



Resolution 01-01-21

SUBJECT: 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

(Reference Overtures 01-01-21 and 01-03-21 on pages 125-126 and 130-131 of the Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** On January 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court issued a 7-2 decision granting a fundamental right for a woman to have an abortion; and
- WHEREAS,** Abortion is murder, the killing of an innocent living human being, regardless of the stage of human development beginning at conception, and transgresses God's law in the 5th Commandment which teaches that we are "not to hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need" (SC Expl. to 5th Comm.); and
- WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod has identified abortion as sin and against the Word of God in printed Small Catechism Explanations, most recently the 2017 edition from Concordia Publishing House; and
- WHEREAS,** A true Christian witness demands fear of God not man (Matt. 10:28) and not adding to or taking away from God's Word (Rev. 22:18-19); and
- WHEREAS,** Since the Roe v. Wade decision, over 61 million abortions have tragically been performed in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** The 50th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision will have occurred during the current triennium of the Synod, on January 22, 2023; and
- WHEREAS,** Two generations of citizens in the United States have grown up and lived only knowing legal abortion; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Synod in convention mark the 50th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade by reaffirming its opposition to the destructive sin of abortion; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Synod in convention encourage prayer and good works to overturn, not just curb, the Roe v. Wade decision and to end legal abortion in our nation and throughout the world; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Synod offer additional youth resources which catalogue the 50-year struggle of faithful Christians standing for life; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Synod encourage all congregations to take up a special thank offering in 2023 to be given to Lutherans For Life, a crisis pregnancy center, or other life ministry; and be it further

- RESOLVED,*** That the Synod leadership encourage congregational involvement with life ministry in ways such as: forming a life team, participating in sidewalk counseling, and contacting legislators; and be it further
- RESOLVED,*** That churches provide care for those suffering from the effects of abortion and encourage congregations to take steps and advocate for adoption; and be it further
- RESOLVED,*** That the Synod encourage all pastors and congregations to mark the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade by teaching and proclaiming human life as sacred and by holding out forgiveness and life to the full in Jesus Christ our Savior (Jn. 10:10); and be it finally
- RESOLVED,*** That the Mid-South District, meeting in convention, submit this as a memorial to the 2023 Synod Convention.

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED AS AMENDED



Resolution 01-02-21

SUBJECT: 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

(Reference Overtures 01-02-21 and 01-04-21 on page 127-129 and 132-134 in the Convention Workbook)

WHEREAS, On February 19, 1974, the majority of the faculty and students “walked out” of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in protest of an investigation into the teaching at the institution, and in order to form “Seminex,” a seminary in exile; and

WHEREAS, The investigation was an attempt to determine if there was false teaching, specifically the historical-critical method by which the clear words of Scripture are doubted or treated as myth, legend, or analogy; and

WHEREAS, For years prior to the fact finding inquiry and the “Walkout,” pastors and members of Synod congregations were hearing disturbing accounts of Concordia professors allowing for interpretations of the Bible that did not uphold the doctrine of the inerrancy of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21); and

WHEREAS, The Fact Finding Committee found that some professors “held or permitted”:

1. A confusion on the doctrine of Scripture, especially its verbal inspiration and the inerrancy, as well as disagreement on the relationship between the formal and material principles of Scripture.
2. A commitment to the use of the historical-critical method as a valid and preferred method for the interpretation of the Bible.
3. A possibility that many of the Old and New Testament stories are not really historical.
4. An acceptance that words attributed to Jesus in the Gospels were in fact never spoken by Him, but were later additions or interpretations made by the Christian community after the death of Jesus.
5. A reluctance to attribute Old Testament prophecies as pointing directly to Jesus Christ; that is, the minimalization of predictive prophecy in the Old Testament.
6. An insistence that Moses was not the author of the Pentateuch, Isaiah did not pen his entire book, and Paul may not have written all the books attributed to him in the New Testament (“Summary of the Findings,” Report of the Synodical President, pp. 21-25, cited in *Exodus From Concordia – A Report on the 1974 Walkout*, Board of Control Concordia Seminary, 1977, p. 35); and

WHEREAS, An example of the teaching which met objection is found in the comments made by Concordia Seminary professor Dr. Walter Bartling at a Louisiana Pastoral Conference, April 17-20, 1972. Bartling stated:

I can't answer the question, "Do you believe in the historicity of Adam and Eve?" Historicity and facticity are not even in my dictionary.

One thing they caught most of us on is, were Adam and Eve historical persons? I don't know. I don't think so. It is not important . . .

I believe that many of my Christian brothers have problems with the virgin birth of Christ.

Don't ask me, "Do you believe in a 6 day creation?" . . . I have problems with the virgin birth, real presence, bodily resurrection. . . . I can't bear the burden of Scriptural infallibility (Exodus From Concordia – A Report on the 1974 Walkout, Board of Control Concordia Seminary, 1977, p. 56); and

WHEREAS, The Walkout had a devastating impact on Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, pitting allegiances, the unity of congregations, and even family ties against sound hermeneutical principles, the Lutheran Confessions, and accepted synodical statements of belief; and

WHEREAS, Seminex and its supporters eventually folded in with the church bodies that produced the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) which does not insist on the inerrancy of Scripture or unconditional subscription to the Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS, The uncompromising response of the LCMS leadership to the Walkout is a rare instance in which the all-too-common slide of church bodies to the way of the world was checked and resisted; and

WHEREAS, The grassroots movement in LCMS congregations in the late 1960s and early 1970s was key to calling for doctrinal integrity at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, The 50th Anniversary of the 1974 Walkout will be observed in the next triennium of the Synod, on February 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Two generations of LCMS members have been born since the Walkout and may know little or nothing about this time period and the story of God graciously rescuing our Synod from capitulating to the culture; and

WHEREAS, The cultural pressure to compromise on Scriptural inerrancy is just as great on the present generation with evolution, abortion, same-sex "marriage," and universalism as part of the accepted civil religion; and

WHEREAS, On the 40th Anniversary of the Walkout, Dr. Karl Barth, the last living member of the Fact Finding Committee at the time, and President Emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, was asked by Rev. Todd Wilken on an Issues, Etc. program, "Why should a young Lutheran who is listening to us care about the 'Battle of the Bible' in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod back in the 1970s?", to which Dr. Barth replied:

Well, he [they] should be thankful that the Church, though it was plagued at that time with things that were not pleasant, returned to a solid basis, so that when they hear the sermons preached today they know they are coming from a man who is firmly convinced that the will of God for the salvation of the world and for the rule of the Church is clearly stated in the Bible; and that it is imperative for a church body and the pastors and the people to have that trust that the Jesus whom they are worshipping is indeed the Jesus that is portrayed for us in holy Scripture

(<https://issuesetc.org/2020/02/20/encore-the-anniversary-of-a-walkout-staged-by-faculty-and-students-at-concordia-seminary-in-st-louis-dr-karl-barth-2-20-20/>); therefore be it

- RESOLVED,** That the Synod mark the 50th anniversary of the Walkout through its publications; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Synod re-release, via free streaming, any videos and documentaries which recount the tumultuous events of the Walkout; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That all members of LCMS congregations be encouraged to utilize these resources; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That all pastors be encouraged to teach their congregations about the Walkout and address with Scripture the theological errors of our age, as our faithful forefathers have done since the time of Martin Luther; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** To recognize the professors, faculty, and staff of Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield and those at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis who remained faithful to Scripture and Lutheran Confessions, and be it further;
- RESOLVED,** That all glory be given to our Lord God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who saved The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from going the way of the world; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District, meeting in convention, submit this as a memorial to the 2023 Synod Convention.

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED



Resolution 01-03-21

SUBJECT: 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

(Reference 01-L1-21 in the addendum of the Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District Board of Directors proposed various bylaw amendments for housekeeping, procedural, or improvement in functionality at the November 2, 2020 meeting for consideration by the 2021 District Convention; and
- WHEREAS,** The rationales for all of these proposals are included with the proposed bylaws in Appendix B in the Convention Workbook (pages 188-205); and
- WHEREAS,** The Synod’s Commission on Constitutional Matters reviewed the proposed bylaws at their January 15-16, 2021 meeting and found the proposal to be consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and gave their approval for the District Convention’s consideration in Opinion 20-2958; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That Mid-South District Bylaw 4.2.2 be amended as proposed to allow for an optional non-voting recording secretary, rather than require one to be appointed, to assist the district secretary if needed; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That Mid-South District Bylaw 8.4.1 be amended as proposed to eliminate term limits for the district secretary and district treasurer, mirroring no term limits of these offices in the Synod, yet always giving the convention delegates the choice in electing a district secretary, or the Board of Directors its choice in renewing an appointment or appointing a new district treasurer; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District Bylaws be amended by inserting proposed Bylaws 8.3.5-8.3.6.1, adding in their corresponding headings above Bylaw 8.3, and renumbering current Bylaws 8.3.5-8.3.5.5 to 8.3.7-8.3.7.5.

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED



Resolution 01-04-21

**SUBJECT: To Amend District Bylaw 8.5.1 to Clarify the Difference
Between a Permanent and a Temporary Vacancy in the Office
of District President**

(Reference Overture 01-L2-21)

WHEREAS,

The Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has opined (Opinion 20-2958) from its review of the proposed Mid-South District (MDS) Bylaws to be considered at the July 1-3 convention that Bylaw 8.5.1 was not as clear to indicate that a permanent vacancy would be covered by the bylaws provisions, and indicated that the bylaw should be clarified:

The commission notes a new observation with regard to Bylaw 8.5.1, which is that this does not appear to account for the situation where the office of president is *permanently* vacated. In such a case, the first vice-president, in line of succession, would assume the office (and not merely the duties and responsibilities) as president. This case should be provided for so as not to suggest that the temporary incapacity provision applies to a permanent cessation of service before the end of the president's term.

and

WHEREAS,

The Board of Directors, at its May 23-24 meeting, proposed such revised language for amending the bylaws and submitted the proposed revisions to the CCM for their review and approval; and

WHEREAS,

The CCM, subsequent to its May 25, 2021 meeting, unanimously consented to the language as proposed. Thus, this change, too, stands approved for presentation to and adoption by the convention. (CCM Opinion 20-2958A); therefore be it,

RESOLVED,

That the proposed District Bylaw 8.5.1 be added as printed below to provide clarity and a process in the event of a permanent vacancy in the office of district president; and be it further

RESOLVED,

That current District Bylaw 8.5.1 be renumbered 8.5.1.1 and include the added word "temporary" to ensure that the bylaw addresses a temporary vacancy in the office of district president.

8.5 Vacancies

8.5.1 The office of district president shall be assumed by the first vice-president if the office becomes permanently vacated by death, retirement, resignation, or removal for cause according to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. He shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term until the next regular district convention elects a district president.

8.5.1.1 The duties and responsibilities of the office of district president shall be assumed by the first vice-president whenever a temporary vacancy appears in this office or the board of directors determines that the district president is unable to serve in that capacity because of his

prolonged illness or disability. The first vice-president shall remain as the acting district president until the board of directors determines that such illness or disability has been removed or until the next regular district convention elects a district president.

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED



Resolution 01-06-21

SUBJECT: Omnibus

(Reference Overtures: 01-06-21, 01-07-21, 01-08-21 in the Convention Workbook)

WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reason, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

Number	Subject	Reason
01-06-21 01-08-21	To Implement a Process Enabling a District President to Protect a Called Worker or to Enact an Emergency Restriction or Suspension Status as Warranted	Article VII Relation of Synod to Its Members 1. In its relation to its members the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or coercive powers, and with respect to the individual congregation's right of self-government it is but an advisory body. Accordingly, no resolution of the Synod imposing anything upon the individual congregation is of binding force if it is not in accordance with the Word of God or if it appears to be inexpedient as far as the condition of a congregation is concerned. 2. Membership of a congregation in the Synod gives the Synod no equity in the property of the congregation.
01-07-21	To Provide Clarity Upon Removal Or Resignation from the Synod Roster of Ordained Clergy	Article VII Relation of Synod to Its Members 1. In its relation to its members the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or coercive powers, and with respect to the individual congregation's right of self-government it is but an advisory body. Accordingly, no resolution of the Synod imposing anything upon the individual congregation is of binding force if it is not in accordance with the Word of God or if it appears to be inexpedient as far as the condition of a congregation is concerned. 2. Membership of a congregation in the Synod gives the Synod no equity in the property of the congregation.

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED



Resolution 01-07-21

SUBJECT: To Encourage Further Consideration of Successful Completion of Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Coursework Before Ordination and Placement on Ordained Roster

(Reference Overture 01-05-21 page 135 of the Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** The 2018 Mid-South District Convention memorialized the 2019 Synod Convention “To Request Synod to Move Ordination Upon Completion of SMP Four-Year Program” (2019 Ov. 6-07); and
- WHEREAS,** The 2019 Synod Convention considered this overture together with similar overtures from other districts and congregations; and
- WHEREAS,** The 2019 Synod Convention adopted Resolution 6-03A, referring this matter to the Pastoral Formation Committee to “work to enhance the curriculum and standards of the SMP program between the two seminaries...” and to “review the SMP program regarding the optimal timing for vicarage and ordination and report its recommendation to the joint boards of regents at its 2020 meeting, as well as to the Synod at large;” and
- WHEREAS,** Res. 6-03A further resolved “That the joint board(s) (sic) of regents prepare an overture to the Synod on the timing of vicarage and ordination for the SMP program for consideration in convention in 2022;” and
- WHEREAS,** The 2023 Synod Convention will consider the recommendations of the Pastoral Formation Committee and the joint boards of regents of the seminaries which are forthcoming; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention reaffirms the importance of the Pastoral Formation Committee, the joint boards of regents, and the Synod’s consideration of the issues regarding the timing of ordination in the SMP program; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention encourage the Pastoral Formation Committee, the joint boards of regents of the seminaries, and the Synod in convention to consider moving ordination and placement on the minister of religion—ordained roster of the Synod from after the completion of the first two years of the SMP program to after the completion of all SMP education and academic requirements; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention submit to the 2023 LCMS Convention an overture with the above stated WHEREAS and RESOLVED statements.

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED