

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



**21st CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS  
JULY 1-3, 2021**

**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*

# ***“Declare His Marvelous Works”***

## ***Schedule***

### ***THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021***

#### ***FIRST CONVENTION SESSION***

*Chaplain for the Day: The Reverend Craig Muehler, Fenton, MO, Retired U.S. Armed Forces, Navy Chaplain, Director LCMS Ministry to Armed Forces*

- 2:50 p.m. Music/Singing
- 3:00 p.m. Opening Devotion
- 3:15 p.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 3:35 p.m. Credentials, Rules and Program
- 3:45 p.m. Greetings from Ministry Partners
- 3:55 p.m. Greetings from Presidents Emeriti
- 4:00 p.m. District President's Report
- 4:55 p.m. Lutheran Church Extension Fund Greetings
- 5:25 p.m. Announcements & Closing Prayer
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner at Christ the King
- 7:30 p.m. Opening Service - Christ the King Lutheran

### ***FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2021***

#### ***SECOND CONVENTION SESSION***

*Chaplain for the Day: The Reverend Dr. LeRoy Leach, Conway, AR, Retired Associate Professor of Theology, Concordia University, Bronxville, NY*

- 6:30 a.m. Registration Continues
- 7:45 a.m. Seating and Singing
- 8:00 a.m. Opening Devotion
- 8:20 a.m. Final Report of Credentials and Registration
- 8:40 a.m. Candidates for District President
- 9:00 a.m. Elections
- 9:30 a.m. Floor Committee Business
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Seating and Singing
- 10:20 a.m. LCMS President's Report (& video)
- 11:20 a.m. Q&A with President Harrison
- 11:50 a.m. Announcements and Meal Prayer
- 11:55 a.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Seating and Singing
- 1:10 p.m. Bishop Emmanuel Makala  
South East of Lake Victoria Diocese
- 1:30 p.m. Floor Committee Business
- 3:15 p.m. Break
- 3:35 p.m. Seating and Singing
- 3:40 p.m. Floor Committee Business
- 4:10 p.m. Closing Prayer
- 4:20 p.m. Orientation and Dismissal to Circuit Caucuses
- 4:20 p.m. Circuit Caucuses
- 6:00 p.m. President's Reception (Southeast Ballroom)

### ***SATURDAY, JULY 3, 2021***

#### ***THIRD CONVENTION SESSION***

*Chaplain for the Day: The Reverend Russell Belisle, Cross of Calvary, Memphis, TN, representing District ethnic ministries*

- 6:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 7:45 a.m. Seating & Singing
- 8:15 a.m. Opening Devotion
- 8:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. Joseph Randrianasolo  
LIME Institute, Malagasy Lutheran Church,  
Madagascar
- 8:45 a.m. Ratification of Circuit Visitors, Selection of  
Mission & Ministry Initiatives, Floor Committee  
Business
- 10:00 a.m. Installation of Newly Elected Officers
- 10:15 a.m. Closing Devotion
- 10:30 a.m. Adjournment
- 10:45 a.m. Photos of Newly Elected Groups & Individuals
- 11:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting (Incoming Members)

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**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD 201 -2021**

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 (through Dec. 2020)*  
Vice President – Region 1..... *Reverend Paul Hass*  
Vice President – Region 4..... *Reverend Gil Pingel*  
Vice President – Region 2..... *Reverend Kevin Conger (January 2021)*  
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. Missy Washburn*  
Administrative Assistant..... *Mrs. Julie Tyler*

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Reverend Dr. Roger Paavola*  
*Reverend Charles Neugebauer*  
*Reverend James Walter\**  
*Reverend Paul Hass*  
*Reverend Gil Pingel*  
*Reverend Kevin Conger\*\**  
*Reverend John Gierke*  
*Mrs. Tessa Brasher*  
*Mrs. Shirley Piepenbrink*  
*Dr. Fred Guengerich*  
*Mr. Marc Higgins*  
*Mr. Jeff Pitman*  
*Mr. Larry Vickers*  
*Mr. Larry Zehnder*

**THE CIRCUIT VISITORS**

Chattanooga Circuit	<i>Reverend Mark Rhoads</i>
Fayetteville Circuit	<i>Reverend Robert Herring</i>
Fort Smith Circuit	<i>Reverend Joshua Willadsen</i>
Johnson City Circuit	<i>Reverend Steven Harmon</i>
Jonesboro Circuit	<i>Reverend Joel Krogen</i>
Knoxville Circuit	<i>Reverend Robert Portier</i>
Little Rock – North Circuit	<i>Reverend David Vandercook</i>
Little Rock – South Circuit	<i>Reverend Kent Schaaf</i>
Memphis Circuit	<i>Reverend Mark Goble</i>
Middle Tennessee Circuit	<i>Reverend Gerald Meyer</i>
Nashville Circuit	<i>Reverend Kenneth Shaw</i>
Paducah Circuit	<i>Reverend Larry Peters</i>
Stuttgart Circuit	<i>Reverend M. Chad Philipp</i>

\*(Reverend Walter called to Glory December 2020)

\*\* (Reverend Conger elected to fill vacancy January 2021)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2021 MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION FLOOR COMMITTEES</b></p>
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**Floor Committee 1 – Church & Doctrine**

*Reverend Kevin Conger* (Chairman)

*Rev. David Vandercook* (Vice-Chairman)

***Ministers of Religion – Ordained***

*Reverend Kevin Conger*, Hope Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, AR

*Reverend Nathan Jansen*, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rogers, AR

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

*Reverend Donald Welmer*, First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

***Minister of Religion – Commissioned***

*Lindsey Hofman*, First Lutheran School, Knoxville, TN

***Lay Members***

*Dr. Fred Guengerich*, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN

*Pete Duncanson*, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

*Kenneth Watkins*, Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

**Floor Committee 2 – Church Missions & Evangelism**

*Reverend Gilbert Pingel* (Chairman)

*Rev. Robert Herring* (Vice-Chairman)

***Ministers of Religion – Ordained***

*Reverend Joel Krogen*, Hope Lutheran Church, Batesville, AR and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waldenburg, AR

*Reverend Robert Herring*, Grace Lutheran Church, Holiday Island, AR

*Reverend Sawyer Meyers*, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Olive Branch, MS

*Reverend Gilbert Pingel*, Emeritus, Chattanooga, TN

***Minister of Religion – Commissioned***

*Michelle Fischer*, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

***Lay Member***

*Keith Brummett*, Faith Lutheran Church, Bentonville, AR

*Dan Jacobs*, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

*Charles Poziombka*, First Lutheran Church, Harrison, AR

***Advisory***

*Angela Fowler*, Mid-South District, Cordova, TN

*Larry Vickers*, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN

**Floor Committee 3 – Church & Social Concerns**

*Rev. Clayton Sellers* (Chairman)

*Rev. David McMinn* (Vice-Chairman)

***Ministers of Religion – Ordained***

*Reverend Russell Belisle*, Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church, Rogers, AR

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

*Reverend Clayton Sellers*, Faith Lutheran Church, Collierville, TN

*Reverend Daniel Ulrich*, Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, TN

***Minister of Religion – Commissioned***

*Deaconess Eileen Esget*, Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR

***Lay Member***

*Timothy Luckenbach*, Hope Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, AR

*Jeff Pittman*, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Jonesboro, AR

*Tom Tiesler*, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN

***Lay Member***

***Timothy Luckenbach***, Hope Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, AR

***Jeff Pittman***, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Jonesboro, AR

***Tom Tiesler***, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN

**Floor Committee 4 – Elections**

***Reverend Robert Portier*** (Chairman)

**Rev. Jonathan Beyer** (Vice-Chairman)

***Ministers of Religion – Ordained***

***Reverend Jonathan Beyer***, First Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, AR

***Reverend Robert Portier***, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN

***Minister of Religion – Commissioned***

***Samuel Fishburn***, First Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, AR

***Jessie Irwin***, First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

***Lay Member***

***Robert Morris***, Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR

***John Hofman***, First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

<p><b>2021 MID-SOUTH DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE</b></p>
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***Reverend Robert Portier*** (Chairman)

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN

***Minister of Religion – Ordained***

***Reverend Jonathan Beyer***, First Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, AR

***Reverend Robert Portier***, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN

***Ministers of Religion – Commissioned***

***Samuel Fishburn***, First Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, AR

***Jessica Irwin***, First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

***Lay Members***

***Charlie Gemeinhardt***, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

***Jeff Roper***, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Conway, AR

<p><b>2021 MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION COMMITTEES</b></p>
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**Convention Planning Committee**

*Reverend Dr. Roger Paavola* (Chairman)

District President

*Reverend John Gierke*

District Secretary

*Mrs. Angela Fowler*

*Mrs. Missy Washburn*

*Mrs. Nancy Lee*

*Mrs. Renae McElwain*

**Convention Publicity Committee**

*Mrs. Renae McElwain* (Chairman)

*Mrs. Judy Otto*

*Ethan Washburn, Photographer*

*Mrs. Rhonda Anderson*

*Mrs. Genie Swan*

**Convention Office Staff**

*Mrs. Missy Washburn* (Convention Office Manager)

*Mrs. Julie Tyler*

*Mrs. Gwen Wenck*

*Ms. Diane Reimold*

**Convention Staff**

*Mr. Cooper Washburn*

*Mr. Allen Piepenbrink*

*Mrs. Nancy Lee*

*Mr. Paul Reaves*

**Convention Musician**

*Mr. Charles Russell*

**Opening Service of Holy Communion**

*Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, Tennessee*

*Reverend Dr. Matthew Harrison, Proclaimer*

*Reverend Charles Neugebauer, Officiant*



**THE REPRESENTATIVES OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
TO THE 2021 MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION**

**MEET OUR PRESIDENT**



***A Brief Biography of  
Reverend Dr. Matthew C. Harrison***

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is the 13th man to serve as president of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod since its founding in 1847. He was elected in 2010 and re-elected in 2013, 2016 and 2019.

Harrison is the church's chief ecclesiastical officer, and his duties include:

- Supervising the doctrine taught and practiced by its nearly 9,000 ordained ministers;
- Representing the LCMS with its partner church bodies throughout the world; and
- Overseeing all officers, executives and agencies of the LCMS.

In 2001, Harrison became executive director of the LCMS' former World Relief and Human Care ministry. Based at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis, Harrison:

- Oversaw the church's multimillion-dollar responses to epic disasters, including Hurricane Katrina, the Asia tsunami and the Haiti earthquake;
- Managed relationships with some 120 LCMS Recognized Service Organizations and other inter-Lutheran social ministry organizations;
- Worked in consultation with LCMS partner/sister churches to build capacity during mercy outreach efforts; and
- Managed the church's global pro-life efforts.

**Pastoral Ministry**

Harrison served as a pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Westgate, Iowa (1991-95) and Zion Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. (1995-2001). In Fort Wayne, his parish embarked on the St. Peter/Zion Project for Neighborhood Renewal, a now nationally recognized neighborhood revitalization effort.

Owing to the success of this effort, Harrison later founded Lutheran Housing Support Corporation, a faith-based housing organization headquartered at the LCMS International Center that helps revitalize communities and renew neighborhoods across the country.

## Education and Service

Harrison graduated with a bachelor's degree in religious studies from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1984. Following his graduation, he and his wife, Kathy, spent a year as missionaries in a remote Canadian Cree Indian village with the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots.

Harrison earned a Master of Divinity in 1989 and a Master of Sacred Theology in 1991, both from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. He has pursued additional graduate study at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. In 2011, he received two honorary doctorates: a Doctor of Laws from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich., and a Doctor of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

Before being elected president, Harrison served on numerous boards for church and community organizations.

## Literary Work

Harrison is a prolific writer whose books include *A Little Book on Joy*, a devotional-style book about finding delight in living a Christ-centered life in today's society, and *Christ Have Mercy: How to Put Your Faith in Action*, a book urging Christians to consider the innumerable opportunities they have to show mercy to fellow Christians and to anyone God places in their path.

He compiled and translated *At Home in the House of My Fathers*, a collection of works by several of the church's founders, and edited *The Lonely Way: Selected Essays and Letters* by Hermann Sasse, a prominent confessional Lutheran theologian in the German ecumenical movement of the early 20th century.

Most recently, Harrison revised and edited a new edition of C.F.W. Walther's *The Church and the Office of the Ministry*, a seminal writing by the first president of the LCMS, and translated Letters to Lutheran Pastors — *Volume 1, Volume 2 and Volume 3* an edition of Sasse's correspondence with Lutheran pastors around the world.

## Family

Harrison and his wife live in Ballwin, Mo., and are members of Village Lutheran Church in Ladue, Mo., where Harrison also serves as assistant pastor. They have two sons. Harrison is an avid banjo player and instrumentalist who makes guitars, banjos and mandolins.

**THE REPRESENTATIVES OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
TO THE 2021 MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION**

**MEET OUR FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT**



***A Brief Biography of  
Reverend Peter K. Lange***

As first vice-president and a member of the Praesidium of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), the Rev. Peter K. Lange assists the president in carrying out his responsibilities and oversees the colloquy program for both ordained and commissioned ministers. Lange was elected to this position in 2019. He also serves as an *ex officio* member of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations and the LCMS Board of Directors, and he is the Synod president's

representative on the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Board of Regents.

Previously, Lange served as president of the LCMS Kansas District (2015–2019). Prior to that, he served as senior pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kan. (1999–2015), and associate pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo. (1990–1999).

Born in Houston, Texas, Lange graduated from Concordia University, River Forest, in 1984 and from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., with a Master of Divinity in 1988. Lange also earned a Master of Sacred Theology degree in 1998 from Concordia Theological Seminary.

Lange has also served the church as secretary of the Council of Presidents (2018–2019), a member of the 2016 Resolution 13-01A Task Force "To Extol and Equip the Blessed Partnership between the Royal Priesthood and the Office of the Public Ministry," a chairman for Synod floor committees in 2016 and 2019, and a member of numerous boards and committees for the Missouri and Kansas districts from 1992–2015. Lange has also participated in short-term mission trips to England, Czech Republic, Germany, and South Africa.

Lange and his wife, Marcia, live in St. Louis. They have four daughters.

**THE REPRESENTATIVES OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
TO THE 2021 MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION**

**MEET OUR SIXTH VICE-PRESIDENT**



***A Brief Biography of  
Reverend Benjamin T. Ball***

The Rev. Benjamin T. Ball is sixth vice-president and a member of the Praesidium of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). He was elected in 2019 and represents the church's Central Region.

Ball is the senior pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Hamel, Ill., where he was called in 2012. He previously served St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Dedham, Mass. (1999–2004), and St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, Brookfield, Ill. (2004–2012).

He is currently the chairman of the Synod's Committee on Nominations. He served as the second vice-president of the LCMS Southern Illinois District (2018–2019), and he served several terms as a circuit visitor in both the Northern Illinois and Southern Illinois districts.

Ball has been a member of the Board of Directors of Metro-East Lutheran High School of Edwardsville, Ill. (2017–2019), and he is an editor of *Gottesdienst—The Journal of Lutheran Liturgy* (2016–present). Ball has been a frequent presenter at conferences discussing preaching, liturgy, the fraternal bonds of pastors, and the pastoral task in the Lutheran school.

Originally from Richmond, Mich., he is a product of LCMS schools since kindergarten. He received a B.A. from Concordia University, River Forest, Ill., in 1995, and in 1999 was granted the M.Div. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

An avid outdoorsman, he resides in the church parsonage with his wife, Serena, and their four children.

**MINUTES OF THE 21st REGULAR CONVENTION OF  
THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT  
OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**

**JULY 1-3, 2021**

***“Declare His Marvelous Works”***

***FIRST CONVENTION SESSION  
Thursday, July 1, 2021***

The first session of the 21st Regular Convention of the Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was opened in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, with the Word of the Lord at 3 p.m.

The opening devotion was led by Chaplain of the Day Reverend Craig G. Muehler from Fenton, Missouri (Retired, US Armed Forces. Navy Chaplain, LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces), in recognition of our military and military chaplains. He led the delegation in the devotion in Today’s Business, Edition 1, basing his message on the corresponding convention theme, “Declare His Marvelous Works” from 1 Chronicles 16:23. Using the phrase, “*Day by day...*” Chaplain Muehler called on the convention attendees to: speak the salvation of the Lord; do the “grunt work;” remember our baptism; to not lose heart as our inner self is renewed day by day; and preach the Word, being ready in season and out of season, day by day.

President Paavola thanked Reverend Muehler for his opening devotion.

President Paavola welcomed the delegates to the convention. He also introduced the special guests in attendance and extended his welcome to them as well:

- Rev. Benjamin Ball, LCMS, 6th Vice President - Central Region Vice President, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hamel, IL
- Rev. Peter Lange, 1st Vice President, LCMS
- Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President, LCMS

President Paavola updated the assembly that the person who was going to be handling the electronic voting was involved in a car accident and would not be able to be present. As a result, at this time the voting fobs were not quite functional and Mrs. Angela Fowler would not be able to provide an orientation. They are working on a backup plan, but for the time being, the electronic balloting would not be available and votes taken today would be by voice or by show of hands or standing, etc.

President Paavola then called the 21st Regular Convention of the Mid-South District to order at 3:35 p.m. in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**OPENING OF CONVENTION BUSINESS**

President Paavola called on the District Secretary, Reverend John Gierke, to announce the credentials report of delegates and guests registered and present as of the opening of the convention. He noted LCMS Constitution Article XII B.14

*For the legal holding of the sessions of the districts a constitutional convocation of such sessions and the presence of at least one-third of the voting members represented by at least one of their respective representatives (pastor or lay delegate) are required.*

[It was noted that including the congregation about to be chartered during the convention, (Restoration Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas), the district has 123 member congregations. Thus the minimum number of congregations with at least one delegate is 41 delegates.]

- Pastoral Delegates - 67
- Lay Delegates - 66
- **Total voting Delegates - 133**
- Advisory - 34
- Guests/Exhibitors - 49/19 - Total 65
- Total - 232 delegates and guests

With 133 voting delegates present, a quorum was established.

President Paavola then called for a motion and second from the floor to adopt the credentials report. The motion was adopted by voice vote, which carried.

The chair read the Special Standing Rules, then called for a standing vote for adoption. The Special Standing Rules were adopted by a standing vote exceeding a majority vote.

The chair then called for a motion and second from the floor to adopt the Agenda as printed and updated in the delegates' packets. The motion was moved, seconded, and adopted by a voice vote.

President Paavola announced the new congregation in the Mid-South which had joined the Synod in this last triennium, and also invited its pastor and lay delegate to sign the Synod's constitution.

- *Restoration Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, AR – Rev. JD Zischke - signed by Rev. Zischke and Rev. Bob Herring (representing the church board)*

President Paavola then invited those who were newly ordained or commissioned in the Synod in the Mid-South District during the last triennium to come forward and sign the Synod's Constitution as well. Those who were present did so and were welcomed and congratulated by the assembly.

- *Ordained*
  - *Rev. Craig Fiebiger*
  - *Rev. Timothy Hunze*
  - *Rev. Raymond Krieg*
  - *Rev. Jesus Ricardo Granado*
  - *Rev. John Mathis*
  - *Rev. Jeremy McDonald*
  - *Rev. Sawyer Meyers*
  - *Rev. Thomas Moore*
  - *Rev. Neely Owen*
  - *Rev. Joshua Ralston*
  - *Rev. Randy Sakach*
- *Commissioned*
  - *Rev. William Schutte*
  - *Rev. George Smith*
  - *Rev. Henry Thompson*
  - *Rev. William Zwick*
  - *Katie Baumann*
  - *Deaconess Eileen Esget*
  - *Kara Harbin*
  - *Jessica Irwin*
  - *Ashley Myers*
  - *Celia Walkowicz*

Rev. Paavola introduced various Ministry partners who were present and brought words of encouragement as they were recognized.

- MDS LWML President Candy Habich
- Trinity HOPE – Denise Gudlin
- International Lutheran Council – Rev. Dr. Timothy Quill, Rev. Roger James
- Ministry to the Armed Forces – Chaplain Rev. Craig Muehler
- Thrivent Financial – Jack Ficken. Thanks were also expressed by President Paavola for Mr. Ficken's personal sponsorship of the Saturday's delegate luncheon.

- Amro - Gabe Statom. President Paavola also expressed thanks to Amro for the use of the organ during the convention.
- Trinity Lutheran, Memphis Hispanic Mission/Ministry - Rev. Jesus Granado

### **GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENTS EMERITI**

President Paavola then turned the chair over to Rev. Charles Neugebauer, 1st Vice-President, who recognized the Presidents Emeriti, who had submitted either a written letter or video greetings to the convention. President Emeritus Norman Groteluschen's letter of greetings to the convention was read by Reverend Paul Donner, who has shared ministry for 60 years with President Norman Groteluschen, as President Groteluschen's health did not permit him to attend in person. President Groteluschen's letter offered strong words of encouragement to Declare His Marvelous Works into the dark culture of our present times. Reminding the delegates from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount "You are the Light of the World - in the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good deeds and praise our God and Father." "This is our God-given time to confess Christ!" With final words of encouragement to stay focused on Christ and His mission, President Groteluschen asked for the convention to stand and sing together "This Little Gospel Light of Mine."

President Emeritus David Callies' video greeting was introduced by Reverend Neugebauer. President Callies indicated that this was the first district convention in 56 years that he had to miss, but recalled the words of Psalm 23 that as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death — physically, socially, and spiritually — the Good Shepherd is with us. He is the Light and we are able to see the light at the end of the tunnel with vaccines, heroic workers, and have God's gifts of His Word and Sacraments, reminding us that nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. God has brought the delegates together not for business alone, but for God's business of the mission field. Just as the early church in the Reformation used the new technologies available to them (movable type/printing press, etc.) to spread the Gospel, God has given us digital technology to use 500 some years later to reach more people now than ever before - both locally and globally. With words of encouragement to remain faithful to the proclamation of the Gospel as we *Declare the Mighty Works of God*, with the decisions and actions of this convention serving as stones of remembrance such as Joshua had the people place near the Jordan after crossing into the Promised Land. President Callies closed with words of blessing for the delegates and the convention.

Reverend Neugebauer then read President Emeritus Ken Lampe's written greetings, as he was unable to be present. President Lampe noted that conventions are special times which provide the opportunity to gather, renewing old friendships and building new ones. Delegates are able to be energized and return home to take the life-giving message of Christ to our communities. He indicated that the convention theme was so appropriate connected with the Easter message of Christ "As the Father has sent Me, even so am I sending you." Indicating that approximately 47% of people in the United States now claim membership in a local church, the message of Jesus Christ is of first importance even today, 2000 years later - that Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised in accordance with the Scriptures. With his own memories of ministry in Ulm, Mountain Home, and through various District conventions, he closed with the reminder to *Declare God's Mighty Works!*

Following the greetings of the Presidents Emeriti, President Paavola assumed the chair, and presented his report to the convention, a copy of which is included in the Proceedings.

The convention thanked President Paavola with applause at the conclusion of his convention report.

President Paavola then recognized Rev. Bart Day, President and CEO of Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to give his greetings by video, as last minute scheduling made it impossible to attend.

Following the video, the Orders of the Day were called at 5:25 p.m.

Mrs. Angela Fowler was welcomed to the podium to provide final instructions and announcements to the delegates and convention guests regarding the close of business for the day. She provided information regarding busing to the dinner and worship service to be held that evening at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Chaplain of the Day Rev. Craig Muehler was then called to the podium to provide a prayer for the closing of the day's business and for the upcoming meal. Following the prayer, the chair adjourned the business session for the evening's dinner and worship service, at which Synod President, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison would be proclaiming the Word in the sermon.

The meeting was called into recess at 5:00 p.m. by President Paavola. The convention will reconvene at 8:00 a.m. Friday morning.

***“Declare His Marvelous Works”***  
***FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2021***  
***SECOND CONVENTION SESSION***

President Paavola called the convention to order at 8:04 a.m.

President Paavola thanked Michael Polle with Padgett and Lori Leighton with the LCMS Chief Administrative Officer's office for their work with Mrs. Fowler overnight to get the electronic voting system functional.

President Paavola welcomed Chaplain of the Day Rev. Dr. Leroy Leach, Retired Associate Professor of Theology, Concordia Bronxville, Professor Emeritus (Concordia University, Bronxville), now residing in Conway, Arkansas, to the podium to lead the convention in its morning devotion. Dr. Leach led the devotion, printed in Today's Business. His devotion, *Declare His Glory Among the Nations* focused on the convention theme, ***Declare His Marvelous Works***. Dr. Leach declared that God's Mission and Work is centrifugal (forcefully going outward from the center) - that is sending out, the work, blessing, publication, and proclamation of the Word of God through His people. He encouraged the delegates, though we are tempted by Satan to be “centripetal” (self-centered) and to have a “build it and they will come” mentality, to instead go from the cross and “make a lot of noise” declaring God and the Good News of the Marvelous Works He has done!

The chair then called on the district secretary to provide the final report of credentials and registration as of 8:10 a.m.

- Pastoral Delegates - 72
- Lay Delegates - 71
- **Total Voting Delegates Present - 143**
  
- Advisory - 37
- Guests/Exhibitors - 50
- **Total Attendance - 227**

It was noted that a quorum was present. The secretary moved adoption of the Credentials Report. The motion was seconded and approved by the convention.

The chair introduced Mrs. Angela Fowler to conduct an orientation for the voting fobs. Upon successful completion of the orientation, President Paavola turned the chair over to First Vice



President Rev. Chuck Neugebauer to chair the session during the presentation of presidential candidates and the subsequent election.

The chair noted the slate of candidates who accepted nomination through the bylaw process:

- Rev. Roger C. Paavola
- Rev. Lane Reuter

The chair asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor. With no responses, the chair declared the nominations for the office of district president closed.

The chair then welcomed Rev. Robert Portier, chairman of the Elections Committee, to the podium to present the candidates to the convention. Rev. Portier introduced Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola and Rev. Lane Reuter as the candidates who had accepted nomination. Both candidates were given the opportunity to address the convention.

Following the candidates' addresses, the chair requested Rev. Portier and the Elections Committee to proceed with the election of the district president, followed by the other elections to office.

<b>District President</b>	<b>Ballot 1 - 136 votes</b>
<b>Rev. Dr. Roger C. Paavola</b>	<b>65.44 % 89 votes (declared elected)</b>
Rev. Lane B. Reuter	34.56% 47 votes

The chair declared that the Rev. Dr. Roger C. Paavola was elected to a fourth term as District President. The assembly rose and sang the Common Doxology.

Rev. Neugebauer turned the chair over to President Paavola. Rev. Portier then proceeded with the election process for the Regional Vice Presidents. No additional nominations were considered as the bylaws do not allow for floor nominations for the regional vice president positions.

The chair called for the delegates to vote. The results were as follows:

<b>Region 1 Vice President</b>	<b>Ballot 1</b>
Rev. Eric A. Longman	25.30% 32 votes
<b>Rev. Joshua Willadsen</b>	<b>50.39% 64 votes (declared elected)</b>
Rev. William F. Zwick	24.41% 31 votes

The chair declared Rev. Joshua Willadsen elected.

Rev. Portier presented the candidate for Region 2 Vice President, Rev. Kevin Conger. As no other candidates were nominated by congregations in the region, Rev. Conger was the only nominee. As no floor nominations were possible for regional vice-presidents, the chair called for the delegates to vote to elect by acclamation, according to Special Standing Rule #10. The results were as follows:

<b>Region 2 Vice President</b>	Ballot 1
<b>Rev. Kevin Conger</b>	100% 136 votes (declared elected)

Rev. Kevin Conger was declared elected as Region 2 Vice President by President Paavola.

Rev. Portier presented the candidates for Region 3 Vice President. As no floor nominations were possible for regional vice-presidents, the chair called for the delegates to vote. The results were as follows:

<b>Region 3 Vice President</b>	Ballot 1
Rev. Larry A. Peters	26.47% 36 votes
<b>Rev. Lane B. Reuter</b>	<b>57.35% 78 votes</b>
Rev. Kenneth B. Shaw	16.18% 22 votes

Rev. Lane Reuter was declared elected as Region 3 Vice President by President Paavola.

The chair presented the candidates for Region 4 Vice President.

<b>Region 4 Vice President</b>	Ballot 1
Rev. Michael M. Miller	27.40% 37 votes
<b>Rev. Robert M. Portier</b>	<b>57.04% 77 votes</b>
Rev. Brian M. Truog	15.56% 21 votes

Rev. Robert Portier was declared elected by Pres. Paavola..

Rev. Portier then proceeded with the ballots for ranking the Vice Presidents in order of succession. The balloting would be initially for 1st Vice President, with the successive ranking ballots to be cast for those not elected to a ranked position.

<b>First Vice-President</b>	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
Rev. Kevin R. Conger	19.71% 27 votes	28.78% 40 votes
Rev. Robert Portier	17.52% 24 votes	17.27% 24 votes
<b>Rev. Lane Reuter</b>	<b>45.99% 63 votes</b>	<b>53.96% 75 votes</b>
Rev. Willadsen	16.78% 23 votes	

Rev. Willadsen's name was removed for the second ballot, and the chair called for the vote. Rev. Lane Reuter was declared elected as 1st Vice President on the second ballot.

The chair presented the ballot for Second Vice-President.

<b>2nd Vice-President</b>	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
<b>Rev. Kevin Conger</b>	46.04% 64 votes	<b>54.01% 74 votes</b>
Rev. Robert Portier	38.13% 53 votes	45.99% 63 votes
Rev. Joshua Willadsen	15.83% 22 votes	

After the results of the ballot were announced by the chair, the second ballot was presented with Rev. Willadsen's name removed. Following the vote, Rev. Kevin Conger was declared elected as 2nd Vice President.

The ballot was then presented to determine both Third and Fourth Vice-President positions. The chair called for the vote.

<b>3rd Vice-President</b>	Ballot 1
<b>Rev. Robert Portier</b>	<b>100 - 72.99</b>
Rev. Joshua Willadsen	3727.01

Rev. Robert Portier was declared elected as 3rd Vice President, and Rev. Joshua Willadsen was declared elected as 4th Vice President.

Rev. Portier then presented the candidates for District Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor, and nominations were declared closed by the chair.

<b>District Secretary</b>	Ballot 1
<b>Rev. John Gierke</b>	<b>74.64% 103 votes</b>
Rev. Joel Krogen	25.36% 35 votes

Rev. John Gierke was declared elected as District Secretary by the chair.

Rev. Portier then presented the candidates for Board of Directors – Commissioned for combined Regions 1 and 2.

<b>Regions 1 &amp; 2 Board of Directors - Commissioned</b>	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
Tessa Brasher	40.44% 55 votes	45.59% 62 votes
Samuel Fishburn	22.06% 30 votes	
<b>Charles Russell</b>	37.50% 51 votes	<b>74 - 54.41% 74 votes</b>

Following the announcement of the results of the first ballot, Samuel Fishburn was removed from the ballot, and the vote was taken. Charles Russel was declared elected to the Board of Directors - Regions 1 & 2 Commissioned.

Rev. Portier then presented the candidates for Board of Directors – Commissioned for combined Regions 3 and 4. There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were declared closed.

<b>Regions 3 &amp; 4 Board of Directors - Commissioned</b>	Ballot 1
<b>Shirley Piepenbrink</b>	<b>100% 123 votes</b>

The vote to elect by acclamation according to Special Standing Rule #10 was taken, and the chair declared Shirley Piepenbrink elected.

Rev. Portier presented the candidates for election to the Board of Directors - Lay by region. There were no nominations from the floor for any of the positions, and nominations were declared closed. The chair then called for the votes for the following elections according to position.

<b>Region 1 Board of Directors - Lay</b>	Ballot 1
Leo Knoernschild	49.23% 64 votes
<b>Jeff Pittman</b>	<b>50.77% 66 votes</b>

The chair declared that Jeff Pittman was elected.

<b>Region 2 Board of Directors - Lay</b>	Ballot 1	
<b>Karilyn Brown</b>	40.16% 51 votes	<b>56.59% 73 votes</b>
Marc Higgins	32.28% 41 votes	43.41% 56 votes
Jeff Roper	27.56% 35 votes	

Following the announcement of the results of the first ballot, Jeff Roper was removed from the second ballot. The chair called for the vote, and Karilyn Brown was declared elected.

<b>Region 3 Board of Directors - Lay</b>	Ballot 1
<b>Fred Guengerich</b>	<b>54.26% 70 votes</b>
Doug Werth	45.74% 59 votes

The chair announced that Fred Guengerich was elected.

<b>Region 4 Board of Directors - Lay</b>	Ballot 1
David Larson	49.18% 60 votes
<b>Robert Nerger</b>	<b>50.82% 62 votes</b>

The chair announced that Robert Nerger was elected.

Rev. Portier presented the candidates for the District Nominations Committee. No nominations were presented from the floor, and nominations were declared closed by the chair and the vote was taken.

<b>Region 1 &amp; 2 Nominations Committee - Ordained</b>	Ballot 1	Ballot 2	Ballot 3	Ballot 4
Rev. Ron Bacic	18.05% 24 votes	16.30% 22 votes		
Rev. Jon Beyer	35.33% 47 votes	44.49% 60 votes	50.00% 68 votes	47.83% 66 votes
Rev. JohnDavid Zischke	17.29% 23 votes			
<b>Rev. David Vandercook</b>	29.32% 39 votes	39.26% 53 votes	50.00% 68 votes	<b>52.17% 72 votes</b>

The chair announced that Rev. David Vandercook was elected on the fourth ballot, as there was no majority with a tie vote on the third ballot.

The chair proceeded to call for the next vote by acclamation according to Special Standing Rule #10.

<b>Regions 3 &amp; 4 Nominations Committee - Ordained</b>	Ballot 1
<b>Rev. Robert Portier</b>	<b>100% 129 votes</b>

The vote to elect by acclamation according to Special Standing Rule #10 was taken, and the chair declared Rev. Robert Portier elected.

<b>Regions 1 &amp; 2 Nominations Committee - Commissioned</b>	Ballot 1
<b>Samuel Fishburn</b>	<b>100% 128 votes</b>

The vote to elect by acclamation according to Special Standing Rule #10 was taken, and the chair declared Samuel Fishburn elected.

<b>Regions 3 &amp; 4 Nominations Committee - Commissioned</b>	Ballot 1
<b>Jessie Irwin</b>	<b>100% 126 votes</b>

The vote to elect by acclamation according to Special Standing Rule #10 was taken, and the chair declared Jessie Irwin elected.

<b>Regions 1 &amp; 2 Nominations Committee -</b>	<b>Ballot 1</b>
Kenneth Barnes	46.88% 60 votes
<b>Jeff Roper</b>	<b>53.12% 68 votes</b>

The chair declared Jeff Roper elected.

<b>Regions 3 &amp; 4 Nominations Committee - Lay</b>	<b>Ballot 1</b>
<b>Charlie Gemeinhardt</b>	<b>100% 127 votes</b>

The vote to elect by acclamation according to Special Standing Rule #10 was taken, and the chair declared Charlie Gemeinhardt elected.

The chair dismissed the Elections Committee until the Orders of the Day on Saturday.

## FLOOR COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

Rev. Paavola called Chairman Rev. Kevin Conger to the podium to present the resolutions for Committee One - Church & Doctrine.

Resolution 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” (Committee One - Church & Doctrine Packet) was introduced. Rev. Conger presented the resolution, and for the committee moved adoption.

An advisory delegate encouraged adoption wholeheartedly and unanimously as the life in the womb is not a potential human being. It is a human being with potential.

A pastoral delegate offered an amendment, to add a “resolved” in-between the fifth and sixth resolveds, and had it ready to present in writing to the chair and secretary. The proposed amendment stated:

*“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...”

The motion to amend was seconded, and without further debate on the amendment, the chair asked if there was any objection to proceeding to vote on the amendment. Hearing none, the chair called the question on the amendment as proposed.

The vote to amend carried, and with no further speakers, the chair called the question. **Resolution 01-01-21 was adopted as amended.**

<b>Res. 01-01-21 - amended</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>98.52%</b>	<b>133</b>
No	1.48%	2

After a brief break in business to enable the amendment to be brought forward, the chair called the assembly back to order. Committee One - Church and Doctrine, returned to the podium to continue their resolutions. Resolution 01-02-21 in packet “To Memorialize the 50th Anniversary of the 1974 Concordia Seminary St. Louis “Walkout” with Thorough Teaching About the Controversy and Renewed Emphasis on the Pure Doctrine (Committee One - Church and Doctrine Packet) was presented by Rev. David Vandercook, Vice-Chair, who on behalf of the committee, moved adoption.

An advisory delegate encouraged the body to adopt as those who don’t learn from history are destined to repeat it; this is not to pick a scab off an old wound, but to be thankful for the inerrancy of Scripture. A pastoral delegate indicated that he was 4 years old at time of Walkout and indicated that he has watched as other church bodies walk away from Scriptures. He encouraged adoption for the sake of remembering, not all the bad things, but to give thanks to God that He preserved His Word among us. With no more speaking to the resolution, the chair called the question. **Resolution 01-02-21 was adopted as presented.**

<b>Res. 01-02-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>91.91</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>8.09</b>	<b>11</b>

The chair reminded the delegates that there were 9 minutes left before the Orders of the Day were to be called. Rev. Don Welmer introduced and presented Resolution 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” (Committee One - Church & Doctrine Packet).

The chair asked if there was any objection to foregoing the reading of the proposed bylaws themselves and simply reading the resolution. There were no objections. After reading the resolution, Rev. Welmer moved adoption on behalf of the committee.

With no discussion, the question was called by the chair. **Resolution 01-03-21 was adopted as presented.**

<b>Res. 01-03-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>93.94</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>6.06</b>	<b>8</b>

The Orders of the Day were called, and the convention went into recess until 10:20 a.m., when the LCMS President’s Report and Video would be presented. Prior to going into recess, President Paavola introduced the Parliamentarian, Mr. Ronald Stinson.

As the convention came back from recess, the First Mission Moment Video was presented. Thanks were expressed to Mrs. Renae McElwain and the others who submitted materials and produced the Mission Moments videos.

## SYNOD PRESIDENT'S TIME

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, was welcomed to the podium by President Paavola.

President Harrison congratulated President Paavola and all elected and who let their names stand for office.

President Harrison spoke about the history and practice of visiting in the Lutheran Church and the Synod, following the examples set in Scripture. As the Synod President and Vice-Presidents visit the district conventions, they are able to hear firsthand what is taking place in each district, and provide a perspective from the Synod to each district. He also indicated that at the close of the fiscal year two days prior, this was the first announcement before any other district that the Synod is in the best financial position in the last 30 years, regarding indebtedness and cash on hand, with significant amounts of funds for mercy work, and around 1,000 church worker assistance grants were processed. The Synod has had to significantly reduce staffing, and he wrote to all donors regarding the needs, and the people responded in an unprecedented way. He noted the Synod's Accountability/Transparency page on the Synod website, and directed people to contact Mr. Mark Hofman for more information if desired.

President Harrison called attention to the International Lutheran Council (ILC) and the Synod's role in it with its representatives. The ILC was formed by the LCMS and its partners 30 years ago to grow and partner with one another, offering a significant alternative to the Lutheran World Federation. The ILC has its own constitution and bylaws, its own separate staff, with its accounting and auditing. President Harrison is on the Executive Council.

President Harrison spoke next of the many challenges around the world and locally. He addressed the Equality Act that is being considered in the United States Congress, sharing concerns regarding various items in its proposals, including how the Concordia University System could be impacted regarding federal funding of grants, etc. President Harrison spoke of the importance of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment Rights - free exercise of religion and free speech in particular, noting that we as Christians participate in the State according to our conscience, we serve in the government, in the military, and we act as citizens, as businesses - freely exercising our faith and not being punished because we do so.

President Harrison also noted the challenges that our Concordia University System (CUS) schools have in our secular society and government. He noted that the Synod has a large lawsuit pending against it from the closing of Concordia University, Portland, Oregon. He indicated that the 2023 Synod Convention will have various resolutions coming to it regarding the governance of the CUS and the Synod's institutions of higher education.

President Harrison indicated that he was glad to see that a resolution regarding Critical Race Theory was coming before the convention, indicating opposition to any secular theory that indicates someone is racist simply because they are white. He indicated that four members of the Synod's Praesidium have members of their families who have members who are not white by marriage or adoption. He also indicated that the congregations of Synod need to reach out not only to the inner city and rural areas, but also to suburban congregations for greater diversity and encouraged all to be generous. He did note that the ELCA is "more white" than the LCMS as a Synod.

Regarding Church Relations, President Harrison spoke of the LCMS' global footprint. He indicated that the Synod's Japanese partner church is changing their bylaws to allow for women's ordination and elected a deaconess to be a vice-president. He indicated that he will be writing them to inform



them that fellowship between the Synods is broken, and what had been joint seminaries in Asia will be affected, as some are no longer teaching what is Lutheran. He also reported that there are many good things happening worldwide. The Malagasy Lutheran leadership team is coming to St. Louis. Their church body is close to 4 million people, and their bishop has indicated that they have talked long enough, and it is time to act. Fellowship conversations and potential partnerships are also in the works with South Sudan, and he is thankful for the work of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation in Uganda. He noted the ILC issued a global statement in support of leaders in the Lutheran Church in Finland who are being prosecuted for their biblical view on marriage as between a male and a female.

Nationally, the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty is going along very well. Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz is educating our own people and others in the government on the Lutheran two-kingdoms dogma. The Synod's legal department has filed many "Friends of the Court" briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court, and the LCMS has been quoted by some SCOTUS justices.

He also spoke about conversations regarding ecclesiastical fellowship with the Wisconsin Synod and the challenges the Synods have faced over the years.

President Harrison commented on the growth of foreign missions, with many laypeople and clergy sent through the Synod in the foreign mission field, and the LCMS is looked to for its expertise in theological education. Church planting is also rapidly taking place with people from the areas of Eurasia, Latvia, Romania, Pakistan, Iran, with many people converting to Christianity and renouncing their Muslim beliefs, especially in Germany.

Nationally, President Harrison indicated that fortunately there have been no super disasters recently. The Office of National Mission's Everyone His Witness is doing well, based on witnessing in your vocation. The Synod has provided Doxology retreats, assisting with post-COVID challenges. All the retreats have been paid for by Synod. Many dollars have been given for church workers in need, and they are now rolling out retreats for teachers and other commissioned workers. He also indicated that plans are being made for the Disciples for Life Conference to be held in person in September.

Concluding his formal report, President Harrison invited First Vice-President Peter Lange and 6th Vice-President Benjamin Ball (Central Region) to come forward to assist him in answering any questions.

Various delegates asked questions and answers were provided regarding concerns with educational debt for professional church workers and church worker recruitment; the closing of Concordia Portland, Oregon and Concordia Bronxville, New York, and Concordia Selma, Alabama; international tensions between countries and wars/rumors of wars; societal issues and our Christian witness with our doctrine regarding sexuality/gender, racial tensions, and human trafficking. They also addressed the Synod's role in and support of congregations and workers in various ways throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, noting the challenges encountered by congregations and districts with the variety of national and local governmental requirements and guidances. While there were indeed tensions regarding First Amendment rights, President Harrison also noted that the Lutheran Confessions' affirm medical authorities and government being in the left-hand kingdom. The Synod also worked with the Alliance Defending Freedom along with many congregations and ecumenical coalitions throughout the last year.

President Paavola called Orders of the Day to recess for lunch. Announcements were given for the locations of the various small group luncheons and the general lunch arrangements. Dr. Leach closed the morning session with prayer, asking God's blessings on the resolutions adopted, those individuals elected, and for the work in Synod.

The chair announced that the convention was recessed until 1:00 p.m.

***“Declare His Marvelous Works”  
FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2021  
THIRD CONVENTION SESSION***

At 1:14 p.m. President Paavola called the delegates back into session for the afternoon.

President Paavola presented the greeting from Bishop Emmanuel Makala for his video address. A copy of his address was printed in Today’s Business, Issue 2.

President Paavola resumed the chair, and called Committee Three - Church and Social Concerns and its chairman, Rev. Clayton Sellers, to the podium to present the committee’s resolutions (printed in Committee Three - Church and Social Concerns Packet).

Resolution 03-01-21 “To Give Thanks to God for Sustaining His Church Through the Global Corona Virus Pandemic” was presented by Rev. Sellers on behalf of the committee.

With no delegates speaking to the resolution, the chair called the question. **Resolution 03-01-21 was adopted as presented.**

<b>Res. 03-01-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>98.28</b>	<b>114</b>
No	1.72	2

Resolution 03-02-21 “To Increase the Awareness of Human Trafficking to the Congregations of the Mid-South District and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” was presented by Deaconess Eileen Esget and moved for adoption on behalf of the committee.

Four delegates spoke in support, giving examples of personal experience with knowledge of or helping victims of human trafficking. A delegate offered wording for an amendment to indicate a financial implication, but it was withdrawn after discussion recognizing that concern was covered under the resources available and to be provided at the Synod level. With no further discussion, the chair called the question. **Resolution 03-02-21 was adopted as presented.**

<b>Res. 03-02-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>99.29</b>	<b>139</b>
No	0.71	1

Resolution 03-03A-21 “To Protect Christian Consciences” was presented by Rev. Sellers on behalf of the committee. The resolution was printed separately and noted with its proposed amendment of the second Resolved added, “That the LCMS Mid-South District, congregations, and their members be encouraged to speak and act in a Christian manner against such breaches of conscience in their daily vocations; and be it finally...”

With no delegates speaking to the resolution, the chair called the question. **Resolution 03-03A-21 was adopted as presented.**

<b>Res. 03-03A-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>98.58</b>	<b>139</b>
No	1.42	2

The chair dismissed Committee 3 at this time, noting they will come back at a later time to finish the committee's business.

At 1:50 p.m., President Paavola turned the chair over to Rev. Charles Neugebauer, First Vice-President, who called Rev. Robert Herring, Chairman of Committee Two - Church Missions and Evangelism, to the podium for presenting the committee's resolutions (printed in the Committee Two - Missions and Evangelism Packet).

Resolution 02-01-21 "To Commend and Support the Work of Trinity HOPE in Haiti" was presented by Rev. Herring and moved for adoption on behalf of the committee.

With no speaking to the resolution, the chair called the question. **Resolution 02-01-21 was adopted without amendment.**

<b>Res. 02-01-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>97.79</b>	<b>133</b>
No	2.21	3

Resolution 02-02-21 - "To Continue a Relationship with the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania" was presented by Mrs. Michelle Fischer and moved for adoption on behalf of the committee.

After a question for clarification if the amount of \$12,500 was annual or for the entire triennium, (Answer: annual amount - \$25,000 total each year), the chair called the question. **Resolution 02-01-21 was adopted without amendment.**

<b>Res. 02-02-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>98.55</b>	<b>136</b>
No	1.45	2

Resolution 02-03-21 "To Continue a Relationship with the Confessional Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar" (Committee Two - Ministry Packet) was presented by Dan Jacobs and moved for adoption on behalf of the committee.

With no speaking to the resolution, the chair called the question. **Resolution 02-03-21 was adopted without amendment.**

<b>Res. 02-03-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>97.83</b>	<b>135</b>
No	2.17	3

Resolution 02-04-21 “To Reaffirm Church Planting and Revitalization” was presented by Mrs. Michelle Fischer and moved for adoption on behalf of the committee.

With no speaking to the resolution, the chair called the question. **Resolution 02-04-21 was adopted without amendment.**

<b>Res. 02-04-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>94.96</b>	<b>132</b>
No	5.04	7

Resolution 02-05-21 “To Encourage Financial Support for Professional Church Workers” was presented by Rev. Joel Krogen and moved for adoption on behalf of the committee.

With no speaking to the resolution, the chair called the question. **Resolution 02-05-21 was adopted without amendment.**

<b>Res. 02-05-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>98.55</b>	<b>136</b>
No	1.45	2

02-06-18 “To Encourage All Christians in Personal Witnessing” (Committee Two - Ministry Packet) were presented by Rev. Herring and moved for adoption on behalf of the committee.

A delegate spoke in support, noting an error in the Scriptural reference in the second whereas, noting that the initial reference should be to St. Peter instead of St. Paul. The correction was duly noted. With no other speaking to the resolution, the chair called the question. **Resolution 02-06-21 was adopted as corrected.**

<b>Res. 02-06-21 - reference corrected</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>97.74</b>	<b>130</b>
No	2.26	3

Res. 02-07-21 “To Address the Use of Technology in the Life of the Church and the Ministry of Congregations” was presented by Mr. Keith Brummett and moved for adoption on behalf of the committee.

A delegate spoke in support with a slight concern that any voting with technology brought about in whatever resources the district or Synod creates would respect the individual congregation’s constitution and bylaws. The concern was duly noted. With no further discussion, the chair called the question. **Resolution 02-07-21 was adopted as presented.**

<b>Res. 02-07-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>93.33</b>	<b>126</b>
No	6.67	9

Res. 02-08-21 “To Encourage Congregational Men’s Ministry” was presented by Mr. Charles Poziombka and moved for adoption on behalf of the committee.

A delegate spoke in support and reminded delegates of the resources also available in and through Lutheran Laymen’s League/Lutheran Hour Ministries to augment and support men’s ministry. With no further speaking, the chair called the question. **Resolution 02-08-21 was adopted as presented.**

<b>Res. 02-08-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>98.54</b>	<b>135</b>
No	1.46	2

Res. 02-09-21 “To Encourage the Study and Use of Biblically-based Stewardship Resources” was presented by Rev. Herring and moved for adoption on behalf of the committee.

With no delegates speaking to the resolution, the chair called the question. **Resolution 02-09-21 was adopted as presented.**

<b>Res. 02-09-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>97.76</b>	<b>131</b>
No	2.24	3

With all of the committee’s resolutions having been acted upon, Rev. Herring thanked and introduced the members of the committee, and requested dismissal by the chair. The chair expressed thanks to Committee Two on behalf of the convention as they were dismissed.

President Paavola assumed the chair and introduced three individuals, the first being Denise Gudlin from Trinity HOPE, in response to Resolution 02-01-21. It was noted that 40,000 meals will be provided a year due to the \$10,000 annual funding from the Mid-South District, showing the love of God to the students and their families. Thanks were also expressed to Arkansas rice growers for the

crops of rice and for their assistance in finding vendors in Haiti, as the combination of vendors and rice growers has significantly helped to reduce costs.

President Paavola introduced the representative of Concordia Publishing House, Bryan McLaughlin. On behalf of Interim President/CEO Jonathan Schultz and the rest of the CPH family, Mr. McLaughlin expressed thanks to the convention and for the electronic resources made use of by congregations and families during this last year in the pandemic.

President Paavola recognized and thanked Gabe Statom of AMRO Music, who supplied the organ for the music in the convention hall. Mr. Statom indicated that Scripture tells us over 240 times to sing praises to God and has appreciated hearing the delegates' singing. AMRO Music serves to help churches and schools find instruments and bring worship to the highest level that they can. They can help with fundraising, consultations, and they represent Allen Organs.

With the convention being ahead of schedule, President Paavola asked the delegates if there was a desire to suspend the rules and amend the Orders of the Day, and entertained a motion and second to return at 2:54 p.m. **The motion to suspend the rules for the orders of the day was adopted by majority voice vote.** President Paavola ordered the session into recess until 3:00 p.m.

At 3:00 p.m. President Paavola called the convention back to order and introduced representatives from the Synod's seminaries: Melodie Bostic from Concordia Seminary, and Rev. Larry Wright from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne. Both were welcomed warmly. Melodie Bostic, who serves at Concordia Seminary - Alumni & Congregations Coordination brought greetings from the campus community and Concordia Seminary's new President, Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger, who is the seminary's 11th President. Rev. Larry Wright brought greetings from Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast and indicated that Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, was recertified for accreditation by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). CTSFW was also in the top 10% of the financial review of seminaries accredited by the ATS.

The second Mission Moment Video - Response of MDS Congregations to COVID-19 in 2020 was shown.

President Paavola called Committee One to the dais for their remaining resolutions.

Resolution 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" (Committee One - Church and Doctrine Packet) was presented by Rev. Nathan Jansen and moved for adoption on behalf of the committee.

With no delegates speaking to the resolution, the chair called the question. **Resolution 01-04-21 was adopted as presented.**

Res. 01-04-21	%	# of Votes
Yes	98.47	129
No	1.53	2

Resolution 01-0 -21 "To Encourage Further Consideration of Successful Completion of Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Coursework Before Ordination and Placement on Ordained Roster" was presented by Rev. Jansen and moved for adoption on behalf of the committee.

A delegate, who also does some teaching in the SMP program for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, spoke in support for the resolution. With no further speaking, the chair called the question. **Resolution 01-0 -21 was adopted as presented.**

<b>Res. 01-07-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>93.38</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>6.62</b>	<b>9</b>

Resolution 01-06-21 “Omnibus” - “To Respectfully Decline Overtures 01-06-21, 01-07-21, and 01-08-21 in Convention Workbook” was introduced and presented by Rev. Conger, moving adoption on behalf of the committee. Rev. Conger reminded the delegation that approving the resolution to decline is to vote in favor. To disapprove of declining would be to vote against. Rev. Conger noted that while these overtures came from the district’s pastors’ conferences, the floor committee had been in consultation with the Synod. He noted that while the subject matter is important to many congregations, the committee was informed that the overtures as written would have been in violation of particular Synod policies, but that it should continue to be looked at, the subject matter can be pursued in other ways, such as by congregation, board of directors, etc. **Resolution 01-06-21 was adopted as presented.**

<b>Res. 01-06-21</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>92.03</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>7.97</b>	<b>11</b>

Chairman Conger indicated that the work of Floor Committee One was completed and introduced the members of the committee. President Paavola dismissed the Committee and the convention thanked the committee members.

President Paavola noted that the time was 3:30 p.m. and that the convention had completed all resolutions that have been prepared for Friday’s business, leaving only a few planned for Saturday morning’s session. He indicated that with a voice vote of approval to change the Orders of the Day, to go to Circuit Caucuses ahead of time. A motion was made to suspend the rules and be recessed to Circuit Caucuses, and the motion was seconded. The motion carried by a standing vote, and the convention recessed for the delegates to attend their Circuit Forums and Caucuses for selecting three (3) mission and ministry directives for Synod’s next triennium; to elect Synod convention delegates, and to select their Circuit Visitors.

President Paavola introduced Ray Musgrave from Lutheran Hour Ministries - LLL TN District President - and Walter Carle from Stuttgart, AR, who is the LLL Mid-South District President.

Recipients:

- Scott Roper - St. Matthew, Conway, AR
- Rev. Eric Longman, Holy Trinity, Rogers, AR
- Fred Guengerich - Redeemer, Nashville, TN
- Shirley Sterle - Bella Vista, AR

Chaplain of the Day Rev. Dr. Leroy Leach then offered a closing prayer. President Paavola adjourned the session and dismissed the visitation and electoral circuits to their respective caucuses.

***“Declare His Marvelous Works”  
SATURDAY, July 3, 2021  
FOURTH CONVENTION SESSION***

President Paavola called the convention back to order at 8:03 a.m. on Saturday, July 3.

Rev. Bob Benke assisted Rev. Belisle as liturgist with the opening devotion.

Chaplain of the Day Rev. Russell Belisle, Pastor of Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church, Memphis, was called to the podium and opened with a devotion, representing our district’s ethnic ministries.

Rev. Belisle highlighted the mission and ministry of Philip - either the apostle or the evangelist/deacon noted in Acts, with most believing the Philip who witnessed to the Ethiopian was the evangelist/deacon. Philip knew about the marvelous work of Jesus, and he had to tell you about the marvelous work of Jesus. He encouraged the delegates to be sharing Jesus with people who are not like you - Samaritans, Ethiopian, others. Rev. Belisle also indicated that for many African-Americans, the name St. Philip Lutheran Church was a code, noting that there’s a church to give you hope...such as in Chattanooga, Cleveland, Chicago, and many other cities.

President Paavola introduced a video greeting from Rev. Dr. Joseph Randrianasolo, Rector of the Lutheran Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship (LIME) Institute, Malagasy Lutheran Church, Madagascar. A copy of his address is included in Today’s Business, Edition 3 (Saturday, July 3, 2021) and will be included in the convention proceedings.

Following the presentation by Rev. Dr. Randrianasolo, the third and final Mission Moments Video was presented, sharing various mission and ministry activities of district congregations.

President Paavola called the delegates’ attention to the slate of Circuit Visitors for the final elections to be held, the ratification of the slate of Circuit Visitors who had been selected by their respective visitation circuits.

**Slate of Circuit Visitors**

The slate of Circuit Visitors selected by the circuits was presented for ratification by the convention:

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| • Rev. Mark Rhoads (Chattanooga)     | • Rev. David Vandercook (Little Rock-North) |
| • Rev. Brandon Martin (Fayetteville) | • Rev. Kent Schaaf (Little Rock-South)      |
| • Rev. Thomas Bartzsch (Ft. Smith)   | • Rev. Clayton Sellers (Memphis)            |
| • Rev. Joel Krogen (Jonesboro)       | • Rev. Ken Shaw (Nashville)                 |
| • Rev. David Graves (Knoxville)      |   |



- Rev. David McMinn (Middle TN)
- Rev. Chad Philipp (Stuttgart)
- Rev. Daniel Ulrich (Paducah)
- Rev. Steve Harmon (Johnson City)

**The slate of Circuit Visitors was ratified by a majority of the electronic vote.**

<b>Ratification of Slate of Circuit Visitors</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>99.10</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>1</b>

### **Selection of Mission and Ministry Emphases for Synod Consideration**

President Paavola called the delegates' attention to the handout with a list of 21 suggested emphases from the Circuits for the Synod to consider during the 2023-2026 Triennium.

A delegate called attention that one of the Advisory Delegates' recommendations was not included on the listing. The chair indicated that the office would seek the form and update the list and come back to the convention floor with the updated list.

The chair then indicated that the delegation would vote to select the three emphases once the list was updated.

The third Mission Moment video was presented.

The LWML provided a reminder that there are blessing bags for the pastors and emeritus pastors to pick up for their encouragement.

Delegates were instructed to select one, and then the top three (3) vote receivers would be forwarded on to Synod.

- 1. Work to resolve Human Trafficking and raise awareness (13 votes, 11.3% - Round 1)**
2. Personal Evangelism
3. Support of church workers - emotionally, spiritually, and financially
4. Develop materials for minority outreach
5. Resolving student debt for pastors and other church workers - assisting in payoff of the debt
6. Engagement with and retention of young families
- 7. Formation and spiritual strengthening of Elders and other Lay Leaders in the congregation**
8. Crisis Intervention - Disaster Assistance, Suicide Prevention, Addiction (including support for families and friends of addicts)
9. Church Worker Wellness and Recruitment
10. Church Planting
11. Christian approach to participation in the public square - influencing public policy in a God-pleasing way
12. Develop resources relative to sexual and gender identity issues
13. Synod support for Luther Classical College
14. Continue Disciples for Life Program with focus on youth and college aged students
- 15. Continue and emphasize Pro-Life work and proclamation**
16. Focus on recruitment of church workers - ordained and commissioned

17. Recruitment and retention, including compensation of cost incurred for professional church workers, especially commissioned ministers
18. Encourage all congregations, with or without schools, to promote, pray for , and financially support LCMS school ministries.
19. Create resources and provide pastoral and/or lay training to maximize the discipleship opportunities within LCMS schools and early childhood centers
20. “Yes, Lord I believe”
21. “You will be my witnesses”
22. “Let your light shine”

#### Round 1

- 1. Work to resolve Human Trafficking and raise awareness**
2. Personal Evangelism
3. Support of church workers - emotionally, spiritually, and financially
4. Develop materials for minority outreach
5. Resolving student debt for pastors and other church workers - assisting in payoff of the debt
6. Engagement with and retention of young families
7. Formation and spiritual strengthening of Elders and other Lay Leaders in the congregation
8. Crisis Intervention - Disaster Assistance, Suicide Prevention, Addiction (including support for families and friends of addicts)
9. Church Worker Wellness and Recruitment
10. Church Planting
11. Christian approach to participation in the public square - influencing public policy in a God-pleasing way
12. Develop resources relative to sexual and gender identity issues
13. Synod support for Luther Classical College
14. Continue Disciples for Life Program with focus on youth and college aged students
- 15. Continue and emphasize Pro-Life work and proclamation**
16. Focus on recruitment of church workers - ordained and commissioned
17. Recruitment and retention, including compensation of cost incurred for professional church workers, especially commissioned ministers
18. Create resources and provide pastoral and/or lay training to maximize the discipleship opportunities within LCMS schools and early childhood centers
19. “Yes, Lord I believe”
20. “You will be my witnesses”
21. “Let you light shine

#### Round 2

- 1. Work to resolve Human Trafficking and raise awareness (selected in Round 1)**
2. Personal Evangelism
3. Support of church workers - emotionally, spiritually, and financially
4. Develop materials for minority outreach
5. Resolving student debt for pastors and other church workers - assisting in payoff of the debt
6. Engagement with and retention of young families
7. Formation and spiritual strengthening of Elders and other Lay Leaders in the congregation
8. Crisis Intervention - Disaster Assistance, Suicide Prevention, Addiction (including support for families and friends of addicts)
9. Church Worker Wellness and Recruitment
10. Church Planting
11. Christian approach to participation in the public square - influencing public policy in a God-pleasing way
12. Develop resources relative to sexual and gender identity issues

13. Synod support for Luther Classical College
14. Continue Disciples for Life Program with focus on youth and college aged students
- 15. Continue and emphasize Pro-Life work and proclamation (14 votes, 12.39%)**
16. Focus on recruitment of church workers - ordained and commissioned
17. Recruitment and retention, including compensation of cost incurred for professional church workers, especially commissioned ministers
18. Create resources and provide pastoral and/or lay training to maximize the discipleship opportunities within LCMS schools and early childhood centers
19. "Yes, Lord I believe"
20. "You will be my witnesses"
21. "Let your light shine"

### Round 3

- 1. Work to resolve Human Trafficking and raise awareness**
2. Personal Evangelism
3. Support of church workers - emotionally, spiritually, and financially
4. Develop materials for minority outreach
5. Resolving student debt for pastors and other church workers - assisting in payoff of the debt
6. Engagement with and retention of young families
- 7. Formation and spiritual strengthening of Elders and other Lay Leaders in the congregation (15 votes, 13.6%)**
8. Crisis Intervention - Disaster Assistance, Suicide Prevention, Addiction (including support for families and friends of addicts)
9. Church Worker Wellness and Recruitment
10. Church Planting
11. Christian approach to participation in the public square - influencing public policy in a God-pleasing way
12. Develop resources relative to sexual and gender identity issues
13. Synod support for Luther Classical College
14. Continue Disciples for Life Program with focus on youth and college aged students
- 15. Continue and emphasize Pro-Life work and proclamation**
16. Focus on recruitment of church workers - ordained and commissioned
17. Recruitment and retention, including compensation of cost incurred for professional church workers, especially commissioned ministers
18. Create resources and provide pastoral and/or lay training to maximize the discipleship opportunities within LCMS schools and early childhood centers
19. "Yes, Lord I believe"
20. "You will be my witnesses"
21. "Let your light shine"

The three Mission and Ministry Directives to be sent to the Synod for consideration during the 2023-2026 Triennium are:

- 1. Work to resolve Human Trafficking and raise awareness**
- 2. Formation and spiritual strengthening of Elders and other Lay Leaders in the congregation**
- 3. Continue and emphasize Pro-Life work and proclamation**

Floor Committee Three was called to the dais for its remaining resolution.

Rev. Clayton Sellers, committee chair, presented Resolution 03-04A-21 "To Reject Racism and Advance the Gospel." He noted the change the committee made from the original resolution, replacing "church"

with “experienced in congregations” in the third Whereas. Rev. Sellers then read the resolution and on behalf of the committee moved adoption.

A delegate offered an amendment in the first resolved, first line, to strike “where” and replace it with “as” and spoke to the amendment after it received a second. The delegate who moved the amendment felt that the amendment restores the original intent of those who proposed the overtures.

Debate followed on the proposed amendment, with a number in favor and some concerns raised about the use of “races” rather than “ethnicities” and to speak with love to those who come from other ethnicities in our communities. A voting delegate called the question on the amendment to the resolution. The vote to end debate was carried and the chair called for a vote on the amendment.

**The vote to amend was adopted by a favorable vote of 88.03% (103 votes for) with 11.97% (14 votes) against.**

The chair directed the convention to return to debate on the original resolution, now as amended.

A pastoral delegate offered an additional amendment inserting a phrase into the first Resolved, and a second to the motion was received. The amendment was read by the delegate, in the first Resolved:

That the Mid-South District in convention reject the world view of CRT, as it is contrary to Scripture and counterproductive to true racial conversation and reconciliation, for it pursues equality of outcome (“equity”) between racial groups, which requires treating individuals unequally based on race, and also reject all organizations, movements, petitions, and theological language that support that world view in a positive manner; and be it further...”

The time for debate had elapsed, and the chair noted that it would require a two-thirds majority to extend debate if so desired. It was moved to add fifteen more minutes to the debate, which was seconded. The vote on extension of debate was Yes: 77 (66.38%) No 39 (33.62%). **The motion to extend debate did not receive a two-thirds majority (66.67%) and failed to extend time,** and the second amendment was before the assembly, after which approval or disapproval would immediately follow the vote on the amended resolution.

After the proposed insertion was added to the resolution on the screen, voting on the amendment was called by the chair after calling the assembly back to order. **The amendment passed by a vote of Yes: 87 (75.00%) and No: 29 (25.00%).**

The chair then called for a vote on Resolution 03-04A as amended. **Resolution 03-04A-21 Amended was adopted.**

<b>Res. 03-04A-21 - as amended</b>	<b>%</b>	<b># of Votes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>85.47</b>	<b>100</b>
No	14.53	17

Rev. Sellers indicated that the floor committee’s work was completed, and introduced the committee members, thanking them for their challenging and time-consuming work. The chair dismissed the committee from their work.

Lutheran Hour Ministries representatives Ray Musgrave of Paducah, KY and Walter Carle of Stuttgart, AR, provided the giveaway of the final gift from Lutheran Hour Ministries. Randy Sakach, Prince of Peace Lutheran, White House, TN, was awarded the final giveaway.

President Paavola introduced the exhibitors from Concordia Plan Services, Desmond Kittelson, and Ralph Simon from Investment Services of the LCMS Foundation, encouraging congregations to consider endowments.

The chair provided the final announcements and thanks to individuals:

All pastors please stop by the LWML to pick up your Blessing Bags if you haven't done so already.

Photos of the newly elected would take place after the conclusion of the convention.

Lori Leighton - thanks expressed for voting device operations and for the contact of the company in Germany.

The chair offered thanks to the following:

- Lori Leighton, LCMS – facilitating voting devices with Padgett and Germany
- Michael Poole, Padgett
- Ron Stinson, Parliamentarian – with less than a month's notice!
- Missy Washburn
- Julie Tyler
- Renae McElwain
- Nancy Lee
- Diane Reimold
- Carolyn Metzger
- Claire McElwain
- Gwen Wenck
- Rhonda Anderson
- Angela Fowler
- Steve Tyler
- Steve, Connor, and Sean from Nolen's Audio Visual

The chair asked for a motion to suspend the rules as the business before the convention was done . A motion was made & seconded.

Pastor Belisle was called back to the podium as Chaplain of the Day to give the closing devotion, with Pastor Robert Benke as liturgist. Rev. Belisle called the assembly to follow along in the closing devotion as printed in Today's Business, Edition 3 - Saturday, July 3, 2021. Rev. Belisle's homily was based on 1 Chronicles 16:22-23, as repeated in Psalm 96, declaring His marvelous works, sing to the Lord all the earth; Tell of His salvation from day to day. He reminded the assembly that singing the gospel goes across racial, denominational, and ethnic lines. Sing of your relationship with Jesus. The more we tell, the more that changes us and we grow in our own faith. The more we tell, the more we want to tell, and tell how often day to day. We declare it day by day as long as God gives us days on the earth to declare the marvelous works of Jesus.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President, was called forward and installed Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola as President for his fourth term. President Paavola then installed: the Regional Vice Presidents; Circuit Visitors; Secretary, Board of Directors, and the Nominations Committee.

The chair entertained a motion from the floor to adjourn, which was seconded and carried. At 10:02 a.m., President Paavola adjourned the 21st Regular Convention of the LCMS Mid-South District in the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. John P. Gierke  
District Secretary

<p align="center"><b>THE 2021 CONVENTION ELECTION RESULTS</b>  <b>MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF</b>  <b>THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD</b></p>
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The results of the 2021 Mid-South District Convention elections for the 2021-2025 triennium were as follows:

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT**

**The Reverend Dr. Roger Paavola**  
Mid-South District

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT – REGION 3**

**The Reverend Lane Reuter**  
Our Savior, Nashville, TN

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT – REGION 2**

**The Reverend Kevin Conger**  
Hope, Jacksonville, AR

**THIRD VICE PRESIDENT – REGION 4**

**The Reverend Robert Portier**  
St. Paul, Sevierville, TN

**FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT – REGION 1**

**The Reverend Joshua Willadsen**  
Bethel, Fort Smith, AR

**SECRETARY**

**The Reverend John Gierke**  
Peace, Conway, AR

**COMMISSIONED  
LAYPERSONS  
REGION 1**

**Mr. Jeff Pittman**  
Pilgrim, Jonesboro, AR

**REGION 2**

**Mrs. Karilyn Brown**  
Hope, Jacksonville, AR

**REGION 3**

**Dr. Fred Guengerich**  
Redeemer, Nashville, TN

**REGION 4**

**Mr. Robert Nerger**  
St. Paul, Wartburg, TN

**COMMISSIONED MINISTER – REGIONS 1 AND 2**

**Mrs. Charles Russell**  
Grace Lutheran, Little Rock, AR

**COMMISSIONED MINISTER – REGIONS 3 AND 4**

**Mrs. Shirley Piepenbrink**  
Immanuel, Memphis, TN

**THE DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

**MINISTERS OF RELIGION, ORDAINED**

**Regions 1 and 2**

**The Reverend David Vandercook**  
Shepherd of Peace, Maumelle, AR

**Regions 3 and 4**

**The Reverend Robert Portier**  
St. Paul, Sevierville, TN

**MINISTERS OF RELIGION,**

**Regions 1 and 2**

**Mr. Samuel Fishburn**  
First, Fort Smith, AR

**Regions 3 and 4**

**Mrs. Jessica Irwin**  
First, Knoxville, TN

**LAYPERSONS**

**Regions 1 and 2**

**Mr. Jeff Roper**  
St. Matthew, Conway, AR

**Regions 3 and 4**

**Mr. Charlie Gemeinhardt**  
Christ the King, Memphis,

**THE 2021 CONVENTION CIRCUIT VISITORS  
MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**

The results of the 2021 Mid-South District Convention Ratification of Circuit Visitors  
for the 2021-2025 triennium were as follows:

**CHATTANOOGA CIRCUIT**  
**The Reverend Mark Rhoads**  
Christ Our Savior, Loudon, TN

**LITTLE ROCK SOUTH CIRCUIT**  
**The Reverend Kent Schaaf**  
Grace, Little Rock, AR

**FAYETTEVILLE CIRCUIT**  
**The Reverend Brandon Martin**  
Salem Lutheran Ministries, Fayetteville, AR

**MEMPHIS CIRCUIT**  
**The Reverend Clayton Sellers**  
Faith, Collierville, TN

**FORT SMITH CIRCUIT**  
**The Reverend Thomas Bartzch**  
River Valley Grace, Lamar, AR

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE CIRCUIT**  
**The Reverend David McMinn**  
Shepherd of the Hills, McMinnville, TN

**JOHNSON CITY CIRCUIT**  
**The Reverend Steven Harmon**  
Bethlehem, Johnson City, TN

**NASHVILLE CIRCUIT**  
**The Reverend Kenneth Shaw**  
Trinity, Gallatin, TN

**JONESBORO CIRCUIT**  
**The Reverend Joel Krogen**  
Hope, Batesville, AR &  
Zion, Waldenburg, AR

**PADUCAH CIRCUIT**  
**The Reverend Daniel Ulrich**  
Grace, Clarksville, TN

**KNOXVILLE CIRCUIT**  
**The Reverend David Graves**  
St. Paul, Wartburg, TN

**STUTTGART CIRCUIT**  
**The Reverend Chad Philipp**  
St. Luke, DeWitt, AR  
St. Paul, Gillett, AR

**LITTLE ROCK NORTH CIRCUIT**  
**The Reverend David Vandercook**  
Shepherd of Peace, Maumelle, AR  
Trinity, North Little Rock, AR

**DELEGATES TO THE 2023 LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD CONVENTION  
ELECTED BY THE CIRCUIT FORUMS AT THE DISTRICT CONVENTION OR LOCALLY**

**VOTING PASTORS**

**DELEGATES**

**ALTERNATES**

**CHATTANOOGA CIRCUIT**

*The Reverend Donald Welmer*  
Pastor, First Lutheran Church  
Chattanooga, TN

*The Reverend Barry Hildebrandt*  
Pastor, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church  
Chattanooga, TN

**FAYETTEVILLE CIRCUIT**

*TBD*

*TBD*

**FORT SMITH/STUTTGART CIRCUIT**

*The Reverend Thomas Bartzsch*  
Pastor, River Valley Grace Lutheran Church  
Lamar, AR

*The Reverend Donald White*  
Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church  
Stuttgart, AR

**JONESBORO CIRCUIT**

*The Reverend Joshua Leigeber*  
Pastor, Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
Jonesboro, AR

*The Reverend Joel Krogen*  
Pastor, Hope, Batesville, AR  
Zion, Waldenburg, AR

**JOHNSON CITY/KNOXVILLE CIRCUIT**

*TBD*

*TBD*

**LITTLE ROCK-NORTH CIRCUIT**

*TBD*

*TBD*

**LITTLE ROCK-SOUTH CIRCUIT**

*The Reverend Kent Schaaf*  
Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church  
Little Roc, AR

*The Reverend James Burns*  
Pastor, First Lutheran Church  
Benton, AR

**MEMPHIS CIRCUIT**

*The Reverend Russell Belisle*  
Pastor, Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church  
Memphis, TN

*The Reverend Robert Harbin*  
Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church  
Collierville, TN



<b>DELEGATES TO THE 2023 LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD CONVENTION ELECTED BY THE CIRCUIT FORUMS AT THE DISTRICT CONVENTION OR LOCALLY</b>
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<b>VOTING PASTORS</b>
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**DELEGATES****ALTERNATES****MIDDLE TENNESSEE CIRCUIT*****TBD******TBD*****NASHVILLE CIRCUIT**

***The Reverend Greg Bauch***  
Pastor, Ascension Lutheran Church  
Madison, TN

***The Reverend Lane Reuter***  
Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Nashville, TN

**PADUCAH CIRCUIT*****TBD******TBD***

<b>VOTING LAYPERSONS</b>
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**DELEGATES****ALTERNATES****CHATTANOOGA CIRCUIT**

***Mr. Dan Jacobs***  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Chattanooga, TN

***Mr. LJ Blinn***  
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Loudon, TN

**FAYETTEVILLE CIRCUIT*****TBD******TBD*****FORT SMITH/STUTTGART CIRCUIT**

***Mr. Dennis Davenport***  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Ulm, AR

***Mr. Richard Jackson***  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
Russellville, AR

**JONESBORO CIRCUIT**

***Mr. David Reinart***  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Mountain Home, AR

***Mr. Charles Poziombka***  
First Lutheran Church  
Harrison, AR

<p align="center"><b>DELEGATES TO THE 2023 LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD CONVENTION ELECTED BY THE CIRCUIT FORUMS AT THE DISTRICT CONVENTION OR LOCALLY</b></p>
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<p align="center"><b>VOTING LAYPERSONS</b></p>
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<u>DELEGATES</u>	<u>ALTERNATES</u>
<u>JOHNSON CITY/KNOXVILLE CIRCUIT</u>	
<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<u>LITTLE ROCK-NORTH CIRCUIT</u>	
<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<u>LITTLE ROCK-SOUTH CIRCUIT</u>	
<i>Mr. Keith D'Atrio</i> Zion Lutheran Church Alexander, AR	
<u>MEMPHIS CIRCUIT</u>	
<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<u>MIDDLE TENNESSEE CIRCUIT</u>	
<i>TBD</i>	
<u>NASHVILLE CIRCUIT</u>	
<i>Mr. Tom Tiesler</i> Redeemer Lutheran Church Nashville, TN	<i>Mr. Doug Howard</i> Trinity Lutheran Church Gallatin, TN
<u>PADUCAH CIRCUIT</u>	
<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>

**DELEGATES TO THE 2023 LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD CONVENTION  
ELECTED BY THE ADVISORY DELEGATES AT THE 2021 MID-SOUTH DISTRICT  
CONVENTION**

**ADVISORY – NON –VOTING**

**DELEGATES**

**ALTERNATES**

**ORDAINED MINISTER**

***TBD***

***TBD***

**COMMISSIONED MINISTER**

***Mrs. Michelle Fischer***  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Memphis, TN

***Ms. Jessica Irwin***  
First Lutheran Church  
Knoxville, TN

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPRESENTATIVE**

***TBD***

**MID-SOUTH DISTRICT STAFF**

***Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola,***  
President

***Mrs. Angela Fowler***  
Executive Director of Business & Finance

<p align="center"><b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER</b>  <b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2021</b>  <b>CHATTANOOGA CIRCUIT-Region 4</b></p>
--

*The Reverend Mark Rhoads, Circuit Visitor*

<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE</u>
Athens Athens Lutheran	Rev. Donald Coulter	(D) Eric Whiting
Chattanooga Cross of Christ	Rev. Barry Hildebrandt	(D) Larry Zehnder
Chattanooga First	Rev. Donald Welmer	(D) Troy Tallant
Chattanooga Good Shepherd	Rev. H. Christopher Sheets (A) Rev. Ed Rosser	(D) Dan Jacobs
Chattanooga Spirit of Joy	Pastoral Office Vacant	(D)
Chattanooga St. Philip		
Cleveland First		(D) Troy Tallant
Dayton Prince of Peace		
Loudon Christ Our Savior	Rev. Mark Rhoads (A) Rev. Brian Truog	(D) LJ Blinn (A) Robert Traum

<p align="center"><b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER</b>  <b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2021</b>  <b>FAYETTEVILLE CIRCUIT - Region 1</b></p>
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*The Reverend Robert Herring, Circuit Visitor*

<u>ARKANSAS</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE</u>
Bella Vista Bella Vista	Rev. Paul Hass (A) Rev. Chris Gorshe	(D) Ronald Burkett
Bentonville Faith	Rev. David Schmidt	(D) Keith Brummett
Fayetteville St. John	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Holiday Island Grace	Rev. Robert Herring	(D) Terri Herman (A) Don Koch
Lowell Living Savior	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Pea Ridge Messiah		
Rogers Holy Trinity	Rev. Eric Longman	(D) Bob Jennings (A) Duane Wright
Siloam Springs Christ	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Springdale Salem	Rev. Brandon Martin	

<p align="center"><b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER</b>  <b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2021</b>  <b>FORT SMITH CIRCUIT- Region 1</b></p>
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*The Reverend Joshua Willadsen, Circuit Visitor*

<u>ARKANSAS</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE</u>
Fort Smith Bethel	Rev. Joshua Willadsen	(D) Mat Pitsch
Fort Smith First	Rev. John Merrill	(D) Rachel Merrill
Fort Smith Thompson Our Redeemer	Rev. Richard Davenport	(D) Kathleen
Greenwood Grace	Rev. Jason Zirbel	(D) Glenn Flee
Lamar River Valley Grace	Pastor Office Vacant	(D) Leo Knoernschild (A) Jerry Holman
London (Augsburg) Zion	Rev. Joshua Ralston	(D) Susan Colles
Mena Trinity	Rev. Timothy Henning	(D) Paul Krehmeyer
Russellville St. John	Rev. William Ringer	(D) Rick Jackson (A) Brooks Morton

<p align="center"><b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER</b>  <b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2021</b>  <b>JOHNSON CITY CIRCUIT - Region 4</b></p>
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*The Reverend Steven Harmon, Circuit Visitor*

<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE</u>
Elizabethton Redeemer	Rev. Mark Kophamer	(D) Phil Hyer
Johnson City Bethlehem	Rev. Steven Harmon	(D) Adam DeMello
Kingsport Concordia	Rev. Paul F. Becker	(D) Mary Becker
Morristown Our Savior (Dual - Harrogate)	Rev. Gordon L. Smith	(D) Thomas Ketner
<u>VIRGINIA</u>		
Abingdon, VA Grace	Pastoral Office Vacant	

<p align="center"><b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER</b>  <b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2021</b>  <b>JONESBORO CIRCUIT - Region 1</b></p>
--

*The Reverend Joel Krogen, Circuit Visitor*

**ARKANSAS**

**PASTOR**

**LAY DELEGATE  
& ALTERNATE**

Batesville  
 Hope  
*(Dual Parish with Zion,  
 Waldenburg)*

Rev. Joel Krogen

(D) David Hardin

Blytheville  
 First

Cherokee Village  
 Peace

Rev. Brian Pummill

(D) Darlene Karvelius

Corning  
 St. Matthew

Forrest City  
 Faith

Pastoral Office Vacant

Harrison  
 First

Rev. William Zwick

(D) Charles Poziombka  
 (A) Brent Nelson

Horseshoe Bend  
 Shepherd of the Hills

Rev. Bradley Heinecke

(D)

Jonesboro  
 Pilgrim

Rev. Joshua Leigeber  
 (A) Rev. Andrew Lehman

(D) Aaron Russell

Lafe  
 St. John

Mountain Home  
 Peace

Rev. William Schutte

Mountain Home  
 Redeemer

Rev. William Schutte

(D) David Reinert

Mountain View  
 Grace

Rev. Kenneth Taglauer

(D) Shari Francisco

Paragould  
 Redeemer

Waldenburg  
 Zion  
*(Dual Parish with Hope,  
 Batesville)*

West Memphis  
 St. Paul



<p align="center"><b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER</b>  <b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION – 2021</b>  <b>KNOXVILLE CIRCUIT - Region 4</b></p>
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*The Reverend Michael Miller, Circuit Visitor*

<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE</u>
Harriman Redeemer	Rev. Michael Miller	(D) Jennifer Miller
Harrogate Christ of the Cumberlands <i>(Dual Parish with Our Savior, Morristown)</i>		
Knoxville Christus Victor		
Knoxville First	Rev. Edward Maanum	(D) John Hofman (A) Charles Kandt
Knoxville Grace	Rev. Richard Elseroad (A) Rev. Danny Anderson	(D) David Larson
Knoxville The Point		
Maryville Praise	Rev. Derek Roberts	(D) Tom Wittrop (A) Paul Ruble
Oak Ridge Faith	Rev. Kirk Abatelli (A) Rev. George Smith	
Sevierville St. Paul	Rev. Robert Portier	(D) Gerda Portier
Seymour Celebration	Rev. Ray Kreig	
Sharps Chapel Chapel of the Good Shepherd	Rev. Paul Kritsch	(D) Jim Wonsey
Wartburg St. Paul	Rev. David Graves	(D) Dustin Heidel (A) David Hamby

<p align="center"><b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER</b>  <b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2021</b>  <b>LITTLE ROCK-NORTH CIRCUIT - Region 2</b></p>
--

*The Reverend David Vandercook, Circuit Visitor*

<u>ARKANSAS</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE</u>
Cabot Our Savior		
Conway Peace	Rev. John Gierke (A) Rev. Mark D. Tooley	(D) Robert Morris Danny Slay
Conway St. Matthew	Pastoral Office Vacant	(D) Scott Roper (A) Linda Young
Fairfield Bay Faith		(D) Timothy u en a h (A) Michael Payer
Jacksonville Hope	Rev. Kevin Conger	(D) Jonathan Hermani
Little Rock Christ	Rev. John Mathis	
Little Rock First	Rev. Ronald Bacic	(D) Daniel Moreth
Maumelle Shepherd of Peace (Dual Parish with Trinity, NLR)	Rev. David Vandercook	(A) Laura ande oo
North Little Rock  Trinity (Dual Parish with Shepherd of Peace, Maumelle)		
Searcy Our Shepherd	Pastoral Office Vacant	

<p align="center"><b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER</b>  <b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2021</b>  <b>LITTLE ROCK-SOUTH CIRCUIT - Region 2</b></p>
--

*The Reverend Kent Schaaf, Circuit Visitor*

<u>ARKANSAS</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE</u>
Alexander Immanuel	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Alexander Zion of Avilla	Pastoral Office Vacant	(D) Keith D'Atrio
Benton First	Rev. James Burns	(D) (A)
Bryant Friends in Christ	Rev. Emil Woerner	(D) Jon Pingel
Hot Springs First	Rev. Jonathan Beyer	(D) Rob Swartz
Hot Springs LakePointe		
Hot Springs Village Faith	Rev. Robert Benke	(D) Keith Keck
Little Rock Community of Faith	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Little Rock Grace	Rev. Kent Schaaf	(D) John Lindemann
Malvern St. Luke		

<p align="center"><b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER</b>  <b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2021</b>  <b>MEMPHIS CIRCUIT - Region 3</b></p>
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*The Reverend Mark Goble, Circuit Visitor*

<u>MISSISSIPPI</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE</u>
Olive Branch Beautiful Savior		(D) David Ogdon (A) Steve Tyler
<u>TENNESSEE</u>		
Collierville Faith	Rev. Rob Harbin (A) Rev. Clayton Sellers	(D) Ron Shaw
Cordova Grace Celebration	Rev. Terry Tieman	(D) Ann Sands
Dyersburg Trinity		
Jackson Concordia	Rev. Eric Rudsenske	(D) Carl Stoppenhagen (A) Rick Ribble
Memphis Christ the King	Rev. Mark Goble (A) Rev. Charles Neugebauer	(D) Kim Welch (A) Glenn Maclin
Memphis Cross of Calvary	Rev. Russell Belisle	(D) Kenneth Watkins (A) Barbara Sullivan
Memphis Immanuel	Pastoral Office Vacant	(D) Pete Duncanson (A) Peter Johnson
Memphis Messiah	Rev. Don Schmidt	(D) Sam Robinson
Memphis Trinity	Rev. Michael Croom (A) Rev. Ricardo Granado	(D) Nicole McCormack (A) Mike Grant

<p align="center"> <b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER</b>  <b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2021</b>  <b>MEMPHIS CIRCUIT - Region 3</b> <i>(continued)</i> </p>
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*The Reverend Mark Goble, Circuit Visitor*

<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE</u>
Munford GracePoint		(D) Hudson Hopkins
Oakland Holy Spirit	Rev. Jerry Stobaugh	(D) Leona Stobaugh

<p align="center"><b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER</b>  <b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2021</b>  <b>MIDDLE TENNESSEE - Region 3</b></p>
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*The Reverend Gerald Meyer, Circuit Visitor*

<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE</u>
Columbia Trinity	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Cookeville Heavenly Host	Rev. Andrew Smith	(D) Lee Smith
Crossville Shepherd of the Hills	Rev. John L. Beabout	(D) Nancy Burns
McMinnville Shepherd of the Hills	Rev. David McMinn	
Murfreesboro Grace	Rev. Carl Wenck (A) Rev. Alan Thoe	(D) Tammy McAbee
Smyrna Hope	Pastoral Office Vacant	
Thompson's Station Faith	Rev. Alebachew Teshome (A) Rev. Curt Hoover	(D) Robert Rahe (A) Craig Chovan
Tullahoma Faith		(D) Tom Smith

<p align="center"><b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER</b>  <b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2021</b>  <b>NASHVILLE CIRCUIT - Region 3</b></p>
--

*The Reverend Ken Shaw, Circuit Visitor*

<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE</u>
Burns St. John	Rev. Nathan Jansen	(D) Susan Ficken
Gallatin Trinity	Rev. Ken Shaw	(D) Doug Howard (A) Tom Riesterer
Hermitage Emmanuel	Rev. Keith Enko (A) Rev. Tim Hunze	(D) Mark Gudlin
Madison Ascension	Rev. Gregory Bauch	(D) Dave Brown (A) Tim Hanusa
Nashville Concordia	Rev. Eric G. Phillips	(D) Roger Sisson
Nashville Our Savior	Rev. Lane Reuter (A) Rev. Tracy Nelson	(D) Doug Werth (A) Doug Scott
Nashville Redeemer	Rev. Philip Young	(D) Tom Tiesler
White House Prince of Peace	Rev. Randy Sakach	(D) Robert Allen

<p align="center"><b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER</b>  <b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2021</b>  <b>PADUCAH CIRCUIT - Region 3</b></p>
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*The Reverend Larry Peters, Circuit Visitor*

<u>KENTUCKY</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE</u>
Bowling Green Holy Trinity	Rev. Andrew Toopes	(D) Heather Rathert
Hopkinsville Faith	Rev. R. Neely Owen	
Murray Immanuel		
Paducah St. Paul	Rev. David R. Appold	(D) Ben Kirchner
<u>TENNESSEE</u>		
Clarksville Grace	Rev. Daniel Ulrich (A) Rev. Larry Peters	(D) Benjamin Werner (A) Nick Shasserre
Paris Christ	Rev. Luther Hasz	
Union City Faith	Rev. Paul Leigeber	(D) Kara Leigeber



<p align="center"><b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER</b>  <b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION - 2021</b>  <b>STUTTGART CIRCUIT - Region 2</b></p>
--

*The Reverend M. Chad Philipp, Circuit Visitor*

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY DELEGATES REGISTERED TO ATTEND THE 2021 DISTRICT CONVENTION</b></p>
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**ORDAINED MINISTERS**

Reverend Danny Anderson, Knoxville, TN  
Reverend Thomas Bartzsch EM, Lamar, AR  
Reverend Jim Belles, Cordova, TN  
Reverend Chris Gorshe, Bella Vista, AR  
Reverend Jesus Granado, Memphis, TN  
Reverend Dan Hawkins, Atoka, TN  
Reverend Gary Heckmann EM, Cookeville, TN  
Reverend Clifford Herd EM, Chattanooga, TN  
Reverend Timothy Hunze, Hermitage, TN  
Reverend Darrell Kobs EM, Russellville, AR  
Reverend David Lampman, Crossville, TN  
Reverend Leroy Leach EM, Conway, AR  
Reverend Clarence Martin EM, Memphis, TN  
Reverend Gerald Meyer EM, Crossville, TN  
Reverend Sawyer Meyers, Olive Branch, MS  
Reverend Dr. Paul Muench EM, Knoxville, TN  
Reverend Aaron Neugebauer, Lafe, AR  
Reverend Clayton Sellers, Collierville, TN  
Reverend Roger Sterle EM, Bella Vista, AR  
Reverend Mark Tooley, Conway, AR  
Reverend JohnDavid Zischke, Fayetteville, AR

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dr. Fred Guengerich, Nashville, TN  
Reverend Charles Neugebauer, Memphis, TN  
Mrs. Shirley Piepenbrink, Cordova, TN  
Reverend Gilbert Pingel EM, Chattanooga, TN  
Mr. Jeffrey Pittman, Jonesboro, AR  
Mr. Larry Vickers, Nashville, TN  
Mr. Larry Zehnder, Chattanooga, TN

**COMMISSIONED MINISTERS**

Mrs. Frances Bacic, Little Rock, AR  
Ms. Katie Baumann, Chattanooga, TN  
Deaconess Eileen Esget, Hot Springs Village, AR  
Mrs. Michelle Fischer, Memphis, TN  
Mr. Samuel Fishburn, Fort Smith, AR  
Mrs. Connie SoSo-Goines, Greenwood, AR  
Kara Harbin, Collierville, TN  
Mrs. Barbara Hasz, Paris, TN  
Ms. Lindsey Hofman, Knoxville, TN  
Ms. Jessie Irwin, Knoxville, TN  
Mrs. Ann Laury, Memphis, TN  
Ms. Natalie Martin, Memphis, TN  
Mr. Allen Piepenbrink, Cordova, TN  
Mrs. Kris Pudwell, Memphis, TN  
Ms. Karen Teal, Memphis, TN

**THE ROSTER OF EMERITUS, CANDIDATE,  
OTHER PASTORS AND OTHER WORKERS OF  
THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT  
AS OF APRIL 15, 2021**

**ORDAINED MINISTERS EMERITI**

Reverend Richard Ames, Hot Springs Village, AR  
 Reverend Arthur Avery, Harrogate, TN  
 Reverend Thomas Bartzsch, Hot Springs Village, AR  
 Reverend Paul Baumann, Jonesboro, AR  
 Reverend John Beabout, Crossville, 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 Phil Bohlken, Knoxville, TN  
 Reverend David Callies, Brentwood, TN  
 Reverend Dean Clausing, Benton, AR  
 Reverend William Couch, Knoxville, TN  
 Reverend Linsey Dettmer, Sevierville, TN  
 Reverend Douglas DeWitt, Hohenwald, TN  
 Reverend Richard Dockery, Maryville, TN  
 Reverend Paul Donner, Paducah, KY  
 Reverend John Easterling, Mountain Home, AR  
 Reverend Albert Eichelberger, Knoxville, TN  
 Reverend Dan Elkins, Olive Branch, MS  
 Reverend James Evers, Oak Ridge, TN  
 Reverend Edward Fehskens, Bristol, TN  
 Reverend John Freitag, Rogersville, TN  
 Reverend David Gadbow, Mountain Home, AR  
 Reverend Norman Groteluschen, Germantown, TN  
 Reverend Fred Hagemeyer, Lakeview, AR  
 Reverend Kenneth Haydon, Eureka Springs, AR  
 Reverend Gary Heckmann, Cookeville, TN  
 Reverend Donald Hefta, Hot Springs Village, AR  
 Reverend Steven Heilimann, Gallatin, 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 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 Dr. LeRoy Leach, Conway, AR  
 Reverend John Lindner, Bella Vista, AR  
 Reverend Erwin Lueker, Elizabethton, TN  
 Reverend Robert Mader, Clarksville, TN  
 Reverend Larry Marhenke, Hot Springs Village, AR  
 Reverend Clarence Martin, Bartlett, TN  
 Reverend Gerald Meyer, Crossville, TN  
 Reverend Dr. Paul Muench, Knoxville, TN  
 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 Albert Quoss, Bella Vista, AR  
 Reverend Roger Reckling, Knoxville, TN

**ORDAINED MINISTERS EMERITI**

Reverend Thomas Sayre, Fairfield Bay, AR  
 Reverend John P. Schulz, Knoxville, TN  
 Reverend Larry Seiferth, North Little Rock, AR  
 Reverend Russell Shewmaker, Gravette, AR  
 Reverend Stephen Skov, Rockwood, TN  
 Reverend Lynn Spencer, Bentonville, AR  
 Reverend Roger Sterle, Bella Vista, AR  
 Reverend William Stevenson, Dyersburg, TN  
 Reverend Kenneth Taglauer, Mountain Home, AR  
 Reverend David Tews, Horseshoe Bend, AR  
 Reverend Dr. Wesley Toncre, Conway, AR\*  
 Reverend Louis Trebus, Sevierville, TN  
 Reverend John Treude, Fort Smith, AR  
 Reverend William Wagner, Jr., Thompson's Station, TN  
 Reverend James Watson, Ooltewah, TN  
 Reverend Frank Zirbel, Harrison, AR

**ORDAINED MINISTERS – CANDIDATES**

Reverend Duncan Cox, Pea Ridge, AR\*  
 Reverend Mark Hass, Fort Smith, AR  
 Reverend Jeffrey King, Jonesboro, AR  
 Reverend Q.L. Mark Louderback, Arlington, TN  
 Reverend Gregory Prauner, Bartlett, TN  
 Reverend Steven Teske, North Little Rock, AR\*

**ORDAINED MINISTERS – SPECIAL  
MINISTRIES**

Chaplain Shawn Found, Little Rock, AR  
 LCMS Office of International Missions  
 Chaplain Richard Graves, Colorado Springs, CO  
 LCMS Board for Mission Services

**VICARS**

**Spring 2018**

Vicar John C. Carpenter  
 Faith Lutheran Church, Tullahoma, TN  
 Vicar William F. Zwick  
 Faith Lutheran Church, Harrison, AR

**Fall 2018**

Vicar Daniel Bodemann  
 Christ Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR

**Spring 2019**

Vicar Neely Owen  
 Faith Lutheran Church, Hopkinsville, KY

**Winter 2020**

Vicar Wesley Keene  
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, East Ridge, TN  
 Vicar Nicholas Whitney  
 Faith Lutheran Church, Tullahoma, TN

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

Mrs. Frauke Darnell  
 Concordia Lutheran Church, Kingsport, TN

**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, 2021**

**Baumann, Katie**

Director of Christian Education  
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

**Brasher, Tessa**

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

**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

**Esget, Eileen**

Deaconess  
 Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR

**Fischer, Matthew**

Director of Family Life Ministry  
 Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN

**Leising, Emily**

Director of Christian Education  
 Heavenly Host Lutheran Church, Cookeville, TN

**Merriman, Charles**

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

**Miller, Christopher**

Youth Minister  
 Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

**Myers, Ashley**

Director of Christian Education  
 Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, 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

**Soso-Goines, Connie**

Deaconess-At-Large  
 Fort Smith, AR Circuit

**Stooksbury, Emilie**

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

**Thomack, Jo-Ann**

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

**Walkowicz, Celia**

Director of Children and Youth Ministries  
 Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, 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, 2021**

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

**ARKANSAS**

**Avilla Christian Academy**

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

Vacant Principal

Bacic, Frances\*

Barnard, Anne \*

Cagle, Stephanie

Calaway, Olivia

Fullerton, Suzanne

Greenwell, Jennifer

Jones, Hope

Kelly, Lesley

White, Alesha

Woerner, Rev. Emil\*

Woolery, Mary

*Chaloner, Maggie (Admin Asst.)*

*Shell, Amber (Adm. Asst.)*

**First Lutheran School**

**Fort Smith, AR (PS, K-6)**

Fishburn, Samuel\* Principal

Ballard, Kimberly

Cooper, Ana

Davis, A. Kathleen

Kimes, Kara

Merrill, Rachel

Nieting, Kathy\*

Nix, Debra

Paulus, Heather

*Guillory, Sonja (Adm. Asst.)*

**Christ Lutheran School**

**Little Rock, AR (PS, K-8)**

Steely, Cara Principal

Bettis, Ashley

Boyd, Pam

Brown, Ashley

Dahlem, Cindy

Ellis, Nicole

Hutson, Hallie

Olson, Shawn

Peak, Melanie

Wierciak, Anna

Witte, Megan\*

*McKnight, Catherine (Adm. Asst.)*

**St. John's Lutheran School**

**Stuttgart, AR (PS, K-6)**

Dabbs, Kristian Principal

Brown, Averie

Burns, Kim

Erstine, Amy

Feilke, Sally

Hayes, Ashlee

Helms, Meredith

Hillman, Karlyn

Hoskyn, Elizabeth

Koenig, Kimberly

McEntire, Katie

Jones, Becky

Rodgers, April

Stovesand, Mary Brooks

White, Bonnie

*George, Melissa (Sec.)*

**KENTUCKY**

**Holy Trinity Lutheran School**

**Bowling Green, KY (PS, K-6)**

Hiskey, William R.\* Principal

Bedo, Dara

Hancock, Madison

King, Marty

Markel, Beth

McGanney, Bonny

Merkle, Jennifer

Mitchell, Melissa

Parsley, Michael

Perkins, Vicky

Reddick, Brandalyn

Rigsby, Kali

Smith, Rachel

Toopes, Rev. Andrew\*

Walters, Amy

Willis, Jill

*Whittamore, Jennifer (Adm. Asst.)*

**TENNESSEE**

**Belvoir Christian Academy**

**Chattanooga, TN (PS, K-8)**

Topp, David\* Principal

Bolden, Ann

McCall, Erin\*

Ware, Sydney

Webb, Brittany

Williams, Katie

*Slaten, Pam (Office Mgr.)*

**Heavenly Host Lutheran School**

**Cookeville, TN (PS, K-8)**

Murphy, Dr. Zachary Principal

Buckley, J'zsamika

Hempel, Alison

Laliberte, Karen

Lamb, Courtney

Murphy, Trichi

Pauli, Cindy

Stout, Rebecca

Underwood, Amy

*Mackie, Carrissa (Adm. Asst.)*

**First Lutheran School**

**Knoxville, TN (PS, K-8)**

Irwin, Jessie\* Principal

Hoffman, Lindsey\*

Irwin, Kay\*

Newell, Jamie

Rodgers, Erin\*

Wiberley, Lori

*Hillard, Amanda (Adm. Asst.)*

**Christ the King Lutheran School**

**Memphis, TN (PS, K-8)**

Laury, Ann\* Principal

Albertini, Debbie

Calhoun, Felicia

Cardwell, Melanie

Clark, Julie

Craft, Rachel

Harbin, Kara

Legge, Jean\*

Martin, Natalie\*

Mudry, Gary

Novy, Michella

Teal, Karen\*

VanCanneyt, Brooke

Welch, Cissy

*Zagel, Irene (Adm. Asst.)*

**Immanuel Lutheran School**

**Memphis, TN (PS, K-8)**

Fischer, Michelle\* Principal

Barnes, Richard\*

Collins, Marianne\*

Fryman, Sharon\*

Glanzer, Stephanie\*

Henry, Shawn

Herron, Judy

Jones, April\*

Love, Winston

McLellan, Jennifer

Medlin, Heather

Mell, Lori

Pitcher, Bessie

Pollan, Rebecca\*

Pudwell, Kris\*

Swanson, Jenny

*Bobbitt, Julie (Adm. Asst.)*

**PROFESSIONAL WORKERS OF THE PRESCHOOLS OF  
THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT AS OF April 15, 2021**

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

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**ARKANSAS**

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**Alexander, AR**

Avilla Christian Academy Preschool  
Director: Fox, Lauren

**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

**Little Rock, AR**

Christ Lutheran Preschool  
Director: Noe, Jennifer\*

**Little Rock, AR \*\***

Grace Lutheran Early Childhood  
Development Center  
Director: Moorman, Colleen\*

**Springdale, AR**

Salem Lutheran Educational Center  
Director: Busch, Kris

**Stuttgart, AR**

St. John's Lutheran Preschool  
Director: Ellis, Laura

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**KENTUCKY**

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**Bowling Green, KY**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Preschool  
Director: Bugsch, Gretchen

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**TENNESSEE**

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**Chattanooga, TN**

Belvoir Christian Academy Preschool  
Director: Seay, JoAnn

**Clarksville, TN \*\***

Grace Lutheran Preschool  
Director: Cribbs, Linda  
(Temporarily Closed: Due to COVID-19)

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**TENNESSEE (continued)**

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**Collierville, TN \*\***

Faith Lutheran Preschool  
Director: Foshee, Dina\*

**Columbia, TN \*\***

TLC Childcare Ministry  
Director: Hannah, Jennifer

**Cookeville, TN**

Heavenly Host Lutheran Preschool  
Director: Blyly, Terri

**Crossville, TN \*\***

Shepherd's Little Flock Lutheran Preschool  
Director: Gunderson, Sabrina

**Hermitage, TN \*\***

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Learning Center  
Director: Tew, Crystal  
(Temporarily Closed: due to COVID-19)

**Knoxville, TN**

First Lutheran Preschool  
Director: Eimmerman, Shirley

**Memphis, TN**

Christ the King Early Childhood  
Director: Beaudry, Lorene

**Memphis, TN**

Immanuel Lutheran Preschool  
Director: Fischer, Michelle

**Nashville, TN**

Our Savior Lutheran Academy  
Director: Waltz, Amy

**Tullahoma, TN \*\***

Faith Lutheran Childcare  
Director: Brewer, Diania

**Wartburg, TN \*\***

St. Paul Lutheran Preschool  
Director: Turner, Wanda  
(BOD Liaison)  
(Temporarily Closed: due to COVID-19)

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

**COMMISSIONED WORKERS – CANDIDATES, EMERITI,  
SCHOOLS OPENED, SCHOOLS CLOSED  
OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT AS OF APRIL 15, 2021**

**CANDIDATES**

Chiles, Jill ..... Hickory, NC  
 Duclos, Rebecca ..... Nolensville, TN  
 Freeberg, Lindsay ..... Menomonee Falls, WI  
 Freese, Samantha ..... Spring Hill, TN  
 Fritz, Katie ..... Russellville, KY  
 Froiland, Amy ..... Boiling Springs, SC  
 Fryman, Sharon ..... Bartlett, TN  
 Goolsby, Halli ..... Little Rock, AR  
 Kleimola, David ..... Bowling Green, KY  
 Klotz, Debra ..... Rogers, AR  
 Klotz, Lance ..... Rogers, AR  
 Needler, Melinda ..... Little Rock, AR  
 Olson, Tanner ..... Nashville, TN  
 Schroeder, Julie ..... Almo, KY  
 Tilla, Katherine ..... Murfreesboro, TN  
 Tooley, Katherine ..... Conway, AR  
 Wilkerson, Jessica ..... Nashville, TN  
 Wilschetz, Susan ..... Nashville, TN  
 Wudtke, Sarah ..... Nashville, TN

**EMERITI**

Bailey, Bonnie ..... Crossville, TN  
 Behmer, Arlene ..... Little Rock, AR  
 Breite, Mary ..... Little Rock, AR  
 Choate, Carolyn ..... North Little Rock, AR  
 Cholcher, Norma ..... Fort Smith, AR  
 Collet, Bruce ..... Rockwood, TN  
 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  
 Karvelius, Victor ..... Cherokee Village, AR  
 Knapp, Ronald ..... Fayetteville, AR  
 Kogelmann, Gerald ..... Ocheyedon, IA  
 Krohe, Lois ..... Monroe, MI  
 Leibig, Rebecca ..... Stuttgart, AR  
 McKinney, Elaine ..... Springdale, AR  
 McNabb, Sally ..... Little Rock, AR  
 Meyer, Susan E. .... Crossville, TN  
 Mietzner, Rebecca ..... Ooltewah, TN  
 Parscale, Brenda ..... Little Rock, AR  
 Piepenbrink, Shirley ..... Cordova, TN  
 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  
 Von Der Ahe, Jeanne ..... Little Rock, AR  
 Walter, Brenda ..... Little Rock, AR  
 Weidler, Peggy ..... Fort Smith, AR  
 Wendt, Susan ..... Fort Smith, AR  
 Winter, Catherine ..... Memphis, TN  
 Winter, Ellis ..... Memphis, TN

**SCHOOLS OPENED AND SCHOOLS CLOSED**

**OPENED**

Heavenly Host Lutheran School  
 (Added Grades 9-12: 7-24-20)  
 Cookeville, TN

**CLOSED**

Concordia Christian Academy  
 (Closed: 6-10-19)  
 Jonesboro, AR

Grace Celebration Child Development Center  
 (Closed 3-11-19)  
 Cordova, TN

TLC (Trinity Childcare)  
 (Closed: 1-01-18)  
 Gallatin, TN

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD  
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 16, 2018 TO April 15, 2021**

**ENTERED THE DISTRICT - ORDAINED MINISTERS**

*From District:*

ANDERSON, ROBERT DANIEL	Texas	Installed as Associate Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, September 22, 2019.
BARTZSCH, THOMAS W.	Michigan	Entered as an Emeritus, January 1, 2019
BEABOUT, JOHN	Indiana	Entered as emeritus with a call to serve as Associate Pastor at Shepherd of the Hills, Crossville, TN, May 31, 2020.
BELLES, JAMES E.	SMP, Colloquy	Ordained and installed as SMP Pastor at Grace Celebration Lutheran Church, Cordova, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, March 18, 2018.
DAVENPORT, RICHARD A.	Ohio	Installed as Pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, AR, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, February 24, 2021
DEWITT, DOUGLAS A.	Ohio	Entered as an Emeritus, November 14, 2019
DOCKERY, RICHARD K.	Northwest	Entered as an Emeritus, August 31, 2020
ELKINS, DAN D.	Southern	Entered as an Emeritus, January 7, 2020
FEHSKENS, EDWARD	Eastern	Entered as an Emeritus, August 5, 2019
FIEBERGER, CRAIG	SMP, Colloquy	Ordained and installed as SMP Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Thompson's Station, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, January 12, 2019.
GLOWINSKI, JAMES D.	Indiana	Entered as a Candidate, July 8, 2019.
GORSHE, CHRISTOPHER L.	Iowa East	Installed as Pastor at Bella Vista Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, AR, by Rev. Robert Herring, February 24, 2019.
HASS, MARK C.	Missouri	Entered as a Candidate, July 1, 2018
HEFTA, DONALD R.	Oklahoma	Entered as an Emeritus, November 5, 2018
HEILMANN, STEVEN J.	South Dakota	Entered as an Emeritus, January 22, 2020
HEINECKE, BRADLEY D.	Florida/Georgia	Installed as Sole Pastor at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Horseshoe Bend, AR, by Rev. Joel Krogen, November 3, 2019.
HUNZE, TIMOTHY R.	SMP, Colloquy	Ordained and Installed as SMP Pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Hermitage, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, May 26, 2018.
KING, JEFFREY W.	Texas	Entered as a Candidate, January 15, 2020



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 16, 2018 TO April 15, 2021</b></p>
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KRIEG, RAYMOND	SMP, Colloquy	Ordained and Installed as SMP Pastor at Celebration Lutheran Church, Seymour, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, February 2, 2019.
LAMPMAN, DAVID P.	Eastern	Entered as a Candidate, December 15, 2020
LEACH, LEROY H.	Atlantic	Entered as an Emeritus, July 12, 2018
LEIGEBER, JOSHUA P.	Southern	Installed as Pastor at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Jonesboro, AR, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, August 9, 2020.
LEIGEBER, PAUL A.	Southern	Entered with a dual call as Pastor to Faith, Union City & Trinity, Dyersburg, (Installation Pending) May 4, 2020.
LIZARDO, JESUS RICARDO GRANADO	Venezuelan Luth. Church	Installed as Associate Pastor for Hispanic Ministries at Trinity Lutheran Church, Memphis TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, November 29, 2020. Transferred from Lutheran Church of Venezuela (partner church),
LONGMAN, ERIC A.	Missouri	Installed as Sole Pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rogers, AR, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, July 28, 2019.
MAANUM, EDWARD	Rocky Mountain	Entered with a call to First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN on May 1, 2020. Installed as Pastor, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola on May 31, 2020.
MATHIS, JOHN W.	SMP, Colloquy	Ordained and Installed as SMP Pastor at Christ Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR, by Rev. James Walter, January 13, 2019.
MCDONALD, JEREMY T.	SMP, Colloquy	Ordained and Installed as SMP Pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, July 15, 2018.
MCREYNOLDS, KEVIN	Nebraska	Installed as Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Mountain Home, AR by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, September 20, 2020.
MEYERS, SAWYER	Grad, Ft. Wayne	Ordained and installed as Missionary at Large, assigned to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Olive Branch, MS, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, July 25, 2020.
MOORE, DAVID	CNH	Entered as Emeritus, October 7, 2020.
MOORE, WILLIAM THOMAS	SMP, Colloquy	Ordained and Installed as SMP Pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, West Memphis, AR, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, March 3, 2019.
MUENCH, PAUL E.	Texas	Entered as Emeritus, August 28, 2018
NEUGEBAUER, KIRK C.	Northern Illinois	Installed as Associate Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Lapeer, AR, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, November 10, 2019.
OWEN, RICHARD NEELY	Alt Route, CTSFW	Ordained and installed at Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, TN as Pastor for Faith Lutheran Church, Hopkinsville, KY, by Rev. Larry Peters, March 22, 2020.

<p align="center"><b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 16, 2018 TO April 15, 2021</b></p>
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RALSTON, JOSHUA A.	M.Div., Ft. Wayne	Ordained at Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR on August 18, 2019 and installed as Sole Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, London, AR by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, August 25, 2019.
RECKLING, ROGER C.	Southeastern	Entered as Emeritus, January 5, 2019
RINGER, WILLIAM N.	New England	Installed as Sole Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Russellville, AR, by Rev. Joshua Willadsen on June 16, 2019.
ROCKEMANN, LARRY W.	Michigan	Entered as Emeritus, January 1, 2020
SCHMIDT, DAVID P.	Michigan	Installed as Sole Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Bentonville, AR, by Rev. Robert Herring, July 14, 2019.
SCHUTTE, WILLIAM B.	SMP, Colloquy	Ordained and Installed as SMP Pastor at Peace Lutheran Church, Mountain Home, AR, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, October 27, 2018.
SMALL, TERRY S.	Rocky Mountain	Entered as Emeritus, February 25, 2019
SMITH, GEORGE	SMP, Colloquy	Ordained and Installed as SMP Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Oak Ridge, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, August 25, 2018.
SPENCER, LYNN E.	Kansas	Entered as Emeritus, January 29, 2019
STERLE, ROGER D.	Wyoming	Entered as Emeritus, May 14, 2020
THOMPSON, HENRY	SMP, Colloquy	Ordained and Installed as SMP Pastor at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Malvern, AR, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, March 10, 2019,
WATSON, JAMES C.	FL/GA	Entered as Emeritus, February 15, 2019
WELMER, DONALD N.	Texas	Installed as Senior Pastor at First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, on October 4, 2020.
ZWICK, WILLIAM F.	Alt Route, Ft. Wayne	Ordained and Installed as Sole Pastor at First Lutheran Church, Harrison, AR by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, June 29, 2019.

<p align="center"><b>CHANGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT - ORDAINED MINISTERS</b></p>
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BEABOUT, JOHN L.	Installed as Associate Pastor at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Crossville, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola on March 7, 2021.
CROOM, MICHAEL	Installed as Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, on February 10, 2019.

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD  
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 16, 2018 TO April 15, 2021**

DEWITT, DOUGLAS A.	Installed as Associate Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Thompson's Station, TN by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola on August 15, 2020.
KOPHAMER, MARK A.	Installed as Sole Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Elizabethton, TN by Rev. Gilbert Pingel on August 11, 2019.
LEIGEBER, PAUL A.	Installed as Pastor at Faith, Union City & Trinity, Dyersburg, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, July 26, 2020.
PRAUNER, GREGORY J.	Installed as Sole Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, on August 4, 2019.
PRESS, MARK G.	Installed as Associate Pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, by Rev. Andrew Toopes, June 25, 2017
TIEMAN, TERRY D.	Installed as Pastor at Grace Celebration Lutheran Church, Cordova, TN, by Rev. Chuck Neugebauer, November 27, 2019.

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

BAUMANN, PAUL G.	From Active to Emeritus Status	Oct. 1, 2019
BESEL, GORDON W.	From Active to Emeritus Status	Oct. 22, 2018
EASTERLING, JOHN D.	From Active to Emeritus Status	April 12, 2020
FICKEN, DAVID W.	From Active to Candidate Status	Aug. 5, 2018
LAMPMAN, DAVID P.	From Active to Candidate Status	Jan. 01, 2018
LAMPMAN, DAVID P.	From Active to Emeritus Status	Mar. 31, 2021
PRAUNER, GREGORY J.	From Active to Candidate Status	Feb. 11, 2021
SCHMIDT, EDWARD H.	From Active to Candidate Status	June 18, 2018
STEVENSON, WILLIAM E.	From Active to Emeritus Status	July 16, 2018
SHEWMAKER, RUSSELL L.	From Active to Candidate Status	May 31, 2020
SWANSON, HERBERT C.	From Active to Emeritus Status	Oct. 20, 2020
TIEMAN, TERRY D.	From Active to Candidate Status	Oct. 31, 2018
TREUDE, JOHN M.	From Active to Emeritus Status	Mar. 22, 2021
WAGNER, WILLIAM B.	From Active to Emeritus Status	Aug. 30, 2020
WALTER, JAMES C.	From Active to Emeritus Status	May 31, 2020

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD  
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 16, 2018 TO April 15, 2021**

**TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS - ORDAINED MINISTERS**

BAISCH, ARTHUR H.	to Ohio	Jan.	11,	2019
BESEL, GORDON W.	to Texas	Aug.	12,	2019
CHRISTENSEN, ERIK M.	to Nebraska	Feb.	16,	2020
FERGUSON, TRAVIS W.	to Pacific Southwest	Dec.	10,	2018
FICKEN, DAVID	to Texas	June	7,	2019
GLOWINSKI, JAMES D.	to Northwest	Aug.	19,	2020
HAUSER, DANIEL L.	to Indiana	Oct.	19,	2020
JOHNSON, CHARLES	to Northern Illinois	Oct.	28,	2019
KALUGENDO, JASSON M.	to Florida/Georgia	Nov.	27,	2020
LAMPMAN, DAVID P.	to Eastern	Mar.	3,	2019
MILLER, WILLIAM D.	to Nebraska	Dec.	1,	2018
PRESLEY, THOMAS T.	to Kansas	Oct.	1,	2019
SCHLEIDER, MICHAEL	to South Wisconsin	Jan.	4,	2021
SCHMIDT, EDWARD H.	to Rocky Mountain	June	18,	2018
SHOAFF, REED T.	to Southeastern	Dec.	30,	2018
SMALL, TERRY S.	to Iowa East	April	1,	2019
VANDEBUSH, NEIL S.	to Missouri	Jan.	5,	2019
WIEGERT, PAUL H.	to Florida/Georgia	Jan.	1,	2019
WOLLENBURG, DAVID J.	to Southern Illinois	May	14,	2018

**DECEASED - ORDAINED MINISTERS**

BRONDOS, ANDREW D.	Oct.	23,	2018
HUNZE, SHAWN D.	Aug.	7,	2019
JACOB, ROY A.	Dec.	29,	2019
JILG, PAUL H.	Aug.	18,	2019
MISKIMEN, ROBERT I.	Mar.	10,	2019

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD  
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 16, 2018 TO April 15, 2021**

POWELL, H. CHRISTOPHER	Dec. 21, 2019
RUBKE, DAVID A.	Oct. 17, 2020
SEPMEYER, MERLIN W.	Sept. 14, 2020
WALTER, JAMES C.	Dec. 2, 2020

**REMOVED FROM ROSTER - ORDAINED MINISTERS**

BUSHUR, PAUL J.	May 16, 2019
MOHR, DAVID W.	Dec. 9, 2019
SMITHEY, FLOYD P.	Jan. 15, 2020

**ENTERED THE DISTRICT - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS**

	<i>From District:</i>	
BAILEY, BONNIE J.	Michigan	Entered as an Emeritus, February 28, 2020
BAUMANN, KATIE ANN	Grad CU Irvine	Commissioned and installed as Director of Christian Education at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN by Rev. Mark Rhoads, February 16, 2020.
COLLET, BRUCE G.	Texas	Entered as an Emeritus, October 20, 2020.
ESGET, EILEEN	Grad CTSFW	Commissioned and installed as Deaconess at Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR by Rev. Chris Esget, March 21, 2021.
FISHBURN, SAMUEL P.	Missouri	Accepted a call to be Principal at First Lutheran Church and School, Fort Smith, AR, installed by Rev. John Merrill on August 5, 2018.
FISCHER, MATTHEW P.A.	Pacific Southwest	Installed as Director of Family Life Ministries at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN, by Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola on August 23, 2020.
FISCHER, MICHELLE D.	Missouri	Installed as Principal at Immanuel Lutheran Church & School by Rev. Greg Prauner on August 9, 2020.
FREESE, SAMANTHA A.	South Wisconsin	Entered as a Candidate, November 19, 2019
GOOLSBY, HALLI M.	South Wisconsin	Entered as a Candidate, September 25, 2019
HARBIN, KARA C.	Grad CU TX	Commissioned and installed as Teacher at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN by Rev. Charles Neugebauer, August 4, 2019.

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD  
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 16, 2018 TO April 15, 2021**

IRWIN, JESSICA M.	Colloquy, CU MI	Commissioned and installed as Principal at First Lutheran Church and School, Knoxville, TN by Rev. Larry Rockemann, May 6, 2019.
KARVELIUS, VICTOR W.	Northern Illinois	Entered as Emeritus, October 16, 2019
LEISING, EMILY J.	North Dakota	Installed as DCE at Heavenly Host Lutheran Church by Rev. Gerald Meyer on August 25, 2019.
MYERS, ASHLEY P.	Grad CU TX	Commissioned and Installed as DCE at Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN by Rev. Richard Elseroad, June 23, 2019.
OLSON, TANNER J.	Texas	Entered as Candidate, August 15, 2019
SHUDY, AMY L.	Pacific Southwest	Installed as Teacher at Christ Lutheran Church and School in Little Rock, AR, by Rev. Daniel Hauser on August 12, 2018.
TOPP, DAVID W.	Texas	Installed as Principal at Belvoir Christian Academy, Chattanooga, TN by Rev. Paul Bushur on July 15, 2018.
VON DER AHE, JEANNE M.	Oklahoma	Entered as Emeritus, November 11, 2019
WALKOWICZ, CELIA G.	Grad, CU, Ann Arbor	Commissioned and Installed as Director of Children & Youth Ministries at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN, by Rev. Lane Reuter on October 4, 2020.
WILSCHETZ, SUSAN M.	Pacific Southwest	Entered as Candidate, January 11, 2021
WUDTKE, SARAH E.	Iowa West	Entered as Candidate, July 31, 2020

**CHANGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS**

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

FREEBERG, LINDSAY	Teacher, Active to Candidate status	June 30, 2019
MIETZNER, REBECCA A.	Teacher, Active to Emeritus	June 01, 2020
TOOLEY, KATHERINE A.	DPM, Active to Candidate Status	Jan. 31, 2019
WEIDLER, PEGGY L.	Teacher, Active to Emeritus Status	May 31, 2020

**TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS**

BAISCH, EVELYN J.	to Ohio District	Jan. 11, 2019
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<p align="center"><b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 16, 2018 TO April 15, 2021</b></p>
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BARINGER, BROOKE A.	to Texas	May 31, 2018
BARINGER, TODD R.	to Texas	May 31, 2018
BARTHEL, WILLIAM L.	to Southeastern	Dec. 12, 2018
JERRY, HEIDI L.	to Texas	July 1, 2019
KOCH, SARAH E.	to Southern Illinois	May 25, 2019
KOSINSKY, JOHN P.	to Southeastern	April 1, 2019
PELAYO, EMILIE M.	to Northwest	Aug. 1, 2018
RHODEN, REBECCA A.	to Ohio	June 4, 2018
SCHMIDT, MARY J.	to Rocky Mountain	June 1, 2018
SCOTT, RENEE L.	to Texas	July 1, 2019
STUCKWISCH, DAVID A.	to North Wisconsin	Sept. 2, 2018
VEGA, AARON J.	to Texas	Feb. 9, 2020
WALKER, SARA R.	to Missouri	July 1, 2019
WHITE, SARAH G.	to Texas	July 1, 2018
WILLIAMSON, JUNE C.	to Pacific Southwest	June 1, 2020

<p align="center"><b>DECEASED - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS</b></p>
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KIESCHNICK, OSCAR L.	Aug. 11, 2017
PITSCH, LELAND A.	Aug. 1, 2020

<p align="center"><b>REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS</b></p>
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KIESCHNICK, DONNA L.	May. 3, 2018
SCHLAK, STEPHANIE M.	Nov. 1, 2018
SCHOENBECK, JENNIFER A.	May 3, 2018
SYVERSON, SARAH J.	May 3, 2018
WILDHIRT, PHILLIP A.	Feb. 21, 2020
WINTER, JEREMY H.	May 3, 2018

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD  
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 16, 2018 TO April 15, 2021**

**ACTIVITY AMONG CONGREGATIONS AND CIRCUITS**

**CONGREGATIONS:**

ARKANSAS: None

TENNESSEE: None

MISSISSIPPI: None

**CIRCUITS:**

JONESBORO CIRCUIT St. Paul Lutheran Church, West Memphis, AR and Faith Lutheran Church, Forrest City, AR moved from Memphis Electoral Circuit to Jonesboro Electoral Circuit by the MDS Board of Directors, August 26-27, 2018; Res. #3.2.

First Lutheran Church, Harrison, AR moved from Fayetteville Electoral Circuit to Jonesboro Electoral Circuit by the MDS Board of Directors, August 26-27, 2018, Res. #3.2

LITTLE ROCK NORTH CIRCUIT Circuit Visitor Change: Rev. Kevin Conger (joined BOD) replaced by Rev. David Vandercook on December 22, 2020

LITTLE ROCK SOUTH CIRCUIT Circuit Visitor Change: Rev. Michael Schleider (transferred to WI) replaced by Rev. Kent Schaaf on December 18, 2020

MEMPHIS TO PADUCAH CIRCUIT: Trinity Lutheran Church, Dyersburg, TN moved from Memphis Visitation and Electoral Circuit to the Paducah Visitation and Electoral Circuit approved by the Board of Directors, on May 6, 2019, Res. #02.02.02.

STUTTGART CIRCUIT Circuit Visitor Change: Rev. Donald White replaced by Rev. M. Chad Philipp on June 3, 2020

**NEW CHURCH START**

Fayetteville, AR	Restoration Lutheran Church	June 17, 2017
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**CONGREGATIONS ACCEPTED INTO SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP**

Fayetteville, AR	Restoration Lutheran Church	June 30, 2021
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**CONGREGATIONS REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP**

NASHVILLE, TN	Rhythm City Church,	August 5, 2018
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<p align="center"><b>THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 16, 2018 TO April 15, 2021</b></p>
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PRAIRIE GROVE, AR	Peace Lutheran Church,	March 10, 2019
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<p align="center"><b>SCHOOLS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS - CLOSED</b></p>
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JONESBORO, AR	Concordia Christian Academy	June 10, 2019
CORDOVA, TN	Grace Celebration Child Development Center	March 11, 2019

<p align="center"><b>CONSTITUTION REVISIONS APPROVED</b></p>
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CONWAY, AR	PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – In a Board of Directors’ Meeting, January 25, 2021
HARRISON, AR	FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH - In a Board of Directors’ Meeting, August 27, 2018
HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, AR	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors’ Meeting, November 11, 2019
LITTLE ROCK, AR	CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH – In a Board of Directors’ Meeting, January 25, 2021
LITTLE ROCK, AR	FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH - In a Board of Directors’ Meeting, January 28, 2018
MOUNTAIN HOME, AR	REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - In a Board of Directors’ Meeting, January 25, 2021
RUSSELLVILLE, AR	ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH – In Mid-South District Board of Directors’ Meeting, January 27, 2020
SILAM SPRINGS, AR	CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH – In a Mid-South District Board of Directors’ Meeting, November 11, 2019
OLIVE BRANCH, MS	BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH – In a Board of Directors’ Meeting, November 2, 2020
BURNS, TN	ST. JOHNS LUTHERAN CHURCH – In a Board of Directors’ Meeting, November 2, 2020
CHATTANOOGA, TN	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – In a Board of Directors’ Meeting, January 28, 2019
CORDOVA, TN	GRACE CELEBRATION LUTHERAN CHURCH - In a Board of Directors’ Meeting, May 7, 2018
DYERSBURG, TN	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – In a Mid-South Board of Directors’ Meeting, May 6, 2019
MADISON, TN	ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH – In a Mid-South District Board of Directors’ Meeting, May 6, 2019

**THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD  
OFFICIAL ACTS FOR April 16, 2018 TO April 15, 2021**

OAK RIDGE, TN

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH – In a Mid-South Board of Directors'  
Meeting, May 6, 2019

SEVIERVILLE, TN

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH – In a Mid-South Board of Directors'  
Meeting, May 6, 2019

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



## Ordained Ministers Celebrating Anniversaries in 2019

### 70 Years

**Rev. Norman Groteluschen (EM)**  
*Germantown, TN*

### 60 Years

**Rev. Roy Bingenheimer (EM)**  
*Concordia, MO*

**Rev. Stanley Jones (EM)**  
*Bella Vista, AR*

### 55 Years

**Rev. Marvin Otto (EM)**  
*Kingsport, TN*

### 50 Years

**Rev. Clifford Herd (EM)**  
*Chattanooga, TN*

**Rev. Robert Mader (EM)**  
*Clarksville, TN*

**Rev. Herbert Swanson**  
*River Valley Grace Lutheran Church, Lamar, AR*

**Rev. Louis Trebus (EM)**  
*Sevierville, TN*

### 45 Years

**Rev. Albert Quoss (EM)**  
*Bella Vista, AR*

### 40 Years

**Rev. Richard Elseroad**  
*Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN*

**Rev. Martin Nutter**  
*Faith Lutheran Church, Tullahoma, TN*

### 35 Years

**Rev. Duncan Cox**  
*St. John Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, AR*

**Rev. James Dunn**  
*Immanuel Lutheran Church, Murray, KY*

**Rev. Donald Hefta (EM)**  
*Hot Springs, AR*

**Rev. Robert Kellerman (EM)**  
*Casa Grande, AZ*

**Rev. David Rubke (EM)**  
*Tullahoma, TN*

### 30 Years

**Rev. Richard Graves**  
*Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Sicily*

**Rev. Mark Kophamer**  
*Redeemer Lutheran Church, Elizabethton, TN*

### 30 Years

**Rev. Leroy Leach (EM)**  
*Conway, AR*

**Rev. Michael Miller**  
*Redeemer Lutheran Church, Harriman, TN*

**Rev. Brian Pummill**  
*Peace Lutheran Church, Cherokee Village, AR*

### 25 Years

**Rev. Daniel Hawkins**  
*GracePoint Lutheran Church, Munford, TN*

**Rev. Nathan Jansen**  
*St. John Lutheran Church, Burns, TN*

**Rev. David Krause (EM)**  
*Bella Vista, AR*

### 20 Years

**Rev. Fasil Alemayehu**  
*Faith Lutheran Church, Thompson Station, TN*  
*Hope Lutheran Church, Smyrna, TN*

**Rev. Timothy Henning**  
*Trinity Lutheran Church, Mena, AR*

**Rev. Hiram Nunez (EM)**  
*Granbury, TX*

### 15 Years

**Rev. Joshua Willadsen**  
*Bethel Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, AR*

### 10 Years

**Rev. Ronald Bacic**  
*First Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR*

**Rev. John Easterling**  
*Redeemer Lutheran Church, Mountain Home, AR*

**Rev. James Glowinski**  
*Pottsville, AR*

**Rev. Timothy Matthew**  
*Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Dayton, TN*

**Rev. John Merrill**  
*First Lutheran Church, Ft. Smith, AR*

**Rev. Edward Rosser**  
*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN*

**Rev. Emil Woerner**  
*Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Bryant, AR*

### 5 Years

**Rev. David Appold**  
*St. Paul Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY*

**Rev. Eric Phillips**  
*Concordia Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN*

**Well done good and faithful servants!**

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



## Ordained Ministers Celebrating Anniversaries in 2020

### 60 Years

**Rev. Arthur Avery** (EM)  
*Harrogate, TN*  
**Rev. Albert Eichelberger** (EM)  
*Knoxville, TN*  
**Rev. Clarence Helmich** (EM)  
*Oviedo, FL*  
**Rev. Frank Zirbel** (EM)  
*Harrison, AR*

### 55 Years

**Rev. David Callies** (EM)  
*Brentwood, TN*  
**Rev. Larry Marhenke** (EM)  
*Hot Springs Village, AR*  
**Rev. Donald Neiswender** (EM)  
*Paducah, KY*  
**Rev. Gilbert Pingel** (EM)  
*Chattanooga, TN*

### 50 Years

**Rev. Linsey Dettmer** (EM)  
*Sevierville, TN*  
**Rev. John Freitag** (EM)  
*Rogersville, TN*  
**Rev. Roger Reckling** (EM)  
*Oak Ridge, TN*  
**Rev. Kenneth Taglauer** (EM)  
*Grace Lutheran Church, Mountain View, AR*

### 45 Years

**Rev. Darrell Kobs** (EM)  
*Russellville, AR*

### 40 Years

**Rev. Dean Clausing** (EM)  
*Benton, AR*  
**Rev. Larry Peters**  
*Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, TN*

### 35 Years

**Rev. Robert Benke**  
*Faith Lutheran Church, Hot Springs Village, AR*  
**Rev. Jonathan Beyer**  
*First Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, AR*  
**Rev. Gerald Meyer** (EM)  
*Crossville, TN*  
**Rev. John Treude**  
*Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, AR*

### 30 Years

**Rev. James Burns**  
*First Lutheran Church, Benton, AR*

### 15 Years

**Rev. Greg Bearss**  
*LakePointe Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, AR*  
**Rev. Jasson Kalugendo**, (Candidate)  
*Nashville, TN*  
**Rev. Joel Krogen**  
*Hope Lutheran Church, Batesville, AR and  
Zion Evan. Lutheran Church, Waldenburg, AR*  
**Rev. David Schmidt**  
*Faith Lutheran Church, Bentonville, AR*

### 10 Years

**Rev. Michael Croom**  
*Trinity Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN*  
**Rev. David Witte**  
*Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR*

### 5 Years

**Rev. Eric Longman**  
*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rogers, AR*  
**Rev. Mark Tooley**  
*Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR*  
**Rev. Daniel Ulrich**  
*Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, TN*

**Well done good and faithful servants!**

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



## Ordained Ministers Celebrating Anniversaries in 2021

### 60 Years

**Rev. Daniel Otto** (EM)  
*Murfreesboro, TN*

### 55 Years

**Rev. Luther Hasz**  
*Christ Lutheran Church, Paris, TN*

### 50 Years

**Rev. Bruce Hanson**  
*First Lutheran Church, Blytheville, AR*  
**Rev. Erwin Lueker, Jr.** (EM)  
*Elizabethton, TN*

### 45 Years

**Rev. David Hudak** (EM)  
*Bella Vista, AR*  
**Rev. Roger Sterle** (EM)  
*Bella Vista, AR*

### 40 Years

**Rev. Edward Fehskens** (EM)  
*Bristol, TN*  
**Rev. John Lindner** (EM)  
*Bella Vista, AR*  
**Rev. Daniel McDougall**  
*Our Savior Lutheran Church, Cabot, AR*  
**Rev. Lynn Spencer** (EM)  
*Bentonville, AR*  
**Rev. James Watson** (EM)  
*Ootewah, TN*  
**Rev. Carl Wenck**  
*Grace Lutheran Church, Murfreesboro, TN*

### 35 Years

**Rev. Paul Becker**  
*Concordia Lutheran Church, Kingsport, TN*  
**Rev. Brian Bibler** (EM)  
*Bella Vista, AR*  
**Rev. Thomas Sayre** (EM)  
*St. John's, FL*

### 30 Years

**Rev. David Gadbaw** (EM)  
*Mountain Home, AR*  
**Rev. Donald White**  
*St. John's Lutheran Church, Stuttgart, AR*

### 25 Years

**Rev. John Gierke**  
*Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR*  
**Rev. Mark Hass** (Candidate)  
*Fort Smith, AR*  
**Rev. Lane Reuter**  
*Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN*

### 20 Years

**Rev. Kevin Conger**  
*Hope Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, AR*  
**Rev. Alebachew Teshome**  
*Faith Lutheran Church, Thompson's Station, TN*

### 15 Years

**Rev. Kirk Abatelli**  
*Faith Lutheran Church, Oak Ridge, TN*  
**Rev. Curt Hoover**  
*Faith Lutheran Church, Thompson's Station, TN*  
**Rev. Derek Roberts**  
*Praise Lutheran Church, Maryville, TN*

### 10 Years

**Rev. Thomas Bartzsch** (EM)  
*Hot Springs Village, AR*  
**Rev. Joshua Leigeber**  
*Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Jonesboro, AR*  
**Rev. William Ondracka**  
*Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN*

### 5 Years

**Rev. Gregory Bauch**  
*Ascension Lutheran Church, Madison, TN*  
**Rev. Kirk Neugebauer**  
*St. John's Lutheran Church, Lape, AR*

**Well done good and faithful servants!**

## THE REPORT OF THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT PRESIDENT

### PART II

Jesus said, *Go, make disciples of all people, baptizing... and teaching them to observe all that I have given to you.* In 2018, our Baptized membership increased – a first in the LCMS in three decades. Outreach during COVID didn't happen, resulting in lost memberships.

Christ's command builds Churches. God's blessings grow churches and strengthens His people's faith. Strong Lutheran churches embrace *Scripture* and our *Confessions* - preaching, teaching, and reaching that focuses on Christ.

Christ wants people in His Church. Outreach, assimilation, and retention reverse membership erosion. Christ promises His blessing in His Word to be encouraged, equipped, and enabled to reach the lost.

Our District purpose with *all* member-congregations is a vital partnership that cannot succeed in our responsibilities. Our partnership will establish:

- 1) A district missions committee, with leaders who receive, evaluate, and create mission and church-planting partnerships through wise stewardship; by emphasizing mission and ministry for planting, sustaining, and strengthening our Lutheran presence. Local mission development assures church planting for optimal resource use with partnering congregations.
- 2) Strengthening small and rural congregation in the context of their community ministries.
- 3) Increasing Each1-Reach1, C.A.R. and COMPASS to strengthen congregations' missions and ministries.
- 4) Creating Townhall meetings, seeking needs, concerns, and ideas to strengthen congregations, and distributing District essential resources.
- 5) Focusing on continuing education and conferences for professional church workers to equip their ministries.
- 6) Supporting congregation visitation, addressing needs, and partnering in their unique ministries.
- 7) Recruiting/supporting Church workers with formal education, colloquy, and second career options to meet growing ministry needs.
- 8) Establishing alliances between congregations for optimal financial, professional, staffing, and outreach opportunities.
- 9) Distributing District resources to preserve, strengthen, and provide stewardship of time, talents and treasures.

The Districts purpose is driven by vital partnerships with member congregations, schools, workers, and auxiliaries that preserve our ministry's unity and responds to the needs of our congregations and individuals.



# Resolution 01-01-21

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**SUBJECT: To Memorialize the Next Synodical Convention to Mark the 50<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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

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**SUBJECT:** To Memorialize the Next Synodical Convention to Mark the 50<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 40<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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

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**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

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**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	<b>Article VII Relation of Synod to Its Members</b> 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	<b>Article VII Relation of Synod to Its Members</b> 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

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**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 printed on pages 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**





## Resolution 02-01-21

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**SUBJECT: To Commend and Support the Work of Trinity HOPE in Haiti**

*(Reference Overture 02-07.21 printed on page 152 of the Convention Workbook)*

- WHEREAS,** Christ instructed us in Matthew 28:19 to “go and make disciples of all nations” and commends those who have fed “the least of these brothers of mine” in Matthew 25:31; and
- WHEREAS,** Trinity HOPE has demonstrated that providing a noon meal for the hungry children in our Lutheran and other Christian schools in Haiti shows the compassion of Christ to those who believe that God is unapproachable on the basis of Voodoo teaching; and
- WHEREAS,** There are effective efforts by LCMS churches to build the body of Christ in Haiti by partnering with Christian schools affiliated with local churches that provide a meal to the children who are often too hungry to learn; and
- WHEREAS,** Trinity HOPE is providing over 42,000 meals daily at a cost of about \$0.25 each for the teachers and children in over 200 of these schools, and
- WHEREAS,** Children in our schools in Haiti are coming to faith in response to the Word and its witness faster than any other population segment and often later are instruments in bringing their whole families to the knowledge of Jesus Christ; therefore be it;
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in Conventions 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; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in Convention allocate \$10,000 annually to support the work of Trinity HOPE beginning in 2022.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



## Resolution 02-02-21

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**SUBJECT: To Continue a Relationship with the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania**

(Reference to Overtures 02-06-21, 02-09-21, and 02-10-21 printed on pages 151, 154, 155 of Convention Workbook)

- 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, and the Synod's Office of International Mission and Board for International Mission; 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 Office of the Synod President 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 work with leaders of the LCMS and its seminaries in also providing \$12,500 for scholarships for SELVD pastoral candidates to study for higher degrees in our LCMS seminaries; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District continue sending mission teams which operate in accordance with Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and in coordination with the Office of International Mission to support the humanitarian and witnessing needs of the SELVD; and be it finally

***RESOLVED,***

That we thank God for the opportunity to participate in this partnership that has seen the Word of God shared with tens of thousands of members of the Sukuma Tribe.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



## Resolution 02-03-21

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**SUBJECT: To Continue a Relationship with the Confessional Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar**

*(Reference to Overture 02-05-21 printed on page 149 of Convention Workbook)*

**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, and the Synod's Office of International Mission/Board for International Mission; and

**WHEREAS,**

The Malagasy Lutheran Church in convention has made an overture to partner with a Confessional Lutheran Church Body and will have its request be formally considered for 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 continue 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 (LIME 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 and support 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 it further

**RESOLVED,**

That a portion of the \$25,000 funding be used for support of ministries and mission of the Malagasy Lutheran Church, including LIME; and be it 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.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



# Resolution 02-04-21

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**SUBJECT: To Reaffirm Church Planting and Revitalization**

*(Reference Overture 02-04-21 printed on page 147 of the Convention Workbook)*

- WHEREAS,** Jesus commands the church 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 noted in 2019 Res. 1-02, that *“From its inception The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been a church planting body. Church planting arises out of God’s desire that ‘all people be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth’ (1 Tim. 2:4). It rests on the promise that God will accomplish His will through His people as He empowers and strengthens them through His gifts of Word and Sacrament.”* 2019 Proceedings, 116; and
- WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod noted in 2019 Res. 4-03A, that one of the seven mission priorities previously affirmed at the 2016 Synod convention is to “plant, sustain, and revitalize Lutheran churches;” and
- WHEREAS,** 2019 Resolution 4-03A also established *“Making Disciples for Life* as its mission and ministry emphasis for the 2019-2022 triennium” and directed the Office of National Mission...to resource congregations, schools, circuits and districts to do the following:
- evangelize and disciple the lost;
  - retain the faithful;
  - strengthen congregations and schools;
  - plant new congregations and schools wherever possible, especially in urban and multi-cultural communities; and
  - engage in international mission in partnership with the Office of International Mission; and be it finally
- Resolved,* That the Synod encourage all LCMS districts, congregations and schools to make use of the Making Disciples for Life resources and tools as these become available; 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 that will "stand firm and hold to the traditions that [we] were taught" (2 Thess. 2:15) in the Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, and our Lutheran identity and heritage, while affirming the "right, authority, and power [for each church plant] to change, reduce, or increase ceremonies according to its circumstances, as long as it does so without frivolity and offense but in an orderly and appropriate way" (SD Art. X, 9); and be it further
- RESOLVED,*** That Mid-South District circuits, congregations and schools be encouraged to utilize resources from the Office of National Mission and *Making Disciples for Life* in their church planting and evangelism efforts, and be it finally
- 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.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



## Resolution 02-05-21

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**SUBJECT: To Encourage Financial Support for Professional Church Workers.**

*(Reference Overture 02-01-21 printed on page 142 of the Convention Workbook)*

**WHEREAS,**

The Synod in Convention in 2016 passed Res. 18-03A which stated

*“Whereas, The Synod continues to pray that our Lord would send faithful laborers into the harvest fields (Luke 10:2); and*

*Whereas, Student indebtedness can be a deterrent for potential professional church workers; and*

*Whereas, The Synod takes seriously the Lord’s command that, ‘the worker is worthy of his wage,’ (1 Tim. 5:18); and*

*Whereas, The cost of higher education has increased at a substantially higher rate than anticipated potential income; and*

*Whereas, The typical salaries for professional church workers may make it difficult to sustain a household and also repay the incurred debt; and*

*Whereas, Student indebtedness can discourage healthy stewardship; and*

*Whereas, One of the Synod’s foundational objectives is, ‘to recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth’ (Constitution, Art. III 3); and*

*Whereas, Research done by the LCMS seminaries has shown that undergraduate debt and personal finance management contribute significantly to subsequent educational loan debt; and*

*Whereas, Student indebtedness is a well-documented burden; and*

*Whereas, In order to qualify for federal loan programs, our seminaries and universities are being forced to accommodate federal Department of Education policies that may be in conflict with our shared beliefs and practices in the Synod; and*

*Whereas, In order to become a certified professional church worker in the LCMS, students are required to attend a Concordia University System school or an LCMS seminary; and*

*Whereas, Attending a Concordia University System school also well equips men for subsequent seminary training; and*



*Whereas, The seminaries are pursuing making financial counseling available to all students; therefore be it*

*Resolved, That the leadership of our Concordia seminaries and universities/colleges explore alternate funding sources apart from federal loans; and be it further*

*Resolved, That schools in the Concordia University System provide financial counseling to church worker students throughout their academic careers; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the congregations and ministries of the Synod identify and raise up the next generation of leaders for the ministry of the church and support them financially in obtaining their training; and be it finally*

*Resolved, That districts of the Synod be encouraged to develop means by which they may financially assist students preparing for church work careers and current church workers. ’’ (Res. 18-03, Proceedings, 262-263); therefore be it*

**RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District continue to fund designated contributions to *MinistryFocus* for District professional church workers burdened with significant educational debt; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District establish additional funding allocated from the District Sunday and designated convention offerings.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



# Resolution 02-06-21

## SUBJECT: To Encourage All Christians In Personal Witnessing

(Reference Overture 02-02-21 printed on page 144 of the Convention Workbook)

**WHEREAS,**

Jesus sends his disciples into the world to be his witnesses; and

**WHEREAS,**

St. Peter teaches to Christians: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9-10); and

**WHEREAS,**

The Synod in convention has repeatedly encouraged congregations to make witnessing a top priority in their ministry efforts; and

**WHEREAS,**

The 2019 Synod convention adopted a Resolution, stating,

*Resolved, That the Synod in convention establish Making Disciples for Life as its mission and ministry emphasis for the 2019-2022 triennium...to do the following:*

- *evangelize and disciple the lost;*
- *retain the faithful;*
- *strengthen congregations and schools;*
- *plant new congregations and schools wherever possible, especially in urban and multi-cultural communities; and*
- *engage in international mission in partnership with the Office of International Mission; 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, but are often limited in their opportunity for personal witnessing due to other responsibilities of their ministry; and

**WHEREAS,**

The Mid-South District has conducted workshops throughout the District, using “Everyone His Witness” and “Each 1 Reach 1”; 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 reaffirms the importance of personal witnessing for the salvation of the lost and the spiritual 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 finally

***RESOLVED,***

That congregations demonstrate personal witnessing as a priority of their church by encouraging their workers and members to spend time on a weekly basis in the community, and by assisting their workers and members with any financial, time, or other constraints which may hinder their witnessing.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED AS CORRECTED**



## Resolution 02-07-21

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**SUBJECT: To Address the Use of Technology in the Life of the Church and the Ministry of Congregations**

*(Reference Overture 02-08-21 printed on page 153 of the Convention Workbook)*

**WHEREAS,**

Situations arise in which it is difficult for congregations to gather; and

**WHEREAS,**

The use of technology in various formats (i.e., livestreaming worship; recorded worship; online Bible Studies; etc.) has been a great help in keeping congregations united through the hearing of God's Word and also has served the Church with communicating important information; and

**WHEREAS,**

The use of technology also has its negative aspects, such as inadvertently encouraging members not to gather as is commanded by Scripture (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25), creating confusion with Communion and congregational voting practices, etc.; therefore be it

**RESOLVED,**

That the Mid-South District in convention ask the Synod to prepare and make available resources that address the use of technology with its pros and cons in the life of the Church at large and within the framework of the congregations of the Synod; and be it further

**RESOLVED,**

That the Mid-South District in convention ask the Synod to direct the CTCR to study and provide a document pertaining to The Use of Technology in The Church and Congregations, and be it finally

**RESOLVED,**

That the Mid-South District in convention submit this memorial to the next convention of the Synod.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



# Resolution 02-08-21

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## **SUBJECT: To Encourage Congregational Men's Ministry**

*(Reference Overture 02-11-21 printed on page 156 of the Convention Workbook)*

- WHEREAS,** Christian men face increasing hostility from a culture that speaks of “toxic masculinity” and mocks their faith in God; and
- WHEREAS,** Christ warns us that in the last days “Because of the multiplication of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold (Matthew 24:12) and “when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (Luke 18:8); and
- WHEREAS,** Just as athletes and soldiers have a better chance of success when working together, Scripture teaches: “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17); and
- WHEREAS,** The Synod in Convention has encouraged men's and family ministries (2019 Res. 12-03 A and 2019 Res. 12-07 B); and
- WHEREAS,** The Mid-South District LCMS serves as a pilot district for the *Generation 2 Generation* ministry; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That we encourage congregations of the Mid-South District to have a men's ministry that provides opportunities for Christian men to study Scripture, develop leadership skills, to join in Christian fellowship, to build strong families, and to serve their communities; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That we encourage congregations to make use of the District's resources for family ministry such as *Generation 2 Generation*.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



## Resolution 02-09-21

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**SUBJECT: To Encourage the Study and Use of Biblically-based Stewardship Resources**

*(Reference Overture 02-03-21 printed on page 146 of the Convention Workbook)*

- WHEREAS,** Many congregations continue to struggle with a decline in attendance, the lack of workers and 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 National Mission's 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 therefore be it;
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District promote the study and use of stewardship education resources to raise awareness of the Biblical stewardship lifestyle in all District congregations; and be it further
- 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).

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



## Resolution 03-01-21

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**SUBJECT: To Give Thanks to God for Sustaining His Church Through the Global Corona Virus Pandemic**

*(Reference Overture 03-05-21 printed on page 164 of the Convention Workbook)*

**WHEREAS,**

The Global Corona Virus Pandemic has affected all areas of life, especially the life of the Church, including periods of shut-down, small groups of worshippers in services, the use of technology to have services online in various formats, etc.; and

**WHEREAS,**

God has promised that nothing in all creation can separate us from His love in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:39), and that not even the gates of hell will prevail against His Church (Matthew 16:18); and

**WHEREAS,**

Pastors, Church Workers, and Laity in the Mid-South District remained faithful in keeping their congregations connected to God's Word and Sacraments, while navigating safety guidelines; therefore be it

**RESOLVED,**

That the Mid-South District in convention continue to encourage Pastors, Church Workers, and Laity to continue being faithful, encourage in-person worship, while also seeking opportunities to connect to the unchurched by sharing the love of Christ with them; and be it further

**RESOLVED,**

That the Mid-South District in convention rise in thanks and praise to God for sustaining His Church with the singing of hymn 644 (LSB), The Church's One Foundation.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



## Resolution 03-02-21

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**SUBJECT: To Increase the Awareness of Human Trafficking to the Congregations of the Mid-South District and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

(Reference Overture 03-03-21 printed on page 161 of Convention Workbook)

- WHEREAS,** Human Trafficking, including forced labor and sex trafficking, affects an estimated 24.9 million victims worldwide at any given time (US Dept of State)<sup>1</sup> and
- WHEREAS,** The Office of National Mission<sup>2</sup> and Lutherans For Life<sup>3</sup> have addressed human trafficking (see footnoted resources); and
- WHEREAS,** Many people in LCMS congregations are unaware of the magnitude of this deplorable act against humanity; and
- WHEREAS,** God created all life and sent His Son Jesus to redeem all life, and He desires that all people come to the knowledge of Him and be saved (I Timothy 2:4), and He desires all to have abundant life in Him (John 10:10) and He has commanded us to love our neighbor as ourself (Matthew 19:19, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:29ff); therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention establish a Human Trafficking Task Force, as soon as possible, to study this inhumane activity with-in the boundaries of the Mid-South District, while working with Federal, State, and Local agencies, and to provide a report back to the next District Convention; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District Task Force on Human Trafficking make readily and widely available to the congregations of the Mid-South District, documents and resources to increase the awareness of Human Trafficking, to include directives to follow should Human Trafficking situations be observed; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention memorialize the Synod in Convention to update the resources provided; and to also direct the CTCR to produce a document addressing Human Trafficking; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention rise to pray that Almighty God would by His power bless and direct all law enforcement agencies in their fight against Human Trafficking and that He would through His Church and other relief organizations provide healing, support and ministry to the victims of Human Trafficking; and that He would bring an end to these deplorable acts.

### CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.state.gov/humantrafficking-about-human-trafficking/#profile> (accessed 6/18/21)

<sup>2</sup> 1) Human Trafficking; and 2) Identify, Understand and Intervene – Human Trafficking (lcms.org/social issues)

<sup>3</sup> <https://lutheransforlife.org/event/for-life-live-human-trafficking-prevention-righteousness-works/> (accessed 6/18/21)





# Resolution 03-03A-21

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**SUBJECT: Protect Christian Consciences**

*(Reference Overture 03-08-21 printed on page 169 of Convention Workbook)*

- WHEREAS,** Christians are called to “render to God what is God’s” (Luke 20:25) and to “obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29); and
- WHEREAS,** Christians are called to “obey their magistrates save when they are commanded to sin” (Ap XVI: 6-7); and
- WHEREAS,** The Holy Scriptures teach that man is not free to bind the conscience of another to a merely human commandment (Galatians 5:1-6; Romans 14); and
- WHEREAS,** There are increased attacks on Christian conscience; such attacks including, but not limited to, attacking Biblical authority regarding the sanctity of human life, human sexuality, Christian marriage, necessity of in-person Christian worship, and other issues of Christian conscience; and
- WHEREAS,** This is clearly evidenced not only anecdotally, but also concretely, for instance, by the recent Equality Act in the U.S. Congress (H.R. 5), negating application of The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (see Sec. 1107), and redefining sex beyond the Biblical teaching (see Sec. 1101); and
- WHEREAS,** This violation of conscience is a violation of one’s Christian freedom and Christian wisdom and may result in sin; and
- WHEREAS,** There is historic success in claiming religious exemption from violations of conscience on the basis of Religious Freedom in America (e.g. Philadelphia v. Catholic Social Services (2021) or Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod v. FCC (1988) or Meyer v. Nebraska, (1923)); therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the LCMS Mid-South District, congregations and their members abstain from every teaching of men that violates their Christian conscience which is bound to God’s Word alone in every sphere of life; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the LCMS Mid-South District, congregations, and their members be encouraged to speak and act in a Christian manner against such breaches of conscience in their daily vocations; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,** That the LCMS Mid-South District, give its full support and assistance of every kind to any congregation of the District or member of a District congregation in securing religious exemption from teachings and practices contrary to God’s Word.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED**



# Resolution 03-04A-21

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**SUBJECT: To Reject Racism and Advance the Gospel**

*(Reference Overture(s) 03-01-21, 03-02-21, 03-04-21, 03-06-21, 03-07-21, Late Overture 03-09-21 printed on pages 157-158, 159-160, 162-163, 165-166, 167-168 of Convention Workbook)*

- WHEREAS,** God has created all people and they are blood related going back to our mutual fathers, Adam and Noah, and all are subject to the stain of original sin, but now also have been equally redeemed by the blood of Christ in order to be reconciled to God and to each other; and
- WHEREAS,** God's Word says, "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors." (James 2:8, 9); and
- WHEREAS,** Racism (the sinful notion that some races are inherently superior to others), misunderstanding, and strife are present in the world and experienced in congregations due to our sin; and
- WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) abhors racism, and in convention has passed resolutions repudiating all racism, (see 1992 Res. 3-03 and 2019 Res. 11-04A); and
- WHEREAS,** Critical Race Theory (CRT) has become a common, multifaceted, and controversial theory for discussion of contemporary race relations; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Mid-South District in convention reject the world view of CRT, as it is contrary to Scripture and counterproductive to true racial conversation and reconciliation, for it pursues equality of outcome ("equity") between racial groups, which requires treating individuals unequally based on race, and also reject all organizations, movements, petitions, and theological language that support that world view in a positive manner; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the LCMS Mid-South District reject any doctrine that teaches:
- One's race, ancestry, or nationality are inherently superior to the race, ancestry, or nationality of another.
  - Any individual is inherently racist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously, because of his or her race, ancestry, or nationality; and be it further

- RESOLVED,*** That the circuits of the Mid-South District of the LCMS develop an objective mission and ministry action plan for outreach to diverse communities among us; and be it further
- RESOLVED,*** That the congregations of the LCMS Mid-South District be encouraged to conduct conversations on race and diversity, to strengthen unity within the congregation; and be it further
- RESOLVED,*** That the congregations of the LCMS Mid-South District be encouraged to engage members of their communities in these conversations, in light of Christ's Gospel; and be it further
- RESOLVED,*** We commend those within the LCMS Mid-South District who intentionally proclaim and work to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus to those who are different from themselves in the light of the Great Commission; and be it finally
- RESOLVED,*** That the Mid-South District send this resolution to the Synod as it gathers at its 2023 Convention to do similarly.

**CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

# ***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  
June 28-30, 2018  
August 24, 2020, amended by the Board of Directors to  
harmonize with 2019 LCMS Convention resolutions  
July 1-3, 2021

# ***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.

### **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 directors 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 3.1.3 – 3.1.3.1, 4.2, 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.

- 2.2.4.1 The committee shall be empowered to adopt procedures and methods that will insure efficiency and accuracy, including the use of mechanical, electronic, or other methods of casting, recording, or tabulating votes.
- 2.2.5 The chairperson of each convention floor committee shall appoint a secretary, consult with the chairperson of the appropriate ministry team, task force, committee, or district organizational entity, including district executive directors, and shall report the recommendations of the floor committee to the convention.
- 2.2.6 Floor committees shall consult with the finance office of the district as guided generally in the *Handbook* of the Synod. [Synod Bylaw 3.1.7(g)]
- 2.2.7 Convention proceedings shall be published and distributed by a means of electronic communication 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.

### **3. DIRECTIVES FOR OFFICERS**

#### **3.1 General Directives**

- 3.1.1 All officers shall be elected or appointed as provided in the *Handbook* of the Synod and the district bylaws.
- 3.1.2 All officers shall fulfill the duties assigned to them in the *Handbook* of the Synod, the district bylaws, and by the board of directors.
- 3.1.3 All officers shall be governed and bound by the principles and respective duties and prohibitions expressed in the board of directors' policy manual.
- 3.1.4 Any officer, with the exception of the district president, may be removed from office for cause following the provisions and procedures set forth in the *Handbook* of the Synod. [Synod Bylaws 1.5.8-1.5.8.1]

#### **3.2 Officers**

##### **3.2.1 *The President***

- 3.2.1.1 The president shall be an ex-officio member without vote of all ministry teams, task forces, committees, and organizational entities of the district.
- 3.2.1.2 He shall serve as a voting member of the board of directors and shall serve as chairman of the circuit visitors' conference.

##### **3.2.2 *The Vice-Presidents***

- 3.2.2.1 The vice-presidents shall be advisors to the district president, and shall function as his representatives or assistants in service to the district.
- 3.2.2.2 They may serve as designated representatives of the board of directors, on ministry teams, task forces, and committees, and as advisors on other organizational entities of the district.

##### **3.2.3 *The Secretary***

- 3.2.3.1 The secretary shall be an advisory member of the constitution committee.
- 3.2.3.2 He shall carry out responsibilities for the nomination and election of the district president, vice-presidents, circuit visitors, and the board of directors according to the provisions set forth in the *Handbook* of the Synod and the bylaws of the district.

- 3.2.3.3 He shall carry out responsibilities for the certification of delegates attending district conventions. [Synod Bylaw 4.2.2. (a)]
- 3.2.3.4 He shall carry out the following responsibilities regarding delegates and representatives from the district attending the conventions of the Synod, according to the provisions of the *Handbook* of the Synod and in directives from the Secretary of the Synod:
- (a) Administer the certification of the circuit voting pastoral and lay delegates and alternates elected by the circuit forums. [Synod Bylaw 3.1.2.1 (i)]
  - (b) Administer the selection process and certification of advisory delegates and alternates for the commissioned ministers and those ordained ministers not eligible to be elected by congregations as voting representatives, who are members of the Synod within the district. [Synod Bylaw 3.1.3.1 – 3.1.3.1 (c)]
  - (c) Administer the certification of all other district representatives. [Synod Bylaw 3.1.3.2-3.1.3.2 (b)]
- 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]
- 3.2.4 ***The Treasurer***
- 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.
- 3.2.4.2 He/she shall evaluate the financial implications of all reports, recommendations, and proposals made to the board of directors.
- 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.
- 3.2.4.4 He/she shall guide the board of directors in its review and approval of the annual operating and capital budgets.
- 3.2.4.5 He/she shall chair the finance committee of the board of directors.
- 3.2.5 ***The Circuit Visitors***
- 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.
- 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**

- 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.

- 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.
- 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]

## **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 may appoint a recording secretary (nonvoting) who may assist the secretary in order to 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, executive directors under the district president, 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 executive directors, 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 executive 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 directors 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 director(s) 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 directors 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 director under the president.
- 5.2.8 Each ministry team, task force, and committee shall regularly report to the district convention.

## **6. ELECTED AND APPOINTED POSITIONS**

### **6.1 Elected by the District Convention**

#### **6.1.1 *The Nominations Committee***

##### *Membership*

- 6.1.1.1 The nominations committee shall consist of a total of six (6) members, as follows:

1. Two (2) ministers of religion—ordained
2. Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned
3. Two (2) laypersons

One of each category shall be from electoral regions 1 and 2 combined, and one of each category shall be from electoral regions 3 and 4 combined.

##### *Duties*

- 6.1.1.2 The nominations committee shall:

- (a) solicit names from the rostered congregations and individual members of the Synod in the district;
- (b) prepare, according to provisions of the *Handbook* of the Synod and the bylaws of the district, slates of candidates and alternates for the offices or positions to be voted upon by the district convention, except for the offices of district president, regional vice-presidents, and circuit visitors;
- (c) obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to select as candidates; and
- (d) publish the names and qualifications of the nominees in the convention workbook.

### **6.2 Appointed by the Board of Directors upon Recommendation of the District President**

#### **6.2.1 *The Constitution Committee***

##### *Membership*

- 6.2.1.1 The constitution committee shall consist of at least two (2) ministers of religion—ordained and one (1) layperson. The secretary of the district shall be an advisory member.

##### *Duties*

- 6.2.1.2 The constitution committee shall review new and revised constitutions and bylaws of member and applicant congregations according to the provisions of the *Handbook* of the Synod. [Synod Bylaws 2.2.1-2.4.2]

### **6.3        *The District Reconcilers***

#### *Membership*

- 6.3.1        District reconcilers shall be appointed according to the provisions of the *Handbook* of the Synod. [Synod Bylaws 1.10.10-1.10.10.1]

#### *Informal Efforts toward Reconciliation; Consultation*

- 6.3.2        The district reconcilers may assist in informal efforts (not formally requested by a member of the Synod) according to the procedures of Bylaw 1.10.5 in the *Handbook* of the Synod toward 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 president and executive directors. 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]
- 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, Nominations Committee, Synod Committee for Convention Nominations, 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.
- (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 (5<sup>th</sup>) 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 membership in a congregation 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 with membership in a congregation 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 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). 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 membership in a congregation 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.
- (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 membership in a congregation 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 ***Nominations Committee Members (Ministers of Religion—Ordained and Commissioned, and Layperson)***

8.3.5.1 The Nominations Committee is to be regarded as an *ad hoc* convention committee, to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.

8.3.5.2 After the results of the regional district board of directors' elections have been announced, the convention shall elect the ordained members of the Nominations Committee. The convention shall elect two ordained 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 Synod in the district shall be entitled to nominate, from the clergy roster of the Synod, two (2) ministers of religion—ordained for each of the two combined electoral regions (regions 1 & 2 combined; and regions 3 & 4 combined) as candidates for the Nominations Committee. Those nominated must hold membership in a congregation in the designated combined electoral region.
- (b) Nominating ballots and receiving of ballots from the congregations and individual members shall be the responsibility of the secretary of the district on behalf of the nominations committee, 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.

8.3.5.3 After the results of the ordained Nominations Committee elections 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 (2) ministers of religion—commissioned from the roster of the Synod with membership in a congregation in the designated combined electoral regions, for each of the two combined electoral regions as candidates for the Nominations Committee.
- (b) Nominating ballots and receiving of ballots from the congregations and individual members shall be the responsibility of the secretary of the district on behalf of the nominations committee, 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.

8.3.5.4 After the results of the commissioned nominations committee elections have been announced, the convention shall elect two laypersons 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 (2) laypersons, with membership in a congregation in the designated combined electoral regions, for each of the two combined electoral regions as candidates for the Nominations Committee.
- (b) Nominating ballots and receiving of ballots from the congregations and individual members shall be the responsibility of the secretary of the district on behalf of the nominations committee, 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.

#### 8.3.6 ***LCMS Committee for Convention Nominations***

- 8.3.6.1 When called upon by the Secretary of Synod to do so according to the process outlined in the *Handbook* of Synod [Bylaws 3.12.3 – 3.12.3.3], the Mid-South District shall elect through the regular election procedures at the district convention one member to the Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations and an alternate.

- (a) Each member congregation and individual members of the district shall have been given opportunity to nominate two (2) individuals, (a professional church worker or a layperson, depending on the classification noted by the Synod Secretary for that convention cycle), with membership in a congregation in the district, for the Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations.
- (b) Nominating ballots and receiving of ballots from the congregations and individual members shall be the responsibility of the secretary of the district on behalf of the nominations committee, 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 one member to the Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations, and then elect an alternate on a new ballot, following the process outlined in the bylaws.

Balloting shall continue with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated until one candidate has received a majority of the votes cast.

#### 8.3.7 ***Circuit Visitors***

- 8.3.7.1 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]
- 8.3.7.2 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.
- 8.3.7.3 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.
- 8.3.7.4 The circuit visitors shall then report in writing the results of the selection process to the district secretary.
- 8.3.7.5 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, district secretary, district treasurer, 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 office. They may be elected or appointed to the same office after an interval of three (3) or more years. [Synod Bylaw 3.2.4.2]
- 8.4.3.1 One-half or more of a term shall be regarded as a full term under limited tenure rules.
- 8.4.4 The newly elected district president, vice presidents, and members of the board of directors shall assume office on September 1 following the district convention, and shall be installed into their respective offices subsequent to that date at a service to be held in conjunction with the first meeting of the newly elected board of directors.
- 8.4.4.1 In the interim, the district's transition policy, which shall be reviewed and revised as needed by the board of directors prior to the district convention, shall be followed.
- 8.4.5 Circuit visitors and all other members of the committees elected at the convention shall be installed into office before the close of the convention and begin their term of service immediately thereafter.

## **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.
- 8.5.2 If for any reason the office of any vice-president becomes vacant, the other vice-presidents shall move up in rank accordingly. The board of directors shall then fill the remaining vacancy in the office of a vice-president by electing a successor in consultation with and with the mutual concurrence of the district president.
- 8.5.3 In the event of a vacancy on the board of directors, with the exception of the district president and the vice-presidents, the remaining members of the board shall elect an appropriate successor to fill the unexpired term.
- 8.5.4 A vacancy in the office of circuit visitor shall be filled by appointment by the district president.
- 8.5.5 A vacancy in any other office shall be filled by appointment by the district president in consultation with the appropriate executive director and any appropriate representative of a district organizational entity, and ratified by the board of directors.

<p align="center"><b>Summary of Action on Resolutions</b>  <b>LCMS Mid-South District Convention, July 1-3, 2021</b></p>
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**Committee 1 – Church & Doctrine**

**Resolution 01-01-21 To Memorialize the Next Synodical Convention to Mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roe v. Wade with More Fervent Teaching, Proclamation, and Efforts to Promote God’s Gift of Life**

Adopted with amendment

Yes	98.52%	133
No	1.48%	2

**Resolution 01-02-21 - To Memorialize the Next Synodical Convention to Mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1974 Concordia Seminary St. Louis “Walkout” With Thorough Teaching About the Controversy and Renewed Emphasis on the Pure Doctrine**

Adopted without amendment

Yes	91.91%	125
No	8.09%	11

**Resolution 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**

Adopted without amendment

Yes	93.94%	124
No	6.06%	8

**Resolution 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**

Adopted without amendment

Yes	98.47%	129
No	1.53%	2

**Resolution 01-0 -21 - To Encourage Further Consideration of Successful Completion of Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Coursework Before Ordination and Placement on Ordained Roster** Adopted without amendment

Yes	93.38%	127
No	6.62%	9

**Resolution 01-0 -21 - Omnibus - To Respectfully decline resolutions 01-06-21 01-0 -21 and 01-0 -21 in conjunction or boot**

**Resolution 01-0 -21 - To Implement a Process Enabling a District President to Protect a Called Worker or to Enact an Emergency Restriction or Suspension Status when Warranted**

**Resolution 01-07-21 - To Provide Clarity Upon Removal or Resignation from the Synod Roster of Ordained Clergy**

**Resolution 01-08-21 - To Implement a Process Enabling a District President to Protect a Called Worker or to Enact an Emergency Restriction or Suspension when Warranted**

Omnibus Resolution adopted without amendment

Yes	92.03%	127
No	7.97%	11

**Committee 2 – Church Missions & Evangelism**

**Resolution 02-01-21 - To Commend and Support the Work of Trinity HOPE in Haiti**

Adopted without amendment

Yes	97.79%	133
No	2.21%	3

**Resolution 02-02-21 - To Continue a Relationship with the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania**

Adopted without amendment

Yes	98.55%	136
No	1.45%	2

**Resolution 02-03-21 - To Continue a Relationship with the Confessional Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar**

Adopted without amendment

Yes	97.83%	135
No	2.17%	3

**Resolution 02-04-21 - To Reaffirm Church Planting and Revitalization**

Adopted without amendment

Yes	94.96%	132
No	5.04%	7

**Resolution 02-05-21 - To Encourage Financial Support for Professional Church Workers**

Adopted without amendment

Yes	98.55%	136
No	1.45%	2

**Resolution 02-06-21 - To Encourage All Christians In Personal Witnessing**

Adopted as corrected

Yes	97.74%	130
No	2.26%	3

**Resolution 02-07-21 - To Address the Use of Technology in the Life of the Church and the Ministry of Congregations**

Adopted without amendment

Yes	93.33%	126
No	6.67%	9

**Resolution 02-08-21 - To Encourage Congregational Men's Ministry**

Adopted without amendment

Yes	98.54%	135
No	1.46%	2

**Resolution 02-09-21 - To Encourage the Study and Use of Biblically-based Stewardship Resources**

Adopted without amendment

Yes	97.76%	131
No	2.24%	3

**Committee 3 – Church & Social Concerns**

**Resolution 03-01-21 - To Give Thanks to God for Sustaining His Church Through the Global Corona Virus Pandemic**

Adopted without amendment

Yes	98.28%	114
No	1.72%	2

**Resolution 03-02-21 - To Increase the Awareness of Human Trafficking to the Congregations of the Mid-South District and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

Adopted without amendment

Yes	99.29%	139
No	0.71%	1

**Resolution 03-03A-21 - To Protect Christian Consciences**

Adopted without amendment

Yes	98.58%	139
No	1.42%	2

**Resolution 03-04A-21 - To Reject Racism and Advance the Gospel**

Adopted as amended

Yes	85.47%	100
No	14.53%	17



**Mission and Ministry Emphases for the 2023-2026 Synod Triennium**  
**LCMS Mid-South District Convention, July 1-3, 2021**

The three Mission and Ministry Emphases to be sent to the Synod for consideration during the 2023-2026 Triennium are:

1. Work to resolve Human Trafficking and raise awareness
2. Formation and spiritual strengthening of Elders and other Lay Leaders in the congregation
3. Continue and emphasize Pro-Life work and proclamation

**Honored Guest Presentations**  
**LCMS Mid-South District Convention, July 1-3, 2021**

**A Greeting from Rev. Ken Lampe, *Mid-South District President Emeritus***

Dear President Paavola, President Harrison, Brother Pastors, Convention Delegates, and Guests. Thank you for the invitation to again bring greetings to your convention. In a district as spread out as the Mid-South District, District Conventions are a special time. They provide a wonderful opportunity for fellow followers of Christ from all over the district to get together for a couple days to renew old friendships and build new ones. As you gather together in Memphis to worship, study God's Word and conduct business, I pray that each of you will be energized and encouraged, eager to return home and share the life-giving message of Jesus Christ in your own communities.

The Mid-South District has historically been a mission focused district, and your convention theme, "Declare His Marvelous Works," is so appropriate. I am writing these words during the second week of Easter and reflecting back on some of the readings for the past couple Sundays. In the Gospel reading for this past Sunday Jesus says to the disciples, "As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you" (John 20:21) We are now the sent ones. At a time when a recent survey reported that only 47% of the people of the United States now claim membership in a local church, we have the one message our troubled world needs to hear. In the Epistle reading for Easter Sunday Paul wrote that this message about Jesus Christ was of first importance and it still is 2000 years later: "that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3)

Darlene and I have wonderful memories of our years in the Mid-South District serving the congregations at Ulm and Mountain Home, AR and then as district president. While we will not be able to be present with you, we will be praying for God's blessings and guidance on your work together during the convention and afterward as you return to your own congregations, schools and communities to: "Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!" (1 Chronicles 16:23-24)

God bless each of you as you serve our Lord and God bless your convention.

Pastor Ken Lampe  
President Emeritus, Mid-South District

## **A Greeting from Rev. David Callies, *Mid-South District President Emeritus***

Synodical President Matthew Harrison, Vice Presidents Peter Lange and Benjamin Ball, Mid-South District President Roger Paavola, Delegates to this 21st regular Mid-South District Convention, Friends and Guests. Thank you, President Paavola, for the opportunity to greet my brothers and sisters in Christ, this time by video, as you convene to “Declare the Marvelous Works” of our gracious God! In my 52 years in the Mid-South District since 1969, this is the first Convention I will not be able to attend. I will miss your fellowship and Mid-South spirit! You are very much in my thoughts and prayers!

Over the past year and a half, hearing grim news from hospitals and enduring separation from people, felt at times like we were walking through the “Valley of the Shadow of Death”. When we were helpless, Christ heard our cries for mercy and deliverance. As He promises, our compassionate Good Shepherd was always with us, feeding and leading His sheep. By His physical care through health care workers, medical advances and vaccines, and spiritually in the blessings of His Word and Sacraments, God’s unfailing love and faithfulness assured us that no matter how overwhelming the circumstances, we are never separated from His love in Christ Jesus!

Now He is bringing you together from congregations and schools in Arkansas, Southwest Kentucky and Tennessee, uniting you with the presence of our Risen Lord in your midst! Future generations will wonder, **“What was it like to be a Mid-South District congregation or school after Covid-19?, or a District Convention delegate following a time of social distancing, online worship, and wearing masks for in-person gatherings?”**

**It’s not an exaggeration to say you are like the Church after the Reformation.** They seized new opportunities that God opened to them to spread the Gospel, made possible after Gutenberg’s history-changing invention in 1450 of movable type for printing. The printed Bible, and Martin Luther’s concerns about remaining faithful to its truth, could then be communicated to more people in new ways. Similarly, in our experiences with a global health crisis some 570 years later, God is teaching us how to use digital technology more creatively in worship, teaching, and communicating the Gospel to all people, locally and globally. In ways that we couldn’t have imagined, many congregations reached out to more people during Covid-19 than before! Your Spirit-guided Convention decisions on behalf of our District will keep us faithful to continue that bold Gospel proclamation.

**In yet another way, in this Convention you are like the Children of Israel in the Book of Joshua, chapter 4.** Joshua, God’s newly chosen leader of Israel, instructed the Children of Israel to cross over the Jordan River’s parted water where the priests and Ark of the Covenant stood in the middle on dry ground. Leaders from each of Israel’s twelve tribes were to take a stone from the middle of the Jordan to the other side and construct a memorial place to honor God. When future generations would ask the Lutheran question **“What does this mean?”** the Children of Israel, entering the land of God’s covenant promise, would declare His marvelous works by answering: **“the powerful hand of the God of Israel did this--trust and follow Him!”** Your service and Spirit-blessed decisions as delegates, are also setting in place stones of remembrance as a witness now and to future generations. You are declaring the marvelous works of Almighty God by saying: **“This is how God brought our congregations and schools of the Mid-South District through hard times of testing, to give us endurance, confidence and strengthened trust in His goodness and mercy for continued ministry of the Gospel-- trust and follow Him!”**

Founded in 1966 as an LC-MS District, we’re thankful for God’s abundant goodness to us through both challenging and prospering times. By His grace, the strong example of District mission commitment in congregations, schools, and servant leaders who precede us, is passed to you now to “declare His marvelous works!” The Lord be with you in all that you do to His glory!

Pastor David Callies  
President Emeritus, Mid-South District

**A Greeting from Rev. Norman Groteluschen, *Mid-South District President Emeritus***

**Let Your Light Shine!**

OPEN by Singing Together **Hymn 582:**

God's Word is our great heritage  
And shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age  
Shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way,  
In death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,  
We keep its teachings pure  
Throughout all generations.

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

It has been a chaotic year: a year filled with tremendous challenges and changes, with a global pandemic turning lives upside down, COVID-19 spreading at a rapid pace, and now surrounded by a variety of vaccine options.

In view of the above I am taking the liberty of moving the 2021 Mid-South District Convention theme “Declare His Marvelous Works” (I Chronicles 16:24) into the darkened, disconnected, unchurched culture of the present time.

Stepping back to the time Jesus begins His ministry with the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew Chapter 5—following His proclaiming the Beatitudes—quickly in the 14<sup>th</sup> verse He states with clarity:

“14 You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

As we move deeper into the chaotic surroundings, my hope and prayer is that we understand our unique position in this world. We have the Gospel of our Lord Jesus, and we have the privilege of sharing the Good News with those who don’t know Jesus, sometimes referred to as “the lost.” Many formerly belonged to a Christian congregation but now have left for a variety of reasons, sometimes because the world in which we live has seduced them into believing that they no longer need a Savior.

This is our time to confess Christ in this and the next generation. This is the time and culture in which our Lord has deliberately placed us—a time for us to make a difference. This is our time to teach our children who Jesus is and what He has done for us. This is our God-given time to confess Christ to a “crooked and twisted generation” (Philippians 2:15). Each of us confesses Christ in all that we say and do. We are called to live as the people of God, forgiving and forgiven: “So let your light shine before people so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

How or when do we take the next steps?

- Perhaps it is with the neighbor who stays at home every Sunday morning.
- Perhaps it is with someone in line at the grocery store, disgruntled by the slowness.
- Perhaps it is with people at work or play.

Could it be that right time when the door opens to tell them about our Lord and Savior Jesus? However it goes, stay in focus and remember the Great Commission:

“19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Stay focused, so that every sinner—every dying person—may have safe passage into heaven and every tempted person may have protection against the devil. Stay focused on Jesus, the Name that is above every name.

In closing, I invite you to stand and sing together “This Little Gospel Light of Mine”:

This little Gospel light of mine  
I'm going to let it shine  
This little Gospel light of mine  
I'm going to let it shine  
This little Gospel light of mine  
I'm going to let it shine  
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

Hide it under a bushel? No!  
I'm going to let it shine  
Hide it under a bushel? No!  
I'm going to let it shine  
Hide it under a bushel? No!  
I'm going to let it shine  
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

Don't let Satan blow it out!  
I'm going to let it shine  
Don't let Satan blow it out!  
I'm going to let it shine  
Don't let Satan blow it out!  
I'm going to let it shine  
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

All around the neighborhood  
I'm going to let it shine  
All around the neighborhood  
I'm going to let it shine  
All around the neighborhood  
I'm going to let it shine  
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.



**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN TANZANIA  
BISHOP MAKALA'S REPORT TO THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION  
2 JULY 2021 MEMPHIS TN.**

**SOUTH EAST OF LAKE VICTORIA DIOCESE**

The Diocese was created on December 12, 2012 during the General Assembly at Macedonia Mwasele Parish at Shinyanga. This was necessary because of the large area being serviced by the East of Lake Victoria Diocese. (ELVD). South East of Lake Victoria Diocese (SELVD) is an arid area located south east of Lake Victoria, the population is 2,805,580 (2013) and the area covered is 50,781 Sq. KM or 19,601 sq. miles.

**Embarking On Mission Together**

Our diocese travelled together with Mid-South District for decades now for the purpose of doing outreach, equipping leaders, and developing our ministry partnership with local churches. The diocese received mission teams over the past more than 10 years sent from Mid-South District. It is such a joy to know and work with lay people, Pastors and leaders from Mid-South District doing church work closely together with a unique spirit of unity and mutual cooperation, which is truly inspiring to see.

Whenever a mission's team like ours is sent to work with us, this gives churches an opportunity to spread the word in the community and reach people that are otherwise much harder to reach through their normal means. Moreover, with our team working alongside their leadership teams we are able to very effectively reach into the community and connect newcomers with the Gospel.

**Expanding Our Diocese**

These years of partnership, we expanded our partnership to include a focus on church planting. It was amazing to see that at each year we had more than 1,000 people come to Jesus and baptized. The outreach continues through the local church for unchurched young adults, where we led worship, and shared the gospel through songs and the Word, more than 2,000 baptism are done per year through local churches.

**Reflecting Back on this Mission**

We know that Mid-South District has done a lot in our diocese for more than a decade now. You have annually intensive laboring for Christ's mission takes real physical effort and mental courage. And working and living with others takes patience! But more than that, it takes humility and a willingness to re-examine yourself before being critical of others.

And it is in this very passage we find Paul quoting Jesus' words: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (*Acts 20:35*). As we emptied ourselves out we were more than filled back up by all the love from your church as family in Christ! It is a beautiful thing to see and feel the bond of Christ and the unity of the Spirit!

Reflecting on Mission Training Centers where more than 300 lay people are trained and opened new churches where no Lutheran church is. We reflect of mission teams which brought new experience to the people and caused mission spirit to both Tanzania and USA. We keep and continue to train pastors and

deaconesses. We trained three cohorts of pastors and deaconess. We are now enrolled 25 and 10 deaconesses for this academic year 2021-2022. Church worker recruitment through our pastoral education office, and with the cooperation of the seminaries and leaders of the Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. We have sent students to Concordia Theological Seminary and three of them graduated in Doctor of Ministry, these are Dr. Daniel Mono, Dr. Yohana Nzelu and Bishop Emmanuel Joseph Makala. Rev Odulous Gyunda graduated for Master of Arts and we are now going to send four young men. Our diocese is well defined now as confessional direction; we joined International Lutheran Council. We therefore have theological fellowship with Mid-South District, this brings more hope fellowship in future.

### **Envisioning the Future**

We are discussing and praying about plans for the next mission team to be sent to Tanzania. There are new and exciting opportunities, including jointly sending our team with a team from Mid-South District to reach out to unreached in Tanzania. We will pray about future missions opportunities with us. We keep pray for more scholarships to Fort Wayne and other seminaries. We keep plant new churches and need to roof the churches and to help pastors for motorcycles. Need for more Bibles and volunteers for dispensary and school teachers. We keep our mutual praying to each other and to encourage each other. Special prayer for the challenge of COVID 19.

## **Greetings to the Mid-South District 2021 Convention.**

We, The Lutheran Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship (LIME), the only one Lutheran University in the southern region of Madagascar,

To the Highly Distinguished Personalities of The Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod (LCMS), being presented at this 2021 Convention,

To the members of the headquarters of the Mid-South District under the Presidency of His Excellency, the Reverend Dr. Roger Paavola,

To all members of this 2021 Convention,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all! (2 Corinthians 13:14).

It is a great honor and immense pleasure for the Lutheran Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship that I represent, by being the President of such University, to greet you all on the occasion of this 2021 Convention. In our desire to greet you, all of you, allow us to borrow this verse from Luke 1:28 saying, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you” (Lk 1:28). It is this 2021 Convention that we qualify as “the favored one”. Why? It is this 2021 Convention that is chosen by Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, to discuss and to decide what is healthy and good for His church through the varieties of gifts and of activities from His Holy Spirit. The Lord is with this Convention 2021 because Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church, has sent the Mid-South District to make disciples of all nations, starting from Jerusalem to the end of the world. Moreover, He has promised to be with the Mid-South District always to the end of the age.

We praise our Lord Jesus Christ for having chosen this time to make this 2021 Convention happen at this very place. We thank Him for having protected you all during your travel from home to here. We ask Him to lead you throughout all discussions under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We earnestly pray to Him that all decisions and directions taken by this 2021 Convention will be for the strength, the growth, and the maturity of the Mid-South District and consequently of the LCMS as a whole. We praise our Lord Jesus Christ for all of that.

To end our greetings, allow us to express this vision. Let the Mid-South District and the Lutheran Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship in Madagascar pray together and work together for the fructification of the partnership between them under the vision of doing mission through education in Madagascar and in the World.

Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Rev. DR. RANDRIANASOLO Joseph  
July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021  
Rector of LIME