



Resolution 02-04-25

SUBJECT: To Establish Locum Tenens Ministry for the Mid-South District

(Reference Overture(s) 02-01-25 printed on page 176 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** The vacancy rate of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is over 10% of the calling congregations of Synod; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District has experienced extended vacancies in some of its congregations over the last decade that have exceeded 2 or more years; and
- WHEREAS,** Congregations that have experienced long and extended vacancies have experienced a significant decline in attendance, contributions, and membership; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District works to keep its vacancy rate beneath the Synodical average; and
- WHEREAS,** The number of candidates graduating from the Synod's two seminaries continues to be at a rate of less than 100 MDiv. candidates per year, and
- WHEREAS,** The number of pastors eligible to retire from full-time ministry service is expected to increase to 25-30% of the currently rostered ordained pastors in the next five years, therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District Call at least one ordained, rostered pastor to perform *Locum Tenens* Services for vacant congregation in the District; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District place *Locum Tenens* pastors at the request of a vacated congregation on contract; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District may contract the *Locum Tenens* to other districts in the case that no congregations of the Mid-South District are in need or have submitted requests for Locum Tenens services; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the placement of the Locum Tenens be allowed to be Called to a vacant congregation pending the Call and Acceptance of a Call by the Locum Tenens pastor.



Pastor Willie Grills

Keith D'Atrio