

Daily FINAL ISSUE DECLARER

Newsletter of the 21st Regular Convention of the Mid-South District, LCMS • July 1-3, 2021 • Memphis, TN



Taking Care of Business: CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

Over 135 voting delegates were in attendance at the 21st Regular Convention of the Mid-South District, along with numerous guests and others serving in an advisory capacity. While gatherings such as this provide a wonderful opportunity to share fellowship with other Lutherans, the primary function is tending to the business of the District, its ministries, and workers. The delegates of this year's convention did not take those duties lightly as they contemplated, deliberated and voted on a lengthy list of resolutions. By the close of the convention on Saturday, July 3, they had voted to adopt the following slate of important resolutions:

- 01-01-21 "To Memorialize the Next Synodical Convention to Mark the 50th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade With More Fervent Teaching, Proclamation and Efforts to Promote God's Gift of Life"
- 01-02-21 "To Memorialize the Next Synodical Convention to Mark the 50th Anniversary of the 1974 Concordia Seminary St. Louis 'Walkout' With Thorough Teaching About the Controversy and Renewed Emphasis on the Pure Doctrine"
- 01-03-21 "To Amend Bylaws 4.2.2; 8.4.1, and Insert Bylaws 8.3.5-8.3.6.1 for 'Housekeeping, Procedural, or Improving Functionality' Purposes"
- 01-04-21 "To Amend District Bylaw 8.5.1 to Clarify the Difference Between a Permanent and a Temporary Vacancy in the Office of District President"
- 01-06-21 - Omnibus
- 01-07-21 "To Encourage Further Consideration of Successful Completion of Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Coursework Before Ordination and Placement on Ordained Roster"
- 02-01-21 "To Commend and Support the Work of Trinity HOPE in Haiti"
- 02-02-21 "To Continue a Relationship with the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania"
- 02-03-21 "To Continue a Relationship with the Confessional Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar"
- 02-04-21 "To Reaffirm Church Planting and Revitalization"
- 02-05-21 "To Encourage Financial Support for Professional Church Workers"
- 02-06-21 "To Encourage All Christians In Personal Witnessing"
- 02-07-21 "To Address the Use of Technology in the Life of the Church and the Ministry of Congregations"
- 02-08-21 "To Encourage Congregational Men's Ministry"
- 02-09-21 "To Encourage the Study and Use of Biblically-based Stewardship Resources"
- 03-01-21 "To Give Thanks to God for Sustaining His Church Through the Global Corona Virus Pandemic"
- 03-02-21 "To Increase the Awareness of Human Trafficking to Congregations of the Mid-South District and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod"
- 03-03A-21 "To Protect Christian Consciences"
- 03-04A-21 "To Reject Racism and Advance the Gospel" (*addressing & rejecting Critical Race Theory and doctrines that promote racial division*)

Please visit the ["Convention News" page of the District website](#) to read the full text of each resolution.



A NEW CONGREGATION: Restoration Lutheran Church in Fayetteville, AR

At the 2018 Mid-South District Convention, Rev. JD Zischke was a relatively new face and name, having recently joined the district as a church planter leading efforts to establish a new ministry—Restoration Lutheran Church—in the Fayetteville, Arkansas community. At that time, a successful awareness and funding banquet had just taken place, with nearly 200 people coming together to share prayers and financial support for the new ministry. Three years later, at the 2021 convention, Pastor Zischke stepped before the delegation to receive the official charter documents for Restoration Lutheran Church.

In a recent update to supporters of the ministry, Pastor Zischke expressed both his gratitude for the current milestone and excitement for what is to come:

It is amazing to think that three years ago you joined us at a banquet to dream and pray about what God might do in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and here we are in 2021 ready to take a leap and become our own congregation! We are excited to continue this mission of introducing people to the Jesus they've never met and providing His promises to those who gather in His name.

As I reflect on all that has happened since that banquet in 2018, all of the unexpected events, the highs and lows, the many lessons learned along the way, I am amazed at how you have been steady in your commitment and pledge to support and encourage me, my family, and this congregation.



Rev. JD Zischke (center) displays the charter certificate of Restoration Lutheran Church with Mid-South District President, Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola (right) and Restoration board member, Rev. Bob Herring (left).

As Restoration Lutheran Church becomes an official congregation of the Mid-South District, we pray that God will continue to bless and lead this ministry in connecting with people who seek to know Christ.



Pleased to Host...
The Mid-South District was pleased to host our esteemed Synodical Representatives to the 21st Regular Convention: (L to R) Rev. Peter Lange - First Vice President, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison - LCMS President, and Rev. Benjamin Ball - Sixth Vice President.

Connecting with the Mid-South District? **TRY THE APP**

Did you know that the Mid-South District has a free mobile app available for both Apple and Android users? The app provides access to a number of district resources and tools. It's a great way to stay up-to-date with district publications like the monthly *Encourager*, or easily register for an event like a Pastors Conference or Treasurers Workshop. You can even call or email any member of the district staff with a simple click.

Just scan the code to download:



APPLE



ANDROID

Election Results

from the 21st Regular Convention of the Mid-South District

District President - Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola (re-elected to 4th term)

Vice Presidents -

- 1st VP - Rev. Lane Reuter (Our Savior-Nashville, TN)
- 2nd VP - Rev. Kevin Conger (Hope-Jacksonville, AR)
- 3rd VP - Rev. Robert Portier (St. Paul-Sevierville, TN)
- 4th VP - Rev. Joshua Willadsen (Bethel-Fort Smith, AR)

District Secretary - Rev. John Gierke (Peace-Conway, AR) - re-elected

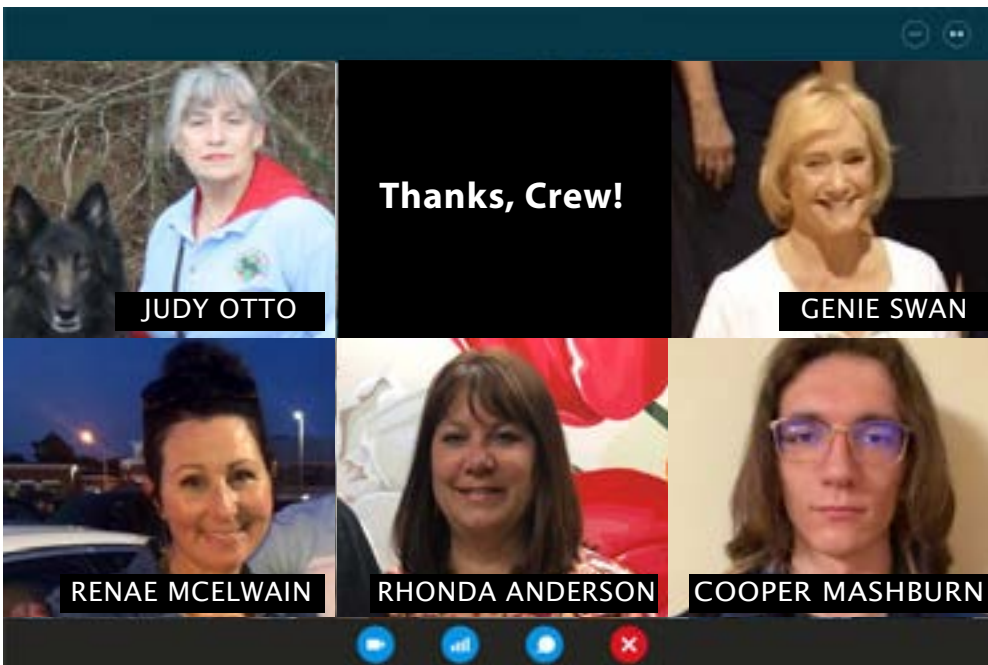
Board of Directors -

- Charles Russell (Commissioned, Grace-Little Rock, AR)
- Shirley Piepenbrink (Commissioned, Immanuel-Memphis, TN) - re-elected
- Jeff Pittman (Lay, Pilgrim-Jonesboro, AR) - re-elected
- Karilyn Brown (Lay, Hope-Jacksonville, AR)
- Dr. Fred Guengerich (Lay, Redeemer-Nashville, TN) - re-elected
- Robert Nerger, Jr. (Lay, St. Paul-Wartburg, TN)

Nominations Committee -

- Rev. David Vandercook (Shep. of Peace-Maumelle, AR / Trinity-N. Little Rock, AR)
- Rev. Robert Portier (St. Paul-Sevierville, TN) - re-elected
- Samuel Fishburn (Commissioned, First-Fort Smith, AR)
- Jessie Irwin (Commissioned, First-Knoxville, TN)
- Jeff Roper (Lay, St. Matthew-Conway, AR)
- Charlie Gemeinhardt (Lay, Christ the King-Memphis, TN)

May God grant these leaders wisdom in their service!



Your 2021 Publicity Crew!

For the 2021 Convention, the Publicity Crew worked both remotely and on-site to produce the *Daily Declarer* news publication, provide continuous event updates on Facebook, and capture great moments on film. Hope you enjoyed the updates!



We thank **Mr. Charles Russell** for sharing his musical talent as the Convention Musician. Charles serves as Director of Parish Music for Grace Lutheran Church in Little Rock, AR.

Thank you, Amro!

The Mid-South District is most grateful to Amro Music in Memphis for generously providing an organ for use at the 21st Regular Convention!



That's a Wrap!

The Mid-South District is grateful to all who shared their time, prayer and other contributions to make the 2021 Convention productive and enjoyable. Although the gathering and official business of the 21st Regular Convention have concluded, you can still access and share some of the highlights.

Convention Sessions on Zoom — Following are links and passcodes to view recordings of each session:

Thursday, July 1- https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/GKVvKmVf2QIKHY-0sT7SZnhZLHibJM0IUys195X8i8IX4g_3gs260kl-W1MyQjMFw.7cCioRliDaEVLwRJ?startTime=1625169144000

Passcode: .Z?*c+P9

Friday, July 2-Session 1- <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vVv9devU-06tjj9Mnpax8KAquj6QpYhAJg9IrodFS-R0711UTWCfvUcRyunh6YCW.m7AShjm6o9-znQVv?startTime=1625229890000>

Passcode: f\$#W#7dL

Friday, July 2-Session 2- https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/QCu7uFipZNoDdGB3-BkGa3VoouBiZQ06MSxzkLp6i06uG-TZTgnpJsy5rtbj1mJo2.9hEWRB_6kEBENJBz?startTime=1625248926000

Passcode: ?z=aWU4?

Saturday, July 3-Session 1- https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/0VVKyX7dLMZnxnw2DTwXx2B2fHivUOAT-EqJ5bQrliFk-gWQ5_-gCGvOii1Hcsc.0_NwmA2kZCw_RbFJ?startTime=1625316607000

Passcode: 4ZE3MD5^

Mission Moments Videos — The Mission Moments videos shown during the convention sessions are available to view and download on the Mid-South District's Vimeo channel: <https://vimeo.com/midsouthlcms>