



[bedrock buzz]

FINAL EDITION

NEWS OF THE 22ND REGULAR CONVENTION OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT, LCMS — JUNE 12-14, 2025

Delegation Selects Mission & Ministry Directives for Synod

In addition to numerous elections and consideration of about twenty resolutions, delegates of the 22nd Regular Convention of the Mid-South District chose three recommended areas of focus to present to Synod for the 2026-2029 triennium. On Saturday morning, following voting on all Floor Committee resolutions, delegates were given seven mission and ministry initiatives, put forth by the Circuit and Advisory Forums. The following three initiatives received the most votes and will therefore be advanced for consideration at the next Synodical Convention in 2026:

FOCUS #1 —

To encourage young families and encourage the health of marriage and the vitality of the devotional life in the home.

FOCUS #2 —

Work to resolve human trafficking and raise awareness to address the challenges of a world that does not respect the value God has given to male and female.

FOCUS #3 —

Formation and spiritual strengthening of Elders and Lay Leaders in the congregation.

THE 2025-2028 PRAESIDIUM of the Mid-South District



Newly re-elected Mid-South District President, Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, will rely on the counsel of his four regional Vice Presidents for the next triennium. The 2025-2028 District Praesidium includes (left to right) 2nd VP from Region 2, Rev. Kevin Conger; President Paavola; 1st VP from Region 1, Rev. Joshua Willadsen; 3rd VP from Region 3, Rev. Philip Young; and 4th VP from Region 4, Rev. David Graves. Both Rev. Young and Rev. Graves will be serving their first terms as Regional Vice Presidents.

A Special Time for Pastors' Wives to Unwind —

The District Convention included a luncheon for a special group of women: the wives of our pastors. Hosted by Mrs. Pat Paavola, the wife of District President, Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, the luncheon offered an opportunity for the ladies to connect and share conversation over their unique bond.

Knowing well both the rewards and challenges of being married to an ordained minister, Mrs. Paavola values the chance to not only meet other wives of pastors, but also to create opportunities for these women to find friendships and be refreshed. That is why, for several years, she has coordinated an annual weekend retreat for the wives of pastors, both active and retired.

This year, the event is set for **September 12-14 at a retreat center in Bartlett, Tennessee** (just outside of Memphis). Registration materials for the 2025 Pastors' Wives Retreat will be sent out in mid-July. Until then, wives of Mid-South District pastors are encouraged to save this date and plan for a wonderful weekend of renewal!



The Interesting Lives of Pastors' Wives . . . Prior to the District Convention, pastors' wives attending the event were asked to share memories of some unique, funny or unexpected tasks they've tackled for ministry—or because their husbands were immersed in seminary work! These are a few of the memorable responses that were shared:

“...because I love to sew, I became the pants hemmer and repair person for many parishioners. It was all done free with thanks to them for all each of them do in service to our Lord.”

“Becoming the videographer for our worship broadcasts and doing karaoke music for the worship service when the organist can't make it. Also as secretary I trouble shoot our church accounting program when something is amiss.”

“I have written the children's Christmas programs at every church my husband served at.”

“Our church has a cleaning day. Everything inside and out is cleaned. I showed up the first time as a volunteer with my bucket, rags, and cleaners. I was asked to help “Nancy” who always did the sanctuary... Nancy came in, sat in a chair, and watched me do it all by myself. It was like the passing of the torch.”

THANK YOU TO REV. BRANDON MARTIN, Chaplain of the Day for Conclusion of Convention



The Mid-South District was pleased to welcome Rev. Brandon Martin as Saturday's Chaplain of the Day for the Convention's closing devotions and prayers. Pastor Martin currently serves as Associate Pastor to Salem Lutheran Ministries in Springdale, Arkansas, where he leads the congregation's active and growing Spanish-speaking ministry. Before joining the Mid-South District in 2014, Pastor Martin served as an Associate Missionary in Bolivia and as a first-grade teacher in Guatemala. He and his wife, Joy, are blessed with four children.

Meet the New Board of Directors...



The Mid-South District's Board of Directors, which includes six newly elected members, was installed at the conclusion of the District Convention on Saturday morning, June 14. The 2025-2028 Board includes (pictured left to right) Rev. Philip Young, Heidi Davidson, John Hofman, Karilyn Brown, Tim Hanusa, Jack Ficken, Jeff Pittman, Aaron Jackson, David Topp, Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, Rev. Larry Peters, Rev. Joshua Willadsen, Rev. Kevin Conger and Rev. David Graves. The new Board will have their first full meeting at the District Office in November.

The Business of Convention Resolutions

Over 160 voting delegates were in attendance at the 22nd Regular Convention, representing 88 congregations of the Mid-South District. Over the course of their short time together, these delegates reviewed and carefully considered just over twenty resolutions, covering an array of issues that are important to the ministries of this District, and their many members. By the close of the convention on Saturday morning, delegates had voted to adopt the following resolutions:

- Resolution 01-01-25: *To Reaffirm Church Planting*
- Resolution 01-02-25: *To Continue a Relationship with the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese (SELVD) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania*
- Resolution 01-03-25: *To Continue a Relationship with the Confessional Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar*
- Omnibus Resolution 01-04-25: *To Commend Trinity Hope*
- Resolution 02-01-25: *To Maintain Accountability and Transparency for Financial Gifts from God's Stewards*
- Resolution 02-02-25: *To Encourage Financial Support for Professional Church Workers*
- Resolution 02-03-25: *To Propose LCMS Men's Ministry*
- Resolution 02-04-25: *To Establish Locum Tenens Ministry for the Mid-South District*
- Omnibus Resolution 02-06A-25: *Ten Commandments*
- Resolution 03-01-25: *To Shape the Faith Formation Paradigm from Generation to Generation Ministry*
- Resolution 03-02-25: *To Encourage Generational Ministry*
- Resolution 03-03-25: *To Evaluate, Study, and Use Biblically-based Stewardship Resources*
- Resolution 03-04-25: *To Encourage Personal Evangelism*
- Resolution 04-01-25: *To Encourage Further Consideration of Successful Completion of SMP Coursework Before Ordination and Placement on Ordained Roster*
- Resolution 04-02-25: *Regularizing Specific Ministry Pastoral Classification*
- Resolution 04-03-25: *Extend an Overture to the 2026 LCMS Convention Concerning Specific Ministry Pastoral (SMP) Training*
- Resolution 04-06-25: *To Amend the District Bylaws so that the District President may Accept a Call to a Congregation as Assistant Pastor*
- Resolution 04-07A-25: *To Direct The Office of the National and International Mission to Decline Applications for Recognized Service Organization Status from Organizations Currently Supporting, Advocating, or Otherwise Promoting the LGBTQIA+ Agenda and Lifestyle and to direct The Office of National Missions and The Office of International Mission to Revoke RSO Status of the Same*
- Resolution 04-08-25: *Participating in Building a Culture of Church Work Formation and Recruitment*

The complete text of the above adopted resolutions, as well as those declined by the delegation, are listed on the Mid-South District website at mid-southlcms.org/convention-2/.

Our Convention Musician...



The Mid-South District is grateful for the time and talent of **Mr. Aaron Jackson**, who served as the 2025 Convention Musician. Aaron is the Director of Parish Music at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Mountain Home, Arkansas. He also served as the Conference Musician during last year's Mid-South District Fall Pastors' Conference at Sea!

CONVENTION VIDEOS are Online!

The Mid-South District shared several short videos during the convention. The Faithfully Departed memorial, tribute to Rev. Norman Groteluschen, Disaster Relief Ministry overview and GROW

Grants highlight videos are now available to view and download on at —

<https://vimeo.com/midsouthlcms>



CONVENTION T-SHIRTS!

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Available While Supplies Last • Shipped to You!

Missed Getting a Convention Shirt?

If you forgot to get a 2025 District Convention commemorative t-shirt, we've got you covered! The shirts are just \$10 each and available in sizes small-2XL. Order online and the shirt(s) will be mailed to you!

CLICK TO ORDER!

THANK YOU to Our Convention Volunteers!

In addition to the awesome Convention Pages introduced in a previous edition of the *Bedrock Buzz*, the 22nd Regular Convention relied on a number of volunteers for everything from manning the speaker spotlight to advancing slides during presentations. The Mid-South District says "thank you" to the following people for their invaluable contributions:

NANCY LEE SHERI PETERING GWEN WENCK STEVE TYLER JOHNATHON FISCHER
RYAN PUDWELL PAUL FISCHER MARLIN MCELWAIN ANN LAURY (*Banquet Coordinator Extraordinaire*)

Your 2025 Publicity Team —

The 2025 Publicity Committee enjoyed bringing Convention delegates and guests this year's daily event publication, the *Bedrock Buzz*, as well as online updates, social media posts and photos. Members of this year's Publicity team were Rhonda Anderson, Judy Otto, Sheila Adcock and Renae McElwain.

Convention Results, Photos & More!

Complete coverage of the 2025 Mid-South District Convention is still available online, including election results, adopted /declined resolutions, photos, newsletters, and more —

mid-southlcms.com/convention-2