Madagascar for pastors and lay evangelists of the Malagasy Lutheran Church whereby LCMS instructors provide theological instruction in the area of Pastoral Ministry; and be finally
- RESOLVED,** That congregations and schools in the Mid-South District be encouraged to continue supporting humanitarian efforts to assist the people living in Madagascar through short term mission trips in coordination with the Office of International Mission, and the Mid-South District Missions.

Respectfully submitted,

**The Mid-South Board of Directors
Rev. Charles Neugebauer, Chairman
Rev. John Gierke, Secretary**



SUBJECT: To Request Synod to Move Ordination Upon Completion of SMP Four-Year Program

- WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in Convention in 2001 passed Resolution 3-08B, “To Address Needs and Opportunities for Pastoral Ministry in Specialized Situations,” and
- WHEREAS,** Resolution 3-08B provided for Licensed Lay Deacons to continue to be trained under supervision (Resolution 3-05B, Wichita Convention, 1989); and
- WHEREAS,** Synodical Resolution 13-02A, (2016) “Regularized Licensed Lay Deacon” ministries toward ordination consistent with *The Book of Concord* (Augsburg Confession, XIV and Apology, XIV); and
- WHEREAS,** Resolution 13-02A provides several options toward ordination of existing Licensed Lay Deacons, including Regional SMP Colloquy, General Colloquy, SMP Seminary track, Alternate Route seminary training, and general ministry seminary track; and
- WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention in 2007, passed Resolution 5-01B “To Establish Specific Ministry Pastor Program; and
- WHEREAS,** Resolution 5-01B, 2007 provided for SMP candidates to receive “preordination curriculum, and post-ordination curriculum, covering two two-year segments of the seminary education; and
- WHEREAS,** Steps 3 and 4, approved by Resolution, provided that a certification, Call, and Ordination be allowed after completion of two years of successful preordination studies; and
- WHEREAS,** Step 5, approved by Resolution, provided that the post-ordination curriculum include “OT content and theology, NT content and theology, gifts of Christ, body of Christ, Church history and the history of Lutheranism, Christian education, pastoral theology, and theology of missions, Residential seminars, including pastoral formation, issues of pastoral ministry, team ministry, urban ministry, and spiritual formation. Field seminars included basic mission planting, edge gathering, and advanced mission planter training; and
- WHEREAS,** Step 4 also included the caveat that “Refusal [or inability] to complete the Specific Ministry Pastor Program would result in the pastor’s removal from the Synod roster, at which point he is not eligible for a call.”
- WHEREAS,** The provision of ordination after two years, with the proviso that the rostered worker complete two more years of formal, required education, has led to men being removed from the LCMS roster, and created confusion about the Office of Holy Ministry; therefore be it

- RESOLVED,** That currently enrolled SMP students (preordination and post-ordination) continue in the SMP track of two years toward ordination and two years of required post-ordination requirements; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod submit an overture to the LCMS 2019 Convention that would modify Resolution 5-01B, 2007, to require students enrolling in the SMP programs after the 2020 academic year be required to finish all academic requirements of the SMP program before ordination and placement on the LCMS roster; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That students who have completed the second academic year be designated as vicars, and may conduct services under supervision of their local pastor, and approval of the respective seminary program director and District President; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the vicar may receive compensation under the vicarage agreement with the congregation and seminary program, but without admission to the roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

**The Mid-South Board of Directors
Rev. Charles Neugebauer, Chairman
Rev. John Gierke, Secretary**

**SUBJECT: To Address Closed vs. Open Communion & Discipline****WHEREAS,**

The Bible teaches in the Holy Scriptures that the Lord Jesus instituted communion and gave His disciples His Body to eat and His blood to drink (Matt. 2:20-29); and

WHEREAS,

Christ has died for the sins of the whole world. In doing so He has called all mankind into repentance. This repentance involves confession of sins and faith in what He has done for us on the cross. This faith gives us hope that we will be resurrected in a resurrection like his. This hope gives us love for our neighbors – both believers and unbelievers. With this being said only “unbelief” in Christ and what He has done is unforgivable in God’s eyes. “Open Communion” is unbelief in Christ as being true God and in His very words which say: “This is my body” and “This is my blood.” Such unbelief condemns. We do not want anyone to come to our altar in unbelief, thus eating and drinking judgment and condemnation on themselves. We therefore practice “Closed Communion” whereby we offer the worshiper an opportunity to be instructed in the true words of Holy Scripture and the true words of Christ regarding His Holy Supper; and

WHEREAS,

St. Paul as warned against taking the Lord’s Body and Blood in unbelief in his First Letter to the Corinthians chapter 11 verses 27 through 32 which reads: “27Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eat and drinks judgment on himself. 30That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 31But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world; and

WHEREAS,

As Martin Luther has instructed us in his teachings on, the sacraments of the altar, that “As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household” that is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and drink; and

WHEREAS,

Martin Luther warned against the practice of “open communion” in the following paragraph which can be found on page 11 of the recently written book “Closed Communion” published by Concordia Publishing House @2017 and in many other places. The paragraph reads as follows: “*In summa*, it is appalling to hear that in one and the same church or at one and the same altar both sides should come for and receive of one and the same Sacrament, yet with the one side believing that it receives only bread and wine while the other is believing that it receives the true body and blood of Christ. And I often doubt whether it is possible to believe that a preacher or pastor could be so hardened and malicious (and moreover remain silent) as to let both sides go, each one in their delusion that they receive one and the same Sacrament, each one according to his faith, etc. If there is that kind of a pastor, he must have a heart harder than any rock, steel, or even a diamond. He must certainly be an apostle of wrath; the Turks and Jews are much better. They

deny our Sacrament and confess this plainly. Thus we are not deceived by them, and we fall into no ungodliness. But these fellows must be the right high arch devil, who would give me only bread and wine and would let me mistake it for the body and blood of Christ and so miserably deceive me. Too hot and too hard, that is simply going too far, God will strike there before long. Therefore, whoever has such preachers or is deceived by them, let this be a warning for them as before the devil incarnate himself.” (Note that in earlier translations “it is appalling” is translated as “it is a horror”.; and

WHEREAS, Synod in convention has repeatedly passed resolutions supporting closed communion (Resolution 5-15, To Address Questions re the Sacrament of the Altar, 2016 Convention Proceedings, pages 53-54; Resolutions 4-56, 4-57, 4-58, 4-59, 4-60, 4-61, 4-62, 4-63, 4-64, 4-65, 4-66, and 4-67. All addressed issues on Closed(d) Communion in your Synod. Page 190 - 195, 2013 Convention Handbook.); and

WHEREAS, Approximately 70% of worldwide Christendom practices “closed communion” – we live in the Southern part of the United States of America where “Open Communion” (which is no communion at all) is the norm and where most of those who profess to be “Christian” do not believe that the Lord is truly present in the Sacrament of the Altar, Thus, it is necessary that we constantly teach and warn worshipers – especially visitors – in the Divine service that the Lord is truly present in the Sacrament of the Altar by means of a “Communion Statement” in our worship services. In addition, constant teaching in sermons, Bible Classes, publications, and other means is also necessary. Those pastors who do not warn and teach in such environments do – “in effect” – practice “Open Communion.”; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) adopted on Dec. 11, 2104 at their meeting the “Guidelines for congregational, district and Synod Communion statements” as requested by the president of the Synod from numerous visits to district conventions and congregations and witnessed a wide variety in statements addressing admission to the Lord’s Supper; and

WHEREAS, LCMS Lutheran pastors take an oath before they start their ministry by answering a series of questions and making several promises when they are ordained into the Office of the Holy Ministry. These are listed in the agenda of the Lutheran Service Book, questions no. 4 and 5 address their oath to administering closed communion in conformity with Holy Scripture and with these confessions; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Pastors in our Synod that allow and support open communion would prayerfully study what the scriptures say in Matt: 26:20 (ESV), When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve.” The Lord gave the Supper only to his disciples (Suggestions would also be for all pastors to read the book, “Closed Communion? Admission to the Lord’s Supper in Biblical Lutheran Perspective,” Copyright @2017 CPH); and be it further

RESOLVED, That circuit visitors and district presidents of the Synod review the Communion statements of the congregations, and those who aren’t using the guidelines as adopted by the CTCR would so be advised to review and change their communion statement so visitors and non-Lutherans clearly understand that communion is closed; and be it finally

RESOLVED,

That the district presidents, according to their Constitutional duties (Art. XII 7-8), admonish those pastors and congregations in their districts that are administering the Sacraments by offering open communion to those in attendance and report on this to the Synod President.

Respectfully submitted,

**William Smolter, Congregational President
Sandy Linde, Congregational Secretary
First Lutheran Church & School, Knoxville, TN**



SUBJECT: To Give Thanks and Praise to God for First Lutheran Church & School 150th Anniversary

WHEREAS,

The First German Evangelical Lutheran Church U.A.C. of Knoxville, TN was organized on October 12, 1869. In 1903 the church name was changed to First German-English Evangelical Lutheran Church U.A.C. and then to First Evangelical Lutheran Church U.A.C. in 1919, has always been committed to doing the work of the Lord ; and

WHEREAS,

The congregation being of German Heritage conducted services in the German language into the 1890's when it was to begin services in English to better service the growing community; and

WHEREAS,

The church has resided at the corner of Broad and Asylum Streets from 1870-1901 and the corner of Fifth Avenue and Broadway from 1901-1946 and now at Broadway and Wells St. Services were held in a house until the school building was completed in 1947. The current Gothic-style building was dedicated on May 15, 1955; and

WHEREAS,

Being true to the historic principle of Lutheranism that there can be no real education without religion, a Christian day school was immediately started in 1869. Today it now offers programs that cover preschool age 1 year old through 8th grade and includes before and after school care to the community teaching and educating children in the Love of the Jesus; and

WHEREAS,

The congregation has produced four daughter congregations, Grace Lutheran Church in 1959, Celebration Lutheran Church in 1964, Christus Victor in 1967, and Christ of the Cumberlands in 1986 all now growing and preaching and teaching God's word to these communities; therefore be it

RESOLVED,

That the District declare 2019 as a year in which to offer thanks and praise to God for the 150 years of First Lutheran Church & School for doing the work of the Lord our Savior Jesus Christ in the Knoxville, TN community; and be it further

RESOLVED,

That the District utilize its communications mechanisms to share the story of First Lutheran Church & School to all in the District and Synod throughout the 150th anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED,

That the District encourage congregations of the District to celebrate and prayerfully support the mission of First Lutheran Church & School as we continue to serve our God and our neighbors in need.

Respectfully submitted,

**William Smolter, Congregational President
Sandy Linde, Congregational Secretary
First Lutheran Church & School, Knoxville, TN**

**SUBJECT: To Encourage Workers In Personal Evangelism****WHEREAS,**

Jesus sent his disciples into the world to be his witnesses; and

WHEREAS,

Jesus declared that His followers “⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” *Acts 1:8* (ESV); and

WHEREAS,

St. Paul reminds us that we cannot believe in Christ of whom we have not heard. We cannot hear unless someone is sent out to proclaim. ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. *Romans 10:14-17* (ESV); and

WHEREAS,

Synod in convention has repeatedly encouraged congregations to place evangelism to the lost as a top priority. (Resolution 1-08, To Affirm That the Mission of the Church is Urgent and to Raise Mission Awareness, 1995 Convention Proceedings, pages 102-108; Resolution 1-01, To “Tell The Good News About Jesus”, 2001 Convention Proceedings, page 119; Resolution 1-02, To Be Passionate for the Great Commission, 2001 Convention Proceedings, pages 119-120; Resolution 1-03A, To Intensify Mission Effort, 2001 Convention Proceedings, page 120; Resolution 1-01A, To Affirm Mission 21st Century Response To Great Commission, 2004 Convention Proceedings, page 119; Resolution 1-02, To Promote “Mission Outpost” Attitude, 2004 Convention Proceedings, page 120; Resolution 1-05A, To Encourage the Congregations and People of the LCMS for the Joy of Evangelization and the Making of New Disciples, 2013 Convention Proceedings, page 101; and

WHEREAS,

Our Synod in its 2016 Convention adopted language that encourages all congregation members to support witnessing of the Gospel, *Resolved, That the 2016 LCMS convention pray that the Lord of the harvest bless our work of witness to the Gospel and our work of mercy, that His will may be done among us, and that all may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. (Res. 2-02); and*

WHEREAS,

The 2016 Synod convention adopted a Resolution, stating,

Resolved, That the 2016 LCMS convention reaffirm the threefold emphasis of “Witness, Mercy, Life Together,” including the following six priorities:

- Plant, sustain, and revitalize Lutheran churches
- Support and expand theological education
- Perform human care in close proximity to Word and Sacrament ministries
- Collaborate with the Synod’s members and partners to enhance mission effectiveness

- Promote and nurture the spiritual, emotional, financial, and physical well-being of pastors and professional church workers
- Enhance early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, and youth ministry; and

- WHEREAS,** Called workers set an example for personal witnessing; and
- WHEREAS,** Congregations often experience an increase in guests to their worship services when the pastor, staff, and members consistently spend time each week cultivating relationships and sharing the faith in the community; and
- WHEREAS,** Pastors and called workers are often limited in their opportunity for personal witnessing by finances and time constraints due to expectations of their ministry; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has conducted workshops throughout the District, using “Everyone His Witness” materials produced by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and
- WHEREAS,** The 2016 Convention of Synod stated, *Resolved, That districts be directed and congregations be encouraged to develop specific outreach plans to share the Gospel with their Muslim neighbors;* and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has partnered with the Mid-South District LWML to bring witnessing and outreach into each congregation of the District; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention affirms the importance of personal witnessing for the salvation of the Lost and the health of the local congregation; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District seek a continued partnership with the Mid-South District LWML to provide training and resources to assist called workers and lay leaders in personal witnessing and the promotion of personal witnessing among the members of each of our District’s congregations; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That congregations demonstrate personal witnessing as a priority of their church by encouraging their workers to spend time on a weekly basis in the community, and by assisting the workers in their current responsibilities so as to not add further to their work load; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That congregations be encouraged to include funds to be used at the discretion of the pastor, and when possible, all called workers to support their efforts for personal witnessing in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

The Mid-South Board of Directors
Rev. Charles Neugebauer, Chairman
Rev. John Gierke, Secretary



SUBJECT: To Reaffirm Our Historical and Confessional Mission Focus

WHEREAS,

St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 affirms our need to keep the message of the Gospel the same while adjusting our language and approach to fit the person being reached with the Gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. (ESV); and

WHEREAS,

Our Lutheran Confessions affirm true unity in theology is not dependent upon unity in practice:

"It is sufficient for the true unity of the Christian church that the Gospel be preached in conformity with a pure understanding of it and that the sacraments be administered in accordance with the divine Word." It is not necessary for the true unity of the Christian church that ceremonies, instituted by men, should be observed uniformly in all places. (Augsburg Confessions, Article 7, page 32, paragraph 3, 1981, Tappert ed.) ; and

WHEREAS,

CFW Walther, First President of LCMS, in his opening address to the first Synodical Conference challenged our congregations to avoid the endless debates that would render us ineffective by being united in the mission to save those who are perishing apart from Christ. Walther states:

...what would happen if we really would make the saving of souls the ultimate purpose, the end and aim of our joint work?

...what an influence it will be on our dear congregations and their pastors and on their relationship toward one another if all acknowledge the saving of souls as the end and aim of our joint work! They will all pull, as peacefully as they do zealously, on the same yoke. Even though all kinds of strife-causing questions might arise – yet the question: "Which course is best for the salvation of souls?" will quickly give the right solution.... Then our dear congregations will say to one another, as Abraham said to Lot: "Let there be not strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; for we are brethren..." (Gen. 13:8f.). Whatever will win the most souls for Christ, that would decide between us.... (Lutheran Standard, October 1, 1872, vol. XXX-No. 19); and

WHEREAS,

The Formula of Concord affirms the congregation's right to adapt its practices in Article X of the Solid Declaration:

We further believe, teach, and confess that the community of God in every place and at every time has the right, authority, and power to change, to reduce, or to increase ceremonies according to its circumstances, as long as it does so without frivolity and offense but in an orderly and appropriate way, as at any time may

seem to be most profitable, beneficial, and salutary for good order, Christian discipline, evangelical decorum, and the edification of the church. (Formula of Concord – Solid Declaration, Article X, page 612, paragraph 9ff, 1981, Tappert Edition); and

WHEREAS,

Our Synod in the 2004 convention, Resolution 2-04 affirmed a congregation's freedom and responsibility in worship resources. Concluding:

WHEREAS, There are diverse viewpoints in our Synod concerning what is appropriate and salutary in corporate, worship; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Synod, in convention, affirm respect for diversity in worship practices as we build greater understanding of our theology of worship and foster further discussion of worship practices that are consistent with that theology; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage pastors, musicians, and worship leaders to exercise this freedom responsibly, using resources such as Text, Music, Context: A Resource for Reviewing Worship Materials to assess worship materials; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Commission on Worship initiate a process leading toward the development of diverse worship resources for use in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.; therefore be it

RESOLVED,

That the Mid-South District in convention reaffirms the importance of maintaining unity among us by being diligent to hold steadfast to Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions; and our Lutheran identity and heritage; and be it further

RESOLVED,

That we affirm the need and right for each congregation and school to adapt outreach techniques, teaching styles, and worship practices to fit their cultural context; and be it finally

RESOLVED,

That we encourage the mutual support and encouragement of each other by sharing with each other resources and best practice ideas that have been fruitful for the Gospel in our context.

Respectfully submitted,

**The Mid-South Board of Directors
Rev. Charles Neugebauer, Chairman
Rev. John Gierke, Secretary**



SUBJECT: To Require Current Parochial Reports Before Receiving Mid-South District Grants & Services

- WHEREAS,** We are called to be good stewards of the resources of God's church; and
- WHEREAS,** We desire to walk together by providing Mid-South district grants and services to assist, advise, and support all the congregations of our district; and
- WHEREAS,** We desire to walk together by providing accurate parochial reports to the LCMS rosters and statistics office; and
- WHEREAS,** Accurate and up to date parochial reports enable our district and synod to be good stewards by making well informed decisions with regard to how best to allocate grants and services; be it therefore
- RESOLVED,** On a case by case basis at his discretion the president shall withhold Mid-South district grants and services from congregations that are over 2 years delinquent in providing up to date information to the LCMS office of rosters and statistics; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the president will make every effort to assist and advise all congregations in the collection and submission of needed information to the office of rosters and statistics; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the president will make every effort to get grants and services restored to delinquent congregations; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District submit this memorial to the next Synod convention replacing Mid- South with LC-MS where appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

**Knoxville Circuit
By majority vote on 15 March 2018
Rev. Michael Miller, Circuit Visitor**



SUBJECT: To Require Current Parochial Reports Before Receiving Mid-South District Grants & Services

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- RESOLVED,** That the president will make every effort to get grants and services restored to delinquent congregations; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District submit this memorial to the next Synod convention replacing Mid- South with LCMS where appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

**Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN
Carl Parsons, Congregational President
Gwen Cody, Church Secretary**



SUBJECT: To Establish a New Conference / Convention Schedule

- WHEREAS,** We are called to be good stewards of the resources of God's church; and
- WHEREAS,** We desire to walk together with regularly scheduled conferences for our pastors and teachers; and
- WHEREAS,** We desire to walk together by having regularly scheduled district conferences to conduct district business; and
- WHEREAS,** During the years of a district convention, the conference / convention schedule can place additional burdens on the time and resources of our congregations, pastors, and teachers, as well as our district staff; and
- WHEREAS,** It is good stewardship wherever possible to get multiple benefits from the same time, efforts and resources of our congregations and their staff by multiple tasks being included in events requiring travel, lodging and staff preparation; and
- WHEREAS,** The purpose of conferences and conventions, while different involve many of the same pastors teachers & staff; and
- WHEREAS,** Reducing logistical or financial difficulties will make it easier for many of the same pastors, teacher, & staff to attend thereby increasing attendance; and
- WHEREAS,** It would be good stewardship to combine such travel events that involve the same people thereby getting two events for one travel cost in time and resources; be it therefore
- RESOLVED,** That the annual regional east and west conferences be moved from a spring schedule to a fall schedule; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That annual combined conferences be moved from a fall schedule to a spring schedule; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That in convention years a single day of conference style continuing education be added to the first day of the convention schedule concurrent with the committee business; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That by combining the annual conference and triennial convention would replace the need for two separate district gathering in the spring and summer of convention years; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the district president will schedule the Mid-South District conferences and convention in accord with this new schedule beginning in 2019

Respectfully submitted,

**Knoxville Circuit
By unanimous vote on 15 March 2018
Rev. Michael Miller, Circuit Visitor**



SUBJECT: To Establish a New Conference / Convention Schedule

- WHEREAS,** We are called to be good stewards of the resources of God's church; and
- WHEREAS,** We desire to walk together with regularly scheduled conferences for our pastors and teachers; and
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- WHEREAS,** During the years of a district convention, the conference / convention schedule can place additional burdens on the time and resources of our congregations, pastors, and teachers, as well as our district staff; and
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- RESOLVED,** That the district president will schedule the Mid-South District conferences and convention in accord with this new schedule beginning in 2019

Respectfully submitted,

**Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN
Carl Parsons, Congregational President
Gwen Cody, Church Secretary**



SUBJECT: To Encourage the Evaluation, Study, and Use of Biblically-based STEWARDSHIP RESOURCES

- WHEREAS,** Many congregations continue to struggle with a decline in attendance, the lack of willing workers, and insufficient financial resources to meet the mission and ministry needs of the congregation; and
- WHEREAS,** One of the reasons for these and other challenges congregations face is a lack of ongoing, intentional, and systematic Biblical stewardship education; and
- WHEREAS,** Biblical stewardship education for all members throughout the Mid-South District is fundamental for addressing the challenges referenced above; and
- WHEREAS,** The LCMS Office of Stewardship Ministry has published biblically-based resources; and
- WHEREAS,** Several other biblically-based programs of stewardship are available designed to help steward leaders present the aspect of Christian Stewardship; and
- WHEREAS,** Every Mid-South congregation should offer an encouragement to their members; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District promote the study and use of stewardship education resources in the 2018 - 2021 triennium to raise awareness of the Biblical stewardship lifestyle in all District congregations; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That each congregation of the Mid-South District be encouraged to utilize at least one additional resource on Stewardship during the next three years; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District be encouraged to use appropriate avenues to conduct stewardship education conferences or events that reach the “people in the pews” and include all church leaders (ordained, commissioned, and lay).

Respectfully submitted,

**The Mid-South Board of Directors
Rev. Charles Neugebauer, Chairman
Rev. John Gierke, Secretary**



SUBJECT: To Establish a Standing Conference / Convention Committee

- WHEREAS,** We are called to be good stewards of the resources of God's church; and
- WHEREAS,** We desire to walk together with regularly scheduled conferences for our pastors and teachers; and
- WHEREAS,** We desire to walk together by having continuing education at these conferences that is practical, encouraging and edifying; and
- WHEREAS,** Our pastors and teachers are key resources for the awareness of a vast array of speakers, experts, topics of interest and resources available for such continuing education opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** Our current process only taps into the resources of the host circuit; and
- WHEREAS,** A centralized permanent committee could collect input from the whole district for conference topics and suggested speakers and resources; and
- WHEREAS,** A centralized permanent committee could give stability to the planning process, streamlining and simplifying it to avoid poor stewardship in the use of the valuable time of pastors and teachers; and
- WHEREAS,** A centralized permanent committee could improve the planning process by learning how to do it better and smarter together by performing the task multiple times, unlike the current process that has district staff working with different planners for every event; and
- WHEREAS,** A centralized permanent committee should consist of adequate representation of ordained, educational and lay staff to address the concern of each service group; be it therefore
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District of the LCMS establish a centralized permanent committee that would do the scheduling and planning of District conferences & conventions; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the district president establish the Mid-South District conference committee with regional and vocational representation throughout the district beginning in 2019; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District conference committee will consist of but not be limited to four pastors, one pastor from each region, one of which will serve as dean of worship, three rostered teachers, and district office staff.

Respectfully submitted,

**Knoxville Circuit
By unanimous vote on 15 March 2018
Rev. Michael Miller, Circuit Visitor**



SUBJECT: To Establish a Standing Conference / Convention Committee

- WHEREAS,** We are called to be good stewards of the resources of God's church; and
- WHEREAS,** We desire to walk together with regularly scheduled conferences for our pastors and teachers; and
- WHEREAS,** We desire to walk together by having continuing education at these conferences that is practical, encouraging and edifying; and
- WHEREAS,** Our pastors and teachers are key resources for the awareness of a vast array of speakers, experts, topics of interest and resources available for such continuing education opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** Our current process only taps into the resources of the host circuit; and
- WHEREAS,** A centralized permanent committee could collect input from the whole district for conference topics and suggested speakers and resources; and
- WHEREAS,** A centralized permanent committee could give stability to the planning process, streamlining and simplifying it to avoid poor stewardship in the use of the valuable time of pastors and teachers; and
- WHEREAS,** A centralized permanent committee could improve the planning process by learning how to do it better and smarter together by performing the task multiple times, unlike the current process that has district staff working with different planners for every event; and
- WHEREAS,** A centralized permanent committee should consist of adequate representation of ordained, educational and lay staff to address the concern of each service group; be it therefore
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District of the LCMS establish a centralized permanent committee that would do the scheduling and planning of District conferences & conventions; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the district president establish the Mid-South District conference committee with regional and vocational representation throughout the district beginning in 2019; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District conference committee will consist of but not be limited to four pastors, one pastor from each region, one of which will serve as dean of worship, three rostered teachers, and district office staff.

Respectfully submitted,

**Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN
Carl Parsons, Congregational President
Gwen Cody, Church Secretary**



SUBJECT: To Amend District Articles of Incorporation Pursuant to LCMS 2016 Resolution 9-02A and Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.6.

- WHEREAS,** The 2016 Synod Convention adopted Resolution 9-02A and amended Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.6 to ensure “clear relational and property reversionary provisions in the Articles of Incorporation of all corporate agencies.”; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District is an agency of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and must comply with this requirement prior to the 2019 convention of the Synod; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District Board of Directors engaged Attorney Matthew Jared, of Jared and Jared Attorneys at Law in Cookeville, TN, to prepare the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation with the provisions required by the Synod; and
- WHEREAS,** The Synod’s Commission on Constitutional Matters, during their November 10-11, 2017 meeting reviewed the proposed Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and rendered Opinion 17-2858, stating: “The commission finds the proposal to satisfy the requirements of 2016 Res. 9-02A and LCMS Bylaw 1.5.3.6, and approves it for presentation to the convention.”; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Board of Directors of the Mid-South District recommend that the 2018 district convention adopt the proposed Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That after adoption by the district convention, the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation be filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State’s office with the appropriate current names of the officers elected at the 2018 convention of the district, and with the appropriate dates affixed; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the Secretary of the Mid-South District send a copy to the Commission on Constitutional Matters for their permanent records, and for the commission to fulfill their requirement of reporting compliance to the 2019 convention of the Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mid-South District Board of Directors
Charles Neugebauer, Chairman
John Gierke, Secretary**



SUBJECT: To Amend District Bylaw 8.3.3.1 (d)

WHEREAS,

The Mid-South District Board of Directors amended various bylaws on December 23, 2017 in keeping with Bylaw 1.1.3 to have the district's bylaws be compliant with the various bylaws amended by the Synod during the 2016 Synod convention; and

WHEREAS,

In their review of the bylaws concerning the nomination and election procedures of existing portions of the bylaws in comparison with the proposed bylaw amendments, the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters stated in Opinion 17-2855 "The commission notes a lingering uncertainty in District Bylaw 8.3.3.1 [d] as to the relative weight of the nominations committee's judgment of qualifications and the number of nominations received. Here further clarification may be desirable. Nonetheless, the commission finds the bylaws as proposed to be consistent with Synod's Constitution and Bylaws and gives its approval."; and

WHEREAS,

Amending Bylaw 8.3.3.1 (d) to clarify this bylaw would have been a substantive amendment outside of the scope of the Board of Directors' authority in District Bylaw 1.1.3; therefore be it

RESOLVED,

That the Board of Directors of the Mid-South District propose that Bylaw 8.3.3.1 (d) be amended by the 2018 district convention, removing the references to the nominations committee being required to base their decisions on the number of nominations and any ties, by striking the second sentence to read:

"(d)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."; and be it further

RESOLVED,

That this proposed amendment be submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters for review before being presented to the district convention, fulfilling Synod Bylaw 4.1.1.2 (a)-(b).

Respectfully submitted,

**Mid-South District Board of Directors
Charles Neugebauer, Chairman
John Gierke, Secretary**

SECTION E

APPENDICES

BYLAW 1.1.3 - COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS OPINION AND AMENDMENT ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, NOVEMBER 1-2, 2015

128. Review of Mid-South District Bylaw Changes (14-2735B)

The secretary of the Mid-South District provided for final review a copy of his district's Bylaws adopted by the district convention after incorporation of the changes recommended by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The commission noted that its recommendations had been followed by the district.

The secretary of the district also called attention to an additional change adopted by the convention but not yet reviewed by the commission, i.e., district Bylaw 1.1.3. Upon review, the commission noted that the bylaw's subparagraph (a) appears to speak otherwise than its main paragraph, narrowing the bylaw's scope by referring only to bylaws adopted by a convention of the Synod. The district may want to look at this bylaw again prior to its next convention. As it does so, it should also note that paragraph (b) will require mention of CCM approval before adopted changes to district bylaws take effect. The paragraph would better read: "(b) Such amendments shall be drafted by the secretary of the district, to be examined and approved by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters before their adoption. No amendment shall take effect until it has been approved by the commission."

Board of Directors' Resolution to Formally Adopt Amendments to Bylaw 1.1.3

RESOLVED, That Bylaw 1.1.3 be amended and adopted by the board of directors, as authorized by the district convention, as follows:

- 1.1.3 In exceptional circumstances and upon the express direction of a convention of the district or Synod, or in response to resolutions adopted by a convention of the Synod, amendments may be made by a two-thirds majority of the board of directors of the Mid-South District.
 - (a) Such amendments to the bylaws shall be necessary to implement resolutions or bylaw amendments adopted by a convention of the Synod or the district before the next district convention.
 - (b) Such amendments shall be drafted by the secretary of the district ~~and shall be reviewed by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod, the amendments becoming effective only after approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod,~~ to be examined and approved by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters before their adoption. No amendment shall take effect until it has been approved by the commission.
 - (c) The board of directors shall notify the district of the adopted amendment(s) in a way deemed most expedient, in addition to its report to the next district convention.

2015 Convention Resolutions - Actions taken by the Board of Directors & Officers 2015-2018

Resolution 01-01-15 *To Encourage Congregations to Use the Historic Opportunity of the Quincentenary (500th) Anniversary of the Reformation to Openly Confess Their Lutheran Identity*

- The District sponsored a celebratory concert with a choir from across the district and students from the University of Memphis, and members of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra performing Lutheran hymns and Bach classics at the Rose Auditorium in Memphis.
- The board was made aware of many congregation's and circuit's various events and worship services, and the district website publicized those events which were submitted to the district office.

Resolution 01-02-15 *To Commend and Support the Work of Trinity/HOPE in Haiti*

- President Paavola assisted Trinity/HOPE with its application for Recognized Service Organization (RSO) status with the Synod.

Resolution 01-03-15 *Regarding the Deacon Program and SMP Process*

3rd Resolved - That the district establish an SMP/Colloquy scholarship fund, specifically for Deacons seeking ordination, beyond the current student aid fund and petition congregations to give generously for this one-time effort of offering lay deacons the chance to serve with a regular call

- The Board of Directors budgeted for and received gifts for scholarships for SMP/Colloquy.

Resolution 01-05-15 *To Continue a Relationship with the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania*

Resolved, That in this relationship, the Mid-South District focus its funding of \$12,500 on training held in Tanzania for pastors and lay evangelists of the SELVD in which LCMS instructors will provide theological instruction in the area of Pastoral Ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That in this relationship, the Mid-South District will work with leaders of the Synod and its seminaries in providing \$12,500 for scholarships for SELVD pastors to study for higher degrees in our LCMS seminaries,

- \$25,000 has been allocated for each year of this past triennium: \$12,500 has been sent annually to Tanzania, and \$12,500 has been sent annually to Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne.

Resolution 01-06-15 *To Affirm Church Planting* - Resolved... continue to budget funds for church plants

- Adopted Church Plant Covenant Document
- Authorized Calls to church planters in Munford, TN, and Fayetteville, AR.
- Budgeted for and allocated funds for these church plants and existing plants in progress. At this time, the district is in varying stages of support for nine church plants in the Mid-South District:
 - Northwest Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR; Salem Hispanic Ministry, Springdale, AR; Jonesboro Circuit, Jonesboro, AR; Arkadelphia, AR; GracePoint Lutheran, Munford, TN; Mekane Yesus, Nashville, TN; Delta Lutheran Plant, McGehee, AR; West Little Rock, AR with Christ Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR; Franklin, KY with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY

Resolution 01-07-15 *To Affirm our Historical and Confessional Mission Focus* - Resolved... maintaining unity among us, affirm the liberty of each congregation to conduct ministry based upon its needs and in accordance with the Lutheran Confessions and in unity with the churches...encourage the mutual support and encouragement of each other by sharing with each other resources and best practice ideas that have been fruitful for the Gospel in our context -

- Ongoing work of the Board of Directors and officers in various avenues to encourage, provide resources, and provide support for congregations ministries in CAR, COMPASS, Ministry Action Planning, etc.; Town Hall meetings; provide for training, conferences, etc.

Resolution 01-08-15 *To Encourage Workers in Personal Evangelism* - Resolved, That the District provide training and resources to assist called workers and lay leaders in personal witnessing and the promotion of personal witnessing among the members of our congregations

- *Each One Reach One* and *Everyone His Witness* workshops in 3 locations of the district and a presentation by Rev. Mark Woods on *Everyone His Witness* at the 2017 Fall Pastors' Conference.

Resolution 01-09-15 - *To Encourage the Evaluation, Study and Use of the LCMS Stewardship Primer and Other Biblically-based Stewardship Resources* - Resolved, That the Mid-South District promote the evaluation, study and use of this stewardship education resource...that the Mid-South District be encouraged to use appropriate avenues to conduct stewardship education conferences or eventuate that reach the "people in the pews" that would utilize those pastors who have been trained and would include all church leaders.

- The Board of Directors provided rebates for individuals attending Financial Peace University at congregations of the Mid-South District
- 2016 Fall Pastors' Conference had various Stewardship presentations from Synod, Rev. Joel Christiansen, and Dave Ramsey's organization with Financial Peace University (FPU).
- The Board of Directors and FPU provided funding for pastors to attend Financial Peace University training in Nashville.

Convention-adopted bylaw amendments sent to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of Synod for final review, and formal adoption of the amendments after the CCM's favorable opinion.

Resolution 02-03-15 *To Amend District Bylaws for Improved Administration*

Final 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. (See Board of Directors - Appendix A)

Resolution 02-08-15 *To Rename Nashville North and Nashville South Circuits and Amend District Bylaw 8.1.7*

Final 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.

At the November 1-2, 2015 meeting of the Board of Directors, after receipt of the favorable review in CCM Opinion 14-2735B, these bylaw amendments as adopted by the district convention were in effect. This was communicated to the district in the Encourager, District Witness Supplement, and the Mid-South Minute. This notice is the official report to the district convention.

Resolutions sent to the LCMS 2016 Convention as Overtures

Resolution 01-04-15 *To Memorialize Synod to Revise the Specific Ministry Pastor Program* - requiring all courses and instruction to be completed prior to ordination

- Sent to LCMS – Seminaries Floor Committee, Overture 6-12, 2016 Convention Workbook, page 360)

Resolution 02-05-15 *To Encourage Men to Study for the Office of the Holy Ministry*

- Sent to LCMS – Seminaries Floor Committee, Overture 6-10, 2016 Convention Workbook, pages 359-360)

Resolution 02-06-15 *To Improve Transparency and Accountability for Financial Gifts from God's Stewards*

- Sent to LCMS – Finance Floor Committee, Overture 9-01, 2016 Convention Workbook, page 379)

Omnibus Resolution A - *To encourage Synod to Continue and Complete its Work on: Evaluation of the Transforming Churches Network; Joint Prayer With Those Who Deny Christ is the Only Way to the True God; The Authority of Women Over Men in the Church even in Humanly Established Offices* (Reference Overtures 01-08-15; 01-09-15; 01-10-15)

- Sent to LCMS – Theology and Church Relations Floor Committee, Overture 5-21, 2016 Convention Workbook, page 351)

Mid-South District Bylaws

The district board of directors is pleased to announce that the amendments to the district bylaws, to bring them into harmony with the various bylaw amendments made at the 2016 Synod convention, were approved by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) on December 21, 2017 with Opinion 17-2855, and adopted by the Mid-South District Board of Directors on behalf of the district convention on December 23, 2017. After being drafted, they were reviewed by the CCM, and adopted by the board through Bylaw 1.1.3, to amend the bylaws prior to a district convention to comply with resolutions and bylaw changes made by the Synod in convention. These bylaws became effective upon their unanimous adoption by the Board of Directors, and the action was read into the minutes at the Board of Directors' meeting on January 28, 2018.

Commission on Constitutional Matters Opinion

Mid-South District Bylaw Changes (17-2855)

By a December 12 e-mail, the Secretary of the Mid-South District forwarded proposed changes to the district bylaws (as precipitated by changes made to Synod's bylaws by the 2016 convention of the Synod). These changes are to be adopted by the district Board of Directors in advance of the 2018 Mid-South District convention under the procedure provided in Synod Bylaw 7.1.2 and a similar district bylaw. The commission notes a lingering uncertainty in District Bylaw 8.3.3.1 [d] as to the relative weight of the nominations committee's judgment of qualifications and the number of nominations received. Here further clarification may be desirable. Nonetheless, the commission finds the bylaws as proposed to be consistent with Synod's Constitution and Bylaws and gives its approval. The district and its secretary are thanked for their patience with the commission's process and asked to submit a clean copy of the district bylaws as adopted.

Commission on Constitutional Matters

December 21, 2017

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The Bylaws

**The Mid-South District of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Cordova, Tennessee**

Approved: (By the Mid-South District in Convention)
A Formative Plan was enacted at the beginning of the
Mid-South District in 1966; the 1968 Convention voted
to continue with the Formative Plan until Bylaws could
be adopted.

Adopted: (By the Mid-South District in Convention)
June 7-10, 1970

Amended: (By the Mid-South District Conventions)
June 12-15, 1991
June 12-15, 1994
June 13-16, 1997
June 02-05, 2000
July 11-14, 2003
June 09-12, 2006
June 22-24, 2012
June 26-28, 2015, finalized with the Board of Directors’
formal adoption of 1.1.3 (a)-(b) November 2, 2015
per convention resolution
December 23, 2017, amended by the Board of Directors to
harmonize with 2016 LCMS Convention resolutions

**THE BYLAWS OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT
OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**

1. ADMINISTRATION

1.1 Constitution and Bylaws

- 1.1.1 The Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, including the confessional position and the mission objectives as stated therein, shall be the constitution and bylaws of the Mid-South District. They shall be supplemented by the bylaws of the Mid-South District as needed for the district's administration and the work of the Synod.
- 1.1.2 Changes and amendments to the bylaws of the Mid-South District may be made by a majority vote of any properly called convention of the Mid-South District, provided that the proposed changes were submitted in writing to the district president, who shall submit them to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod in advance of the convention for review and approval. Any subsequent changes by the convention shall become effective only after approval by the commission. [Synod Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3 (a-b), 4.1.1.2 (b)]
- 1.1.3 In exceptional circumstances and upon the express direction of a convention of the district or Synod, or in response to resolutions adopted by a convention of the Synod, amendments may be made by a two-thirds majority of the board of directors of the Mid-South District.
- (a) Such amendments to the bylaws shall be necessary to implement resolutions or bylaw amendments adopted by a convention of the Synod or the district before the next district convention.
- (b) Such amendments shall be drafted by the secretary of the district, to be examined and approved by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters before their adoption. No amendment shall take effect until it has been approved by the commission.
- (c) The board of directors shall notify the district of the adopted amendment(s) in a way deemed most expedient, in addition to its report to the next district convention.

Comment [1]: Additional LCMS bylaw reference

1.2 Basic Principles of District Administration

- 1.2.1 The district president shall be the chief executive of the district.
- 1.2.2 The district president shall be assisted in the administration of his office, including the visitation of congregations of the district, by the circuit visitors and the regional vice-presidents, individually or collectively.
- 1.2.3 The district president, together with the board of directors, shall supervise and administer the financial mission and ministry program of the district.
- 1.2.4 Within the framework of their regular operating procedures, the district president and board of directors shall be governed and bound by the principles and respective duties and prohibitions expressed in the board of directors' policy manual.
- 1.2.5 The district board of directors, ministry teams, task forces, committees, and other entities of the district organization shall make reports and, if needed, recommendations to each convention of the district.

1.2.6 All district officers and organizational entities shall be ultimately responsible to the district convention.

1.3 Officers and Board of Directors

1.3.1 The officers of the district shall be a president, four regional vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and the circuit visitors.

1.3.2 The board of directors shall be composed of the following voting members:

1. The president of the district
2. Four (4) vice-presidents of the district, one (1) elected by the convention from each electoral region
3. The secretary of the district
4. The treasurer of the district, who shall be a layperson (appointed)
5. Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned: one (1) elected by the convention from regions 1 and 2; and one (1) elected by the convention from regions 3 and 4
6. Four (4) laypersons, one (1) elected by the convention from each electoral region
7. Up to three (3) at-large laypersons appointed by the elected members of the board of directors to obtain needed additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.) [Synod Bylaw 4.5.1]

With the exception of the district president, secretary, and treasurer, no more than two voting members of the board shall be members of the same congregation.

1.3.3 The executive staff under the district president shall be advisory members of the board.

2. DISTRICT CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES

2.1 General Provisions

2.1.1 District conventions, conferences for professional church workers, circuit forums, and convocations shall regularly take place according to the provisions of the *Handbook* of the Synod, insofar as these may be applicable. [Synod Bylaws 4.2.1, 4.8, 4.9, 5.3, 5.4]

2.2 District Conventions

2.2.1 The district president shall be responsible for the organization of the district convention.

2.2.2 Reports and overtures shall be submitted in writing to the district president not later than twelve (12) weeks prior to the opening date of the convention. The convention workbook shall be published and distributed by a means of electronic communication not later than six (6) weeks prior to the opening date of the convention to each district congregation, delegate and alternate, all officers of the district, ministry teams, task forces, committees, and other entities of the district. A printed copy shall be provided to any designated recipient upon request.

2.2.3 The district president shall appoint convention floor committees and name the chairpersons, and shall assign overtures to the appropriate convention floor committees with their designated meeting times and places.

2.2.4 One of the floor committees appointed by the district president shall be the elections committee. This committee shall be composed of at least two (2) ministers of religion—ordained, one (1) minister of religion—commissioned and two (2) laypersons to conduct and supervise all elections.

Comment [2]: To include 4.2.1 (b)-(g) as well by generalizing as 4.2.1, to harmonize with 2016 LCMS Resolution 11-11, Section B (LCMS Bylaw 4.2.1 (g). If it would be preferred to list it as 4.2.1 (a)-(g), we can reference it that way.

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Comment [3]: 2016 LCMS Resolution 11-11, Section B (LCMS Bylaw 4.2.1 (g).

1 2.2.4.1 The committee shall be empowered to adopt procedures and methods that will insure
2 efficiency and accuracy, including the use of mechanical, electronic, or other methods of
3 casting, recording, or tabulating votes.

4 2.2.5 The chairperson of each convention floor committee shall appoint a secretary, consult with the
5 chairperson of the appropriate ministry team, task force, committee, or district organizational
6 entity, including district executive staff, and shall report the recommendations of the floor
7 committee to the convention.

8 2.2.6 Floor committees shall consult with the finance office of the district as guided generally in the
9 *Handbook* of the Synod. [Synod Bylaw 3.1.7(g)]

10 2.2.7 Convention proceedings shall be published and distributed by a means of electronic
11 communication to each district congregation, delegate and alternate, all officers of the district,
12 ministry teams, task forces, committees, and other entities of the district. A printed copy shall
13 be provided to any designated recipient upon request.

Comment [4]: 2016 LCMS Resolution 11-11,
Section B (LCMS Bylaw 4.2.1 (g))

3. DIRECTIVES FOR OFFICERS

3.1 General Directives

16 3.1.1 All officers shall be elected or appointed as provided in the *Handbook* of the Synod and the
17 district bylaws.

18 3.1.2 All officers shall fulfill the duties assigned to them in the *Handbook* of the Synod, the district
19 bylaws, and by the board of directors.

Comment [5]: This bylaw and district bylaw
3.2.5.2 cover item (13) addressed in Secretary Sias'
4/4/17 communication regarding the gathering of
congregational statistical information

20 3.1.3 All officers shall be governed and bound by the principles and respective duties and
21 prohibitions expressed in the board of directors' policy manual.

22 3.1.4 Any officer, with the exception of the district president, may be removed from office for cause
23 following the provisions and procedures set forth in the *Handbook* of the Synod. [Synod
24 Bylaws 1.5.8-1.5.8.1]

Comment [6]: To harmonize with 2016 LCMS
Resolution 12-11 (LCMS Bylaws 1.5.8-1.5.8.1)

3.2 Officers

3.2.1 *The President*

27 3.2.1.1 The president shall be an ex-officio member without vote of all ministry teams, task forces,
28 committees, and organizational entities of the district.

29 3.2.1.2 He shall serve as a voting member of the board of directors and shall serve as chairman of the
30 circuit visitors' conference.

3.2.2 *The Vice-Presidents*

32 3.2.2.1 The vice-presidents shall be advisors to the district president, and shall function as his
33 representatives or assistants in service to the district.

34 3.2.2.2 They may serve as designated representatives of the board of directors, on ministry teams, task
35 forces, and committees, and as advisors on other organizational entities of the district.

3.2.3 *The Secretary*

37 3.2.3.1 The secretary shall be an advisory member of the constitution committee.

38 3.2.3.2 He shall carry out responsibilities for the nomination and election of the district president,
39 vice-presidents, circuit visitors, and the board of directors according to the provisions set forth
40 in the *Handbook* of the Synod and the bylaws of the district.

- 1

3.2.3.3

He shall carry out responsibilities for the certification of delegates attending district conventions. ~~[Synod Bylaw 4.2.2.(a)]~~
- 3

3.2.3.4

He shall carry out responsibilities for the nomination and election of the voting pastoral and lay delegates and alternates to the conventions of the Synod, and of the advisory delegates for the nonvoting ordained and commissioned ministers according to the provisions of the *Handbook* of the Synod and in directives from the Secretary of the Synod.
- 7

3.2.3.5

He shall carry out responsibilities for conflict resolution within the district according to the provisions of the *Handbook* of the Synod. [Synod Bylaws 1.10.10.2 and 1.10.11.2]
- 9

3.2.4

The Treasurer
- 10

3.2.4.1

The treasurer shall have oversight of all funds and securities of the district and shall provide regular reports of financial status to the board of directors.
- 12

3.2.4.2

He/she shall evaluate the financial implications of all reports, recommendations, and proposals made to the board of directors.
- 14

3.2.4.3

He/she shall guide the board of directors in its responsibility in the selection of external auditors and ensure that the board of directors is represented in the annual audit closing conference with the external auditors.
- 17

3.2.4.4

He/she shall guide the board of directors in its review and approval of the annual operating and capital budgets.
- 19

3.2.4.5

He/she shall chair the finance committee of the board of directors.
- 20

3.2.5

The Circuit Visitors
- 21

3.2.5.1

The circuit visitors and the district president shall constitute the circuit visitors’ conference, which shall meet at the call of the district president in the interest of the work and welfare of the district and the Synod, as provided in the *Handbook* of the Synod. The vice-presidents may be requested to attend.
- 25

3.2.5.2

Within their respective circuits, the circuit visitors shall foster evangelical and edifying communication and relationships among the congregations, schools, specialized ministries and the professional church workers; ~~assist the district president, as requested, in promoting and obtaining unanimous participation by congregations in the submission of annual statistical reports;~~ and positively encourage mission outreach through visits, circuit forums, circuit convocations, and circuit pastors’ conferences as provided in the *Handbook* of the Synod and the district bylaws.

4. DIRECTIVES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4.1 General Provisions

- 34

4.1.1

The board of directors shall be responsible for setting policies and managing the business and legal affairs of the district. It shall have the full legal status and responsibility ascribed to it by and implied in the Articles of Incorporation of the Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- 38

4.1.2

The board shall be governed and bound by the principles and respective duties and prohibitions expressed in Synod Bylaw 4.5.1 and the board of directors’ policy manual.
- 40

4.1.3

~~Any member of the board, who is not an officer of the district, may be removed from office for cause following the process outlined in the *Handbook* of the Synod. [Synod Bylaws 1.5.7-1.5.7.1]~~

Comment [7]: This responsibility was eliminated by LCMS 2016 Res. 11-03A, LCMS Bylaw 3.12.2.3. Bylaw reference 4.2.2(a) corrected to read 4.2.2 (a)

Deleted: and participating in the election of the President of the Synod prior to the next Synod convention

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Comment [8]: Per 2016 LCMS Resolution 11-08A, Section A

Comment [9]: Per note (6) of Secretary Sias’ 4/4/17 communication regarding officer removals, connected to 2016 LCMS Resolution 12-11

4.2 Administration

- 4.2.1 By the end of the first meeting of the board following the district convention, the board of directors shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among the board of directors' members to serve a three-year term. The district president is not eligible to serve as chairman or vice-chairman.
- 4.2.2 The board of directors shall appoint a recording secretary (nonvoting) who shall record the official minutes of the meetings of the board of directors.
- 4.2.3 The board of directors shall appoint the district treasurer, who shall be a layperson, after each regular convention of the district.
- 4.2.4 The board of directors shall meet at least quarterly within each year.
- 4.2.5 Special meetings may be called by the chairman or upon the request of three (3) board members.
- 4.2.6 A majority of the voting members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum.
- 4.2.7 The chairman shall conduct the meetings and be responsible for the agenda of each meeting.
- 4.2.8 Task forces or committees may be appointed within the board at its discretion.

4.3 Duties

- 4.3.1 On behalf of and in service to the congregations of the district, the board of directors shall be responsible for establishing and overseeing policies by which it governs itself, the district officers, staff, and the overall organization, consistent with the district mission in fulfilling the Lord's work. The board of directors shall be accountable to the district convention, and the staff and all organizational entities of the district shall be accountable to the board of directors through the office of the district president.
- 4.3.2 The board of directors shall:
- (a) have authority to acquire, lease, mortgage, pledge, sell, convey, or otherwise dispose of property, real or personal, tangible and intangible on behalf of the district;
 - (b) have power to borrow money and to issue, sell or pledge district obligations and evidence of indebtedness, and to mortgage and pledge district property to secure payment thereof, whosoever situate;
 - (c) establish the annual income and spending budget of the district;
 - (d) administer the functions of the Mid-South District, as a Participating District of Lutheran Church Extension Fund-Missouri Synod (LCEF), as described in LCEF's bylaws and in accordance with its policies and procedures;
 - (e) supervise the administration of all endowment and special funds of the district;
 - (f) fill all staff positions, except that of district president, created by the convention of the district;
 - (g) be the legal representative and custodian of all properties and documents of the district and keep on file an accurate inventory of all district properties, legacies and valuable records and documents;
 - (h) engage a certified public accountant to audit the financial records of the district at least annually or as often and at any time as it deems advisable;
 - (i) provide the bonding of all persons handling district monies;

- (j) in the name of the district, rent and regulate access to the necessary safe deposit space for the safekeeping of all valuable district records and documents;
- (k) provide for implementation within the district of the resolutions of the Synod and district conventions, and assign responsibilities and duties in harmony with the district's fiscal policy;
- (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);
- (m) determine the composition of its electoral circuits prior to each Synod convention [Synod Bylaw section 3.1.2 (a)];
- (n) establish policies by which all organizational entities of the district and officers shall function according to the spirit of the bylaws;
- (o) ratify and/or fill all appointed district positions of service after each regular district convention;
- (p) ratify all appointments to fill vacancies occurring in any ministry team, task force, committee, or district organizational entity;
- (q) conduct, supervise, and manage all affairs of the district not otherwise assigned;
- (r) report regularly to the convention of the Mid-South District.

5. DIRECTIVES FOR MINISTRY TEAMS, TASK FORCES, AND COMMITTEES

5.1 General Directives

- 5.1.1 Ministry teams, task forces, and committees are appointed persons of the district for advising and assisting the district president and the executive staff under the president in providing leadership, resources and encouragement for district mission and ministry.
- 5.1.2 Ministry teams, task forces, and committees shall be responsible to the board of directors through the office of the district president.

5.2 Administration

- 5.2.1 Ministry teams, task forces, and committees may be formed as needs and opportunities arise in the district.
- 5.2.2 The president of the district shall appoint the members of the ministry teams, task forces, and committees, in consultation with the appropriate executive staff under the president, regional vice-presidents, and circuit visitors. These appointments shall be ratified by the district board of directors.
- 5.2.3 The ministry teams, task forces, and committees shall determine frequency of meetings.
- 5.2.4 A majority of members shall constitute a quorum.
- 5.2.5 The chairman shall conduct the meetings and be responsible for the agenda at each meeting.
- 5.2.6 Each ministry team, task force, and committee shall keep the board of directors informed about its mission and ministry through the office of the district president or one of the executive staff under the president.
- 5.2.7 Each ministry team, task force, and committee shall annually prepare requests for funds for its mission and ministry, and shall submit the requests to the responsible executive staff under the president.

1 5.2.8 Each ministry team, task force, and committee shall regularly report to the district convention.

2 **6. ELECTED AND APPOINTED POSITIONS**

3 **6.1 Elected by the District Convention**

4 **6.1.1 The Nominations Committee**

5 *Membership*

6 6.1.1.1 The nominations committee shall consist of a total of six (6) members, as follows:

- 7 1. Two (2) ministers of religion—ordained
- 8 2. Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned
- 9 3. Two (2) laypersons

10 One of each category shall be from electoral regions 1 and 2 combined, and one of each
11 category shall be from electoral regions 3 and 4 combined.

12 *Duties*

13 6.1.1.2 The nominations committee shall:

- 14 (a) solicit names from the rostered congregations and individual members of the Synod in the
15 district;
- 16 (b) prepare, according to provisions of the *Handbook* of the Synod and the bylaws of the
17 district, slates of candidates and alternates for the offices or positions to be voted upon by the
18 district convention, except for the offices of district president, regional vice-presidents, and
19 circuit visitors;
- 20 (c) obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to select as candidates; and
- 21 (d) publish the names and qualifications of the nominees in the convention workbook.

22 **6.2 Appointed by the Board of Directors upon Recommendation of the District President**

23 **6.2.1 The Constitution Committee**

24 *Membership*

25 6.2.1.1 The constitution committee shall consist of at least two (2) ministers of religion—ordained and
26 one (1) layperson. The secretary of the district shall be an advisory member.

27 *Duties*

28 6.2.1.2 The constitution committee shall review new and revised constitutions and bylaws of member
29 and applicant congregations according to the provisions of the *Handbook* of the Synod. [Synod
30 Bylaws 2.2.1-2.4.2]

31 **6.3 The District Reconcilers**

32 *Membership*

33 6.3.1 District reconcilers shall be appointed according to the provisions of the *Handbook* of the
34 Synod. [Synod Bylaws 1.10.10-1.10.10.1]

35 *Informal Efforts toward Reconciliation; Consultation*

36 6.3.2 The district reconcilers may assist in informal efforts (not formally requested by a member of
37 the Synod) according to the procedures of Bylaw 1.10.5 in the *Handbook* of the Synod toward

Comment [10]: Per 2016 LCMS Resolution 11-05, Mid-South had prior to 2013 nominated regional board of director members throughout the district and through the district's nominating committee. It had been amended in 2015 to reflect the 2013 LCMS Convention changes regarding regional nominations.

Deleted: regional board of directors positions

Deleted: ,

Comment [11]: Per LCMS 2016 Convention Resolution 12-09, Section C

reconciliation before disputes reach the formal level. He/she may also be called upon by the district president to serve in efforts at the informal level toward reconciliation.

Formal Efforts toward Reconciliation

6.3.3 At the formal level (formally requested by a member of the Synod) according to the procedures of Bylaw 1.10 in the *Handbook* of the Synod, the reconciler shall serve in the following situations arising in the district:

- (a) Procedural questions involved in excommunication cases
- (b) Cases in which a member of the Synod shall have been removed from the position that such member holds in a congregation that is a member of the Synod
- (c) Cases in which a person, whether or not a member of the Synod, is removed from the position which the person holds in the district
- (d) Cases involving differences between congregations within the same district or between a congregation and its district [Synod Bylaw 1.10.10.2(a)-(d)]

6.3.4 District reconcilers may also be called upon to serve in the various capacities of a reconciler at the Synod level according to the provisions of the *Handbook* of the Synod. [Synod Bylaw 1.10]

6.4 Stewardship Promotion

6.4.1 The district shall have an appointed ministry team, ad hoc committee, or individual dedicated to, and responsible for, the promotion of stewardship in the district.

6.4.2 After each district convention, the board of directors shall determine what structure and format of a stewardship promotion ministry, with the resources available, will best serve the district and its strategic plan to foster cheerful stewardship of God’s gifts and resources in and among the congregations of the district.

6.4.3 The board of directors will then formalize the process and appoint an appropriate ministry team, committee, or individual for the promotion of stewardship in the district.

6.4.4 This ministry team, committee, or individual shall operate according to the provisions of Synod Bylaw section 4.6 and district bylaw chapter 5.

7. THE FINANCIAL MISSION AND MINISTRY PROGRAM

7.1 Preparation and Appropriation

7.1.1 The preparation of the financial mission and ministry program of the district shall be coordinated by the finance office in consultation with the district executive staff. The program shall take into account district responsibilities toward the financial mission and ministry program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The financial mission and ministry program shall be submitted to the board of directors for its evaluation and approval.

7.1.2 Simultaneous to the preparation of the mission and ministry program of the district, the finance office shall inform, inspire, and challenge the congregations of the district to assume responsibility for their fair share of this program by way of their projected mission commitments. The congregations, in a timely manner, shall inform the finance office of their intended mission commitments. The total of these commitments shall be reported to the board of directors.

7.1.3 The finance office shall then establish the district spending budget for final approval by the board of directors. This spending budget shall be commensurate with the intended mission commitments of the congregation and other anticipated receipts. Expenditures authorized by

the district convention shall be subject to scheduling and appropriation by the board of directors.

8. ELECTION AND VACANCY PROCEDURES

8.1 General Provisions

8.1.1 Procedures for the election of all officers, board, and committee members shall follow the provisions of the *Handbook* of the Synod and the bylaws of the district.

8.1.2 The following officers and members shall be elected by the convention at each regular convention of the district:

1. The president
2. The vice-presidents in line of succession, one (1) from each electoral region
3. The secretary
4. Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned to the board of directors, one (1) from regions 1 and 2; and one (1) from regions 3 and 4
5. Four (4) laypersons to the board of directors, one (1) from each electoral region
6. The circuit visitors
7. The nominations committee [District Bylaw 6.1.1.1]

8.1.3 Except for the offices of district president, the regional vice-presidents, and the circuit visitors, the nominations committee shall place in nomination at least two (2) candidates, and select at least one alternate, for each elective office or committee position in the district prescribed by the Synod and district bylaws. These include, but may not be limited to:

1. The secretary [Synod Bylaw 4.3.1, District Bylaw 3.2.3]
2. The regional positions for the board of directors (commissioned and lay) [Synod Bylaw 3.12.3, District Bylaw 1.3.2 - 5,6]
3. The nominations committee [Synod Bylaw 3.12.3; District Bylaw 6.1.1.1]
4. Synod Committee for Convention Nominations [Synod Bylaws 3.12.3-3.12.3.3]

Deleted: regional positions for the board of directors,

Comment [12]: 2016 LCMS Resolution 11-05

Deleted: 2

Deleted: 3

8.1.4 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.

8.1.5 Except for the office of circuit visitor, the election of all offices shall be by individuals and not by slate.

8.1.6 The board of directors shall fill all appointive offices after each regular convention of the district.

8.1.7 The electoral regions of the district shall be four (4):

- Region 1:* The congregations in the Fayetteville, Fort Smith, and Jonesboro visitation circuits
- Region 2:* The congregations in the Little Rock-North, Little Rock-South, and Stuttgart visitation circuits
- Region 3:* The congregations in the Memphis, Nashville, Middle Tennessee, and Paducah visitation circuits

Region 4: The congregations in the Chattanooga, Johnson City, and Knoxville visitation circuits

8.2 Convention Elections

8.2.1 The elections committee shall have the privilege of the floor at the discretion of the convention chairman.

8.2.1.1 The order of elections following that of district president shall be:

- 1) regional vice-presidents, in line of succession
- 2) secretary of the district
- 3) regional board members (commissioned & layperson)
- 4) members of all elective boards and committees
- 5) Circuit visitors (ratification of the slate, constituting election) [Synod Bylaw 5.2.2 (h)]

8.2.2 Initial and succeeding ballots shall be collected during the session in which they are distributed or conducted electronically.

8.2.3 A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and elective board positions.

8.2.4 Except in the election of the president, regional vice-presidents, and circuit visitors, the following regulations shall apply: candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than fifteen (15) percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive fifteen (15) percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot. In every election balloting shall continue until every position has been filled by majority vote.

8.2.5 The tally of the votes cast for each candidate shall be announced after each ballot in all elections.

8.2.6 The committee on elections shall report the official results of each election to the convention and shall file a written report of the tabulation of votes of each election, certified by the chairman and at least one other member of the committee, with the convention chairman and the secretary of the district.

8.3 Procedures for the Nomination and the Election of the District President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Board of Directors, and Circuit Visitors

8.3.1 *District President – Nomination and Election*

The procedure for the nomination of the district president shall be as follows:

- (a) 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.
- (b) Nominating ballots and receiving of ballots from the congregations 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.
- (c) 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.

Comment [13]: 2016 LCMS Resolution 11-05

Deleted: regional board of directors members,

Comment [14]: For consistency with verbiage in LCMS Bylaw 3.12.2 (a) and other similar bylaws

Deleted: voting

- (d) Candidates for the office of president of the district shall be the five (5) ministers of religion—ordained receiving the highest number of votes on the nominating ballots of the congregations. The secretary of the district shall notify each of their nomination.
- (e) The secretary of the district shall receive written approval, within ten (10) days of notification, from each candidate for inclusion of his name on the convention ballot.
- (f) In the event of death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee having the next highest number of votes shall be a candidate, upon his approval in writing.
- (g) In the event of a tie for the fifth (5th) position among the candidates, all names involved in the tie shall be included as candidates.
- (h) The secretary of the district shall publish in the convention workbook brief biographies of the five (5) candidates for president of the district, giving adequate information for each candidate.
- (i) The convention shall have the right to alter the slate as provided in these bylaws.

8.3.1.1 The procedure for the election of the district president shall be as follows:

- (a) The candidate receiving the majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- (b) If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the four (4) candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be retained on the ballot, and another vote taken. Thereafter the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

8.3.2 *Vice-Presidents in Line of Succession – Nomination, Selection, Election, and Ranking*

8.3.2.1 After the results of the district presidential election have been announced, the convention shall elect four regional vice-presidents according to the nominations and elections process.

- (a) 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.
- (b) Nominating ballots and receiving of ballots from the congregations 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.
- (c) The secretary of the district shall receive such nominations (signed by the president and secretary of the nominating congregation).
- (d) The names of the five ministers of religion—ordained residing within the boundaries of each geographic region who receive the most nominating votes, and who give their consent to serve if elected, shall form the slate from which the district convention shall select by majority vote each regional vice-president.
- (e) Voting delegates to the district convention shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates from each region. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be retained on the ballot.
- (f) No opportunity shall be provided for additional nominations from the floor of the convention.
- (g) Balloting shall continue with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated until one candidate from each region has received a majority of the votes cast.
- (h) Upon the election of the regional vice-presidents, a final election will take place ranking the vice-presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority of voting

Comment [15]: 2016 LCMS Resolution 11-05 - nomination process back to district nominations committee, as was in 2012 district bylaws prior to 2013 Synod convention regional processes

Deleted: (This shall also be the process used for all other regional elections.)

delegates determining the first, second, third, and fourth vice-presidents in line of succession.

8.3.3 **District Secretary – Nomination**

8.3.3.1 After the results of the district vice-presidential election and ranking have been announced, the convention shall elect the district secretary. The procedure for the nomination and selection of the district secretary shall be as follows:

- (a) 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.
- (b) Nominating ballots and receiving of ballots 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.
- (c) The secretary of the nominations committee shall tabulate the nominations.
- (d) 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.
- (e) The secretary of the nominations committee shall receive written approval, within ten (10) days of notification, from each candidate for inclusion of his name on the convention ballot.
- ~~(f)~~ The secretary of the nominations committee shall publish in the convention workbook brief biographies of the candidates for secretary of the district.
- ~~(g)~~ The nominations committee shall have the right to provide additional nominations.

8.3.4 **Regional Board of Directors Members: (Ministers of Religion—Commissioned and Layperson)**

8.3.4.1 After the results of the district secretary election have been announced, the convention shall elect two commissioned ministers for the combined electoral regions (regions 1 and 2 combined; and regions 3 and 4 combined) according to the nominations and elections process.

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- ~~(c)~~ The secretary of the district shall receive such nominations (signed by the president and secretary of the nominating congregation, ~~or by the nominating individual member~~).
- ~~(d)~~ ~~All nominations received shall be forwarded to the nominations committee, who shall select candidates according to the process outlined in the Synod and district bylaws.~~

Comment [16]: For consistency with verbiage in LCMS Bylaw 3.12.2 (a) and other similar district bylaws.

Deleted: voting

Comment [17]: To be consistent with item (a) as well as other similar bylaws (8.3.4.1 and 8.3.4.2) revised for compliance with 2016 LCMS Resolution 11-05 and LCMS Bylaw 3.12.3.4

Comment [18]: For consistency with Bylaw 6.1.1.1 and other bylaws. Also in 8.3.3.1 (d), (e), (f), (g)

Comment [19]: Added to clarify that the nominating committee selects the candidates, but takes into consideration the number of nominations, while also reviewing the requirements of and qualifications for the office of secretary as the committee makes their selections.

Comment [20]: Deleted as a separate item here, while reworded in item (d) to help clarify the intent of honoring a tie among nominees. Items (g) and (h) are also relettered to (f) and (g) as a result.

Deleted: (f) . In the event of a tie among the candidates, all names involved in the tie shall be included as candidates.

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- (e) Voting delegates to the district convention shall ~~elect the members of all elective regional positions following the process outlined in the bylaws.~~

8.3.4.2 After the results of the district board of directors' commissioned minister election have been announced, the convention shall elect four regional board of director layperson members for the electoral regions according to the nominations and elections process.

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) The secretary of the district shall receive such nominations (signed by the president and secretary of the nominating congregation, ~~or by the nominating individual member~~).
- (d) ~~All nominations received shall be forwarded to the nominations committee, who shall select candidates according to the process outlined in the Synod and district bylaws.~~
- (e) Voting delegates to the district convention shall ~~elect the members of all elective regional positions following the process outlined in the bylaws.~~

Balloting shall continue with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated until one candidate from each region has received a majority of the votes cast.

8.3.5 Circuit Visitors

8.3.5.1 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]

8.3.5.2 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.

8.3.5.3 Each visitation circuit will determine no later than one (1) month prior to the circuit forum if it will meet face-to-face or by utilizing e-meeting technologies, as allowed by Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.

8.3.5.4 The circuit visitors shall then report in writing the results of the selection process to the district secretary.

8.3.5.5 In the event that a circuit visitor has not been selected by a circuit forum or has been selected but is no longer available to serve, thus resulting in no circuit visitor selection being included on the convention slate of circuit visitors for a circuit, the district president shall make the selection, which selection shall then be included on the convention slate of circuit visitors. [Synod Bylaw 5.2.2(f)]

8.4 Terms and Tenure of Office

8.4.1 The offices of the district president and of the circuit visitors shall be three (3)-year terms, without limitation as to reelection.

8.4.2 The term of service for district reconcilers shall be six (6) years, renewable without limit. [Synod Bylaw 1.10.10.1]

8.4.3 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

Deleted: <#>The names of the five ministers of religion—commissioned residing within the boundaries of each combined geographic region (regions 1 and 2; regions 3 and 4) who receive the most nominating votes, and who give their consent to serve if elected, shall form the slate from which the district convention shall select by majority vote each combined regional commissioned minister member of the board of directors. - <#>Balloting shall continue with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated until one candidate from each combined region has received a majority of the votes cast.

Deleted: be entitled to vote for one of the candidates from each combined region

Deleted: If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be retained on the ballot.

Comment [21]: 2016 LCMS Resolution 11-05

Deleted: <#>Balloting shall continue with candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated until one candidate from each combined region has received a majority of the votes cast.

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Deleted: <#>The names of the five laypersons residing within the boundaries of each geographic region who receive the most nominating votes, and who give their consent to serve if elected, shall form the slate from which the district convention shall select by majority vote each regional layperson member of the board of directors. - ... [1]

Deleted: be entitled to vote for one of the candidates from each combined region. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be retained on the ballot.

Comment [22]: 2016 LCMS Resolution 11-05

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Comment [23]: 2016 LCMS Resolution 11-08A, Section B

Deleted: one (1) month

- 1 office. They may be elected or appointed to the same office after an interval of three (3) or
- 2 more years. [Synod Bylaw 3.2.4.2]
- 3 8.4.3.1 One-half or more of a term shall be regarded as a full term under limited tenure rules.
- 4 8.4.4 The newly elected district president, vice presidents, and members of the board of directors
- 5 shall assume office on September 1 following the district convention, and shall be installed
- 6 into their respective offices subsequent to that date at a service to be held in conjunction with
- 7 the first meeting of the newly elected board of directors.
- 8 8.4.4.1 In the interim, the district’s transition policy, which shall be reviewed and revised as needed by
- 9 the board of directors prior to the district convention, shall be followed.
- 10 8.4.5 Circuit visitors and all other members of the committees elected at the convention shall be
- 11 installed into office before the close of the convention and begin their term of service
- 12 immediately thereafter.
- 13 **8.5 Vacancies**
- 14 8.5.1 The duties and responsibilities of the office of district president shall be assumed by the first
- 15 vice-president whenever a vacancy appears in this office or the board of directors determines
- 16 that the district president is unable to serve in that capacity because of his prolonged illness or
- 17 disability. The first vice-president shall remain as the acting district president until the board of
- 18 directors determines that such illness or disability has been removed or until the next regular
- 19 district convention elects a district president.
- 20 8.5.2 If for any reason the office of any vice-president becomes vacant, the other vice-presidents
- 21 shall move up in rank accordingly. The board of directors shall then fill the remaining vacancy
- 22 in the office of a vice-president by electing a successor in consultation with and with the
- 23 mutual concurrence of the district president.
- 24 8.5.3 In the event of a vacancy on the board of directors, with the exception of the district president
- 25 and the vice-presidents, the remaining members of the board shall elect an appropriate
- 26 successor to fill the unexpired term.
- 27 8.5.4 A vacancy in the office of circuit visitor shall be filled by appointment by the district president.
- 28 8.5.5 A vacancy in any other office shall be filled by appointment by the district president in
- 29 consultation with the appropriate executive staff and any appropriate representative of a district
- 30 organizational entity, and ratified by the board of directors.

The names of the five laypersons residing within the boundaries of each geographic region who receive the most nominating votes, and who give their consent to serve if elected, shall form the slate from which the district convention shall select by majority vote each regional layperson member of the board of directors.

No opportunity shall be provided for additional nominations from the floor of the convention.



Audited Financial Statements

**MID-SOUTH DISTRICT of
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod**

For the Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016



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INTERNAL AUDITOR’S REPORT

Board of Directors
Mid-South District of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Cordova, Tennessee

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit



INTERNAL AUDITOR’S REPORT (Continued)

Auditor’s Responsibility (Continued)

also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, as internal auditors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Mid-South District as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
Internal Audit Department

Joann P. Spotanski

St. Louis, Missouri
April 13, 2018

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Appendix D

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2017 and 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,981,445	\$ 1,980,335
Accounts Receivable	21,785	6,914
Prepaid Expenses	20,016	20,210
Contributions Receivable (Note 4)	26,258	10,000
Loans Receivable - Net (Note 5)	1,059	47,596
Property Held for Sale	50,000	—
Property and Equipment - Net (Note 6)	1,169,787	1,216,899
Long-Term Investments (Note 7)	2,222,416	1,981,938
Cash Value of Life Insurance Policies	110,184	105,635
Funds Held by Third-Party Trustee	<u>26,084</u>	<u>23,139</u>
Total Assets	\$ <u>5,629,034</u>	\$ <u>5,392,666</u>
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 67,010	\$ 34,337
Deferred Revenue	10,185	11,089
Grants Payable (Note 8)	93,675	102,914
Capital Lease Obligation (Note 9)	<u>16,320</u>	<u>19,670</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>187,190</u>	<u>168,010</u>
Net Assets:		
Undesignated	1,621,968	1,451,484
Board-Designated (Note 10)	<u>1,466,184</u>	<u>1,416,285</u>
Total Unrestricted	3,088,152	2,867,769
Temporarily Restricted (Note 11)	2,133,925	2,146,460
Permanently Restricted (Note 12)	<u>219,767</u>	<u>210,427</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>5,441,844</u>	<u>5,224,656</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ <u>5,629,034</u>	\$ <u>5,392,666</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Appendix D

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>SUPPORT, REVENUES, & OTHER ADDITIONS:</u>				
Support -				
District Congregations (Note 1)	\$ 1,558,963	\$	\$	\$ 1,558,963
IMPACT Campaign	134,105			134,105
Assets from Disbanded Congregation	100,000			100,000
Distribution of LCEF Operating Results		88,934		88,934
Other		167,112	6,395	173,507
Revenues -				
Subscriptions	28,935			28,935
Conventions, Conferences, and Workshops	75,761			75,761
Income on Long-Term Investments	9,507	27,910		37,417
Agreements with LCEF (Note 14)	180,678			180,678
Other	33,177			33,177
Change in Value of Funds Held by Third-Party Trustee			2,945	2,945
Net Gain on Investments		7,575		7,575
Net Assets Released from Restrictions (Note 15)	304,066	(304,066)		—
	<u>2,425,192</u>	<u>(12,535)</u>	<u>9,340</u>	<u>2,421,997</u>
Total Support, Revenues, & Other Additions				
	<u>2,425,192</u>	<u>(12,535)</u>	<u>9,340</u>	<u>2,421,997</u>
<u>EXPENSES AND LOSSES:</u>				
Program Services -				
World and National Missions	486,113			486,113
Preparing Church Workers	97,032			97,032
Congregational Services	204,910			204,910
Support Services -				
Synodical Budget	442,689			442,689
Mission and Ministry Support Services	579,043			579,043
Ecclesiastical and Program Administration	285,147			285,147
Fund-Raising	59,875			59,875
	<u>2,154,809</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2,154,809</u>
Impairment Loss on Property Held for Sale	50,000			50,000
	<u>50,000</u>			<u>50,000</u>
Total Expenses and Losses	<u>2,204,809</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2,204,809</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	220,383	(12,535)	9,340	217,188
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	2,867,769	2,146,460	210,427	5,224,656
NET ASSETS - End of Year	\$ <u>3,088,152</u>	\$ <u>2,133,925</u>	\$ <u>219,767</u>	\$ <u>5,441,844</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
<u>SUPPORT, REVENUES, & OTHER ADDITIONS:</u>				
Support -				
District Congregations (Note 1)	\$ 1,607,924	\$	\$	\$ 1,607,924
IMPACT Campaign	201,697	552,427		754,124
Distribution of LCEF Operating Results		90,167		90,167
Other	10,175	308,642	522	319,339
Revenues -				
Subscriptions	28,935			28,935
Conventions, Conferences, and Workshops	164,865			164,865
Income on Long-Term Investments	8,769	25,985		34,754
Agreements with LCEF (Note 14)	178,434			178,434
Other	23,338			23,338
Gain on Sale of Property	8,051			8,051
Change in Value of Funds Held by Third-Party Trustee			2,929	2,929
Net Gain on Investments	2,628	2,162		4,790
Net Assets Released from Restrictions (Note 15)	212,861	(212,861)		—
Total Support, Revenues, & Other Additions	2,447,677	766,522	3,451	3,217,650
<u>EXPENSES:</u>				
Program Services -				
World and National Missions	715,785			715,785
Preparing Church Workers	92,263			92,263
Congregational Services	203,878			203,878
Support Services -				
Synodical Budget	457,327			457,327
Mission and Ministry Support Services	653,511			653,511
Ecclesiastical and Program Administration	331,984			331,984
Fund-Raising	76,070			76,070
Total Expenses	2,530,818	—	—	2,530,818
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(83,141)	766,522	3,451	686,832
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	2,950,910	1,379,938	206,976	4,537,824
NET ASSETS - End of Year	\$ 2,867,769	\$ 2,146,460	\$ 210,427	\$ 5,224,656

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Appendix D

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017 and 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:		
Change in Net Assets	\$ 217,188	\$ 686,832
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities:		
Depreciation Expense	55,525	46,017
Recovery of Loan Receivable Allowance	(4,000)	—
Property from Disbanded Congregation	(100,000)	—
Change in Value of Funds Held by Third-Party Trustee	(2,945)	(2,929)
Impairment Loss on Property Held for Sale	50,000	—
(Gain) Loss on Sale of Property	—	(8,051)
Net (Gain) Loss on Investments	(7,575)	(4,790)
Contributions Restricted for Long-Term Investment	(6,395)	(211,271)
(Increase) Decrease in Operating Assets:		
Accounts Receivable	(14,871)	15,058
Prepaid Expenses	194	207
Contributions Receivable	(16,258)	(3,750)
Cash Value of Life Insurance Policies	(4,549)	(2,115)
Increase (Decrease) in Operating Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	32,673	(6,334)
Deferred Revenue	(904)	(3,272)
Grants Payable	(9,239)	18,901
	<u>188,844</u>	<u>524,503</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities		
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:		
Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	—	29,813
Purchases of Fixed Assets	(8,413)	(63,238)
Proceeds from Sale of Investments	5,000	39,672
Purchases of Investments	(237,903)	(240,802)
Loans Receivable - Advances	—	(30,000)
- Principal Repayments	50,537	12,514
	<u>(190,779)</u>	<u>(252,041)</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Investing Activities		

(Continued)

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Appendix D

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (Continued)
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017 and 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Cash Flows from Financing Activities:		
Contributions Restricted for:		
Investment in Permanent Endowments	6,395	522
Investment in Term Endowments	<u>—</u>	<u>210,749</u>
	6,395	211,271
Principal Repayments on Capital Lease	<u>(3,350)</u>	<u>(330)</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Financing Activities	<u>3,045</u>	<u>210,941</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,110	483,403
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	<u>1,980,335</u>	<u>1,496,932</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year	<u>\$ 1,981,445</u>	<u>\$ 1,980,335</u>
 Supplemental Data:		
Noncash Investing and Financing Activities:		
Fixed Assets Acquired with Debt (Capital Lease)	\$ —	\$ 20,000
Interest Paid	\$ 1,585	\$ 81

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Appendix D

1. NATURE OF ORGANIZATION

The Mid-South District (the District), a religious not-for-profit organization, is one of 35 districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (the Synod), encompassing 129 congregations in the states of Tennessee, Arkansas and parts of Kentucky. The Synod established its district offices to more effectively achieve its objectives and assist its congregations and their members in conserving and promoting the unity of the faith and in carrying out their mission and ministry.

The District relies on donations from its member congregations for a significant portion of its support. As shown in the Statement of Activities, support from District congregations totaled \$1,558,963 and \$1,607,924 for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. These donations are subject to fluctuations in the economic status of the areas in which the congregations are located. No provisions have been made for changes in the economic environment. Any significant reduction in the level of this support, however, could have an effect on the District's program and supporting activities.

The costs of providing various programs and other supporting services have been summarized on a functional basis in the Statement of Activities as follows:

- *World and National Missions* – World missions includes the District's personalized world ministry support remitted to the Synod. National missions includes but is not limited to North American new mission work, campus ministries, deaf ministries, ethnic ministries, urban ministries, congregational subsidy, evangelism efforts, human care ministries, and related conferences and events.
- *Preparing Church Workers* – Includes financial aid provided to students normally attending one of the nine colleges/universities or two seminaries of the Synod.
- *Congregational Services* – Supports District congregational service efforts and includes but is not limited to activities such as Sunday School, confirmation, family life, day care, adult education, outdoor ministry, singles ministry, elementary and secondary education, youth services, worship, stewardship education, and related conferences and events.
- *Synodical Budget* – Includes remittances to the Synod for synodical budget support.
- *Mission and Ministry Support Services* – Includes the District's communication efforts, financial and general service activities, the operation/maintenance of District office facilities, District/Synodical convention expenses, and the District's support of the national Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) efforts as discussed in Note 14.
- *Ecclesiastical and Program Administration* – Includes activities of the president's office, vice-presidents, circuit visitors, reconcilers, and related conferences and events, as well as support of the District Board of Directors and its related committees.
- *Fund-Raising* – Includes gift planning support activities of the District.

All of these program and support services include the related program and administration expense associated with that particular function.

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Appendix D

1. NATURE OF ORGANIZATION (Continued)

The Mid-South District of the Synod is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and, by virtue of a group tax-exempt ruling to the Synod and its component parts, is exempt from income taxes. However, any unrelated business income may be subject to taxation. In addition, the District qualifies for the charitable contribution deduction under Section 170(b)(1)(A) and has been classified by the Internal Revenue Service as an organization other than a private foundation.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies followed by the District are described below:

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of Estimates

Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing financial statements. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and the reported revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Basis of Presentation

The financial statement presentation follows the requirements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board *Accounting Standards Codification* (FASB ASC). Under these standards, the District is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to the following three classes of net assets:

Permanently Restricted Net Assets – Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that they be maintained permanently by the District. Generally, the donors of these assets permit the District to use all or part of the income earned on related investments for general or specific purposes.

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets – Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that will be met by action of the District and/or the passage of time.

Unrestricted Net Assets – Net assets not subject to donor-imposed restrictions.

Principles of Consolidation

The accompanying financial statements include all administrative and program offices or departments of the Mid-South District. They do not include the assets, liabilities, and operations of the congregations, schools, and other separately administered operations of the Synod within the District's geographic area.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For financial statement purposes, the District considers currency, demand deposits, and liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less, when purchased, to be cash and cash equivalents. At times throughout the year, the cash and cash equivalent balances in the various bank deposit accounts may exceed federally insured limits.

Loans Receivable

Loans receivable are carried at unpaid principal balances, less a potential allowance for loan losses. The allowance for loan losses is increased by a charge to bad debt expense and decreased by loans written off, net of any recoveries. Management periodically evaluates the adequacy of the allowance based on current economic conditions, the District's past loan loss experience, adverse situations that may affect the borrower's ability to repay, the estimated value of any underlying collateral, and other pertinent factors. Past due status is determined based on the contractual terms of each loan. Loans are considered impaired if full principal or interest payments are not anticipated in accordance with the contractual terms. It is the District's policy to charge off any loan or portion of a loan when the loan is determined by management to be uncollectible.

Interest income on loans is recognized over the term of the loan and is calculated using the simple-interest method on principal amounts outstanding.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment purchases of \$2,500 or more with an estimated useful life greater than one year are capitalized and recorded at cost. Donated property and equipment is recorded at fair value on the date of receipt. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method.

Investments and Investment Return

Investments with maturities greater than or equal to one year at time of purchase are classified as long-term. In addition, investments with maturities of less than one year at time of purchase, which the District has both the ability and intent to hold long-term, are also classified as long-term investments. All equity securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities are carried at their fair values in the Statement of Financial Position.

Investment return includes dividend and interest income and realized and unrealized gains and losses on investments carried at fair value. Investment return is included in the change in net assets in the Statement of Activities based on the existence and/or nature of any donor or legally imposed restrictions.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Perpetual Trusts

Funds held by third-party trustee consist of irrevocable trusts from which the District is to receive the income in perpetuity. The principal is held in trust by the LCMS Foundation and will never revert to the District. The perpetual stream of income is viewed by the District as promises to give by the individuals who established the trusts, and thus the District's beneficial interest in these trusts has been recorded at the fair value of the assets underlying the trusts at December 31, 2017 and 2016.

Given the nature of the promises, the District has recorded these contributions as permanently restricted net assets. Income received is recorded as either unrestricted or temporarily restricted activity based on the presence or absence of donor restrictions. Increases or decreases in the fair value of the trust assets are recorded in the Statement of Activities as changes in permanently restricted net assets.

Line-of-Credit

The District has an unsecured line-of-credit with LCEF in the amount of \$364,987 and \$349,036 as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The District had no borrowings against this line-of-credit in the 2017 and 2016 fiscal years.

Grants Payable

Unconditional promises to give which have been authorized and communicated to the recipient are reported as liabilities and expenses in the period in which the notification to the recipient occurs. If at the time the promise is made, the District expects to make payment in one year or less, the payable is recorded at net settlement value. Unconditional promises that the District expects to pay in more than one year are reported at fair value, which is measured as the present value of the amounts to be paid.

Donor-Restricted Endowments

The District Board of Directors has interpreted the Tennessee enacted version of the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) as requiring the preservation of the fair value of the original gift of the donor-restricted endowment funds, as of the gift date, absent explicit donor stipulations to the contrary. As a result of this interpretation, the District classifies as permanently restricted net assets (a) the original value of gifts donated to the permanent endowment, (b) the original value of subsequent gifts to the permanent endowment, and (c) accumulations to the permanent endowment made in accordance with the direction of the applicable donor gift instrument at the time the accumulation is added to the fund.

The remaining portion of the donor-restricted endowment fund that is not classified in permanently restricted net assets is classified as temporarily restricted net assets until those amounts are appropriated for expenditure by the District in a manner consistent with the standard of prudence prescribed by UPMIFA. In accordance with UPMIFA, the District considers the following factors in

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Donor-Restricted Endowments (Continued)

making a determination to appropriate or accumulate donor-restricted endowment funds:

- (1) The duration and preservation of the endowment fund;
- (2) The purposes of the District and the donor-restricted endowment fund;
- (3) General economic conditions;
- (4) The possible effect of inflation or deflation;
- (5) The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments;
- (6) Other resources of the District; and
- (7) The investment policies of the District.

Contributions

Contributions are recorded as increases in unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted net assets, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions. Contributions are recognized as support in the Statement of Activities when they are received or unconditionally promised by a donor. Unconditional promises to give are recorded as contributions receivable and are stated at the net present value of the amount expected to be collected from outstanding balances. The District provides for an estimated uncollectible amount based on historical experience and industry trends. Conditional promises to give are not included as support until the conditions on which they depend are substantially met and the promises become unconditional.

The District reports gifts of cash and other assets as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the Statement of Activities as net assets released from restrictions.

The District reports gifts of property and equipment as unrestricted support unless explicit donor restrictions specify how the donated assets must be used. Gifts of long-lived assets with explicit restrictions that specify how the assets are to be used and gifts of cash or other assets that must be used to acquire long-lived assets are reported as restricted support. Absent explicit donor restrictions about how long those long-lived assets must be maintained, the District reports expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired long-lived assets are placed in service.

Donated services are reported as support in the financial statements at fair value when those services (1) create or enhance nonfinancial assets or (2) require specialized skills, are provided by individuals possessing those skills, and would typically need to be purchased if not provided by donation.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Subsequent Events

Subsequent events are events or transactions that occur after the date of the Statement of Financial Position but before the financial statements are issued. The District recognizes in the financial statements the effects of all subsequent events that provide additional evidence about conditions that existed at the date of the Statement of Financial Position, including the estimates inherent in the process of preparing the financial statements.

The District has evaluated subsequent events through April 13, 2018, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Taxes

The District follows the accounting standards for contingencies in evaluating uncertain tax positions. This guidance requires financial statement recognition of the impact of a tax position if a position is more likely than not of being sustained on audit by the applicable regulatory authority, based on the technical merits of the position. These rules also provide guidance on measurement, recognition, classification, interest and penalties, transition, and disclosure requirements for uncertain tax positions. No liability has been recognized by the District for uncertain tax positions as of December 31, 2017 and 2016.

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

FASB ASC 820 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. It also establishes a fair value hierarchy used to disclose the measurement of fair value based on the levels of observable or unobservable inputs.

The fair value hierarchy is broken down into three levels based on the transparency of inputs as follows:

Level 1 Inputs – Quoted prices are available in active markets for identical assets or liabilities as of the report date. A quoted price for an identical asset or liability in an active market provides the most reliable fair value measurement because it is directly observable to the market.

Level 2 Inputs – Pricing inputs are other than quoted prices in active markets, which are either directly or indirectly observable as of the report date. Level 2 inputs include assets or liabilities for which quoted prices are available but traded less frequently and assets or liabilities that are fair valued using similar assets or liabilities, the parameters of which can be directly observed.

Level 3 Inputs – Assets or liabilities have little to no pricing observability as of the report date. These items are measured using management's best estimate of fair value, where the inputs into the determination of fair value are not observable and require significant management judgment or estimation.

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Appendix D

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. However, the determination of what constitutes "observable" requires significant judgment by the District. The District considers observable data to be that market data that is readily available, regularly distributed or updated, reliable and verifiable, not proprietary, and provided by independent sources that are actively involved in the relevant market. The categorization of a financial instrument within the hierarchy is based upon the pricing transparency of the instrument and does not necessarily correspond to the District's perceived risk of that instrument.

The following tables present financial instruments that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis and the level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fall at December 31, 2017 and 2016:

	Total 12/31/2017	Fair Value Measurements Using		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Investments -				
LCMS Foundation	\$ 200,000	\$	\$ 200,000	\$
Mutual Funds	114,169	114,169		
Funds Held by Third-Party Trustee	<u>26,084</u>			<u>26,084</u>
	<u>\$ 340,253</u>	<u>\$ 114,169</u>	<u>\$ 200,000</u>	<u>\$ 26,084</u>

	Total 12/31/2016	Fair Value Measurements Using		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Investments -				
Mutual Funds	\$ 107,695	\$ 107,695	\$	\$
Funds Held by Third-Party Trustee	<u>23,139</u>			<u>23,139</u>
	<u>\$ 130,834</u>	<u>\$ 107,695</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 23,139</u>

(Continued)

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Appendix D

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

The following tables provide a reconciliation of assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016:

	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>Net New or</u> <u>(Matured) Gifts</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>in Value</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2017</u>
Funds Held by Third- Party Trustee	\$ <u>23,139</u>	\$ <u>—</u>	\$ <u>2,945</u>	\$ <u>26,084</u>
	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2015</u>	<u>Net New or</u> <u>(Matured) Gifts</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>in Value</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2016</u>
Funds Held by Third- Party Trustee	\$ <u>20,210</u>	\$ <u>—</u>	\$ <u>2,929</u>	\$ <u>23,139</u>

The District uses the net asset value (NAV) as a practical expedient to determine fair value of all underlying investments which (a) do not have a readily determinable fair value, and (b) are in investment companies or similar entities that report their investment assets at fair values. Investments are categorized as Level 2 when the District has the ability to redeem its investment at the NAV per share in the near term. All LCMS Foundation investments are redeemable in the near term and thus classified as Level 2 investments. If the District does not know when it will have the ability to redeem its investment or if it does not have the ability to redeem its investment at NAV per share in the near term (i.e., perpetual trusts held by the LCMS Foundation), the assets are categorized as Level 3.

The District reports transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy, if any, at the end of the reporting period. There were no such transfers at December 31, 2017 and 2016.

While the District believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different estimate of fair value at the reporting date.

4. CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE

At December 31, 2017 and 2016, an individual and unrelated organization have unconditionally promised to give the District \$26,258 and \$10,000, respectively. These contributions are due within one year after the respective fiscal year-end.

The District is also the beneficiary of certain trusts administered by the LCMS Foundation. The assets of these trusts are not included in contributions receivable since the beneficiaries may be changed at the discretion of the grantor. On December 31, 2017 and 2016, the future value of the assets of these trusts totaled \$217,582 and \$173,555, respectively.

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5. LOANS RECEIVABLE

At December 31, 2017 and 2016, the District had loans receivable from congregations and an unrelated organization as follows:

	Interest Rates	Maturity Dates	December 31	
			2017	2016
Congregations	—	—	\$ —	\$ 47,333
Proceeds from Sale of Property	4%	3/2018	1,059	4,263
			<u>1,059</u>	<u>51,596</u>
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Loans			<u>—</u>	<u>(4,000)</u>
			<u>\$ 1,059</u>	<u>\$ 47,596</u>

At December 31, 2017 and 2016, loans totaling \$1,059 and \$22,596, respectively, were secured by a deed of trust or registered mortgage.

6. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment consists of:

	December 31	
	2017	2016
Land	\$ 408,649	\$ 408,649
Office Building	944,958	944,958
Campus Center	133,487	133,487
Mission Property	92,572	92,572
Office Furnishings and Equipment	199,166	198,960
Vehicles	<u>81,973</u>	<u>81,973</u>
	<u>1,860,805</u>	<u>1,860,599</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(691,018)</u>	<u>(643,700)</u>
Net Property and Equipment	<u>\$ 1,169,787</u>	<u>\$ 1,216,899</u>

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7. LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS

At December 31, 2017 and 2016, the District held the following long-term investments:

	December 31	
	2017	2016
LCEF Notes	\$ 1,908,247	\$ 1,874,243
LCMS Foundation - Global Balanced	200,000	—
Mutual Funds	114,169	107,695
	<u>\$ 2,222,416</u>	<u>\$ 1,981,938</u>

8. GRANTS PAYABLE

The District has unconditionally promised to give to the Synod and various unrelated entities \$93,675 and \$102,914 at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. These amounts are expected to be paid within one year of the respective fiscal year-end.

9. CAPITAL LEASE OBLIGATION

Certain office equipment with a recorded cost of \$20,000 and accumulated depreciation of \$4,000 at December 31, 2017, is held under a lease agreement which expires in November 2021. The lease obligation and related equipment have been recorded as an asset and a liability of the District.

Future minimum principal payments, based on an interest rate of 8.727%, are as follows:

Year Ending December 31	
2018	\$ 3,654
2019	3,986
2020	4,348
2021	<u>4,332</u>
Total Principal Payments	<u>\$ 16,320</u>

For the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, interest expense included in the Statement of Activities as mission and ministry support totaled \$1,585 and \$81, respectively.

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10. BOARD-DESIGNATED NET ASSETS

The Board of Directors designated unrestricted net assets for the following specific purposes:

	December 31	
	2017	2016
World and National Missions	\$ 515,799	\$ 509,057
Preparing Church Workers	165,925	176,150
Congregational Services	13,839	13,839
Mission and Ministry Support Services	770,621	717,239
	<u>\$ 1,466,184</u>	<u>\$ 1,416,285</u>

11. TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Temporarily restricted net assets contain donor-imposed restrictions that expire upon the passage of time or once specific actions are undertaken by the District. At December 31, 2017 and 2016, temporarily restricted net assets are available for the following specific purposes, or time restrictions have been placed on the use of the funds as noted in the following schedule:

	December 31	
	2017	2016
Purpose Restrictions:		
World and National Missions	\$ 1,967,863	\$ 1,983,844
Preparing Church Workers	19,836	10,338
Congregational Services	30,520	38,813
Mission and Ministry Support Services	930	930
Ecclesiastical and Program Administration	4,592	6,900
	<u>2,023,741</u>	<u>2,040,825</u>
Time Restrictions	<u>110,184</u>	<u>105,635</u>
	<u>\$ 2,133,925</u>	<u>\$ 2,146,460</u>

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12. PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Permanently restricted net assets are subject to donor-imposed restrictions that the principal be invested in perpetuity. The income from these investments will be used to support:

	December 31	
	2017	2016
Endowments Managed by District:		
Preparing Church Workers	\$ 102,352	\$ 102,352
Congregational Services	91,331	84,936
	<u>193,683</u>	<u>187,288</u>
Endowments Held by LCMS Foundation:		
Preparing Church Workers	<u>26,084</u>	<u>23,139</u>
	<u>\$ 219,767</u>	<u>\$ 210,427</u>

13. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The District's endowment consists of eight individual funds established for world and national missions, preparing church workers, providing congregational services, and supporting ecclesiastical and program administration. The endowment includes both donor-restricted endowment funds and funds designated by the District Board of Directors to function as endowments. As required by generally accepted accounting principles (U.S. GAAP), net assets associated with endowment funds are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Management does not consider permanently restricted assets held and managed by third-parties (i.e., funds held by third-party trustee) to be part of the endowment fund. Therefore, these net assets totaling \$26,084 and \$23,139 at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively, are not included in the following required disclosures.

Endowment Policies – Endowment assets are currently being managed and invested by the Executive Director for Business and Finance in consultation with the District President. Endowment assets include those assets of donor-restricted endowment funds the District must hold in perpetuity or for donor-specified periods, as well as those of board-designated endowment funds. The District has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to programs supported by its endowment. In order to accomplish the District's endowment investment objectives, funds are invested in a mix of LCEF term notes, fixed income securities, and equity securities. Exceptions to this policy may be granted by the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors if the donor specifies an alternate financial institution. The Finance Committee reviews the endowment investments and their performance on an annual basis.

(Continued)

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT of
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13. ENDOWMENT FUNDS (Continued)

Funds with Deficiencies – From time to time, the fair value of assets associated with individual donor-restricted endowment funds may fall below the level that the donor or relevant law requires the District to retain as a fund of perpetual duration. In accordance with U.S. GAAP, deficiencies of this nature would be reported in temporarily restricted net assets to the extent accumulated income is available to absorb such loss. Any excess loss would be reported in unrestricted net assets. There were no deficiencies of this nature that are reported in unrestricted net assets as of December 31, 2017 and 2016.

As of December 31, 2017, the District's endowment net asset composition by fund type is summarized as follows:

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Endowment Funds:				
Donor-Restricted	\$	\$ 1,094,831	\$ 193,683	\$ 1,288,514
Board-Designated	<u>165,924</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>165,924</u>
Total Endowment Funds	<u>\$ 165,924</u>	<u>\$ 1,094,831</u>	<u>\$ 193,683</u>	<u>\$ 1,454,438</u>

The changes in the endowment net assets for the year ended December 31, 2017, are summarized below:

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Endowment Net Assets -				
Beginning of Year	\$ 176,150	\$ 1,116,343	\$ 187,288	\$ 1,479,781
Investment Return:				
Investment Income	2,765	20,792		23,557
Net Appreciation (unrealized)	<u></u>	<u>7,575</u>	<u></u>	<u>7,575</u>
Total Investment Return	2,765	28,367		31,132
Contributions			6,395	6,395
Additions to Board-Designated				
Endowments	1,209			1,209
Appropriation of Endowment				
Assets for Expenditure	<u>(14,200)</u>	<u>(49,879)</u>	<u></u>	<u>(64,079)</u>
Endowment Net Assets -				
End of Year	<u>\$ 165,924</u>	<u>\$ 1,094,831</u>	<u>\$ 193,683</u>	<u>\$ 1,454,438</u>

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13. ENDOWMENT FUNDS (Continued)

As of December 31, 2016, the District's endowment net asset composition by fund type is summarized as follows:

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Endowment Funds:				
Donor-Restricted	\$	\$ 1,116,343	\$ 187,288	\$ 1,303,631
Board-Designated	<u>176,150</u>			<u>176,150</u>
Total Endowment Funds	<u>\$ 176,150</u>	<u>\$ 1,116,343</u>	<u>\$ 187,288</u>	<u>\$ 1,479,781</u>

The changes in the endowment net assets for the year ended December 31, 2016, are summarized below:

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Endowment Net Assets -				
Beginning of Year	\$ 186,126	\$ 908,271	\$ 186,766	\$ 1,281,163
Investment Return:				
Investment Income	2,596	20,670		23,266
Net Depreciation (unrealized)	<u>2,628</u>	<u>2,162</u>		<u>4,790</u>
Total Investment Return	5,224	22,832		28,056
Contributions		210,748	522	211,270
Appropriation of Endowment				
Assets for Expenditure	<u>(15,200)</u>	<u>(25,508)</u>		<u>(40,708)</u>
Endowment Net Assets -				
End of Year	<u>\$ 176,150</u>	<u>\$ 1,116,343</u>	<u>\$ 187,288</u>	<u>\$ 1,479,781</u>

14. AGREEMENTS WITH THE LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

In accordance with certain agreements, which are subject to renegotiation each July, LCEF agreed to compensate and reimburse the District for providing facilities and services to LCEF, as well as for promotion and coordination of church extension program activities within the District. The agreements require LCEF to pay the District a fixed amount on a monthly basis. The amounts received by the District in connection with these agreements during the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, totaled \$180,678 and \$178,434, respectively.

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15. NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS

Net assets were released from donor restrictions when expenses were incurred to satisfy the restricted purposes or by the occurrence of other events specified by donors. For the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, temporarily restricted net assets were released as follows:

	December 31	
	2017	2016
Purpose Restrictions Accomplished:		
World and National Missions	\$ 257,180	\$ 139,574
Preparing Church Workers	23,459	14,254
Congregational Services	12,845	27,704
Mission and Ministry Support Services	—	26,071
Ecclesiastical and Program Administration	10,582	5,258
	<u>\$ 304,066</u>	<u>\$ 212,861</u>

16. DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN

The District participates in the worker benefit plans of the Synod, including the Concordia Retirement Plan (CRP). The CRP provides individuals with post-retirement benefits. Substantially all full-time employees (those employed more than 20 hours per week and at least five months per year) are covered by the CRP. Employees are vested after five years of creditable service. The District contributes a fixed percentage of each participant's salary to the CRP. Total retirement plan expense for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, totaled \$53,157 and \$54,653, respectively.

There were no significant changes in the District's relationship to the CRP or changes that would affect the comparability to the CRP during fiscal 2017 or 2016. There were also no contingent liabilities associated with the CRP at December 31, 2017 or 2016. Currently, the District has no intention to withdraw from the CRP; the District's contributions and level of participation represent a small percentage of the CRP as a whole.