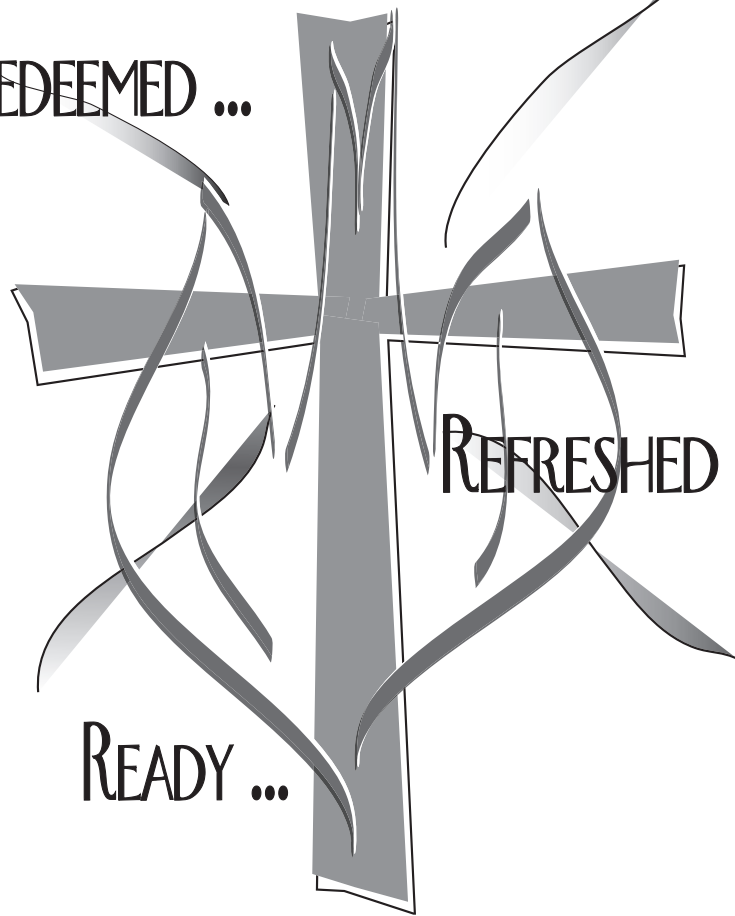


CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

REDEEMED ...



REFRESHED ...

READY ...

“CELEBRATING GOD’S FAITHFULNESS:
REDEEMED ... REFRESHED ... READY ...”

98TH MICHIGAN DISTRICT CONVENTION
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ANN ARBOR
JUNE 25–28, 2006

PROCEEDINGS AND BYLAWS

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THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT
LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD
3773 GEDDES ROAD
ANN ARBOR, MI 48105-3098

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Representing the 373 congregations and 221,554 souls of the Michigan District of the The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod, delegates and guests met together in the 98th Convention to “Celebrate God’s Faithfulness: Redeemed ... Refreshed ... Ready ...”

Enclosed in this book you’ll find a partial record of the Spirit’s work in and through us as we gathered June 25-28, 2006 on the campus of Concordia University, Ann Arbor. It is my hope that through the various reports, minutes and articles in these Proceedings you are able to experience somewhat the uplifting, positive atmosphere the Spirit provided for our worship, sessions and fellowship.

God is glorified when His people celebrate His faithfulness. I pray we’ll continue in the next triennium as we serve together in the Lord’s kingdom here in Michigan, and as we join together with fellow saints across our beloved Synod.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul D. Theiss".

Rev. Paul D. Theiss
District Secretary

OFFICERS

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President (2007)

1st Vice-President: Rev. Dr. William R. Diekelman (2007)

2nd Vice-President: Rev. Dr. Paul L. Maier (2007)

3rd Vice-President: Rev. Dr. Dean W. Nadasdy (2007)

4th Vice-President: Rev. Dr. Robert H. King (2007)

5th Vice-President: Rev. Dr. David D. Buegler (2007)

Secretary: Rev. Dr. Raymond L. Hartwig (2007)

VP Finance-Treasurer: Dr. Thomas W. Kuchta (2007)

THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Rev. Dr. C. William Hoesman, President (2009)

1st Vice-President: Rev. David P. E. Maier (2009)

2nd Vice-President: Rev. Dr. Wayne H. Wentzel (2009)

Secretary: Rev. David H. Reed (2009)

3rd Vice-President: Rev. Michael J. Roth (2009)

4th Vice-President: Rev. Dr. K. Frank Graves (2009)

Treasurer: Mr. William Young (2009)

COUNSELORS OF THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

(2009)

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Stephen E. Schilke | 16. Eric W. Majeski | 30. R. William Roper |
| 2. Robert L. Mikkelson | 17. Michael P. Schulz | 31. Ted N. Turanski |
| 3. Dean R. Muhle | 18. Alan P. Eisinger | 32. Timothy J. Brand |
| 4. William C. Winter | 19. John E. Merrill | 33. James E. Schroeder |
| 5. Paul V. Young | 20. Arnold H. Brammeier | 34. Robert D. Baerwolf |
| 6. William H. Allwardt | 21. Mark A. Griffin, Sr. | 35. Richard P. Laeder |
| 7. Kenneth D. Lueke | 22. Harold A. Avers | 36. Jeffrey E. Heimsoth |
| 8. Gerald A. Meyer | 23. Harry N. Edenfield | 37. Fred C. Krause |
| 9. Dale C. Ahlschwede | 24. Bruce K. Lucas | 38. Dennis L. Lassanske |
| 10. William W. Hessler | 25. Kurt E. Lambart | 39. Phillip A. Baerwolf |
| 11. Clifford F. Bira | 26. Terry A. Nelson | 40. Mark W. Love |
| 12. Larry M. Eckart | 27. Thomas M. Lubeck | 41. Thomas F. Meyer |
| 13. David H. Hensler | 28. Dale M. Kleimola | 42. Paul R. Naumann |
| 14. Gerhardt A. Doroh | 29. Larry G. Courson | 43. David E. Weiss |
| 15. George S. Bagnall | | 44. L. Daniel Johnson |

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES OF THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>Region</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Commissioned</u>	<u>Laypersons</u>	
Metro East: (2012)	Robert E. Kasper	Stanley R. Topel	John E. Held	Margaret O'Reilly
West: (2012)	Dieter E. Haupt	Richard C. Krueger	Ruth E. Martin	John C. Raffel
Metro West: (2009)	David P. Gohn	Harvey M. Schmit	Christine Chauvin	Duane A. Renken
North & East: (2009)	Mark D. Brandt	Henry M. Pickelman	Harold M. Braeutigam	Vacant

CHURCH EXTENSION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Commissioned</u>	<u>Laypersons</u>
Joel F. Hoyer (2012)	Ian McDonald (2012)	James R. Saalfield (2009)
Erwin Kostizen (2009)	Jodi L. Reinert (2009)	Ray A. Seppamaki (2012)
Michael J. Lutz (2012)		Kent R. Smith (2009)
		Ronald Wrightson (2009)

Staff: Ronald L. Steinke, President & CEO

Paul Wills, VP for Marketing

John Bates, VP & CFO

2009 CONVENTION NOMINATING COMMITTEE

<u>Region</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Commissioned</u>	<u>Laypersons</u>
Metro East:	Timothy A. Bickel	Gary L. Pawlitz	Phillip Fluegge
Metro West:	Joel H. Sarrault	Daniel Ramthun	Larry Seltz
North & East:	Paul R. Hinz	Richard P. Cohrs	John W. Nutzmann
West:	Robert B. Appold	Timothy L. Ernst	David Marasus

COMMISSION ON MINISTERIAL GROWTH AND SUPPORT

<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Laypersons</u>	<u>Commissioned</u>
Luke F. Stephan K. Frank Graves Timothy L. Mowry Mark W. Hetzner Gary Beck Mark C. Whittaker Bryan R. Salminen	James Anthony Roger Pickering Catherine Lick	Daniel Ramthun Kathy Krause Beverly Koch Ben Freudenburg

Ex-Officio: Rev. C. William Hoesman

COMMISSION ON DEACON QUALIFICATIONS

Rev. Warren Paulson Chris Brown Ted Beiderwieden	Dr. Robert Schultz, CHMN. Dr. Ronald Jahnke	Dr. Jim Boldt Bill Storm
--------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------

DISTRICT RECONCILERS: Rev. Gary L. Bender, Dee Ann Mulligan, Rev. Dale Kleimola

NEW/REVISED CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE: Rev. Lawrence Witto; Rev. David Huber; Mr. A. Wm. Rolf

DISTRICT LEGAL COUNSEL: Mr. Dana Dever

DISTRICT STANDING COMMITTEES

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: Mr. Ron Chewning, Rev. John Duerr, Ms. Cheryl Hammond, Mrs. Charlene Heins, Mr. Larry Rockensuess, Sr., Ms. Mary Smith

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Joel Bahr, Mr. Richard Cohrs, Mr. Ronald Dressler, Dr. John Herzog, Mr. Robert Hoch, Mr. Eric Pittman, Mr. Michael Rosin, Dr. Harvey Schmit, Mr. Roy Siefker, Mr. Charles Strohacker, Mr. David Truog, Mrs. Janice Weisenbach

DISTRICT COMMITTEES

President's Advisory Council on Endowments: Mr. Stephen List; Mr. Barry Olson; Mr. G. Joseph Pasman; Mr. Dennis Tischler; Mr. Martin Zehnder; Mr. John Kidwell; Mr. Chad Woltemath; Mr. William Young; Dr. C. William Hoesman

125th Campaign Steering Committee: Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer; Mr. Brad Flaaen; Dr. K. Frank Graves; Dr. John L. Heins; Mr. Roger Johr; Rev. Roger Kilponen; Mr. Gerald Kluck; Dr. David Maier; Dr. Paul Maier; Mr. David Marasus; Mr. Philip Moilanen; Mr. Karl Mueller; Mr. Barry Olson; Rev. Michael Roth; Dr. Richard Schlecht; Mr. Ronald Steinke; Dr. Wayne Wentzel; Mr. Robert Zeilinger; Mr. Richard Ziebart, Mr. Jack Kidwell, Ms. Elizabeth Ruediger, Dr. Peter Larsen, Mr. Chad Woltemath, Dr. C. William Hoesman

125th Anniversary Observance Committee: Mrs. Barbara Hoffmeier, Mrs. Barbara Hoesman, Dr. Barbara Adler, Mrs. Patricia Larsen, Rev. Eldor Bickel

PCW Ethics Task Force: Mr. John E. Brandt, Mr. Thomas Jaffke, Dr. George Locke, Mr. Keith Minda, Mrs. Susan Palka, Rev. Philip Quardokus, Rev. Luther Werth, Dr. C. William Hoesman

Congregation Ethics Task Force: Rev. Gary Beck, Mr. Bruce Braun, Dr. Perry Bresemann, Mr. William Kaiser, Rev. Kenneth Lueke, Mr. James Saalfeld, Dr. C. William Hoesman

Finance Committee: Mr. John Held, Dr. Robert Kasper, Mr. Henry Pickelmann, Mr. Jim Sack, Mr. Chad Woltemath, Mr. William Young

Ablaze Initiative Committee: Rev. David Davis-District Coordinator, Rev. Thomas Garrison, Ms. Carol Harris, Ms. Linda Hollman, Mr. Paul Lantz, Mr. Keith Minda, Ms. Pat Siems

Chaplaincy Standing Committee: Rev. Joel Kaiser, Dr. Dale Kleimola, Ms. Julie Nielsen

Chaplaincy Contact Committee: Rev. Edward H. Einem, Rev. W. Roger Stauffer, Rev. Luke Stephan

Children's Ministry Committee: Mrs. Cynthia Brown, Mr. John Hagge, Ms. Sharlene Kleinedler, Mrs. Susan Regner, Ms. Christine Stodola

Early Childhood Cabinet: Mrs. Kelley Fehn, Mrs. Deborah McDonald, Mr. Julian Petzold, Mrs. Miriam Sohn, Mrs. Dawn States, Mrs. Shirley Wallace, Mrs. Judy Williams

Educational Technology Committee: Mr. Barry Blomquist, Mrs. Ruth Golm, Mrs. Susan Herald, Mr. Alan Krause, Mr. Mark Schallhorn, Mrs. Janice Weisenbach

Health Advocates Task Force: Mrs. Caroline Klausmeier, Ms. Catherine Lick RN, Mrs. Michell Porisch RN

Hurricane Katrina Coordinators: Ms. Heidi Fowler-Henzi, Mrs. Denise Fuelling, Mrs. Karla Leidecker, Mr. Mark Schroeder, Ms. Rebecca Wrase

Junior High Committee: Mr. James Anderson, Mrs. Greta Bower, Mrs. Katherine Duvendeck, Mrs. Kristin Hardy, Ms. Brenda Heissenbuettel, Mr. Josh Kittleman, Mrs. Tarri Kober, Mrs. Michelle Kranz, Ms. Rachel Walsh

Lutheran Adult Gathering Steering Committee: Mrs. Judy Bearup, Mr. Richard Bearup, Mrs. Kitti Grund, Mr. Peter Grund, Ms. Marilyn Humphrey, Rev. John Rauh, Mrs. LaVerne Rauh, Mrs. Miriam Sohn, Mr. O. Dennis Sohn, Mr. Keith Waller, Mrs. Kim Waller

Mental Illness Task Force: Rev. Barton Gray, Mr. Orville Ritterling, Mrs. Carol Staudacher

School Accreditation Committee: Mrs. Janet Allen, Mr. Lester Altevogt, Dr. John Herzog, Mr. David Kusch, Mr. R. Warren Opel, Mr. Leslie Roth, Dr. Harvey Schmit, Mr. Roy Siefker, Mr. Charles Strohacker, Mr. Dale Vorwerk, Mr. Brian Young

Senior High Committee: Mr. James Anderson, Rev. James Bruner, Mr. Christopher Drager, Mrs. Janette Hart, Mr. Keith Minda, Mr. Eric Steinke

Sports & PE Education Association: Mrs. Denise Gieschen, Mr. Eric Hagenow, Dr. John Haubenstricker, Ms. Deanna Hollrah, Mrs. Joan Koerschen, Mrs. Stephanie Krueger, Mr. Joel Neumeyer, Mr. Mark Schiefer

LIST OF REGISTRANTS

by: Mr. Marshall Gibbs, Chairman of Registration

(This list contains only the names of those who actually registered and attended the convention. The entire list of professional church workers and congregations of the Michigan District appeared in the Convention Workbook and is not repeated here. An asterisk (*) before the name indicates shared voting responsibility.)

MINISTERS – ORDAINED - VOTING

Abatelli, Kirk - Cedar Crest, White Lake
Adams, Douglas M. - St. Paul's, Hillsdale
Ahlschwede, Dale C. - St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
Allen, Michael S. - St. Paul, Unionville
Allwardt, William H. - Zion, Bay City
Andrzejewski, Darryl L. - New Hope, Hudsonville
Appold, Robert B. - St. Matthew, Grand Rapids
Arndt, Warren B. - Faith, Troy
Astrowski, Leonard A. - Grace, Fairgrove
Avers, Harold A. - Greenfield Peace, Detroit
Azzam, Timothy P. - Trinity, Oscoda
Balzer, James G. - Emmanuel, Britton
Baseley, Joel R. - Emmanuel, Dearborn
Bassett, Carl W. - St. Paul, Niles
Batsky, Thomas E. - Trinity, St. Joseph
Beck, Gary L. - St. Mark, Flint
Benjamin, Scott E. - Resurrection, Detroit
Bennett, Robert H. - Our Savior, Benzonia
Bernthal, Kenneth G. - Christ, Boyne City
Bickel, Craig L. - Peace, Shelby Township
Bickel, Timothy A. - Redemption, Sterling Heights
Billings, Steven S. - Redford, Detroit
Blain, James H. - St. James, Grand Rapids
Boehne, Thomas V. - St. John's, Ludington
Boerger, Paul M. - St. Andrew, Memphis
Bogda, David W. - St. John, Ionia
Bookshaw, John A. - St. Peter, Big Rapids
Brand, Timothy J. - St. Michael's & All Angels, Traverse City
Brazinsky, Thomas R. - Trinity, Buchanan
Brueckner, Peter R. - Bethany, Detroit
Bruner, James R. - St. Paul, Millington
Brunworth, Todd J. - Trinity, Gaylord
Buckert, Mark P. - Good Shepherd, Saginaw
Buckhahn, Charles F. - Bethlehem, Saginaw
Burhop, Charles B. - St. Barnabas, Sault Ste. Marie
Bush, John L. - St. Paul, Trenton
Butler, Robert W. - Bethlehem, Lewiston
Cashmer, Terry L. - Christ The King, Southgate
Clark, J. Blair, Jr. - Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Township
Clark, Paul M. - St. Paul, Fowler
Claus, Terry A. - Faith, Highland
Clemons, Daniel F. - Trinity, Newberry & Paradise, Paradise
Collver, Albert B. - Hope, Dewitt
Courson, Larry G. - Peace, Ann Arbor
Crabtree, Bruce L. - Trinity, Monroe
Dancy, Paul B. - Our Saviour, Armada
Davenport, Dean M. - Trinity, Reed City
Davis, David A. - St. Luke, Haslett
Dodge, David A. - Our Savior, Union City
Doenges, Joseph C. - Immanuel, St. Clair
Draeger, Jeffrey G. - Our Redeemer, Washington
Duerr, John M. - Hope, Warren
Dumbrille, Dean G. - Trinity, Fenton
Duncan, Randall S. - Living Word, Plymouth
Eberhard, David - Historic Trinity, Detroit
Eckart, Lawrence M. - Hope, Linden
Eichberger, Timothy M. - Faith, Port Huron
Eilers, Gregory J. - St. John, Port Hope
Eisinger, Alan P. - Holy Cross, Warren
Fanning, Corliss A. - Hazel Park, Hazel Park
Ferguson, Jack D. - Faith, Hawks
Filter, Edward W. - St. Andrew, Portland
Fischer, Thomas F. - Gethsemane, Rochester Hills
Fremer, Joseph - Good Shepherd, Lowell
Fritz, Jeffrey M. - Bethlehem, Roseville
Gadbaw, David R. - Lutheran Church Of The Lakes, Addison
Galik, Karl E. - St. John, Rochester
Garred, Matthew M. - Trinity, Reese
Garrett, Dion T. - St. Matthew, Walled Lake
Garrison, Thomas B. - Shepherd In The Pines, Harbor Springs
Gerke, Robert A. - St. Paul, Caledonia
Gillaspie, Wesley S. - St. Michael's, Richville
Girardin, Mark E. - Zion, Harbor Beach
Gnewuch, Carl M. - Our Shepherd, Birmingham
Grafe, Stephen D. - Cross Of Christ, Bloomfield Hills
Graves, K. Frank - Shepherd Of The Lakes, Brighton
Griffin, Mark A., Sr. - Berea, Detroit
Grimm, Dale A. - Our Savior, Chelsea
Grimm, David A. - St. Paul, Colon & St. Paul, Centreville
Gruenhagen, Andrew D. - Hope, St. Helen
Grulke, Galen E. - Heart of the Shepherd, Howell
Hahn, Daniel A., Jr. - Immanuel, Sebewaing
Hamilton, George O. - Cross & Resurrection, Ann Arbor
Haupt, Dieter E. - St. John, Grand Haven
Heidt, Brian F. - St. Philip, Owosso
Heimsoth, Jeffrey E. - St. Peter, St. Johns
Helms, Steven C. - Holy Redeemer, Dryden
Hensler, David H. - St. Timothy, Otisville
Herrod, J. Robert - Redeemer, Saginaw
Herter, Paul W. - Hope, Adrian
Hessler, William W. - Faith, Bridgeport
Hetzner, Mark W. - St. Thomas, Eastpointe
Hillenbrand, Richard P. - Christ, Birch Run
Hinz, Paul R. - Peace, Saginaw
Hoeser, Terry E. - Messiah, Grand Rapids
Hopkins, Paul G. - St. Michael, Rogers City
Hoyer, Joel F. - Grace, Coopersville
Huber, David G. - Our Master, Inkster
James, Roger B. - Zion, Marshall
Jansen, Daniel L. - Bethlehem, Standish
Johnson, Randy L. - Mount Hope, Allen Park
Jones, Kevin C. - Peace, Rogers City
Jung, David A. - St. John, Pinconning
Kassen, John E. - Living Word, Rochester
Kayser, John W. - Peace, Ludington & Lighthouse, Pentwater
Kenny, Douglas G. - Zion, Petoskey
Khan, Khurram M. - All Nations, Dearborn Heights
Kilponen, Roger R. - St. Paul, Flint
Kolzow, Calvin J., Jr. - Trinity, Sturgis
Kopper, Glenn P. - Bethel, Grandville
Kostizen, Erwin - Messiah, Clio
Koy, Norman A. - Trinity, Utica

Krengel, Douglas A. - Trinity, Jackson
 Kroll, Micheal D. - Faith, Whitehall
 Krueger, James F. - St. Trinity, Clarkston
 Laeder, Richard P. - Trinity, Lansing
 Lahrman, William C. - St. Luke, Nunica
 Lambart, Kurt E. - St. Matthew, Westland
 Langewisch, John E. - Messiah, Midland
 Lassanske, Dennis L. - Trinity, Muskegon
 Leidich, Kevin L. - Prince Of Peace, Clare
 Lett, Randy D. - St. Peter's, Richmond
 Loest, Mark A. - Immanuel, Saginaw
 Loewe, Timothy J. - Holy Cross, Saginaw
 Lubeck, Thomas M. - St. Paul, Northville
 Lucas, Bruce K. - Immanuel, Monroe
 Lueke, Kenneth D. - Our Savior, Bad Axe
 Lunneberg, Allen D. - St. Mark's, West Bloomfield
 Lutz, Michael J. - Immanuel, Macomb
 Mabry, Gilbert R. - United in Christ, Flint
 Mahlburg, Steven C. - Zion, Tawas City
 Maier, David P. E. - Our Savior, Lansing
 Majeski, Eric W. - Grace Lutheran Fellowship, Romeo
 Mandley, Jason L. - St. John, Hillman
 Manor, Jonathan J. - Hosanna-Tabor, Redford
 Matro, Lawrence K. - Immanuel, Leland
 Mayes, Benjamin T. G. - Our Savior, Grand Rapids
 Meckes, Daniel C. - Faith, Bay City
 Merrell, William D. - Peace, Waterford
 Messer, Thomas C. - Peace, Alma
 Meyer, Edward A. - St. Mark, Saginaw
 Meyer, Gerald A. - Good Shepherd, Cass City
 Meyer, Jonathan D. - St. John, Kilmanagh & St. Peter, Bach
 Meyer, Thomas F. - St. Mark, Kentwood
 Mikkelson, Robert L. - St. Paul, Herron
 Miller, Gary L. - Trinity, Berrien Springs
 Miller, Kirk D. - Grace, Canton
 Morris, William L. - Immanuel, Alpena
 Muecke, Dan W. - Atonement, Dearborn
 Muhle, Dean R. - St. Paul, Hale
 Mundt, Richard E. - St. Peter, Hemlock
 Naumann, Paul R. - St. Michael, Portage
 Nehring, Gary L. - St. John, Au Gres
 Nelson, Terry A. - Cross Of Christ, South Lyon
 Nemecek, Donald P. - Grace, Elk Rapids
 Neuendorf, Donald O. - St. Paul, Ann Arbor
 Neujahr, Troy - Our Saviour, Hudson
 Nevis, E. Enwood - Faith, Prescott
 Nickel, Peter S. - Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods
 Nihiser, James L. - Good Shepherd, Caseville
 Nowak, Thomas M. - St. Paul, Buchanan
 Olson, Timothy W. - First, Charlotte
 Pape, Richard E. - Christ, Milford
 Parent, Raymond D. - Hope, Bellaire
 Poellet, Dean R. - St. Matthew, Holt
 Pohanka, John C. - St. John's, Midland
 Prout, David L. - Trinity, Berkley
 Putz, David L. - St. Peter, Kinde
 Quardokus, Philip G. - Christ, Stevensville
 Rahn, Dennis D. - Trinity, Manistee
 Rebert, Terry J. - Crown Of Life, Rochester Hills
 Reed, David H. - Grace, Auburn
 Reich, Arthur W. - Good Shepherd, Ossineke
 Reith, Samuel B. - Zion, Mount Pleasant
 Richert, Cary M. - Redeemer, Birmingham
 Richter, James F. - Open Arms, Belleville
 Rippy, Sean L. - Mount Olive, Grand Rapids
 Robinson, Richard E. - Epiphany, Detroit
 Roth, Michael J. - St. Peter's, Eastpointe

Rufner, David J. - Holy Cross, Flushing
 Salminen, Bryan R. - Emmanuel, Cadillac
 Sarrault, Joel H. - St. John, Adrian
 Schaedig, Michael W. - St. Luke, Harrison
 Schaeffer, Kendall L. - Trinity, Sawyer
 Scheer, Ronald P. - Christ The King, Lambertville
 Schilke, Stephen E. - Holy Cross, Onaway
 Schindel, Bryan K. - St. Luke, Ann Arbor
 Schleicher, John C. - Christ Our Savior, Holland
 Schmidt, David P. - St. John, New Boston
 Schneider, Carl W. - St. Mark, Battle Creek
 Schneider, Keith A. - St. John, Cheboygan
 Schneider, Paul H. - Chapel Of The Lakes, Mecosta
 Schouweiler, James A. - Redeemer, Fremont
 Schreiber, John R. - St. John, Rogers City
 Schroeder, James E. - Our Savior, Scottville
 Schroeder, Thomas L. - Christ Our King, Saline
 Schultz, Jeremy J. A. - St. Paul, Royal Oak
 Schultz, Randall P. - Our Savior, Flint
 Schultz, Ronald C. - Grace, Monroe
 Schulz, Charles R. - St. Thomas, Ann Arbor
 Schulz, Michael P. - Holy Cross, Oxford
 Schwartz, John W. - St. Stephen's, Shelby
 Seeber, Timothy W. - Zion, Kalamazoo
 Sheldon, Barry C. - St. Matthew, Lexington
 Sherouse, M. Samuel, Jr. - Messiah, Saginaw
 Sherry, David F. - Trinity, Bay City
 Sidwell, David H. - Immanuel, Kalamazoo
 Siefert, Gary L. - St. Paul, Battle Creek
 Sikora, E. Anthony - Good Shepherd, Middleville
 Smith, Bradley A. - St. John, Fraser
 Smith, Kelly D., Sr. - St. Mark, Brooklyn
 Spence, Kenneth M. - Trinity, Wyandotte
 Starke, Stephen P. - St. John, Bay City
 Steeh, Edward J. - St. John, New Haven
 Steele, Cameron K. - St. Paul, Caro
 Stolarczyk, Steven M. - Zion, Auburn
 Stowe, Douglas J. - St. Stephen, Waterford
 Straub, John A. - Peace, Detroit
 Straub, Roger K. - Good Shepherd, Lansing
 Strefling, Allen R. - Salem, Coloma
 Teuscher, Michael L. - Bethany, Charlevoix
 Theiss, Paul D. - St. Paul, Bay City
 Thiel, Steven E. - Mount Hope, Grayling
 Thompson, Bert A. - St. Luke, Clinton Township
 Thoms, Leo G. - St. John, Port Sanilac
 Tino, Richard L. - Peace, Sandusky
 Todd, Kelly D. - Christ, Goodrich
 Tritten, Eric E. - Good Shepherd, Lake Orion
 Turanski, Ted N. - St. Paul, Kalkaska
 Ulm, David M. - Good Shepherd, New Baltimore
 Verity, Timothy M. - Immanuel, Grand Rapids
 Voigt, Eric W. - Immanuel, Rogers City
 Waddell, James A. - St. Paul, Albion
 Wagener, Kenneth C. - St. Peter, Macomb
 Wagner, Ainslie B. - St. Peter, Petersburg
 Wagner, Robert V. - St. Peter, Fair Haven
 Warsinski, Larry A. - Immanuel, Wheeler
 Weiss, David E. - St. Paul, Cassopolis
 Wenskay, Lee C. - St. Paul, Pigeon
 Wentzel, Wayne H. - Faith, Grand Blanc
 Wenzel, Alsen K. - Bethel, Howard City
 Werth, Luther A. - Christ Our Savior, Livonia
 Westra, John - Zion, Holland
 Whitfield, Alexander - Christ The Good Shepherd, Canton
 Whittaker, Mark C. - Trinity, Paw Paw
 Wilber, James G. - Peace, Flint

Wilhelm, Jeffrey M. - Mount Calvary, Greenville
 Williams, Rodger L. - Divine Shepherd, Ann Arbor
 Williamson, Kenneth L. - Calvary, Carson City
 Wilson, Richard G. - Trinity, Minden City
 Winter, William C. - St. John, Houghton Lake
 Wise, Kenneth M. - Trinity, Clinton Township
 Wonderly, Daniel A. - Pilgrim, Burton
 Woodring, Daniel H. - Prince Of Peace, New Buffalo
 Wurst, Robert W., Jr. - St. Pauls, Cedar
 Yops, Bradley J. - Newlife Community, Swartz Creek
 Young, Paul V. - St. Paul, Sanford
 Young, Ronald L. - St. Martin, Birch Run
 Zagore, Robert M. - Trinity, Traverse City
 Zeile, Richard A. - St. John's, Taylor
 Zeuschner, David W. - Salem National, Westland

MINISTERS-ORDAINED-ADVISORY

Adler, David L. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Ahlersmeyer, Thomas R. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Aumann, Roger F. - Emeritus, Canton
 Baerwolf, Phillip A. - St. John, Grand Haven
 Bakker, Jonathan J. - Zion, Mount Pleasant
 Bayer, Robert F. - Christ Our Savior, Livonia
 Bender, Gary L. - St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
 Bendewald, Jon D. - Immanuel, Bridgman
 Bickel, Eldor F. - Emeritus, Dimondale
 Bira, Clifford F. - Holy Cross, Flushing
 Bjorgaard, Jon A. - Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Township
 Boerger, Charles F. - Emeritus, Rochester Hills
 Bowditch, Mark A. - Missionary at Large
 Brammeier, Arnold H. - Emeritus, Detroit
 Brandt, Mark D. - St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
 Brown, Robert E. - Emeritus, New Era
 Burow, E. Paul - Emeritus, Macomb
 Canion, Matthew J. - Holy Cross, Warren
 Creeden, Anthony - Christ Our Savior, Livonia
 DeMeritt, Carl F., Jr. - Chaplain
 Doroh, Gerhardt A. - St. Peter's, Richmond
 Dunseth, Thomas W. - Our Savior Deaf, Birmingham
 Edenfield, Harry N. - Christ The King, Southgate
 Einem, Edward H. - Emeritus, Livonia
 Elowsky, Earl W. - Emeritus, Hillman
 Erber, David M. - Missionary
 Erickson, James D. - Immanuel, Alpena
 Essenburg, Steven J. - Lutheran City Ministries, Detroit
 Fairbairn, Christopher D. - St. Paul, Northville
 Fluegge, Wilton H. - Emeritus, Macomb
 Frusti, Todd L. - St. Paul, Trenton
 Fuhlbrigge, Karl A. - Emeritus, Monroe
 Garrison, Bradley G. - Newlife Community, Swartz Creek
 Gatz, William A. - Emeritus, Jackson
 Geary, Duane O. - Emeritus, Redford
 Gill, John M. - All Nations, Dearborn Heights
 Grafe, William C. - Emeritus, Orchard Lake
 Gray, Barton C. - Emeritus, Alpena
 Gray, Roosevelt, Jr. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Grimm, Gerald E. - Project Compassion
 Guettler, Ronald H. - Emeritus, Royal Oak
 Haenftling, James F. - Emeritus, Mancelona
 Hakes, David E. - Emeritus, Reese
 Heckert, Jakob K. - Emeritus, Ann Arbor
 Heins, John L. - Past District President
 Heintz, Norman H. - Emeritus, Shelby
 Heise, Matthew W. - Missionary
 Henneman, Harry C. - Emeritus, Algonac
 Hoesman, C. William - District President
 Hollender, David E. - Emeritus, Caro

Hoover, Chad E. - Trinity, Traverse City
 Janetzke, Douglas K. - St. John's, Midland
 Kaiser, Joel C. - St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
 Kelly, Bradley - Christ, Stevensville
 Khan, Amer M. - All Nations, Dearborn Heights
 Khan, Farrukh M. - All Nations, Dearborn Heights
 Kinne, Lawrence A. - Emeritus, Novi
 Koeppen, Robert D. - Emeritus, Midland
 Krause, Fred C. - Emeritus, Trufant
 Kromer, John C. - Emeritus, Mullett Lake
 Larsen, Peter E. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Low, M. Robert - Emeritus, Mesick
 Masih, Afzal - Messiah, Grand Rapids
 Maske, Steven R. - St. Paul, Flint
 McDonald, Gilbert K. - Lutheran High Northwest, Rochester Hills
 Merrill, John E. - St. John, Fraser
 Meyer, Craig M. - Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Township
 Milatz, Mark D. - Shepherd Of The Lakes, Brighton
 Moldenhauer, Paul M. - St. Matthew, Walled Lake
 Olsen, Roy C. - Our Savior, Lansing
 Paulson, Warren L. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Penhallegon, Philip W. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Pool, Charles H. - Emeritus, Cedar
 Prouty, Albert I. - Emeritus, Taylor
 Rahn, Robert L. - Lutheran Heritage Foundation
 Richert, Paul O. - Emeritus, Ann Arbor
 Rockrohr, Carl E. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Ruediger, Paul G. - Emeritus, Rose City
 Sattelmeyer, Glenn - Emeritus, Rochester Hills
 Scherbarth, Ray E. - Our Shepherd, Birmingham
 Schlecht, Richard L. - Past District President
 Schoof, Armond D. - Emeritus, Monroe
 Schroeder, Roy P. - Emeritus, East Lansing
 Schwieger, Alan J. - Immanuel, St. Clair
 Shuta, Richard J. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Staudacher, Theodore L. - Emeritus, Lake Leelanau
 Stauffer, W. Roger - Chaplain
 Sundaradhas, Arul John A. - All Nations, Dearborn Heights
 Timm, Luke R. - St. John, Rochester
 Unger, Ralph E. - Emeritus, Warren
 Voorhees, David L. - Emeritus, Lansing
 Walther, Galan D. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Weber, Kurt A. - Messiah, Midland
 Werner, Paul G. - Missionary at Large
 Winningham, David C. - University Lutheran Chapel, Ann Arbor
 Witt, Lynn F. - Emeritus, Romeo
 Witto, Lawrence E. - Emeritus, Fenton
 Wolff, Paul A. - Candidate, Southfield
 Wolfram, Richard J. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor

LAY DELEGATES - VOTING

Addison, Lutheran Church Of The Lakes - Wyman, Ron
 Allen Park, Mount Hope - Yowler, Michelle
 Alpena, Immanuel - Kersten, Alfred
 Alpine Township, Family of Christ - Harmelink, Paul
 Ann Arbor, St. Luke - Geyer, Phil
 Ann Arbor, St. Paul - Schroeder, Edward G.
 Ann Arbor, St. Thomas - Stierle, Neil
 Armada, Our Saviour - Hogan, Daniel
 Au Gres, St. John - Hegenauer, Richard
 Auburn, Grace - Pfannes, Donald M.
 Auburn, Zion - Engelhardt, Leroy
 Bad Axe, Our Savior - Matthias, Marilyn
 Baldwin, Grace - Alliston, Thomas A.
 Battle Creek, St. Mark - Wetherill, Timothy
 Battle Creek, St. Paul - Jones, Randy
 Bay City, Faith - Klepser, George

Bay City, St. John - Rohde, Thomas C.
 Bay City, St. Paul - Schmidt, Roy A.
 Bay City, Trinity - Walter, Lyle
 Bay City, Zion - Little, Ray
 Bellaire, Hope - Daugherty, Donald
 Belleville, Open Arms - Bruner, Taylor
 Benzonia, Our Savior - Peters, Doug
 Berkley, Trinity - Drum, Glory D.
 Berrien Springs, Trinity - Miller, Darlene
 Big Rapids, St. Peter - Wilkinson, Mike
 Birch Run, Christ - Raymond, Robin
 Birch Run, St. Martin - Bender, Brent
 Birmingham, Our Shepherd - Ihnen, Marvin
 Birmingham, Redeemer - Mammel, David
 Bloomfield Hills, Cross Of Christ - Boergert, Steve
 Boyne City, Christ - Ritter, Shirley
 Bridgeport, Faith - Dickhausen, Michael
 Bridgman, Immanuel - Vigansky, Gerald
 Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes - Brown, Christine
 Britton, Emmanuel - Harris, Elizabeth
 Brooklyn, St. Mark - Hubbard, Jim
 Buchanan, Trinity - Trapani, Vincent
 Burr Oak, St. John - Ware, Raymond
 Cadillac, Emmanuel - Gonder, J. Alden
 Caledonia, St. Paul - Browne, Bill
 Canton, Christ The Good Shepherd - Brown, Alex
 Caro, St. Paul - Isenberg, Bob
 Carson City, Calvary - Zamarron, Mark
 Caseville, Good Shepherd - Henne, Robert
 Cass City, Good Shepherd - Balzer, Daniel H.
 Cassopolis, St. Paul - Frechette, David
 Cedar, St. Pauls - Barcey, Scott
 Centreville, St. Paul's - Snook, Berton
 Charlevoix, Bethany - Kehrer, Steven
 Charlotte, First - Arends, Herman
 Cheboygan, St. John - Grahl, Elroy
 Chelsea, Our Savior - Riske, John
 Clarkston, St. Trinity - Remus, Willis W.
 Clinton Township, St. Luke - Saal, Thomas
 Clinton Township, Trinity - Kennedy, Gordon
 Clio, Messiah - Nutzmam, John W.
 Coldwater, St. Paul - Dimmick, Jerry
 Coloma, Salem - Strunk, Luke
 Coopersville, Grace - Seppamaki, Ray
 Dearborn Heights, All Nations - Rafiq, Asher
 Dearborn, Atonement - Kohtz, June
 Dearborn, Emmanuel - Schott, William M.
 Dearborn, Guardian - Oberly, Dennis G.
 Detroit, Greenfield Peace - Davis, Carolyn
 Detroit, Historic Trinity - Goddard, Randall
 Detroit, Mount Calvary - Buchanan, Judith
 Detroit, Peace - Straub, Suzanne R.
 Detroit, Redford - Lapham, Warren V.
 Detroit, Resurrection - Schneider, George R.
 Detroit, St. Philip - Moore, Angela
 Detroit, St. Stephen - Lynch, Stephanie
 Dewitt, Hope - Ruiz, Kathy
 Dryden, Holy Redeemer - Nieman, Ronald
 East Lansing, Ascension - Haubenstricker, John
 Eastpointe, St. Peter's - Thomas, Brad A.
 Eastpointe, St. Thomas - Meyer, Robert W.
 Fairgrove, Grace - Reinbold, Aaron
 Farmington Hills, St. Paul's - Ritterling, Orville
 Fenton, Trinity - Franke, H. Wayne
 Flint, Our Savior - Bailey, Wayne
 Flint, Peace - Healey, Cliff
 Flint, St. Mark - Gutgesell, George
 Flint, United in Christ - Petee, Ken
 Flushing, Holy Cross - Rice, Jerry
 Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz - Howe, James
 Fraser, St. John - Huser, Dennis W.
 Fremont, Redeemer - Witham, Allen
 Gaylord, Trinity - Beasinger, Wally
 Goodrich, Christ - Putz, Leo L.
 Grand Blanc, Faith - Craw, Emily
 Grand Haven, St. John - Ritter, Gordon
 Grand Rapids, Immanuel - Saalfeld, James R.
 Grand Rapids, Messiah - Tank, Richard L.
 Grand Rapids, Our Savior - Iseler, Earl A.
 Grand Rapids, St. James - Heldt, Albert
 Grand Rapids, St. Matthew - Martin, Michael
 Grayling, Mount Hope - Friedrich, Michael
 Greenville, Mount Calvary - Hildebrand, Greg
 Hale, St. Paul - Carmichael, James J.
 *Harbor Beach, Zion - Buchholz, Gary/Haas, Bill
 Harbor Springs, Shepherd In The Pines - Garrison, Sara
 Harrison, St. Luke - Martin, James
 Haslett, St. Luke - Nash, Arthur Jr.
 Hawks, Faith - Ferguson, Kathryn
 Hemlock, St. Peter - Bluemer, James
 Hemlock, Zion - Neuenfeldt, Jerry
 Herron, St. Paul - Neddermeyer, Bill
 Highland, Faith - Schnueringer, Ray
 Hillsdale, St. Paul's - Sager, Richard
 *Holland, Christ Our Savior - Klug, John/Vizithum, Jean
 Holland, Zion - Westra, Nancy
 Holt, St. Matthew - Schmidt, William
 Houghton Lake, St. John - Pedersen, Richard
 Howard City, Bethel - Yanke, Lowell
 Howell, Heart of the Shepherd - Fosdick, Mark
 Hudsonville, New Hope - Poet, Thomas E.
 Inkster, Our Master - Eminger, Richard
 Interlochen, Redeemer - Strunk, John
 Ionia, St. John - Morrison-Cotter, Merrilee
 Jackson, Redeemer - Britton, Craig
 Jackson, Trinity - Bell, James J.
 Jenison, Holy Cross - Young, William H.
 Kalamazoo, Zion - Horensky, George
 Kentwood, St. Mark - Pillsbury, Paul E.
 Kinde, St. Peter - Brade, Donald E.
 Lake Orion, Good Shepherd - Lobser, Donald
 Lambertville, Christ The King - Brown, Ernest
 *Lansing, Good Shepherd - Bailey, David/Herbstreit, John
 Lansing, Our Savior - Sohn, O. Dennis
 Lansing, Trinity - Bohlmann, Jonathan
 Lapeer, St. Paul - Sturm, Raymond T.
 Leland, Immanuel - Spinniken, Don
 Lewiston, Bethlehem - Arego, Douglas A.
 Lexington, St. Matthew - Miller, Wayne E.
 Linden, Hope - Awrylo, Alexander L.
 Livonia, Christ Our Savior - Gogolin, Melvin K.
 Ludington, St. John's - Abel, Ken
 Macomb, Immanuel - Thompson, Robert
 Macomb, St. Peter - Fitzpatrick, John
 Manistee, Trinity - Brant, Steven
 Marshall, Zion - Helenbart, Helen M.
 Mecosta, Chapel Of The Lakes - Kerwood, Ronald
 Mesick, Faith - Diefenbach, John C.
 Middleville, Good Shepherd - Mitteer, John R.
 Midland, Messiah - Kreil, Dennis
 Midland, Our Savior - Schmidt, Ron
 Milan, St. Paul - Bassett, Jeremy
 Milford, Christ - Drach, George
 Millington, St. Paul - Platt, Jeff

Minden City, Trinity - Collick, Gar
 Monroe, Grace - Younglove, David
 Monroe, Holy Ghost - Kregel, Dale
 Monroe, Immanuel - Lucas, Krista M.
 Monroe, Trinity - Atkinson, Patty L.
 Mount Pleasant, Zion - Gust, Dale D.
 Muskegon, St. Mark - Koppel, Alexander
 Muskegon, Trinity - Werner, Ernest
 New Baltimore, Christ - Brady, Richard
 New Boston, St. John - Spiecker, William
 New Buffalo, Prince Of Peace - Woodring, Jinger
 New Haven, St. John - Crawford, John H.
 Newberry, Trinity - Brown, John
 Niles, St. Paul - Douglas, David
 North Branch, New Life In Christ - Helwig, Elizabeth
 Northville, St. Paul - Young, Beth
 Onaway, Holy Cross - Hoffman, Al
 Onekama, Trinity - Hanson, Diane
 Oscoda, Trinity - Azzam, Kathy L.
 Ossineke, Good Shepherd - Kuffert, Douglas
 Otisville, St. Timothy - Coon, Ken
 Oxford, Holy Cross - Dingman, Roger
 Paw Paw, Trinity - Maya, Sandy
 Pentwater, Lighthouse - Kayser, Kaaren
 Petersburg, St. Peter - Breitner, Robert
 Petoskey, Zion - Luepnitz, Carl
 Pigeon, St. Paul - Sauer, James
 Pinckney, Trinity - Menning, John
 Pinconning, St. John - Herbolsheimer, Glen
 Port Hope, St. John - Schave, Ken
 Port Huron, Faith - Hazelton, Richard
 Port Huron, Trinity - Warren, Brian K.
 Portage, St. Michael - Mwakasisi, Frank
 Portland, St. Andrew - Dennis, Ann K.
 Prescott, Faith - Wenkel, Mark
 Redford, Hosanna-Tabor - Cochran, Robert L.
 Reese, Trinity - Brechtelsbauer, Doug
 Richmond, St. Peter's - Jaques, James R.
 Richville, St. Michael's - Trombley, Jay
 Rochester Hills, Crown Of Life - Lewerenz, Kris
 Rochester Hills, Gethsemane - Wuori, James
 Rochester, Living Word - Grebe, Jon
 Rochester, St. John - Guetzkow, Roger
 Rogers City, Immanuel - Grainger, Donald
 Rogers City, Peace - Schaedig, David
 Rogers City, St. John - Schaedig, Donald C.
 Rogers City, St. Michael - Schalk, Wayne
 Romeo, Grace Lutheran Fellowship - Schuessler, Howard
 Royal Oak, St. Paul - Ainsworth, Larry
 Saginaw, Bethlehem - Sowatsky, Norman W.
 Saginaw, Good Shepherd - Haubenstricker, Harvey A.
 Saginaw, Holy Cross - David, Ken
 Saginaw, Immanuel - Klammer, Kenneth
 Saginaw, Peace - Hinz, Sally
 Saginaw, Redeemer - Winistrorf, William
 Saline, Christ Our King - Hodges, Jonathon E.
 Sand Lake, Resurrection - Hefty, Karen
 Sandusky, Peace - Wing, Daniel
 Sanford, St. Paul - Burnison, Robert L.
 Sawyer, Trinity - Benke, David
 Sebewaing, Immanuel - Bumhoffer, Charles
 Sebewaing, St. John - Kern, Richard
 Shelby Township, Peace - Sturos, Ted
 Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate - Zauel, Norman
 South Lyon, Cross Of Christ - Blackwell, Paul A.
 Southgate, Christ The King - Creutz, William J.
 Spring Lake, St. Matthew - Boice, William L.

St. Charles, Nativity - Mallory, Richard R
 St. Clair, Immanuel - McCarty, William
 St. Johns, St. Peter - Burgess, John
 St. Joseph, Trinity - Barnes, Jack
 Standish, Bethlehem - Johnson, Kenneth A.
 Sterling Heights, Redemption - Tash, David
 Stevensville, Christ - Panzica, Joe
 Sturgis, Salem - Miller, Juanita
 Sturgis, Trinity - Hile, Robert
 Tawas City, Zion - Trautner, Albert E.
 Taylor, Our Redeemer - Zorn, Tom
 Taylor, St. John's - Olson, Gordon E.
 Traverse City, St. Michael's & All Angels - Haughn, Ed
 Traverse City, Trinity - Schultz, William
 Trenton, St. Paul - Stevenson, Thomas
 Union City, Our Savior - Nighswander, Lydia
 Unionville, St. Paul - Balzer, Melvin S.
 Utica, Trinity - Terey, Roger
 Warren, Holy Cross - Paselk, Peter
 Warren, Hope - Merte, David C.
 Washington, Our Redeemer - Rang, George Jr.
 Waterford, Peace - Kitzman, Orville
 Waterford, St. Stephen - Koschmann, Jonathan E.
 Wayne, St. Michael - Renard, Alfred H.
 West Bloomfield, St. Mark's - Nelson, Kent
 West Branch, St. John - Schilke, Ervin E.
 Westland, Salem National - Zeuschner, Ruth
 Wheeler, Immanuel - Neitzke, Walter C.
 White Lake, Cedar Crest - Storm, Henry J.
 Whitehall, Faith - Tischler, Dennis
 Whittemore, Good News Ministries - Rohn, Jack L.
 Wyandotte, Trinity - Gerring, Norm
 Ypsilanti, Faith - Mathena, Marvin

MINISTERS – COMMISSIONED - ADVISORY

Adler, Barbara J. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Allen, Ronald M. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Altevogt, Lester L. - St. Peter, Hemlock
 Anderson, Kelly E. - Lutheran High Westland, Westland
 Aufdemberge, Theodore P. - Emeritus, Dexter
 Auger, Robert G. - Our Savior, Bad Axe
 Azzopardi, Karie R. - Peace, Waterford
 Barz, Daniel S. - Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ
 Bauer, Jason C. - Redeemer, Interlochen
 Beardsley, Ronald L. - Emeritus, Howell
 Beethe, Ivan R. - Trinity, Conklin
 Bender, Edgar L. - Emeritus, Manistee
 Bergman, Delia A. - Emeritus, Manistee
 Bergman, Henry W. - Emeritus, Manistee
 Bickel, Elaine C. - St. Paul, Millington
 Bickel, Randall J. - Immanuel, Sebewaing
 Bode, Timothy A. - Christ The King, Southgate
 Brandt, John M. - Saginaw Valley Lutheran High School
 Braun, Bruce N. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Brown, David C. - Lutheran High South, Newport
 Callies, Bernhard J. - Emeritus, Detroit
 Cohrs, Richard P. - Immanuel, Sebewaing
 Dash, Russell W. - St. Matthew, Westland
 DeMeyere, Roger - Lutheran Special Education Ministries
 Difatta, Rebecca L. - Christ The King, Southgate
 Dwyer, Garnet P. - Emeritus, Mesick
 Edenfield, Marilyn J. - Emeritus, Riverview
 Erber, Glenn R. - Emeritus, Jackson
 Ernst, Cynthia S. - Non-Candidate
 Ernst, Timothy L. - Trinity, St. Joseph
 Fish, Dale W. - St. John, Bay City
 Florip, Eunice E. - Emeritus, Grand Rapids

Garrabrant, Steven A. - Lutheran High South, Newport
 Genig, Dennis K. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Gerds, Fredrick A. - Emeritus, Royal Oak
 Gibson, Lisette L. - St. Paul, Bay City
 Gierach, Raymond C. - Lutheran High North, Macomb
 Grae, Glenn G. - Faith, Bay City
 Haab, Keturah A. - Emeritus, Ann Arbor
 Hackbarth, Richard O.E. - Trinity, St. Joseph
 Hagge, John B. - St. James, Montague
 Hall, Carl G. - St. Paul, Northville
 Heissenbuettel, Brenda M. - Trinity, Wyandotte
 Hollman, Linda M. - Christ Our Savior, Livonia
 Johnson, Melanie L. - Mount Hope, Allen Park
 Kaiser, Roy G. - Emeritus, Rochester Hills
 Kalmes, Michael W. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Kempff, Elna M. - Emeritus, Reese
 Kirchenberg, Mark R. - Trinity, Manistee
 Kohtz, Roger O. - Emeritus, Dearborn
 Kratz, Dean E. - Lutheran High North, Macomb
 Krone, James R. - Lutheran Special Education Ministries
 Krone, Walter K. - Guardian, Dearborn
 Krueger, Richard C. - Messiah, Grand Rapids
 Kuebler, Eugene C. - Lutheran Special Education Ministries
 Kurtz, Nancy C. - Non-Candidate
 Laeder, Leroy D. - Emeritus, Midland
 Lemke, George F. - St. Matthew, Holt
 Locke, George M. - Emeritus, Canton
 Looker, Mark S. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 McDonald, Deborah M. - Living Word, Rochester
 McDonald, Ian K. - Lutheran High Northwest, Rochester Hills
 Meinert, Robert W. - Our Shepherd, Birmingham
 Merrill, Kenlyn S. - St. John, Fraser
 Mol, James M. - St. Mark, Flint
 Moro, Martin L. III - Detroit Urban Lutheran Schools
 Newman, Joanna N. - Redeemer, Birmingham
 Nieman, Lenore K. - Lutheran High North, Macomb
 Ollhoff, Jeanne A. - Emeritus, Jackson
 Opel, Edgar L. - Emeritus, Bay City
 Pahlkotter, Henry G. II - St. Paul, Flint
 Petzold, Julian H. - Living Word, Rochester
 Pfeiffer, Ann M. - St. Matthew, Westland
 Pickelmann, Henry M. - Trinity, Bay City
 Ramthun, Daniel W. - Lutheran High Westland, Westland
 Refenes, James L. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Ritter, Donald A. - Emeritus, Boyne
 Rockensuess, Larry H., Sr. - Non-Candidate
 Rogers, Randall J. - Saginaw Valley Lutheran High School
 Rohde, Aaron T. - Living Word, Rochester
 Rolf, Elda C. - Emeritus, Saginaw
 Rudick, Barbara A. - Emeritus, Spring Lake
 Schafer, Robert D. - St. John, Rochester
 Schalk, Linda S. - St. John, Rogers City
 Scheiwe, Jean R. - Emeritus, Bay City
 Scheiwe, Warren A. - Emeritus, Bay City
 Schempf, Richard H. - Emeritus, Clarkston
 Schleicher, Jason P. - Bethlehem, Saginaw
 Schultz, Robert L. - Board of Directors
 Siefker, Roy D. - Detroit Urban Lutheran Schools
 Skov, Neil M. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Smith, William T. - Emmanuel, Cadillac
 Sohn, Miriam L. - Our Savior, Lansing
 Springer, Joel W. - Living Word, Rochester
 Topel, Stanley R. - Emeritus, Sterling Heights
 Von Fange, Erich A. - Emeritus, Adrian
 Wallace, Shirley M. - Emeritus, Trenton
 Weisenbach, Janice L. - Zion, Bay City
 Weston, Amy J. - St. Matthew, Walled Lake

Wills, Paul R. - Church Extension Fund
 Winterstein, Charles A. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Witte, Lucie E. - Mount Calvary, Detroit
 Wittrock, John H. - Emeritus, Birmingham
 Wondrasch, Ruth M. - Emeritus, Saginaw
 Zill, Steven E. - Saginaw Valley Lutheran High School
 Zobel, Suzanne E. - Lutheran Heritage Foundation
 Zorn, Glen R. - Emeritus, Kingsley

OTHER REGISTRANTS

Arends, Sherry - Guest
 Austin, Deborah S. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Balzer, Ruth E. - Guest
 Bates, John - Church Extension Fund
 Bickel, Dorothy - 125th Anniversary Committee
 Boyer, Michael D. - Vicar - Christ, Stevensville
 Braeutigam, Harold M. - Board of Directors
 Chauvin, Chris - Board of Directors
 Cohrs, Carol - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Conrad, Donna - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Dwyer, Russell - Guest
 Ekong, Linda M. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Fall, Debby - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Fenske, Shawn - Vicar - St. Paul, Bay City
 Fluegge, Victoria M. - Guest
 Frieling, Kimberly S.L. - Guest
 Gibbs, Marshall E. - Convention Committee
 Golke, Paul - Camp Concordia
 Gray, Laura - Guest
 Gundermann, Vern - Pastoral Leadership Institute
 Haenftling, P. Jeanne - Guest
 Heins, Wilma - Special Guest
 Held, John E. - Board of Directors
 Hicks, Rebecca - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Hillenbrand, Nancy L. - Board of Directors
 Hoesman, Barbara - 125th Anniversary Committee
 Hoffmeier, Barbara - 125th Anniversary Committee
 Hoffmeier, Willis - Guest
 Hutter, Erwin M. - Vicar - Our Redeemer, Taylor
 Kidwell, Jack W. - 125th Anniversary Thank Offering
 Kieschnick, Gerald B. - President, LCMS
 Kieschnick, Terry - Special Guest
 Kromer, Carol - Guest
 Krueger, Caroline - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Kruse, Paul G. - Guest
 Larsen, Patricia - 125th Anniversary Committee
 Lehenbauer, Joel - Essayist
 Maya, Joe - Guest
 Pool, Geraldine - Guest
 Reitz, Jason - Vicar - Good Shepherd, Saginaw
 Renken, Duane A. - Board of Directors
 Ritter, Eileen M. - Board of Directors
 Roberts, Ben - Vicar - Trinity, Sawyer
 Rohn, JoAnne - Guest
 Ruediger, Elizabeth A. - 125th Anniversary Thank Offering
 Rumberger, Jennifer A. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Sack, Jim F. - Board of Directors
 Schlecht, Ruth - Special Guest
 Schultz, Roderick D. - Hope, Dewitt - Vicar
 Steinke, Ronald - Church Extension Fund
 Stenson, Sherman - Vicar - Salem, Sturgis
 Strobl, Julie A. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Tank, Ann - Guest
 Therwanger, Harry - Concordia University, River Forest
 Todd, Linda - Guest
 Unger, Barbara R. - Lutheran Retreat Ministry Association
 Von Fange, Esther - Guest

Wagoner, Mary E - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Westphal, Jan - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Witt, Beverly - Guest
 Witte, Mark - Grace, Monroe
 Woltemath, Chad R. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Wright, Larry D. - Vicar - St. Paul, Albion
 Yang, Lang - Vicar - St. Michael's, Richville
 Yeah, Levi - Guest
 Ziebart, Richard - LLL / 125th Anniversary Thank Offering
 Zorn, Delrose - Guest

OTHER GUESTS – MINISTRY TENT EXHIBITORS

Baird, Peter - Eagle Communication, Inc.
 Benson, Bill - Commission on Deacon Qualification
 Beyersdorf, Anita - Lutheran Womens Missionary League
 Bohde, Donn E. - LCEF Architectural Advisory Committee
 Bonney, Lisa - Lutheran Homes of Michigan, Inc
 Brown, Kenneth - Commission on Deacon Qualifications
 Brownfield, Brenanne - The Servant's Heart
 Burmeister, Todd - Concordia Publishing House
 Burnell, Carla - The Servant's Heart
 Burns, Rochelle - MOST Ministries
 Carlson, Craig - Eagle Communication, Inc.
 Chewning, Ron - Stewardship Committee
 Corbett Jr, Gerald H - Commission on Deacon Qualifications
 Crane, Kim - Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
 Crook, Jeff - Chime Master Systems
 DeBoer, Stephen P. - Lutheran Laymen's League
 Fairow, Greg - Michigan Campus Ministries
 Fish, Cheri E. - Lutheran Womens Missionary League
 Fowler-Henzi, Heidi - Katrina Relief
 Gehm, David M. - Lutheran Homes of Michigan, Inc
 Graham, Kathy A. - 125th Anniversary Committee
 Guldalian, Ken - Concordia Seminary, St Louis
 Hammond, Cheryl L. - Stewardship Committee
 Heinz, Walter - LAMP
 Hubmeier, Sarah - Concordia Publishing House
 Jensen, Grady - Underwriters Agency
 Kalis, Peggy - Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
 Kern, Kimberly L. - Lutheran Laymen's League
 Kern, Sharon - Lutheran Laymen's League
 Khan, Javed - POBLO International Ministries
 Kienker, Paul - LCMS Foundation - World Relief and Human Care
 Klausmeier, Caroline L. - Concordia Publishing House
 Lick, Catherine RN - Commission on Ministerial Growth & Support
 Lorenz, Gregory M. - LATINO Mission Society
 Lorenz, Stephanie - LATINO Mission Society
 Mally, Adrienne - Architects Design Group
 McGee, Paige - Chime Master Systems
 Middeke, Paul - Concordia Plan Services
 Mueller, Keith W. - Lutheran Trust
 Muench, David - Commission on Ministerial Growth & Support- LCMS
 Overheser, Robert - Architects Design Group
 Phillips, Gordon - Commission on Deacon Qualifications
 Pressnell, James - MOST Ministries
 Pringle, Robert - Underwriters Agency
 Redford, Mike - Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
 Regner, Susan - Michigan District Children's Ministry
 Reither, Kathy - Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
 Ritterling, Elaine - Committee on Mental Illness
 Rodriguez, Teresita - LATINO Mission Society
 Roegner, Bob - LCMS - World Mission
 Rogalski, Tony - Eagle Communication, Inc.
 Ruhl, Michael R. - Center for US Missions
 Salminen, Casey - Grace Place Retreats Center

Schilf, Ken - Lutheran Ministries Media
 Schilke, Sharon K. - Lutheran Womens Missionary League
 Schmidt, Ralph - Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne
 Schoech, Thomas K. - LCMS - World Mission
 Schwiebert, Weldon - Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
 Scott, Ray - Lutheran Child and Family Service
 Silvey, Dian - Michigan Campus Ministries
 Smith, Mary - Stewardship Committee
 Snyder, Paul - Concordia Plan Services
 Sommerfeld, Gayle - MOST Ministries
 Stevens, Carly - MOST Ministries
 Stork, Karen - Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
 Storm, Walter W. - Commission on Deacon Qualification
 Suchyta, Debby - MOST Ministries
 Toews, Anita - Architects Design Group
 Vigarisky, Gerald - The Servant's Heart
 Wagner, Timothy - Sauriol Bohde Wagner Architects Associates
 Webb, Richard E. - LATINO Mission Society
 Weiss, Heather - MOST Ministries
 Whitaker, Ron - POBLO International Ministries
 Winfree, Nikki - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Woltemath, Heidi L. - MOST Ministries
 Wrightson, Lynn - MOST Ministries
 Zavada, Ray J. - Lutheran Child and Family Service
 Zudel, Daniel A. - Commission on Deacon Qualification

OTHER GUESTS FOR THE 125TH CELEBRATION DINNER

Bassett, Julie - Family of Dr. Edwin C. Weber
 Brammeier, Ruth - Family of Dr. Andrew Zeile
 Burns, Chrissy - Entertainer
 Hague, Timothy - Family of Dr. E.A. Mayer
 Hauge, Marguerite - Family of Dr. E.A. Mayer
 Hawkins, Brenda - Family of Dr. John Heins
 Hawkins, Jack - Family of Dr. John Heins
 Heins, John Jr. - Family of Dr. John Heins
 Hoesman, Becky - Family of Dr. C. William Hoesman
 Hoesman, Brad - Family of Dr. C. William Hoesman
 Hoesman, Bryan - Family of Dr. C. William Hoesman
 Hoesman, Michelle - Family of Dr. C. William Hoesman
 Hooper, Richard - Family of Dr. John Schinnerer
 Hooper, Susan - Family of Dr. John Schinnerer
 Kamphoefner, Ruth M. - Family of Dr. E.A. Mayer
 Mayer, Bob - Family of Dr. E.A. Mayer
 Mayer, Joan - Family of Dr. E.A. Mayer
 Mayer, William F. - Family of Dr. E.A. Mayer
 Penhallegon, Gretchen J. - Family of Dr. Edwin C. Weber
 Reed, Elizabeth - Family of Dr. Richard Schlecht
 Reed, Susan - Family of Dr. Richard Schlecht
 Siergant, Carol - Family of Dr. E.A. Mayer
 Stahlke, Les - Comedian
 VanTol, Claire - Family of Dr. Richard Schlecht
 VanTol, Emma - Family of Dr. Richard Schlecht
 VanTol, Jeremy - Family of Dr. Richard Schlecht
 VanTol, Rebecca S. - Family of Dr. Richard Schlecht
 Voges, Barbara - Family of Dr. Andrew Zeile
 Voges, David - Family of Dr. Andrew Zeile
 Weber, Glen - Family of Dr. John Heins
 Weber, Karen - Family of Dr. John Heins
 Wieck, Gail - Musician
 Wieck, Mike - Musician
 Wieck, Ron - Musician
 Wolf, Allison R. - Family of Dr. Richard Schlecht
 Wolf, Matthew T. - Family of Dr. Richard Schlecht
 Wolf, Nathan - Family of Dr. Richard Schlecht

CONGREGATIONS BY CIRCUIT AND REGION

NORTH & EAST REGION

<u>Circuit #1 - Mackinaw Straits</u>		<u>Circuit #6 - Bay City</u>	
Cheboygan, St. John	250	Bay City, Faith	982
DeTour Village, Redeemer	15	Bay City, Immanuel	1,703
Drummond Island, Drummond Island	99	Bay City, St. John	674
Engadine, Bethlehem	140	Bay City, St. Paul	810
Germfask, Grace	89	Bay City, Trinity	603
Hawks, Faith	154	Bay City, Zion	1,480
Kincheloe, St. Paul	39	Essexville, Pilgrim	503
Newberry, Trinity	55	Pinconning, St. John	590
Onaway, Holy Cross	138	8 Member Congregations	7,345
Paradise, Paradise	0		
Rogers City, Immanuel	219	<u>Circuit #7 - Thumb East</u>	
Rogers City, Peace	336	Bad Axe, Our Savior	607
Rogers City, St. John	553	Harbor Beach, Zion	433
Rogers City, St. Michael	265	Kinde, St. Peter	126
Sault Ste. Marie, St. Barnabas	47	Marlette, Our Savior	314
15 Member Congregations	2,399	Minden City, Trinity	238
		Palms, St. John	145
<u>Circuit #2 - Alpena</u>		Port Hope, St. John	610
Alpena, Immanuel	1,202	Port Sanilac, St. John	160
Harrisville, Faith	30	Sandusky, Peace	260
Herron, St. Paul	300	9 Member Congregations	2,893
Hillman, St. John	400		
Lewiston, Bethlehem	307	<u>Circuit #8 - Thumb West</u>	
Mio, Living Water	50	Caseville, Good Shepherd	160
Ossineke, Good Shepherd	104	Cass City, Good Shepherd	399
Posen, St. Paul	30	Fairgrove, Grace	315
8 Member Congregations	2,423	Pigeon, St. Paul	355
		Sebewaing, Immanuel	931
<u>Circuit #3 - Timberline</u>		Sebewaing, St. John	253
Au Gres, St. John	237	Sebewaing, St. Peter	152
Glennie, Our Savior	35	Unionville, St. Paul	449
Hale, St. Paul	346	8 Member Congregations	3,014
Oscoda, Trinity	299		
Prescott, Faith	365	<u>Circuit #9 - Frankenmuth</u>	
Standish, Bethlehem	234	Caro, St. Paul	625
Tawas City, Zion	386	Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz	4,026
Whittemore, Good News Ministries	121	Millington, St. Paul	1,391
8 Member Congregations	2,023	Munger, Trinity-St. James	533
		Reese, Trinity	882
<u>Circuit #4 - Gladwin</u>		Richville, St. Michael's	1,300
Clare, Prince Of Peace	191	Saginaw, Immanuel	596
Gladwin, Our Savior	475	7 Member Congregations	9,353
Harrison, St. Luke	237		
Houghton Lake, St. John	472	<u>Circuit #10 - Saginaw</u>	
St. Helen, Hope	177	Bridgeport, Faith	569
West Branch, St. John	209	Hemlock, St. Peter	1,112
6 Member Congregations	1,761	Hemlock, Zion	455
		Owosso, St. Philip	113
<u>Circuit #5 - Midland</u>		Saginaw, Bethlehem	1,238
Alma, Peace	134	Saginaw, Good Shepherd	730
Auburn, Grace	496	Saginaw, Holy Cross	690
Auburn, Zion	1,134	Saginaw, Messiah	199
Midland, Lord Of New Life	49	Saginaw, Peace	1,629
Midland, Messiah	1,337	Saginaw, Redeemer	212
Midland, Our Savior	114	Saginaw, St. Mark	359
Midland, St. John's	1,317	St. Charles, Nativity	62
*Mount Pleasant, Christ The King		12 Member Congregations	7,368
Mount Pleasant, Zion	410		
Sanford, St. Paul	449		
Wheeler, Immanuel	443		
10 Member Congregations	5,883		

Circuit #11 - Flint North

Birch Run, Christ	441
Birch Run, St. Martin	518
Clio, Messiah	1,301
Flint, Christ The King	18
Flint, Our Savior	173
Flint, St. Paul	1,142
Flint, United in Christ	213
Flushing, Holy Cross	470
8 Member Congregations	4,276

Circuit #12 - Flint South

Burton, Pilgrim	184
Fenton, Trinity	614
Flint, Peace	202
Flint, Redeemer	201
Goodrich, Christ	239
Grand Blanc, Faith	1,598

Circuit #12 - Flint South (continued)

Holly, Gethsemane	25
Linden, Hope	368
Ortonville, Prince Of Peace	78
Swartz Creek, Newlife Community	319
10 Member Congregations	3,828

Circuit #13 - Lapeer

Davison, Trinity	834
Dryden, Holy Redeemer	339
Flint, Calvary	122
Flint, St. Mark	687
Lapeer, St. Paul	1,152
North Branch, New Life In Christ	97
Otisville, St. Timothy	312
7 Member Congregations	3,543
116 Member Congregations	56,109

METRO EAST REGION**Circuit #14 - Port Huron**

Algonac, First Evangelical	250
Armada, Our Saviour	295
Fair Haven, St. Peter	134
Goodells, Hope	19
Lexington, St. Matthew	507
Memphis, St. Andrew	191
Port Huron, Faith	520
Port Huron, Trinity	862
Richmond, St. Peter's	1,207
St. Clair, Immanuel	983
10 Member Congregations	4,968

Circuit #15 - Macomb North

Clinton Township, St. Luke	1,236
Clinton Township, Trinity	1,510
Macomb, Immanuel	2,424
Macomb, St. Peter	2,202
New Baltimore, Christ	135
New Baltimore, Good Shepherd	110
*New Baltimore, Living Hope of the Bay	
New Haven, St. John	227
7 Member Congregations	7,844

Circuit #16 - Macomb NW

Dearborn Heights, All Nations	144
*Imlay City, Family of Christ	
Romeo, Grace Lutheran Fellowship	452
Shelby Township, Peace	389
Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate	888
Sterling Heights, Redemption	273
Sterling Heights, St. Paul	262
Troy, Faith	2,977
*Troy, Tamil	
Utica, Trinity	3,238
Washington, Our Redeemer	441
9 Member Congregations	9,064

Circuit #17 - Oakland North

Clarkston, St. Trinity	644
Lake Orion, Good Shepherd	494
Oxford, Holy Cross	246
*Pontiac, St. Paul	
Rochester, Living Word	333
Rochester, St. John	2,134
Rochester Hills, Crown Of Life	312

Circuit #17 - Oakland North (continued)

Rochester Hills, Gethsemane	175
*Rochester Hills, Incarnate Word	
Waterford, St. Stephen	723
8 Member Congregations	5,061

Circuit #18 - Birmingham

Berkley, Trinity	78
Birmingham, Redeemer	1,048
Birmingham, Our Savior Deaf	53
Birmingham, Our Shepherd	1,312
Bloomfield Hills, Cross Of Christ	631
Hazel Park, Hazel Park	155
Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods	300
Royal Oak, St. Paul	929
Troy, St. Augustine	121
Warren, Holy Cross	550
10 Member Congregations	5,177

Circuit #19 - Macomb South

Eastpointe, St. Peter's	1,244
Eastpointe, St. Thomas	951
Fraser, St. John	1,152
Roseville, Bethlehem	290
Warren, Hope	698
Warren, Peace	258
Warren, Trinity	325
7 Member Congregations	4,918

Circuit #20 - Detroit East

Detroit, Bethany	254
Detroit, Charity	61
Detroit, East Bethlehem	164
Detroit, Epiphany	69
Detroit, Mount Calvary	147
Detroit, Peace	200
Detroit, Redemption	47
Detroit, Resurrection	91
8 Member Congregations	1,033
59 Member Congregations	38,065

METRO WEST REGION

Circuit #21 - Detroit Central

Detroit, Berea	172
Detroit, Bethlehem	14
Detroit, Historic Trinity	1,464
Detroit, Nazareth	49
Detroit, St. John	147
Detroit, St. Philip	373
Detroit, St. Stephen	126
7 Member Congregations	2,345

Circuit #22 - Detroit West

Detroit, Evergreen	147
Detroit, Greenfield Peace	355
Detroit, Holy Cross	312
Detroit, Outer Drive Faith	477
Detroit, Redford	124
Detroit, St. Timothy	123
6 Member Congregations	1,538

Circuit #23 - Down River

Allen Park, Mount Hope	133
Flat Rock, Community	665
Lincoln Park, Calvary	786
North Branch, New Life in Christ	1,296
River Rouge, Christ	52
Taylor, Our Redeemer	130
Taylor, St. John's	478
Trenton, St. Paul	1,366
Wyandotte, Trinity	664
9 Member Congregations	5,570

Circuit #24 - Monroe

Lambertville, Christ The King	156
Monroe, Grace	672
Monroe, Holy Ghost	482
Monroe, Immanuel	374
Monroe, Trinity	1,840
New Boston, St. John	838
Newport, Christ Our Shepherd	65
Petersburg, St. Peter	370
8 Member Congregations	4,797

Circuit #25 - Dearborn

Canton, Christ The Good Shepherd	112
Dearborn, Atonement	212
Dearborn, Emmanuel	946
Dearborn, Guardian	1,010
Dearborn, Our Redeemer	204
*Dearborn Heights, First Arabic	
Inkster, Our Master	96
Plymouth, Living Word	153
Wayne, St. Michael	492
Westland, Our Saviour	38
Westland, St. Matthew	1,099
*Ypsilanti, Asian Indian	
10 Member Congregations	4,362

Circuit #26 - Kensington

Brighton, Shepherd Of The Lakes	1,361
Highland, Faith	319
Milford, Christ	390
South Lyon, Cross Of Christ	293
Walled Lake, St. Matthew	1,739
Waterford, Peace	452
West Bloomfield, St. Mark's	226
White Lake, Cedar Crest	125
*Wixom, St. Matthew	
8 Member Congregations	4,905

Circuit #27 - Livonia

Canton, Grace	121
Dearborn Heights, Immanuel	252
Farmington Hills, Prince Of Peace	285
Farmington Hills, St. Paul's	425
Livonia, Christ Our Savior	1,129
Northville, St. Paul	522
Redford, Hosanna-Tabor	430
Westland, Salem National	166
8 Member Congregations	3,330

Circuit #28 - Milan

Ann Arbor, St. Thomas	75
Belleville, Open Arms	121
Britton, Emmanuel	357
Milan, St. Paul	261
New Boston, St. Paul's	412
Saline, Christ Our King	534
Ypsilanti, Faith	150
7 Member Congregations	1,910

Circuit #29 - Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor, Cross & Resurrection	63
Ann Arbor, Divine Shepherd	110
Ann Arbor, Peace	194
Ann Arbor, St. Luke	1,328
Ann Arbor, St. Paul	977
*Ann Arbor, University Lutheran Chapel	
Chelsea, Our Savior	243
Hamburg, St. Paul	513
Pinckney, Trinity	112
*Whitmore Lake, Living Water	
8 Member Congregations	3,540

Circuit #30 - Jackson

Addison, Lutheran Church Of The Lakes	296
Adrian, Hope	260
Adrian, St. John	461
Brooklyn, St. Mark	287
Hudson, Our Saviour	154
Jackson, Redeemer	379
Jackson, Trinity	1,210
7 Member Congregations	3,047

78 Member Congregations 35,344

WEST REGION

Circuit #31 - Petoskey

Bellaire, Hope	99
Boyne City, Christ	402
Charlevoix, Bethany	170
Gaylord, Trinity	276
Grayling, Mount Hope	275
Harbor Springs, Shepherd In The Pines	49
Kalkaska, St. Paul	247
Mancelona, St. Matthew	38
Petoskey, Zion	346
9 Member Congregations	1,902

Circuit #32 - Traverse City

Benzonia, Our Savior	138
Cedar, St. Pauls	106
Elk Rapids, Grace	111
Glen Arbor, Bethlehem	90
Interlochen, Redeemer	344
Leland, Immanuel	217
Traverse City, St. Michael's & All Angels	66
Traverse City, Trinity	1,129
8 Member Congregations	2,201

Circuit #33 - Manistee

Arcadia, Trinity	170
Cadillac, Emmanuel	334
Ludington, Peace	23
Ludington, St. John's	285
Manistee, Trinity	582
Mesick, Faith	49
Onekama, Norwalk	97
Onekama, Trinity	324
Pentwater, Lighthouse	8
Scottville, Our Savior	669
Wellston, Beautiful Savior	20
11 Member Congregations	2,561

Circuit #34 - Big Rapids

Baldwin, Grace	81
Big Rapids, St. Peter	669
Fremont, Living Hope	14
Fremont, Redeemer	201
Mecosta, Chapel Of The Lakes	219
Reed City, Trinity	426
White Cloud, Christ	164
7 Member Congregations	1,774

Circuit #35 - Capitol

Charlotte, First	398
East Lansing, Ascension	224
Haslett, St. Luke	513
Holt, Messiah	412
Holt, St. Matthew	252
Howell, Heart of the Shepherd	184
*Lansing, Living Word	
Lansing, Our Savior	979
Lansing, Trinity	241
Leslie, Grace	111
9 Member Congregations	3,314

Circuit #36 - St. Johns

Carson City, Calvary	113
Dewitt, Hope	234
Fowler, St. Paul	130
Lansing, Good Shepherd	270
Portland, St. Andrew	186
St. Johns, St. John	326
St. Johns, St. Peter	486
7 Member Congregations	1,745

Circuit #37 - Tri River

Belding, Holy Cross	159
Greenville, Mount Calvary	252
Howard City, Bethel	247
Ionia, St. John	177
Lowell, Good Shepherd	134
Sand Lake, Resurrection	87
Stanton, Hope	124
7 Member Congregations	1,180

Circuit #38 - Muskegon

Conklin, Trinity	484
Montague, St. James	546
Muskegon, Our Redeemer	404
Muskegon, St. Mark	618
Muskegon, Trinity	568
Nunica, St. Luke	249
Shelby, St. Stephen's	180
Whitehall, Faith	263
8 Member Congregations	3,312

Circuit #39 - Holland

Coopersville, Grace	261
Grand Haven, St. John	892
Holland, Christ Our Savior	238
Holland, Zion	402
Spring Lake, Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship	323
Spring Lake, St. Matthew	183
West Olive, United	169
7 Member Congregations	2,468

Circuit #40 - Grand Rapids N Central

Alpine Township, Family of Christ	
*Grand Rapids, International	
Grand Rapids, Immanuel	522
Grand Rapids, Messiah	332
Grand Rapids, Mount Olive	254
Grand Rapids, Our Savior	383
Grand Rapids, Redeemer	142
Grand Rapids, St. James	339
Grand Rapids, St. Matthew	235
Rockford, St. Peter	413
9 Member Congregations	2,620

Circuit #41 - Grand Rapids SW

*Byron Center, Journey in Faith	
Caledonia, St. Paul	600
Grandville, Bethel	183
Hudsonville, New Hope	195
Jenison, Holy Cross	1,129
Jenison, St. John	182
Kentwood, St. Mark	606
*Kentwood, Sudanese	
Middleville, Good Shepherd	96
7 Member Congregations	2,991

Circuit #42 - Battle Creek

Albion, St. Paul	546
*Battle Creek, Higher Ground	
Battle Creek, Redemption	129
Battle Creek, St. Mark	541
Battle Creek, St. Paul	706
Kalamazoo, Immanuel	183
*Kalamazoo, Solid Grounds	
Kalamazoo, Zion	916
Marshall, Christ	188
Marshall, Zion	436
Paw Paw, Trinity	1,077
Portage, St. Michael	692
Three Rivers, St. Peter	266
11 Member Congregations	5,680

Circuit #43 - St. Joseph

Berrien Springs, Trinity	615
Bridgman, Immanuel	582
Buchanan, St. Paul	138
Buchanan, Trinity	380
Cassopolis, St. Paul	109
Coloma, Salem	286
New Buffalo, Prince Of Peace	102
Niles, St. Paul	422
Sawyer, Trinity	516
St. Joseph, Trinity	2,138
Stevensville, Christ	1,133
11 Member Congregations	6,421

Circuit #44 - South Central

Burr Oak, St. John	172
Centreville, St. Paul's	181
Coldwater, St. Paul	348
Colon, St. Paul's	118
Hillsdale, St. Paul's	284
Quincy, Prince Of Peace	34
Sturgis, Salem	14
Sturgis, Trinity	766
Union City, Our Savior	161
9 Member Congregations	2,078
120 Member Congregations	40,247
373 Member Congregations	169,765

* Indicates non-member ministries/missions of the Michigan District, LCMS.

**CONGREGATIONS/MINISTERS ORDAINED/MINISTERS COMMISSIONED
OFFICIALLY BECOMING MEMBERS OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD BY
THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION**

CONGREGATIONS

Heart of the Shepherd, Howell - 9/7/03
Lighthouse, Pentwater - 9/14/03
Open Arms, Belleville - 5/9/04
Grace, Canton - 10/31/04
Family of Christ, Alpine Twp. - 6/4/06

MINISTERS OF RELIGION—ORDAINED

Kirk Abatelli	Matthew Heise	Benjamin Mayes	John Schwartz
Simon Ajak	Seth Hemme	Thomas Messer	Timothy Speckman
Leonard Astrowski	James Hill	Craig Meyer	Steven Stolarczyk
Jonathan Bakker	Chad Hoover	Jonathan Meyer	John Straub
Matthew Canion	Paul Hopkins	Mark Milatz	Allen Strefling
Anthony Creeden	Bradley Kelly	Dan Muecke	Karl Strenge
Joseph Doenges	Amer Khan	Robert Nelson	Arul Sundaradhas
Dion Garrett	Farrukh Khan	Donald Nemeck	Luke Timm
Thomas Garrison	Khurram Khan	Roy Olsen	Eric Voigt
John Gill	John Kromer	Raymond Parent	Kurt Weber
Stephen Grafe	James Krueger	David Rufner	Rodger Williams
Samuel Grayl	Jonathan Manor	Michael Schaedig	Scott Yakimow
Greg Griffith	Afzal Masih	David Schmidt	Mark Yeager

MINISTERS OF RELIGION—COMMISSIONED

Kelly Anderson	Emily Janetzke	Lori Palm
Karie Azzopardi	Melanie Johnson	Ann Phillips
Brooke Baringer	Elizabeth Kaschube	Kimberly Reimann
Joel Bejot	Sarah Kaufman	Maribeth Scheeres
Carolyn Bira	Cara Keup	Amy Schleicher
Kelly Blomstrom	Hoon Kim	Jason Schleicher
Jonathan Bolt	Marie Korbely	Calvin Schmucker
Nathaniel Burmeister	Cindy LaFontaine	Patti Schneider
Lynn Corker	Tonya Langlois	Aaron Scott
Stefanie Davey	Shannon Lavigne	Amy Scott
Scott Faith	Heidi Leitzke	William Smith
Joshua Gerken	Kayla Luehmann	Kimberly Snyder
Kelly Grabarczyk	Kristine Martz	Jessica Starr
Kelli Gronevelt	Jessica Merz	Sarah Vanneste
Michele Grupe	Kenlyn Merrill	Matthew Vicari
David Heck	Joanna Newman	Jennifer Watenpool
James Hueseman	Judy Nobis	Lawrence Yochum III

ADVISORY DELEGATES TO THE 2007 SYNODICAL CONVENTION

Ministers of Religion – Ordained

Rev. J. Blair Clark
Rev. Gerald E. Grimm

Alternate

Rev. Lawrence A. Kinne

Ministers of Religion – Commissioned

Delegates

Robert Schafer

George Locke
Roy Kaiser
Lloyd Schultz

Rich Cohrs
Henry Pickelmann
Les Altevogt
Mark Schallhorn
Pat Schultz
Perry Bresemann
Barry Bloomquist
John Engelbrecht
Walter Krone
Shirley Krone
Vicki Schallhorn
Paul Baerwolf

Alternates

Rich Krueger

Ronald Jahnke

David Kusch
Amanda Kajala
Kathy Prusak
Gerald Roberts
Matthew Wolf
Randy Rogers

Michigan District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Statement of Financial Position
January 31, 2006
(With Comparative Totals for 2005)

	Michigan District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod			Detroit Urban Lutheran Schools	Total	
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted		January 31, 2006	January 31, 2005
Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 393,547	\$ 205,050	\$ -	\$ 54,310	\$ 652,907	\$ 767,635
Investments	4,615,320	297,233	1,066,436	-	5,978,989	5,636,711
Accounts receivable	51,048	-	-	3,471	54,519	56,272
Contributions and Grants receivable	-	3,939,003	-	40,000	3,979,003	3,932,255
Prepaid expenses	49,557	-	-	2,720	52,277	70,030
Notes and loans receivable	2,299,256	-	-	332,670	2,631,926	2,416,333
Deferred gifts	-	9,167	6,278	-	15,445	16,099
Funds held in custody by others	-	-	170,455	-	170,455	171,952
Property and equipment	2,467,438	-	-	281,595	2,749,033	2,840,038
Total assets	\$ 9,876,166	\$ 4,450,453	\$ 1,243,169	\$ 714,766	\$ 16,284,554	\$ 15,907,325
Liabilities and Net Assets						
Liabilities						
Accounts payable	\$ 500,094	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 99,610	\$ 599,704	\$ 586,268
Deferred revenue	99,228	-	-	54,326	153,554	275,078
Synodical pledge	2,700,000	-	-	-	2,700,000	2,800,000
Grants payable	22,295	-	-	-	22,295	77,526
Notes payable	2,255,169	-	-	845,837	3,101,006	2,654,306
Total liabilities	5,576,786	-	-	999,773	6,576,559	6,393,178
Net Assets						
Unrestricted	1,713,956	-	-	(569,209)	1,144,747	834,385
Undesignated	2,467,438	-	-	281,595	2,749,033	2,840,038
Property and equipment	2,817,986	-	-	-	2,817,986	3,074,811
Board designated	(2,700,000)	-	-	-	(2,700,000)	(2,800,000)
Synodical budget	-	4,450,453	-	2,607	4,453,060	4,322,498
Temporarily restricted	-	-	1,243,169	-	1,243,169	1,242,415
Permanently restricted	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets (liabilities)	4,299,380	4,450,453	1,243,169	(285,007)	9,707,995	9,514,147
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 9,876,166	\$ 4,450,453	\$ 1,243,169	\$ 714,766	\$ 16,284,554	\$ 15,907,325

These statements are taken from the audited financial statements of the Michigan District. The statement of cash flows and the notes are an integral part of the financial statements, but are not presented here. A complete copy of the financial statements is available from the District office 888.225.2111.

Michigan District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended January 31, 2006
(With Comparative Totals for 2005)

	Michigan District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod			Detroit Urban Lutheran Schools		Total	
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	January 31, 2006	January 31, 2005	
Support, Revenues and Gains							
Support							
District congregation - District and Synod	\$ 436,705	\$ 4,950,343	\$ -	\$ 5,387,048	\$ -	\$ 5,387,048	\$ 6,071,113
District congregation - District only	101,862	152,808	-	254,670	-	254,670	241,573
Other gifts and grants	207,639	858,715	-	1,066,354	-	1,066,354	402,637
Revenues and gains							
Publications	110,694	-	-	110,694	-	110,694	109,118
Program fees	752,143	-	-	752,143	-	752,143	414,134
Convention registration and assessment	2,534	-	-	2,534	-	2,534	278,948
Investment income	236,081	92,833	754	329,668	-	329,668	250,360
Detroit Urban Lutheran Schools	-	-	-	-	1,408,440	1,408,440	1,415,836
Gain (loss) on sale of assets	211	-	-	211	-	211	(8,659)
Other	58,825	-	-	58,825	-	58,825	57,275
Net assets released from restrictions	5,924,175	(5,924,175)	-	-	-	-	-
Total support, revenues and gains	7,830,869	130,524	754	7,962,147	1,408,440	9,370,587	9,232,335
Expenses							
Synodical budget	2,689,161	-	-	2,689,161	-	2,689,161	2,793,938
Program services							
Missions	1,533,173	-	-	1,533,173	-	1,533,173	1,238,289
Congregation Ministry Facilitators	433,773	-	-	433,773	-	433,773	629,063
Christian Care	223,361	-	-	223,361	-	223,361	115,566
Lutheran Schools	408,572	-	-	408,572	-	408,572	419,479
Youth Ministry	427,063	-	-	427,063	-	427,063	99,435
Camp Mahn-Go-Tah-See	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,753
Other Congregation Program Services	168,819	-	-	168,819	-	168,819	159,931
Communications	264,386	-	-	264,386	-	264,386	252,821
Student Aid	98,446	-	-	98,446	-	98,446	105,993
Planned Giving	218,725	-	-	218,725	-	218,725	170,294
Worker Care	309,057	-	-	309,057	-	309,057	259,194
Detroit Urban Lutheran Schools	-	-	-	-	1,565,152	1,565,152	1,513,074
Ecclesiastical and program administration							
Administration	606,817	-	-	606,817	-	606,817	589,169
Convention	(32,988)	-	-	(32,988)	-	(32,988)	265,738
District properties and depreciation	263,222	-	-	263,222	-	263,222	290,881
Total expenses	7,611,587	-	-	7,611,587	1,565,152	9,176,739	8,935,618
Change in net assets	219,282	130,524	754	350,560	(156,712)	193,848	296,717
Net assets - beginning of year	4,080,098	4,319,929	1,242,415	9,642,442	(128,295)	9,514,147	9,217,430
Net assets - end of year	\$ 4,299,380	\$ 4,450,453	\$ 1,243,169	\$ 9,993,002	\$ (285,007)	\$ 9,707,995	\$ 9,514,147

These statements are taken from the audited financial statements of the Michigan District. The statement of cash flows and the notes are an integral part of the financial statements, but are not presented here. A complete copy of the financial statements is available from the District office 888.225.2111.



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS 2006 MICHIGAN DISTRICT CONVENTION

Dear Members of the family of our Lord Jesus Christ of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

May God be praised as we have gathered at this, the 98th Convention of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod under the theme, *“Celebrating God’s Faithfulness: Redeemed...Refreshed...and Ready”*. The timeless truth expressed by our convention theme is further focused as we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Michigan District. In the early 1830s Pastor Friedrich Schmid, a pioneer Lutheran pastor, arrived on a mission from Germany. His mission was to bring the Word of God to Michigan German immigrants and those native born who had not heard the Good News of the Gospel in Jesus Christ. Pastor Schmid walked many miles all over southeastern Michigan reaching up into the thumb and the Saginaw Valley. Through him, the Lord Jesus laid a mission mindset that remains characteristic of the Michigan District.

As the good ship of Michigan District ministry anchors in convention harbor, we reflect on the voyage of the past triennium and of the past 125 years of District ministry. The purpose for mooring in harbor and gathering in convention is also to reflect on who we currently are, the relationships we have and our mutual ministry. Additionally, it includes the anticipation that this ship of Michigan District ministry will not remain moored in convention harbor, but will soon begin the first triennium of the next 125 years! We are thrilled and thankful to our God for His calling us to service at this point in His history according to His plan. We regard our mutual ministry and our moments together as a gift.

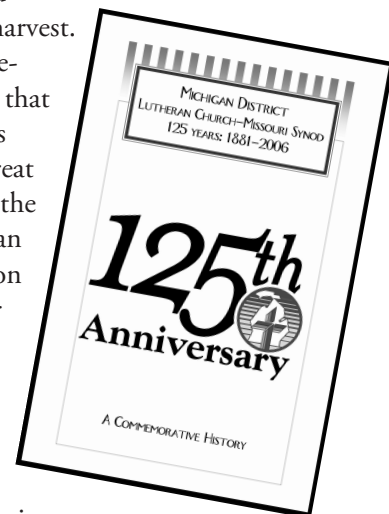
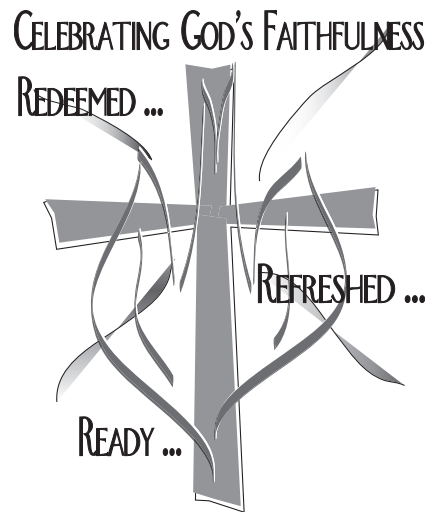
May we be encouraged by briefly reflecting on our roots. From the 1830s of Pastor Schmid until 1847, congregations were planted and ministry developed in Michigan. In 1847, several Michigan congregations were among the charter members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Initially the LCMS was not divided into Districts. However, in 1855 the Northern District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was organized, consisting of Michigan and Wisconsin. Then in 1874 there were changes. Wisconsin became an independent district, taking also

the upper peninsula! As Wisconsin was leaving, Ontario became part of the Northern District. The Northern District continued to rapidly change as in 1878, Ontario established the Ontario District. And so from 1878, for the following 3 years, Michigan was the only state/province of the Northern District, that is at least the lower peninsula of Michigan. Then in 1881 the Northern District adopted the name, “Michigan District” and existed as the Michigan District, lower peninsula, until 1967. Then in 1967 the eastern portion of the upper peninsula rejoined the Michigan District.

A brief history of the Michigan District has been put together by the 125th anniversary committee. We celebrate the development of over 380 congregations and ministries and 235,000 members that comprise the Michigan District. We rejoice in what God has done! A moment’s reflection surfaces the thought that every congregation was once a mission start! This should lift us in thanks for our current home congregation and encourage us to contemplate continued commitment to starting missions and ministries and providing laborers for the harvest.

In the 1830s, many referred to the congregations that Pastor Schmid started as his “Mission Synod”. What great DNA: a Mission District, the Michigan District, Michigan Mission District. Our vision focuses us in ministry. Our vision, “The congregations and ministries that comprise the Michigan District LCMS are interdependent, dynamic, effective and growing in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

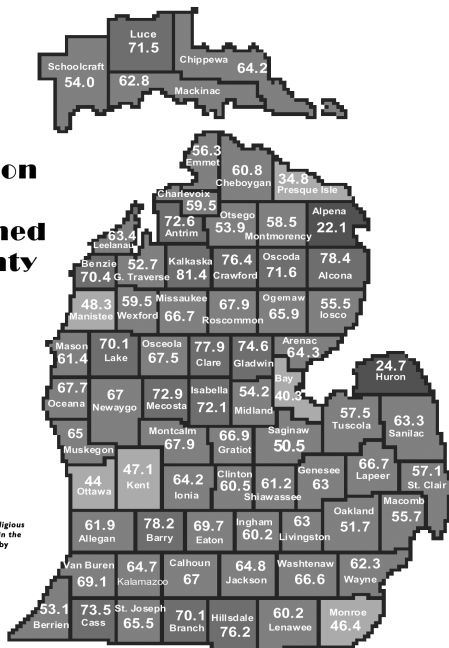
To go about accomplishing our vision, the mission statement of the Michigan District is... “to **bolster congregations and ministries...**” Giving further



Population of Unchurched Per County

- 70% & over
- 50% - 69.9%
- 30% - 49.9%
- 10% - 29.9%

Compiled from the book, *Religious Congregations & Membership in the United States 2000* published by Glenmary Research Center
1112 Fifth Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37208



definition to the Mission Statement are four major Outcomes of the District. The first major outcome is that of an Outreach Mindset “Michigan District congregations are sensitive to those without Christ within their communities and beyond and actively share Christ’s love with them integrating them into the Body of Christ.” We do well to note the great need among us in Michigan. This map (see above) shows the percent of unchurched in the respective counties. As the print may be too small for you to see, this map will be handed out with some other materials during noon hour to give you information for your own county. The numbers indicate the percent of people who are unchurched. The range is from a low in Alpena County of 22 per cent unchurched, to 48 per cent unchurched in Manistee County, to 64 per cent unchurched in Kalamazoo County, to 67 per cent unchurched in Lapeer County to Clare County with nearly 78 percent unchurched. This means that when we are out and about in the county in which God has placed us in ministry, from 2 to 8 out of every 10 people are not connected to the fellowship of a body of Christ. The need is great. Most are surprised at the large number of unchurched in our communities. And these unchurched are demographically different than the unchurched of a generation or two ago. With the ability of others to literally sail into the harbors of Michigan, we have many who have come from all corners of the world. We have an international mission field among us. North America is indeed a mission field in every sense.

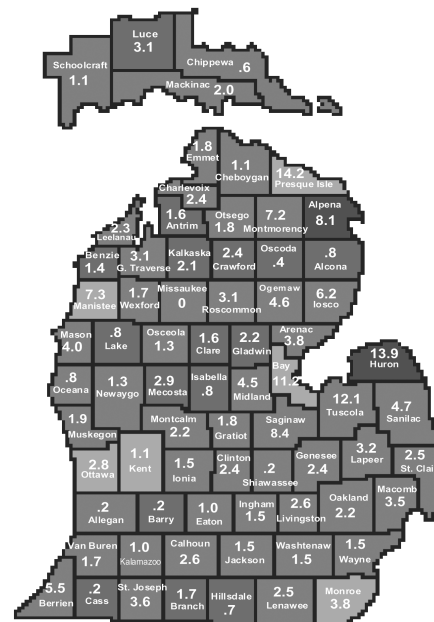
This slide (see right) illustrates LC-MS Lutherans as a % of total county population. The range includes a high of 14 percent of the population

in Presque Isle County who are members of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations, to a mid range of 8.4 percent of the population in Saginaw County, to .2 of one percent of the population in Allegan County. Our relative size as a percent of total population notwithstanding (reminiscent perhaps of the 12 disciples), we have the power of the Word that we may proceed with zeal to reach people with the Good News of the Gospel. We do not yet have a congregation in every county!

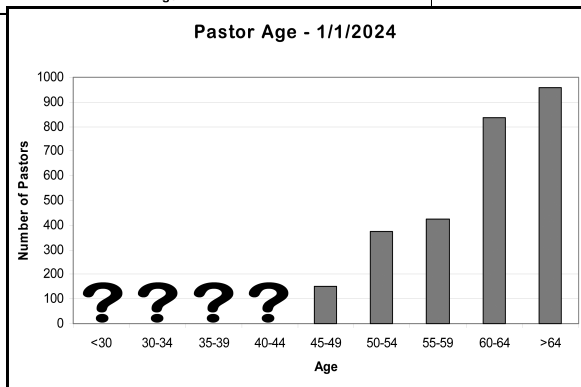
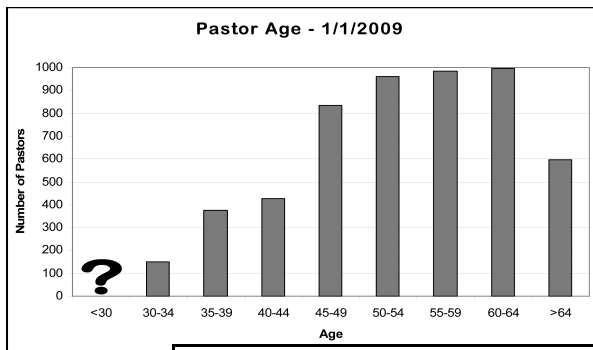
This relates to the ABLAZE emphasis in our Church with a particular focus upon critical events, witness opportunities seized to share with another the hope of Christ. We live in an era in which tolerance leads to denial of the existence of absolutes and validates individual feelings, values and viewpoints as truth. It is of prime importance that we pray for relationships with people that provide opportunity for witness. We may have to ask and listen until there is a relationship where we can take an opportunity to tell. May God grant us opportunities to witness and multiply these critical events among us as individuals and as congregations. It may be enlarging the concept, but a church plant is also truly a mega critical event! God grant more!

To accomplish this, our second major outcome references professional church workers, stating that “the Michigan District has a sufficient number of Ministers of Religion-Ordained and Commissioned to meet the needs of its congregations and ministries. These workers have a personal relationship with Christ and are filled with integrity and joy, are well respected

Percentage of LCMS Lutherans as a % of Total County Population



and supported financially.” The number of pastoral vacancies in the Michigan District shown in this graph, is as low as can be recalled in recent memory. Using March each year for consistency, you will note a high of 53 in 1997 as well as the trend through 2006 which is, after adjusting for the new pastoral candidates, again under 20. This trend in decreased vacancies is not going to continue. As a matter of fact, when reflecting upon the age groupings of pastors, note the 2004 5 year age group distribution of pastors. Note the low number of pastors under age 30 and the low numbers between ages 30 to 34 and 35 to 39. A looming shortage is masked, but is beginning as more retire than enter. What will happen is

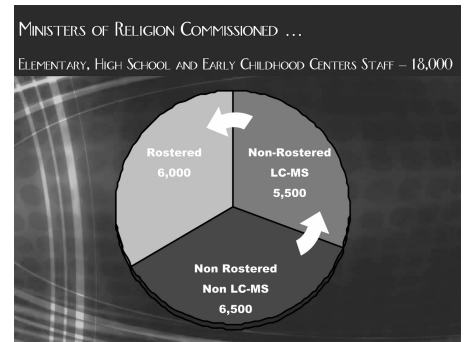


that those in the various age groups will move each five years into the next 5 year category. Thus the picture for 2009, then

the picture for 2014. Retirements will increase. 2019 illustrates it even more dramatically as two of the largest 5 year age groups will already be over 65. How many will have entered? It becomes even more compelling in 2024. There is a great need for pastors that is masked in our current situation. You saw this slide just moments ago. Reflecting on the question marks on the left and those over 65, 2014 is just 8 years from now! A young man entering a college or university toward becoming a pastor needs to be entering today to be ready in 2014! We need to focus upon this, my brothers and sisters. It is not by coincidence that the 125th anniversary Thank Offering has the twin focus of planting missions and increasing the financial support for church work preparation students. We intend to make the need more acute!

The issue for ministers of religion-commissioned

takes a different shape. The supply is critical, but the demographics do not indicate the same need you have just seen. Ministers of religion-commissioned are our Teachers, Directors of Christian Education, Family Life Ministry, Parish Music, Deaconesses and Certified Lay Ministers. We focus on the staffing of our elementary, high school and early childhood centers. Staff numbers about 18,000. 6,000 are on the roster of ministers of religion-commissioned in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



5,500 are members of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations who may or may not be synodically trained, and are not on the roster, and 6,500 are not rostered and are not members of Missouri Synod congregations. We need to be cognizant of this. If the critical events in the classroom, the playground, and beyond in our community are to be effectively Christ-focused, we need to be clear and forthright in our witness. We need to move to facilitate those who are not members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. We need to move toward our staffs being distinctively Lutheran staffs. The challenge for us as congregations, District and synod is to facilitate movement toward roster status as well. May God grant that we work together in cooperation with local congregations through colloquy and other training, to equip our staffs as part of the body of Christ with the ultimate goal of clear and compelling witness of our Lord Jesus in the classroom and beyond.

Thus relationship building is critical. “Michigan District congregations and professional church workers demonstrate respect, trust, and support for each other and for District and Synod as they engage in interdependent ministries.” Relationships exist between and among church workers, between and among congregations and between congregations and professional church workers. To digress, a moment of confession. Having grown up in Michigan and hearing at an early age of ore boats on the Great Lakes, and being unaware of homonyms, an ore boat to me meant this. However, this boat is wonderfully illustrative of I Corinthians 4:1-2 which speaks about us as workers together being regarded as “servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God”. The root of the word here used for “servant” references the galley slaves who rowed. It was absolutely necessary that

they work in harmony. It just so happens that there are 22 oars on each side of this particular boat, 44 in total, - a happy coincidence in view of the 44 circuits in the Michigan District! All recognize the need for working in harmony as church workers and congregations. However, there are times when the ship finds itself in stormy waters. Needing a slight adjustment of your “mind’s eye,” imagining this ship also to be an oar boat, only heightens the need to pull together. So in times of relative calm for effective ministry or to conquer storms, the principles of conduct documents, included in your convention mailing as adopted by the district Board of Directors, are presented for use among us in the District. These Principles of Conduct for Congregations and Professional Church Workers will hopefully help in times when conflict arises, but even more importantly, provide sound Scriptural principles and applications upon which relationships can grow that enable effective ministry for Jesus’ sake. May the Lord bless our considered use of “Partners In Ministry” as we grow in appreciation of the gift God grants us in Christ and the gift that He grants us in each other as we “crew” together the ship of ministry.

In addition to one another, our faithful God grants resources for ministry. Our hearts are moved to thank and praise God for His faithfulness in providing all resources – resources of Word and Sacrament, of fellowship in and through service, ministry vision and financial resources, all to accomplish His will for His church in this age. Outcome #4 focuses on Resourced congregations and ministries, that “Michigan District congregations recognize, use and share innovative, effective resources the Spirit grants to His church for service to Christ and to people.”

We face critical issues in organization of those resources, particularly in financing ministry. We thank and praise God for the rich array of ministries and ministry resources that are offered. Our ministry-tent layout is wonderfully illustrative. As these District and Synodical ministries, auxiliaries, recognized service organizations, mission societies and other Christian ministry organizations have developed, so also has funding support for the overall work of our Lord become more diverse. The good news is that with all that is being offered for the sake of the

Gospel, more financial resources are available than perhaps at any time in the history of the church! However changing financial patterns and increased ministry costs are providing stressors at many levels, including congregations, District and Synod. Yet our hearts are excited by the opportunities for ministry that are before us. The challenge is that we communicate, we organize and we work together like a ship’s crew to maximize the use of the financial resources that God provides.

Speaking of ships, it recently came to my attention that some manufacturers are converting ships to factories. They pick up the resources in one port and upon arrival at their destination, deliver manufactured goods! It is an interesting concept. This focus on the ship minus the sails is reminiscent of a manufacturing facility! The crew works together to reach the destination but also to bring the fruit of their labor to share

with others. The exciting part our ministry, together in congregations, District and Synod is that we are privileged to receive God’s resources, build effective ministry and bring the Gospel to the ports of peoples’ hearts. To God be the praise and glory for the resources He provides to accomplish His mission. He is faithful.

There is so much that is exciting and compelling as we seek to connect congregations in using and sharing effective resources that the faithful may be nurtured and the lost may be won for Christ. To accomplish



this there are many District ministries and partnerships with congregations and other ministries. May He bless developing District ministry for and on behalf of the congregations of Michigan.

The Lord has great things in store for us in addressing the unique challenges at this juncture in the history of the Michigan District and of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. By His grace, when we pull up anchor Wednesday, we will continue our ministry voyage, with sails filled with the breath of the Spirit, moving forward in ministry, with sails yet to be unfurled, that we might gain in effectiveness. May our hearts rejoice at celebrating God’s faithfulness, not only for 125 years past, but for 125 years to come! By His grace we are His Redeemed, Refreshed and Ready church. May He bless this convention and our next triennium in ministry to that end. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC MINISTRY
MICHIGAN DISTRICT CONVENTION
JUNE 25–28, 2006

Dr. Joel D. Lehenbauer
Associate Executive Director
Commission on Theology and Church Relations

Introduction

Dr. Ronald Garwood, who recently retired as president of the Wyoming District, wrote an article a few years ago called “Christ, Pastor and Congregation” that was published in the official periodical of Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne.¹ He begins with this provocative statement: “It’s been said that every pastor ought to have six weeks of vacation every year.” (All in favor, say Aye!) Here’s the rationale for this suggestion: if the man is a good pastor, says Dr. Garwood, he deserves it; if he’s not a good pastor, his *congregation* deserves it. (I’ll let you pastors decide if you want to take this idea back to your voters’ assemblies, and if so how you want to try to sell it!)

I’ve been asked to speak to you over the next few days on the topic of the office of the public ministry and the priesthood of all believers. This is a *huge* topic in the history of the Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. And as I’m sure some of you are aware, it’s also a highly—and sometimes hotly—debated topic.

I still have vivid memories of attending my first synodical convention as a young and rather “innocent” pastor from the Michigan District. It was the 1989 convention in Wichita, Kansas, and I was taken aback (to put it mildly) at the fierceness of the debates that took place at that convention on all kinds of issues, including the relationship between the office of the ministry and the priesthood of all believers. (I know it’s probably hard for some of you to imagine Missouri Synod Lutherans *arguing* with each other, but I saw it with my own eyes.) During one of those prolonged debates, Dr. Samuel Nafzger, executive director of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, was asked to address the assembly, and he began with these words:

“The doctrine of the ministry is a very difficult and complex issue about which Lutherans have probably disagreed more in the history of Lutheranism than any other single issue.” Dr. Nafzger reminded the assembly that it was disagreement about this issue that “characterized the very birth of Missouri Synod” in Perry, County (MO). And it was in the midst of this debate, he said,

that a young pastor named C. F. W. Walther, after digging deeply into Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, “was able to articulate a view that holds together the high respect for the divinely instituted office of the public ministry, while at the same time encouraging and recognizing the ministry of all God’s people in the priesthood of all believers.” (1992 *Proceedings*, 113)

Just a few years ago, at its 2001 convention, our church body adopted a resolution re-affirming “the Synod’s Official Position on Church and Ministry.” This is a pretty important resolution, so I’d like to put it up on the screen and have you follow along as I read it to you (all but the final resolved, which I’d like to save until tomorrow):

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has experienced during its history confusion with regard to the doctrine of church and ministry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. C. F. W. Walther addressed this confusion in 1851 through his *Theses on Church and Ministry* which were subsequently declared to be the position of the LCMS in 1851; and

WHEREAS, The book, *The Voice of Our Church on the Question of Church and Ministry*, by Dr. C. F. W. Walther was published in 1852. The LCMS in convention declared this book to be the pure doctrine (reine Lehre) of Church and Ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod meeting in convention in the year of our Lord 2001 affirm the above referenced writings of C. F. W. Walther as the definitive statement under Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions of the Synod’s understanding on the subject of Church and Ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention re-affirm the decision of the 1852 convention in recognizing C. F. W. Walther’s book, *The Voice of Our church on the Question of Church and Ministry*, as the official position of the LCMS; and be it further

Resolved, That all pastors, professors, teachers of the Church and congregations honor and uphold the resolutions of the Synod as regards the official position of our Synod on Church and Ministry and teach in accordance with them.

It's kind of hard to "honor and uphold" the official position of the Synod on this issue unless you have some idea what it is. And even if you know what it is, it's not a bad idea to do a little review once in a while. So in this first session, I'd like to focus on the question *what*: what exactly is C.F. W. Walther's position on church and ministry which the Synod has recognized as the "definitive statement" on this issue "under Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions?" In our second session tomorrow, I'd like to talk about *why* this issue is so important for our life and work together in the Synod, and then on Wednesday we're going to talk about *how* we put this position into practice in our joint efforts to carry out the Great Commission. So that's the outline: What, Why, and How. And in order to talk about the what, we need to do just a little bit of history.

Part One: What?

I'm sure some of you know the story pretty well: In the year 1839, a small group of Saxon immigrants arrived in Perry County, Missouri, under the leadership of a rather autocratic bishop named Martin Stephan. When they first arrived in this country, these Lutherans from Germany had some pretty definite ideas about the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep. Almost immediately, however, these ideas were severely tested, because within a matter of weeks charges of immorality were brought against Bishop Stephan, and they found it necessary to remove him from office.

Well—talk about a crisis. First and foremost, it was a crisis of conscience for many—they agonized over whether they really had the right, the authority, to remove a man who had been called by God to serve in this authoritative office. Others wondered whether they had the right to continue to call themselves church now that they had no bishop, no spiritual leader. Some took it as a sign from God that the whole venture was misbegotten, and thought they should just go back to Germany. Others wanted to stay, but they weren't sure who to trust or how to move forward or who should be in charge. Some even began to wonder whether it was really necessary to have this special office of authority in the church. After all, didn't Luther say that all believers were priests, that all Christians had equal access to God's Word and Sacraments, and that all of us have the right and privilege of sharing God's gifts with others?

Eventually two factions arose in Perry County. With regard to the doctrine of the ministry, one emphasized the authority of the clergy over the laity, while the other championed the authority of the laity over the clergy. Each claimed support from the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions and Martin Luther and certain theologians in Germany and in America who had

differing views on this issue. Enter 27-year-old C. F. W. Walther. He didn't really want to take sides; he wasn't looking for a fight; and he certainly wasn't hungry for power—not after what happened to the last bishop! But he did care deeply about this foundling church that seemed to be coming apart at the seams. And he cared even more deeply about the teaching of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions on this issue, which he believed was being misunderstood and misconstrued in certain ways by both sides in this debate.

It's true, said Walther, that the Bible calls all Christian priests. That's crystal clear from passages like 1 Peter 2:9: "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." And (said Walther) Martin Luther taught the same thing:

We hold fast to this, that there is no other Word of God save that only which all Christians are commanded to proclaim, that there is no other baptism than the one which all Christians can give, that there is no other remembrance of the Supper of the Lord than that which every Christian can celebrate; there is no other kind of sin than that which any Christian can bind or loose...²

But as Walther was quick to point out, the Bible also says that it was *God* who gave some to be pastors and teachers to equip God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ might be built up (Eph. 4:11-12). Remember, said Walther, what Paul told the pastors at Ephesus: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock in which *the Holy Spirit* has made you overseers, to feed the church of the Lord which he obtained with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). According to Walther, this truth was emphasized just as strongly by Luther, especially in his later years.

Although we are priests, this does not mean that all of us can preach, teach and rule. Certain ones of the multitude must be selected and separated for such an office. And he who has such an office is not a priest because of his office, but a servant to all the others who are priests...This is the way to distinguish between the office of preaching or the office of the ministry, and the general priesthood of all baptized Christians.³

Everyone who is a Christian, said Luther, "be assured of this, that we are all equally priests, that is to say, we have the same power in respect to the Word and the sacraments. However, no one may make use of this power except by the consent of the community or by the call of a superior. For what is the common property of all, no individual may arrogate to himself, unless he is called."⁴

In a series of debates held in Altenburg, Missouri in the year 1841, Walther presented a number of theses which became the foundation for the Missouri Synod's

official position on church and ministry. The Synod wasn't officially organized until 1847, but just four years later, at its 1851 convention, Walther presented a series of theses on "church and ministry" that were discussed and officially adopted by the Synod—the very same theses that were reaffirmed at the 2001 convention of the Synod. Like so many historic teachings of our church based on Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, the best way to describe this position is: "On the one hand...and on the other hand." On the one hand, says Walther:⁵

The holy ministry, or the pastoral office, is an office distinct from the priestly office, which belongs to all believers. (I)

The ministry, or the pastoral office is not a human ordinance, but an office established by God Himself. (II)

The ministry of preaching is not an arbitrary office, but its character is such that the church has been commanded to establish it and is ordinarily bound to it till the end of days. (III)

The ministry is the highest office in the Church, from which, as its stem, all other offices of the Church issue. (VIII)

On the other hand, says Walther:

The ministry of preaching is not a peculiar order, set up over and against the common estate of Christians and holier than the latter, like the priesthood of the Levites, but it is an office of service. (IV)

Reverence and unconditional obedience is due to the ministry of preaching when the preacher is ministering the Word of God. However, the preacher may not dominate over the church; he has, accordingly, no right to make new laws, to arrange indifferent matters and ceremonies arbitrarily, and to impose and carry out excommunication *alone*, without a previous verdict of the entire congregation. (IX)

According to divine right the function of passing judgment on doctrine belongs to the ministry of preaching. However, laymen also have this right, and for this reason they also have a seat and vote with the preacher in church courts and councils. (X) [Note: this is why, to this very day, district and synodical conventions in the Synod are composed of an equal number of lay delegates and pastoral delegates. This is a direct result of the theology of C. F. W. Walther on church and ministry.]

The ministry of preaching is conferred by God through the congregation as holder of all church power, or of the keys, and by its call, as prescribed by God. The ordination of those who are called, with the laying on of hands, is not by divine institution but is an apostolic custom and merely a public, solemn confirmation of the call. (VI)

On the one hand...one the other hand. On the one hand, says Walther, the congregation is the holder of all church power, and for this reason Walther insisted that any Christian, in a case of necessity, could exercise this office publicly.⁶ On the other hand, congregations are commanded by God, for the sake of order in the church, to call pastors to exercise this power of the keys in their midst and on their behalf. There is no Scriptural or confessional basis for saying that the laity should *ordinarily* perform pastoral functions. On the one hand, the office of the ministry is the highest office in the church because of the high and holy responsibilities assigned to it by God himself. On the other hand, it merits this title only because it is also an office of service, patterned after the office of the Good Shepherd himself who laid down his life for the sheep. The pastor's "high calling" is to stoop down and deliver God's life-giving gifts of Word and Sacrament obtained by the greatest Servant who ever lived and died. On the one hand, congregations are to reverence their pastors and even obey them unconditionally when they are preaching and teaching God's inspired and inerrant Word. On the other hand, pastors are forbidden by God to lord it over their congregations, or to use their office of authority to enforce human rules or traditions or decisions where there is no "thus says the Lord."

On the basis of New Testament passages like Acts 6, Walther also recognized that the church has the right to create other offices for the purpose of extending the range and effectiveness of the office of the public ministry. Walther called these offices "auxiliary offices," and regardless of what you think of this term, it's clear that for Walther this is meant as a term of honor and distinction because it connects these offices directly with "the highest office in the church." "The highest office," wrote Walther, "is the ministry of preaching, with which all other offices are simultaneously conferred. Therefore every other public office in the church is a part of the office of the ministry, or an auxiliary office, which is attached to the ministry of preaching." These auxiliary offices, said Walther, are "sacred offices in the church," since they exercise certain vital functions of the office of the ministry for the sake of the mission of the church.⁷

Perhaps it goes with saying that Walther's theses on church and ministry don't simplistically answer or even specifically address all the practical questions that have arisen over the years (and continue to arise) concerning the relationship between the office of the public ministry and the priesthood of all believers. Many of these questions continue to be discussed and debated in the Synod: questions about how to provide for Word and Sacrament ministry in places where no ordained pastor is available—including the rapidly growing number of ethnic missions and ministries cropping up all over the

country, offering tremendous opportunities that cry out for direct and immediate response. Questions about the role and status and training and supervision of deacons or lay ministers, who have been authorized by our church to carry out Word and Sacrament ministry in certain situations of necessity where no ordained pastor is available. Questions about what constitutes a legitimate case of necessity in light of Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession, which says that “no one should publicly teach or preach in the church without a regular call.” Questions about the relationship between “call” and “ordination,” especially in light of Walther’s insistence that ordination is not a divine rite or sacrament that confers upon the pastor some indelible character or some special personal power to do things that only pastors can do.

Questions about alternate routes into the pastoral ministry. Questions about the relationship between the pastoral office and so-called auxiliary offices in the church. Questions about removing a pastor from office for Scriptural reasons, or eliminating the position of a called worker for non-theological reasons—like we just can’t afford three pastors anymore. Questions about the role of lay people (both men and women) in worship and in various leadership roles in the congregation and in the district and Synod. I would love to get into the nitty-gritty of all of these questions and more; all you’d have to do is clear out the rest of the agenda from now until the end of the convention, and we could have some great discussion.

These are just some of the questions that have been addressed and/or continue to be addressed and discussed in the Synod, and they’re important questions. It’s important that we continue our discussion of these kinds of questions honestly and respectfully and fraternally, on the basis of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

But this much is clear. As long as Res. 7-17A stands, the answers given to these questions must be consistent with the historic position of the Synod on church and ministry as articulated by C. F. W. Walther. The answers given to these and all other questions that may arise in this area must somehow hold together the high regard that Scripture itself requires us to have for the public ministry as an office which has been instituted by God himself, while at the same time strongly affirming the teaching of Scripture regarding the ministry of all God’s people in the priesthood of all believers.

In the year 1932, The Synod adopted a document called the “Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the LCMS” written by Walther’s student Francis Pieper, one of the most influential and highly respected theologians in the history of the Synod. This document has been reaffirmed by our church repeatedly over the years

as a faithful articulation of what the Scriptures and Confessions teach, and I’d like to bring things to a close this afternoon by sharing with you a couple of summary statements from this document. “Concerning the Church” the Brief Statement says:

Since the Christians are the Church, it is self-evident that they alone *originally* possess the spiritual gifts and rights which Christ has gained for, and given to His Church. Thus St. Paul reminds all believers: “All things are yours,” 1 Cor. 3:21-22, and Christ Himself commits to all believers the keys of the kingdom of heaven, Matt. 16:13-16; 18:17-20; John 20:22-23, and commissions all believers to preach the Gospel and to administer the Sacraments, Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25. Accordingly, we reject all doctrines by which this spiritual power or any part thereof is adjudged as *originally* vested in certain individuals or bodies such as the Pope, or the bishops, or the order of the ministry, or the secular lords, or councils, or Synods, etc. The officers of the church publicly administer their offices only by virtue of delegated powers, conferred on them by the original possessors of such powers, and such administration remains under the supervision of the latter, Col. 4:17.

Lest anyone misunderstand the seemingly unqualified statement that “Christ commissions all believers to preach the Gospel and administer the sacraments,” the “Brief Statement” immediately goes on to address the topic “Of the Public Ministry.”

By the public ministry we mean the office by which the Word of God is preached and the Sacraments are administered *by order and in the name* of a Christian congregation. Concerning this office we teach that it is a *divine ordinance*; that is, the Christians of a certain locality must apply the means of grace not only privately and within the circle of their families nor merely in their common intercourse with fellow-Christians, John 5:39; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:16, but they are also required, by the divine order, to make provision that the Word of God be publicly preached in their midst, and the Sacraments administered according to the institution of Christ, by persons qualified for such work . . . Although the office of the ministry is a divine ordinance, it possesses no other power than the power of the Word of God, 1 Pet. 4:11. . . . Regarding ordination, we teach that it is not a divine, but a commendable ecclesiastical ordinance.

One the one hand...on the other hand. That’s the key to understanding the position of Scripture and the Confessions and Luther and Walther and Pieper and the historic position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod on the office of the public ministry and the priesthood of all believers. Tomorrow we’ll talk about *why* understanding this position is so important for our life and work together in the Synod, but now it’s time

for me to step aside and ask another Pastor Walther to lead you in some discussion of what we've talked about this afternoon.

Part Two: Why?

One of the services that we provide as staff for the Commission on Theology is to answer questions about the official position of the Synod on this or that issue. Many of these requests come by e-mail these days, and some of them are, frankly, a bit unusual. People want to know, for example, what is the official position of the Synod on the possibility of life on other planets, or on being a vegetarian, or on enhancing one's appearance through cosmetic surgery. Someone named Mary wrote in not too long ago and asked: "What I want to know is this: When a pastor gives a sermon in the LCMS, do the topic and words come from God, or from the elders?" (I guess that's sort of a "church and ministry" question.) We get a surprising number of e-mails about pets: will I see my pet in heaven? What about church ceremonies for the blessing of pets? Even more strange and disconcerting was this recent e-mail: Does our church believe that it is possible for people to communicate with their deceased pets? (Pastors, I think you have some catechesis to do!)

In case you're wondering, our church doesn't have an officially adopted "position" on any of these issues, although (as staff) we do try to give some Scripturally-based guidance whenever possible. However, the Synod does have an official position on the relationship between the office of the public ministry and the priesthood of all believers—we talked about that position yesterday on the basis of Res. 7-17A. What we didn't talk about yesterday was the final resolved of this resolution. The last resolved says: "That all action taken in this resolution shall be used to help carry out 'The Great Commission' and shall not in any way detract or distract from the primary mission of God's kingdom here on earth. We will remember 1-02!"

1-02 (in case you're wondering) is another resolution adopted at the 2001 convention, and this is another pretty significant resolution, so I'd like to put this one up on the screen and read it to you as well:

To Be Passionate for the Great Commission

WHEREAS, The Gospel provides the proper motivation for our life together as a synod, manifesting itself in faith, hope, and love; and

WHEREAS, Such a motivation should be determinative for all that we do together in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, As disciples of Jesus Christ, our calling is to be witnesses of the love of God in Christ; and

WHEREAS, An indifference to Christ's Word and work continues to hinder our ability to tell the Good News about Jesus worldwide; and

WHEREAS, It is God's desire that all the members of His family live in love with one another for the common goal of sharing the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, There has also been a tendency toward self congratulation concerning our past accomplishments, often at the expense of outreach to a world that is perishing in sin; therefore be it

Resolved, That we implore God's forgiveness for our failures to give the Gospel the precedence that it deserves; and be it further

Resolved, That we seek, with the aid of God's Holy Spirit, to renew our commitment to the Gospel as the motivation for all that we do; and be it further

Resolved, That we, members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, thank God for His grace in bringing us into His family; and be it further

Resolved, That we seek to resolve the differences in doctrine and practice which cause dissension and division among us by honest and prayerful discussion, so that we are able to live in genuine and God-pleasing harmony as God's people and not allow dissension among us to become destructive of the unity that should characterize us as God's people; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage all of our church leaders, local, District, and synodical, lay and professional alike, to renew their efforts to train and equip our members to be the "salt of the earth" and "ambassadors" of the love of Jesus Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That we in convention turn our energy and efforts to "let the earth shake" (Psalm 99) with the Good News of Jesus Christ, making the Great Commission the main passion of our Synod and its members; and be it finally

Resolved, That as a reminder of the primacy of this resolution, all future resolutions passed at this convention shall have inserted into them the following statement: "Resolved, That all action taken in this resolution shall be used to help carry out 'The Great Commission' and shall not in any way detract or distract from the primary mission of God's Kingdom here on earth. We will remember 1-02!"

Why is it so important that we understand what the Bible says about the relationship between the office of the public ministry and the priesthood of all believers? Why is it so crucial that we strive honestly and prayerfully to resolve any differences in doctrine and practice that may exist or arise in our church concerning this issue? Well, we could answer that question in a lot of different ways, but this morning I'd like to focus on the reason given in the last resolved of Res. 7-17A—

because a clear and unified understanding of this position will greatly enhance our efforts to carry out the Great Commission under God's grace and blessing, and a failure to understand and embrace this position will greatly hinder our ability to carry out God's mission in a unified and God-pleasing way.

Peter says: "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God...**SO THAT** you may declare [before all the world] the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." At the beginning of his commentary on 1 Peter, Martin Luther makes this rather stunning statement: "We live on earth only so that we should be a help to other people. Otherwise, it would be best if God would strangle us and let us die as soon as we were baptized and had begun to believe. For this reason, however, he lets us live: that we may bring other people to faith as he has done for us."⁸ Of course, no one knew better than Luther that *we* can't bring people to faith by our own power or urging or arguing or planning or strategizing. Only the Holy Spirit can do that through the power of God's living and active Word. But God can certainly use us to deliver His Word to other people, and "for this reason," says Luther, "God lets us live: that we may bring other people to faith as he has done for us."

In the year 1842, C. F. W. Walther preached a sermon called "Bringing Souls to Christ—Every Christian's Desire and Duty." I don't think this sermon has ever been published in English, and that's a shame, because it ought to be widely accessible—in fact, I think it ought to be read on a regular basis by every pastor and church worker and lay leader in the Synod. Walther begins by saying:

"The church that Christ established on earth ought to be marked by perfect equality. It should never be set up as an earthly government. In the church, no one should be on top, no one the superior, no one first, no one the lord or master. This is one of the fundamental doctrines of all of Christendom: whoever is a real member of the true church is equal to all the others. Each has the same baptism, the same faith, the same Christ, the same righteousness, the same hope of eternal life, the same eternal, heavenly blessing of salvation in Jesus Christ."

"As long as the world stands," says Walther, "there will certainly be external differences between people: one is rich, the other poor; one is esteemed by the world, the other despised; one has a high status in society, the other low; one is clever, the other simple. But in the...church, these things make no difference. Although gifts, offices and accomplishments may differ, all members remain the same before God."

In order for Christian congregations to be and

remain all that God intended them to be and remain, says Walther, "they must hold fast to the precious right of the spiritual priesthood, which all Christians possess. This priesthood is their right to present offerings, to pray, to search the Scriptures, to examine and judge all teachings, to teach one another, and to exhort, admonish and comfort one another. Where this right and duty is not known or put into action, the Word of God cannot long remain. There is no blessing, no zeal, no passion." Instead, there will be only "slumber, laziness, indifference." "It is therefore my duty," he says, "to teach the right and duty of the spiritual priesthood diligently and often." And in this sermon, says Dr. Walther, I'm going to focus on one of the most important duties of the spiritual priesthood: "the duty of all Christians to lead other souls to Christ."

Walther insists that "No one should say, 'I'm not a pastor or teacher or preacher—let *them* teach, instruct, comfort and lead souls to Christ. I wish to remain in my own vocation.'" That excuse just won't cut it, says Walther—why? Because "you are baptized." "Through holy baptism," he says, "every Christian has been consecrated, ordained and installed into the ministry to teach, admonish and comfort his neighbor. Through holy baptism each Christian has obtained not only the authority, power and right, but also the high, holy obligation...of rousing himself to care and to help so that others may be brought to Christ."

Now, before you accuse Walther of vitiating or eliminating the distinction between the office of the public ministry and the priesthood of all believers, listen to what he says in the very next paragraph. "It is certainly true that not everyone is a pastor or a bishop in the Christian congregation. God is a God of order. For order's sake, the congregation calls only one (or a few) to publicly administer—in the name of all—the rights of the spiritual priesthood. But just as in the construction of a church building many workers are needed, not just the foreman who organizes and supervises the work, so also in the construction of the invisible church it's not just the called ministers of Christ who do the work, but all Christians must lend a hand."

The Christian church," says Walther, "is a great mission-house. Every Christian in it is a missionary, sent out by God into his own circle to convert others to Christ. God does not give his spiritual gifts only to pastors and teachers. Laypeople, who do not stand in the public office, often have very glorious gifts—a splendid knowledge of Christian doctrine, the gift of understanding and explaining the Scriptures, the spiritual gift of examining and confronting error, the gift of administration, the God-given ability to encourage, or to admonish, or to pray." "Did God give these gifts to the church for nothing?" he asks. Does not God clearly

show by these gifts that every Christian is a fellow laborer in his vineyard?”

A couple of years ago I got a phone call from a young wife and mother in California who said she was searching for a church home and had some questions about the LCMS. Well, that was an understatement—we ended up talking on the phone for several hours, and she had obviously done her homework. She had questions like: “What’s the Lutheran view of conversion with respect to the freedom of the fallen will? What’s the Lutheran understanding of predestination, and how you would compare it to the Calvinist and Arminian views?” “What’s the Lutheran perspective on the Lord’s Supper—is it closer to transubstantiation or consubstantiation?” “What’s the difference between the LCMS and other Lutheran churches?”

This woman had discovered the Synod’s web site by way of an article she found on the internet that talked about our church’s position on homosexuality. The reason this particular issue was so important to her was that before her conversion to Christianity she had been immersed in a homosexual lifestyle that left her, in her own words, “hurting, depressed, violent, confused, promiscuous, agoraphobic, and very suicidal, convinced that life was meaningless.” After our conversation, she sent me an eight-page e-mail detailing the story of her journey to faith, which she gave me permission to share with others who might find it meaningful. It’s a great example of how both pastors and lay people serve a critical role in God’s plan to bring people to faith and to nurture them in faith.

“There was a man in my office,” she writes in her e-mail, “who sent me a Christmas card one year with a very explicit Christian message. He was a very kind man, different from his colleagues—this was a very high-pressure work environment, yet he seemed so peaceful.” One day she worked up the courage to ask him about that card—what it meant to him, why he had sent it to her. So he took her to lunch, and “over tuna fish sandwiches,” she writes, he shared the simple Gospel: we’re all sinners, God loves us, Jesus died for us. What was her reaction? “Well,” she says, “I was *so* offended—who does this guy think he is, telling me I’m a sinner.” But he gave her a New Testament, she began to read it and talk to him about it, and finally—by the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Word—the Gospel broke through.

But that was really only the beginning of the story. Next came her search for a church home to nurture her in her new-found faith. “Prior to our conversation on the phone today,” she writes in her e-mail, “I knew almost nothing about the LCMS.” I’ve been “in and out of so many churches in the last nine years”—I’m “mortified by the liberalness of the mainline denominations,

yet I’m completely disillusioned with evangelical fundamentalism. Searching for an alternative, I stumbled across your web site, which gave me a glimmer of hope.” “After so many painful experiences, I don’t buy the ‘just me and my Bible thing.’ I’m looking for a church that takes the Bible seriously, and yet has pastors who have actually been to the seminary, who have studied theology, who don’t need to re-invent the theological wheel, and who can help answer my many questions about what the Bible teaches. I’m also increasingly drawn to a church that appreciates the order and beauty of the liturgy—a place where I can go week after week and know that I will hear God’s Word and receive the Sacrament for the strengthening of my faith and the forgiveness of my sins. I’m convinced that the only way that God can continue my healing is by keeping me grounded in who I am in Christ through proper worship and sound teaching and preaching and firm and loving pastoral care.”

“I want you to know,” she says in her letter, “that I am not searching for the perfect church—I know better than that. But I am searching for a safe church home where I can grow in my faith in Jesus and learn to love him and serve him to the best of my ability. And so I just want to thank you, Pastor Joel, for taking the time to answer my many (embarrassing) questions! I was just so thankful this afternoon to find a ‘conservative’ (you!) in a church like the LCMS—a church that seems to proclaim so clearly the simple Gospel and yet understands the importance of educated, well-trained clergy and Christ-centered worship that is grounded in God’s precious Word and Sacraments.”

A number of years ago (1987) the Commission on Theology prepared a report on the topic of *Evangelism and Church Growth* that begins by offering a series of theological presuppositions regarding the mission of the church. They’re pretty basic, but they’re also pretty important, and I’d just like to read them to you without all of the commentary that’s included in the CTCR’s report:

- 1) The mission of the church is to make disciples of all nations.
- 2) The mission of the church presupposes that the Bible is God’s inspired and inerrant Word.
- 3) The mission of the church presupposes the total depravity of the entire human race.
- 4) The mission of the church presupposes God’s eternal plan of salvation through faith in Christ.
- 5) The mission of the church presupposes that the church has been instituted by God.
- 6) The mission of the church presupposes that conversion is solely the work of the Holy Spirit.
- 7) The mission of the church presupposes the necessity and centrality of the means of grace (Word and

sacrament).

And I especially want to highlight numbers 8 and 9:

8) The mission of the church presupposes a distinction between the priesthood of all believers and the office of the pastor.

9) The mission of the church presupposes that God gives Christians the grace to serve Him in their various callings.

In order for the mission of the church to function as God intends it to function, says the Commission, all of these truths need to be held together and fully embraced and implemented in the service of God's mission. God has given his church on earth the keys to the kingdom of heaven. We have the keys to unlock heaven's door for anyone who wants to enter. By God's own command and design, the church entrusts these keys to pastors to exercise publicly on its behalf by preaching and teaching and leading worship and pronouncing absolution and administering the sacraments and caring for the souls entrusted to their care by God through the congregation and its call. The church calls other qualified men and women to teach and to serve in other offices directly connected to the office of the public ministry in support of the mission of the church. At the same time, the church at large continues to exercise the office of the keys through the words and witness of its individual members—in their homes, in their families, in their marriages and relationships, in their workplaces and wherever they are, as they speak words of comfort and warning and instruction and forgiveness to each other and to anyone and everyone who will listen.

In his classic work *Die christliche Wahrheit, The Christian Truth*, Paul Althaus, the well-known German Lutheran theologian, strongly emphasizes the importance of the preaching office and the preaching and teaching that the pastor does within that divinely instituted office. But, he says, “this preaching must always be framed within the witness of the fellowship, the priesthood of all believers. Preaching does its work in us because fathers and mothers, teachers and friends have preached to us in their way and continue to preach to us, even though this may consist in nothing more than their leading and attracting us to listen to the preaching by their own listening.” In fact, says Althaus, according to passages like 1 Peter 3, “the witness expressed in words lives by the witness of life without words...To live among people who really live in the fear of God, who demonstrate faith and love and Christian patience; to meet people who have been liberated by Christ to praise God and serve joyfully; to know people in whom the victorious power of faith in Christ is manifested in the midst of grievous suffering and even in

the face of death—these are the most powerful sermons we can ever hear. Through this kind of testimony the church makes its mightiest witness.”¹⁰

We need pastors and teachers and other full-time church workers to help us make this kind of witness through their faithful preaching and teaching and serving and delivering God's gifts to us through which his Spirit works. And we need to help our pastors and those who serve as full-time workers in God's church—we need to help them help us and others by the preaching that we do on a daily basis, by the witness that the Holy Spirit empowers us to give by our words and by our lives. “For this reason,” says Luther, “God lets us live” (and what a glorious, grace-rooted reason it is!): “that we may bring others to faith as he has done for us.”

Part Three: How?

In August of last year around 225 pastors, laypeople, district presidents, and other full-time church workers from every district in the Synod gathered together in Phoenix, Arizona for the second synod-wide theological convocation sponsored by the CTCR and the president's office. (Vacation tip: try Phoenix in August for some great room rates!) The theme for that convocation was “The Congregation's Mission and Ministry: Who's in Charge Here?” When push comes to shove, who's really in charge in the congregation? Is the pastor in charge? Are the elders in charge? Are the voters in charge? Is the church council in charge? Is the president or chairman in charge? Is the altar guild in charge? Maybe it's the organist or church secretary. (Of course, we all know who's really in charge: it's the person who writes the checks!)

One of the resolutions we discussed at that convocation was 1992 Res. 3-06A “To Affirm Proper Relationship between Congregations and Their Pastors.” This resolution isn't so much about the “what” or the “why,” it's about the “how”—and that's our topic for this morning. So let me put it up on the screen and read it with you:

To Affirm Proper Relationship Between Congregations and Their Pastors

RESOLUTION 3-06A

WHEREAS, God exhorts both pastors and congregations to serve one another in their respective responsibilities so that no obstacle may be placed in the way of the church's proclamation of the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, Mutual edification, support and encouragement yields manifold blessings to the congregations and to the pastors; and

WHEREAS, The body of Christ is harmed when either the pastor or the congregation attempts to exercise unscriptural authority over the other; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm the scriptural position of the church and its ministry as taught in the Lutheran Confessions that God has instituted the office of the pastoral ministry and that the one who holds this office carries it out on behalf of and with accountability to God and those through whom God has called him; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod guard against all distortions of the scriptural position.

One of the most beautiful Scriptural depictions of the proper relationship between pastor and congregation (and other workers in the church) comes from Philippians chapter one:

“Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about you, because I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the Gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.”

In his article “Christ, Pastor and Congregation” (to which I made reference on Monday), Dr. Ronald Garwood reflects on his years of experience as a district president, and he concludes on the basis of this experience that there are essentially two keys to a healthy and happy and productive relationship between a pastor and his congregation. Now, of course, it’s possible to oversimplify anything. But it’s also possible to make things a little too complicated, and to lose sight of what should be most obvious. My wife has to remind me once a while that there’s really only one thing she needs to know in the context of our relationship—maybe you can guess what that is. According to Dr. Garwood, the first key to a healthy and happy relationship between a pastor and a congregation is that the pastor must love his congregation. The second key is that the congrega-

tion must love its pastor.

Time and time again, he says, I have observed that “when the congregation believes that their pastor really loves them and cares for them, then no matter what other circumstances may exist in the parish, the congregation will be patient and accommodating with their pastor, and the health of the ministry in that place is generally good. However, in a congregation where the people do not believe that the pastor loves them, every little circumstance seems to become a major problem or issue, and the mission and ministry of that congregation and pastor is greatly distracted.”

In support of his theory, Dr. Garwood offers this quotation from Martin Luther: “Men who hold the office of the ministry should have the heart of a mother toward the congregation. Unless your heart toward the sheep is like that of a mother who would walk through fire to save her children, you are not fit to be a preacher.”¹¹ Obviously, says Pastor Garwood, the love that Luther is talking about here is not just “emotional fluff” or “warm feelings.” “A good Christian mother loves her children in a sacrificial way, doing what is good and necessary for them even if it means disciplining them and loving them with ‘tough love.’ So too the good pastor will love his people in a giving and sacrificial way, being available to them as a shepherd to his flock, bringing them the Word of God, both Law and Gospel, ministering to them with that precious Word of Christ. It is God’s love for him in Christ that motivates and enables the pastor to love the people of the congregation, and it is the love of God in Christ that he brings to the people as he faithfully preaches and teaches the Word of God and administers the Sacraments.”

On the other hand, he says, the congregation is to lovingly “receive their pastor as God’s man, sent to them by God through their call to be their shepherd. They can and should see him as their servant, but first and foremost as the servant of Christ, a servant of the Word. He is not the employee of the parish. He is not someone that they have hired to serve them just as they want him to from some human perspective. Rather, he is accountable to them as the servant of Christ, and he is accountable to God for his work among them. They need to expect that he should, indeed he must, be faithful to his call, faithful to the Word, faithful to his ordination vows, and faithful to the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ.”

Luther once had occasion to remind certain congregations of his day: “You are not lords over preachers and the ministry; you have not established this office. God’s Son alone has done so.”¹² Unfortunately, there are real-life examples of pastors “lording it over” their congregations—and just as unfortunately, there are real-life examples of congregations lording it

over their pastors: making demands of their pastors that are not only unscriptural but also unreasonable and counterproductive to the “partnership in the Gospel” that Paul describes so beautifully in Philippians. 1.

“The wise Christian congregation,” says Dr. Garwood, “receives the pastor as God’s man, and expects him faithfully to preach and teach the Word of God, to lead and guide and counsel with the Word of God.” And “as the pastor loves and cares for the congregation by faithfully serving them with God’s Word and administering the Sacraments according to the Lord’s institution, God will bless both the pastor and the congregation.” Problems will arise, of course, “but because both pastor and people have their focus on Christ and are committed to each other in Him, they are able to work through their problems in a successful and God-pleasing way and the mission and ministry in that place is blessed.”

“When Is the Day of the Installation of a Pastor a Day of Festive Joy for a Congregation?” That’s the (rather lengthy!) title of a sermon that Walther preached at the installation of Pastor Carl Stoeckhardt, who later became a professor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.¹³ Walther gives some helpful practical advice in this sermon to both pastors and congregations, and I’d like to highlight three points that I think resonate well with the words of Dr. Garwood and the 1992 resolution that we looked at earlier. First of all, says Walther, just as the pastor should recognize the diversity of gifts within the congregation and not expect every member or every congregation to have the same gifts, so also the congregation should remember “that no single preacher has all the gifts, but each one has only his particular portion.” “Even the holy apostles and their helpers,” says Walther, “did not have the same measure of gifts. To Paul was given especially the gift of deep and rich knowledge; to John the special gift of looking into the future; to Apollos, the gift of ready speech.” Therefore, “a congregation should not seek in its pastor this or that [particular] gift, but only the gifts given him by God.” If it looks for more, he says, that is nothing short of “cruelty,” and “the congregation will be at fault if its pastor does not carry out his office...with joy but with grief.” Obviously, he says, “that hurts not just the pastor but also the members, “for they do not receive the full measure of the blessing which God intended.”

Second, says Walther, just as the pastor needs to be patient and understanding with the sins and struggles of his members, so also the congregation needs to be patient and understanding with the sins and struggles of their pastor. There’s one thing you can count on, says Walther: “The flesh, the world, and the devil will trouble our pastor daily. Therefore, we need to...remember him in heartfelt prayer!. If his courage

fails, let us speak to him so that he will take heart. If he becomes weak in faith or in any necessary work, let us encourage him. If sorrow overtakes him, let us comfort him. If he stumbles, let us with a gentle spirit help him up. And if we see him faithful in the work in God’s house, let us hold him all the more dear for the sake of his work and consider him worthy of double honor.”

A number of years ago I read an article by a Lutheran pastor called “Confessions of ‘a man of the cloth.’” Despite the rather provocative title, the only thing the pastor really “confesses” in this article is his profound distaste for the expression “man of the cloth,” because it tends to put the focus on the pastor’s personal character and moral conduct as the central features of the his office and calling. It’s true, he admits, that according to the Bible pastors are to be “blameless” and “above reproach”—they are to set an example for God’s people by their holy lives and behavior. On the other hand, he writes: “I never step into the pulpit to preach as a perfect man to a congregation of sinners. I never want the people I serve to see me as someone who can do no wrong. Instead, I hope people see me as a man who struggles with sin as much as they do, but who is convinced that Jesus is the only answer for that sin. Instead of being referred to as ‘a man of the cloth,’” he says, “I would rather be known as ‘a man of the cross.’ That tells of my faith and my conviction, as well as the gospel message I am privileged to preach. The higher the pedestal I am placed on, the farther I have to fall. [But] if I’m viewed as ‘a man of the cross,’ people will know me as someone who confesses, like St. Paul, that he is ‘the worst of sinners.’ Those who hear me preach will know I need the Savior as much as they do. Those who look to my example for strength will find it exactly where I find it—in the cross of Jesus Christ.”

St. Augustine, whose story is somewhat similar to that of St. Paul, once preached a sermon on the anniversary of his own ordination into the office of bishop, an office that he held for nearly 35 years. Augustine confessed to being rather uncomfortable in that office, not only because he felt that he was so completely unworthy of it, but also because he was afraid that the people he served would begin to think of him as someone who was higher or holier than they were. In his anniversary sermon he says: “When it dismays me that I am here *for* you, it consoles me that I am here *with* you. *For* you, I am a bishop [a pastor], but *with* you I am a Christian. The first is an office accepted, the second is a grace received; the first is a danger; the other is a safety. We are tossed, it is true, as in a high sea, by the storms of our toil; but as we recall whose blood it was that bought us, we come, through the calm of that thought, safely into harbor. And as we labor at this task of ours, our response is in the benefit we all share. If, then, I am

gladder by far to be redeemed with you than I am to be placed over you, I shall be more completely your servant as the Lord commanded, for fear of being ungrateful for the price that he paid to save me that I might be yours.”¹⁴

The third point from Walther’s sermon that I’d like to highlight is this: “As important as it is,” says Walther, “that a pastor remain faithful in doctrine and life, it is just as important that the congregation *demand* that he remain faithful.” “In a certain sense,” says Walther, “God’s grace has placed it into our hands whether the office which [the] pastor wants to exercise among us will be blessed or not. Consider this: As God’s steward our pastor must take a fearful oath that he will be faithful; he must pledge nothing less than his soul’s salvation to us, to the whole church, and to God. Therefore I exhort you by your salvation, let us not demand of him what God forbids, or fail to demand of him what God demands.”

One of the best articles I’ve ever read on Luther’s understanding of the priesthood of all believers and the office of the ministry is an article by Herman Preus that was published around 25 years ago in the *Concordia Journal*.¹⁵ The second-to-last section of Preus’s article is called “Honoring the Ministry,” and it includes some strong statements by Luther on the authority of the pastoral office as instituted by God. The last section of his article is called “Judging the Doctrine,” and it includes some equally strong statements about the proper, God-given authority of the laity.

“Luther had a way of shocking a dormant church into action. In exalting the role of the laity in the church he said some things that, if taken seriously, could rock the church, could awaken the sleeping giant of lay power, and cause every preacher to strain every sermon through blood, sweat, and tears. In 1522 he wrote to the Christian in Leisnig assuring them of their right to call a pastor.” But “Luther goes one step further: As priests they also have the right and duty to see that the Word is preached in all its truth and purity.” Luther firmly rejected “the prevailing Roman Catholic position that ‘only the bishops, scholars and councils should be allowed to judge doctrine,’ while ‘the ordinary Christian is supposed to await their judgment and obey it.’ No, says Luther:

‘Christ institutes just the opposite. He takes both the right and the power to judge teaching from the bishops, scholars and councils and gives them to...all Christians equally when he says, John 10: 4, “My sheep know my voice”... Here you see clearly who has the right to judge doctrine: bishops, popes, scholars and everyone else have the power to teach, but it is the sheep who are to judge whether they teach the voice of Christ or the voice of strangers.’”

“What would happen,” says Preus, “if our laity and our congregations really became aware of this power—and responsibility—that God has given them? What would happen to our preachers and their preaching? Have you ever heard a preacher tell his congregation of this power that they have from God? Luther got excited about this and exploded: ‘There never would have been a universal papacy if this right of judgment had prevailed.’”

“As anyone can see,” Preus says, “this is pure dynamite.” “It could indeed rock the church beyond anything Luther contemplated had he not in the same breath served up the antidote. Let no laymen take this doctrine as a license to set himself up as an adversary arrogantly challenging the minister’s God-given authority. For the call of a minister imposes on the congregation that extends the call the obligation to honor its pastor and to hear his word as the word of Christ.”

Luther, says Preus, “sails a straight course between” the doctrine of the public ministry and the priesthood of all believers. He uses one “to correct the clerical tyranny of Rome and the other to correct the radical anti-clerical activities of the Enthusiasts. If a thorough examination is made of both the early and the mature Luther, one can see that he arrived at a beautiful balance between the two doctrines. There seems no better way for the Lutheran church to avoid pompous preachers or arrogant laymen and to bring harmony between the two than to maintain the balance that Luther found in Scripture and the words of Christ.”

This past Sunday, June 25th, was the 476th anniversary of the presentation of the Augsburg Confession to Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession is the foundational confessional document of Lutheranism. It contains the clearest statement found anywhere outside of Scripture itself of the doctrine of justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. And it also explains how God makes the miracle of faith possible. “To obtain such faith,” says AC V, “God instituted the office of the ministry, that is, provided the Gospel and sacraments. Through these, as through means, he gives the Holy Spirit, who works faith, when and where he pleases, in those who hear the Gospel.” The shortest article in the Augsburg Confession, but no less important for its brevity, is Article XIV, which says: “It is taught among us that no one should publicly teach or preach or administer the sacraments in the church without a regular call.”

Obviously, many pastors played an important role in the formulation and defense of this confession, foremost among them the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther. But the Augsburg Confession itself, as well as its Apology, was written by a layman—Luther’s friend and fellow professor Philip Melancthon, who was never ordained

as a pastor. The Augsburg Confession was read in the presence of Emperor Charles V by a fearless layman named Christian Beyer, who read it so loudly and distinctly that even the crowd standing in the courtyard outside of the palace could hear and understand every word. And all of the official signers of the AC were laymen, dukes and princes and margraves and mayors who knew full well before they walked into the Bishop's Palace in Augsburg in the year 1530 that they were putting their lives on the line for the sake of this confession.

In his classic book *Here I Stand*, Roland Bainton has a stirring description of this historic event and the fearless actions of these founding fathers of Lutheranism.

"When Charles V approached the city of Augsburg, the dignitaries went out to receive him. As the notables knelt bareheaded for the benediction of Cardinal Campeggio, the Elector of Saxony [a supporter of Luther] stood bolt upright. From there they marched to the cathedral, where the emperor and all the throng knelt before the high altar. But Elector John of Saxony and the landgrave, Philip of Hesse, remained standing. The next day the emperor took the Lutheran princes aside. He told them that their ministers must not preach in Augsburg. The princes refused. The emperor insisted that at any rate the ministers must not preach polemical sermons. The princes again refused. The emperor informed them that the following day they would see the *Corpus Christi* procession, in which they would be expected to march. The princes once more refused. The emperor continued to insist, when the margrave stepped forward and said, "Before I let anyone take from me the Word of God and ask me to deny my God, I will kneel and let him strike off my head" (252-253).

Just a couple of years after the presentation of the Augsburg Confession Duke John of Saxony died. The preacher at Duke John's funeral was a grieving pastor named Martin Luther. He said: "You all know how Duke John really died two years ago in Augsburg, not only for himself but for all of us, when he stood up to the Emperor and, as a result, was obliged to swallow all kinds of bitter broth and venom which the devil poured out for him. There at Augsburg our beloved elector openly confessed Christ's death and resurrection before the whole world and he stuck to it, staking his land and his people and his own body and life upon this confession. There can be no doubt that he felt this death and its severity in his heart." But he took refuge in Christ's death and resurrection, "by which he has swallowed up death and hell and all of our sins."¹⁶

The Reformation would never have happened without Martin Luther and other courageous and

committed pastors; nor would it have been possible without courageous and committed lay people—both men and women—who were willing to risk all for the sake of Christ and his Gospel.

In the last sermon he ever preached Luther said: "True preachers must carefully and faithfully teach only God's Word and must seek its honor and praise alone. In the same way, the hearers must say: 'We do not believe in our pastor, but he tells us of another Master, One named Christ. To Him he directs us. We will heed our pastor insofar as our pastor directs us to this true Master and Teacher, the Son of God.'¹⁷

Herman Preus concludes his article with these words: "Luther regards the relationship between the minister and the laity as a holy relationship, a marriage of love and respect. No conflict. No jealousy. No competition. Let the minister be faithful to his ordination vows and the congregation will honor him and follow him. In all this Luther is summoning us, all of us, laymen and pastors alike, to join hands in carrying out our priestly function of teaching, witnessing, and preaching the Word of Life in Christ, of being in constant prayer for others, and of offering ourselves as a living sacrifice for our neighbor, even as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it."

In Phil. 1, we see Paul's great love for the people he served, and we get a glimpse of their deep love for him. In Phil. 2 we learn the secret of that beautiful partnership in the Gospel, and I'd like to close with these words: "Your attitude [whether you are a pastor or a lay person or a commissioned minister or whoever you are] should be the same as that of Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Amen."

(Footnotes)

¹ Life of the World, January 2003.

² Walther, The Congregation's Right to Choose Its Pastor, 11-12.

³ Luther, Exposition of Psalm 110, LW 13, 332.

⁴ Luther, The Babylonian Captivity of the Church, LW 36, 116.

⁵ The following theses are included in (and here quoted from) the Appendix of the CTCR's 1981 report on The Ministry: Offices, Procedures and Nomenclature.

⁶ See The Congregation's Right to Choose Its Pastor, 132.

⁷ See the CTCR's 1981 report on The Ministry, 17.

⁸ Luther's Works (American Edition) 30, 11. Translation is from Volker Stolle, The Church Comes from All Nations: Luther Texts on Mission, trans. Klaus Detlev Schulz (St. Louis: CPH, 2003), 20.

⁹ Published (in German) in Gnadenjahr: Predigten über die Evangelien des Kirchenjahrs von Dr. C. F. W. Walther (St. Louis: Concordia, 1891). Quotations from this sermon throughout this part of the essay are from an unpublished 1993 translation by Dr. Bruce Cameron.

¹⁰ Quoted in John W. Doberstein, Minister's Prayer Book (Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press, 1959) 432-434.

¹¹ See Edward Plass, What Luther Says (St. Louis: CPH, 1959), 932.

¹² Ibid., 926.

¹³ For the text of this sermon (from which the following quotations are taken), see Selected Sermons trans. by Henry Eggold and ed. by August Suelflow (St. Louis: CPH, 1981), 164-172.

¹⁴ Quoted by Aidan Kavanaugh, "Christian Ministry and Ministries," in Church and Ministry, ed. Daniel Brockopp, Brian Helge, and David Truemper (Valparaiso, Indiana: Institute of Liturgical Studies, 1982), 17.

¹⁵ Herman A. Preus, "Luther on the Universal Priesthood and the Office of the Ministry," *Concordia Journal* (March, 1979), 55-62.

¹⁶ LW 51, 237.

¹⁷ LW 51, 388.

MINUTES

SUNDAY, June 25, 2006

Delegates and guests to the 98th Convention of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod gathered at the Chapel of the Holy Trinity on the campus of Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan, on Sunday evening, June 25, at 7:00 p.m. Synodical President Gerald Kieschnick based the message on 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, focusing our thoughts on the implications of having been reconciled by God's love for us in Christ, and then living as Christ's ambassadors.

MONDAY MORNING, June 26, 2006

Opening Worship was held at the Chapel of the Holy Trinity with Rev. Donald Neuendorf as preacher. He focused attention on the Convention daily theme: Redeemed.

Following a report from Mr. Marshall Gibbs, chairman of the registration committee, that a quorum was present (as of 9 a.m., 261 Voting Pastors, 249 Voting Lay, 226 Advisory, 77 others = 813 registered). President C. William Hoesman called the assembly to order in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and a prayer. It was 9:17 a.m. in the gymnasium at Concordia University, Ann Arbor.

Judge Gene Schnelz was recognized as the parliamentarian for the convention, having served since 1972.

The Orders of the Day (Agenda) and the 2006 Standing Rules were adopted as printed.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer, president of Concordia University, brought greetings from the University and welcomed the assembly to the campus.

Rev. John Merrill, Convention Committee Chair, introduced his committee, and made several pertinent announcements, including the information on the General Information sheet, which was distributed.

Special guests were recognized: Rev. Dr. Gerald and Terri Kieschnick, Synodical President; and former District Presidents, Rev. Richard and Ruth Schlecht, and Rev. John and Wilma Heins. Also recognized, Rev. Paul Theiss, District Secretary.

Rev. Lawrence Witto, as chairman of the Committee on New and Revised Constitutions, brought forward a report of their committee. It was moved, seconded and adopted that the documents submitted for review and

found to be in order by the following New Congregation: Family Of Christ Lutheran Church - Imlay City; and the revised Constitution for St. Matthew Lutheran Church - Walled Lake, be ratified. Rev. Witto recognized congregations, pastors and ministers of religion - commission, that have joined the district in the past triennium. The assembly sang the Doxology as an expression of thanks to God for these gifts to His church.

President C. William Hoesman delivered the District President's report under the theme: "Celebrating God's Faithfulness — Redeemed, Refreshed, Ready." He recognized also the 125th Anniversary of the District, beginning with the work of Rev. Schmid. It was noted that the Michigan District has been and continues to be a "mission district." President Hoesman focused attention on the current pertinent "Outcomes" of the District, including: Outreach mindset; Professional Church Workers; Relationship Building; Resourced Congregations.

Rev. Robert Appold, chairman of the Nominations Committee, introduced his committee, and reviewed the nominations. Rev. Peter Nickel, chairman of the Elections Committee, oversaw the election of Rev. C. William Hoesman as District President, who, with his wife Barbara thanked the district for their confidence and support.

The election of District Regional Vice-Presidents followed:

Metro East Region	Michael Roth
Metro West Region	K. Frank Graves
North & East Region	Wayne Wentzel
West Region	David P.E. Maier.

David P. E. Maier was elected as the First Vice-President of the Michigan District.

A 125th Anniversary vignette was presented.

Mr. Ken Gudalien brought greetings from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Rev. Ralph Schmidt brought greetings from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

A stretch break was taken.

Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick addressed the convention, encouraging the assembly to take seriously the focus on One Mission, One Message, One People. He challenged us to be faithful in our role as Christ's ambassadors, and challenged us to be *Ablaze!*

The ranking of Vice-presidents continued, with Wayne Wentzel elected as 2nd Vice-President; Michael Roth as Third, and K. Frank Graves as 4th Vice-President.

District Secretary	David R. Reed
District Treasurer	William Young
Board Of Directors — Metro East Region	
Ordained	Robert Kasper
Commissioned	Stanley R. Topel
Lay	John D. Held; Margaret O'Reilly
Board Of Directors — West Region	
Ordained	Dieter E. Haupt
Commissioned	Richard C. Krueger
Lay	Ruth E. Martin; John C. Raffel

The assembly adjourned for lunch. During this time the following were selected as Minister of Religion - Ordained, Advisory Delegates to the 2007 Synodical Convention: Rev. Blair Clark and Rev. Gerald Grimm, with Rev. Lawrence Kinne as the alternate. The following Circuit Counselors were also selected by their respective Caucuses:

#6 Midland	Paul V. Young
# 11 Flint North	Clifford F. Bira
# 18 Birmingham	Alan P. Eisinger
# 21 Detroit Central	Mark A. Griffin
# 24 Monroe	Bruce K. Lucas
# 25 Dearborn	Kurt E. Lambart
# 30 Jackson	R. William Roper

MONDAY AFTERNOON, June 26, 2006

At 1:15 p.m. Rev. Galan Walther led the opening devotions of the afternoon session, reminding us of the new life we have in Christ Jesus.

A 125th Anniversary vignette was presented, focusing on our hymnals.

Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer, of the CTCR, led the assembly in a presentation of the Office of the Ministry / Priesthood of All Believers. Rev. Galan Walther helped facilitate a discussion on questions relative to this topic, and the delegates participated in option-finder questions.

Synod President Kieschnick answered questions from the assembly, posed by Rev. Gerhardt Doroh, chairman of the Circuit Counselors.

Rev. David Ritt, President of the English District, LCMS, was recognized as being present in our assembly.

A break was taken by the delegates, after which a series of option-finder responses was taken.

Floor Committee One, under the leadership of Rev. Wayne Wentzel, brought forward Resolution 1-01, To Encourage Michigan District Congregations to Embrace an "All Nations" Emphasis. On line 24, the words "the outreach of" was substituted for "inclusion", and on line 36 the words "Christ's universal redemption" was substituted for "inclusion and outreach." ADOPTED

Rev. Mark Brandt led a presentation of the proposed "Principles of Conduct for Congregations and for Church Workers," as adopted by the District Board of Directors. Rev. Dieter Haupt led the assembly through a brief walk through the printed guidelines.

Video greetings from Lutheran City Ministries and the LATINO Mission Society were shown.

Floor Committee Two, under the direction of Rev. David P.E. Maier, brought forward Resolution 2-05 To Transfer Heart of the Shepherd Lutheran Church, Howell, Michigan, from Circuit #26 to Circuit # 35, which was ADOPTED.

Resolution 2-02 To Encourage Congregations to Use the District Compensation Guidelines for Their Workers was ADOPTED.

Resolution 2-03 To Increase Financial Support for LCMS Professional Church Work Students and Programs was ADOPTED.

Resolution 2-04 To Give the Board of Directors the Option of Selling the District Property at Eastern Michigan University was ADOPTED.

Mr. Timothy Turner, the chairman of Faith Lutheran Church, Grand Blanc, shared their congregation's experience with a Mission Renewal process; Mr. Henry Storm, of Cedar Crest, White Lake, shared their congregation's experience with the District's help during a vacancy; Mr. Dennis Overly of Guardian, Dearborn, spoke highly of Intentional Interim Ministry; and Henry Pickelmann, of Trinity, Bay City, spoke to the value of School Board Workshops.

Further elections were conducted.
Church Extension Board of Trustees –
 Ordained Joel F. Hoyer
Church Extension Board of Trustees –
 Commissioned Ian K. McDonald

Church Extension Board of Trustees -
 Lay Ray A. Seppamaki
 Nominating Committee - 2009 Committee
 Metro East -
 Ordained Timothy A. Bickel
 Commissioned Gary L. Pawlitz
 Lay Phillip Fluegge
 Metro West -
 Ordained Joel H. Sarrault
 Commissioned Daniel W. Ramthun
 (unopposed)

The convention affirmed the election of Stanley Topel and Daniel W. Ramthun, both of whom were unopposed.

Lay Larry P. Selz
 North & East
 Ordained Paul R. Hinz
 Commissioned Richard P. Cohrs

Rev. Mark Hetzner, representing the Michigan District Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support, introduced Casey Salminen who highlighted Grace Place Retreat. The assembly was shown a video from Synod's Commission on Ministerial Health and Support.

Mr. William Young, District Treasurer, gave his report.

Rev. Roosevelt Gray offered a few closing thoughts about outreach, and a hymn, and the convention was adjourned for the day.

MONDAY EVENING, June 26, 2006

The 125th Anniversary Dinner was held at the Manor, followed by an Anniversary Program.

An Evening Prayer at the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, was led by Rev. Albert Collver III, beginning at 9:30 p.m.

TUESDAY MORNING, June 27, 2006

Opening Devotions were held in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. Rev. Daniel Meckes encouraged us to be refreshed by God's Word and Sacraments as we live and work today.

President Hoesman welcomed the delegates, and called the convention to order at 9:10 a.m.

The slate of Circuit Counselors was ratified.

Rev. Peter Nickel, Chairman of the Elections Committee, oversaw the following elections:

Church Extension Board of Trustees
 Ordained Michael J. Lutz
 Nominating Committee – 2009 District Convention
 North & East Region
 Lay John W. Nutzmann
 West Region
 Ordained Robert B. Appold
 Commissioned Timothy L. Ernst
 Lay David Marasus
 Concordia University Board of Regents
 Ordained Ronald L. Young
 Commissioned Eric M. Hagenow
 Lay Dale D. Gust
 2009 Synodical Convention Committee Nominations
 Paul D. Theiss

This concluded the work of the Elections Committee. They were dismissed with thanks!

Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer continued his presentation on the topic "The Office of the Ministry / Priesthood of Believers," and Rev. Galan Walther facilitated a time of discussion in small groups.

A 125th Anniversary Vignette was presented, followed by video presentations and greetings by Lutheran Homes of Michigan and Lutheran Child & Family Services of Michigan.

A break was taken.

Several "option finder" surveys were taken by the delegates.

Mr. Jack Kidwell, as chairman of the 125th Anniversary Thank Offering Steering Committee, addressed the assembly. The theme: "The Future is Now!" The goal is \$10 million, to be split between Intentional Mission Starts within our District and Support for Professional Church Worker Students. Former District Presidents Richard Schlecht and John Heins also spoke words of encouragement for this effort. A video presentation was shown. Mr. Ron Steinke, of the Church Extension Fund, announced that CEF is funding the cost of the campaign so that all the gifts given would be used for the ministry goals of the campaign.

Mr. Ron Steinke spoke on behalf of the Michigan District Church Extension Fund and their ministry in the Michigan District, highlighting various new buildings made possible through investments in Church

Extension Fund. He also noted that CEF will also offer incentives to those who are giving to the 125th Anniversary Campaign, including a match of \$100,000 for each million dollars given (to a maximum of one million dollars). The doxology was sung praising God for the blessings given.

The assembly adjourned for lunch.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, June 27, 2006

Rev. Richard Wolfram led the afternoon devotions, focusing our attention on Christ, the only true “rest stop.”

A 125th Anniversary Vignette was presented, with Rev. Eldor Bickel focusing on recruitment and outreach efforts through the years.

Floor Committee Two (Rev. David Maier, chairman) began their work with a video on Lutheran Service Book. Resolution 2-01 To Present and Promote Lutheran Service Book in the Michigan District was ADOPTED.

Resolution 2-06 To Establish a Task Force to Study the District Convention was ADOPTED.

This concluded their work, Floor Committee Two was dismissed with thanksgiving.

Floor Committee One (Rev. Wayne Wentzel, chairman), continued discussion on Resolution 1-04, regarding the proposed Ethical Guidelines, offering suggestions as to how they could be studied. Resolution 1-04 A was offered To Encourage Implementation of Ethical Guidelines as Adopted by the Board of Directors which was ADOPTED.

Resolution 1-02 To Encourage Professional Church Workers and Congregational Experience in Mission Work was moved/seconded. An amendment was offered — to substitute “circuits” for “congregations” in line 25 — which was defeated. The orders of the day were called.

Video greetings were offered by Project Compassion Ministries and Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center.

Ministry Presentations were offered, focusing on District Mission Starts. Missionaries Galen Grulke (Heart of the Shepherd, Howell), Lynn Witt (Family of Christ, Imlay City), Mark Bowditch (Family of Christ, Alpine/Comstock Park), Paul Werner (Living Hope of the Bay, Anchor Bay/New Baltimore), Robert Barber

(Journey of Faith, Byron Center) updated the delegates on their progress.

More “option finder” surveys were taken, during which lightning struck and dimmed the lights, after which a break was taken.

Floor Committee One resumed its work on Resolution 1-02. By common consent the word “likewise” on line 22 was struck. An amendment was adopted to substitute for the last resolve in lines 25-26, “Resolved, that each of our congregations encourage members to participate in a short term mission experience in the next triennium.” Resolution 1-02 was ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

Resolution 1-06 To Petition the Synod to Discuss Issues with Mutual Respect was offered, with the committee noting the word “sincere” on line 6 be eliminated. It was adopted to strike, on line 33, the words, “whenever possible.” Resolution 1-06 was ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

Resolution 1-07 To Encourage Congregations and Professional Church Workers to Become Educated on Dealing with Conflict was ADOPTED, with this change, that on line 15, the word “persist” be substituted for the words “are on the increase.”

Rev. David Davis spoke on the Ablaze movement and spiritual development.

Resolution 1-03 To Encourage Each of Our Congregations to Register for Ablaze Tabulation Project was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. (An amendment was offered to substitute “God” for “member” and “celebrated” for “counted” on line 20 which was defeated) The automatic call of the question (30 minutes) carried. The resolution was ADOPTED (62% for; 38% against).

The assembly decided to change the Orders of the Day to consider Resolution 1-05 To Encourage Spiritual Leadership of Convention Delegates. The committee substituted “read through the Bible annually” in place of “read the Bible daily” on line 26. An amendment to serve as the first Whereas was adopted: “Whereas, we believe, teach and confess that we are redeemed by the grace of Jesus Christ and trust that we are powerless to achieve anything without His aid, and”. An amendment to delete lines 32-33 was defeated. It was adopted to add the word “Christian” at the end of line 35, to read: ...cultivate a “Christian” relationship... The Question was called and Resolution 1-05 was ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

Floor Committee One was dismissed with thanks!

Richard Kern brought greetings from Lutheran Hour Ministries, and Anita Beyersdorf from Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer brought greetings from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, and reviewed significant events that transpired through the past three years which have brought about a positive, encouraging outlook for CUAA, 5 Keys for the Future, and the challenges facing Concordia University.

Video greetings from Great Lakes Urban Ministry, and Lutheran Heritage Foundation were shown.

The assembly adjourned for supper at 5:25 p.m. following a prayer.

TUESDAY EVENING, June 27, 2006

A Service of Installation was held in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, with President Hoesman delivering the message, entitled "Called to Be Refreshing." A convention group photo was taken in the chapel courtyard, followed by a reception hosted by Thrivent Builds.

A Service of Evening Prayer was held at 9:30 p.m. in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity with Rev. Benjamin Mayes as the officiant.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, June 28, 2006

A Memorial Service, honoring those ministers of religion (ordained and commissioned) who have been called home during the past triennium, was held in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, with Past President John Heins as the preacher. He based his message on Hebrews 13, and encouraged us to "remember these leaders who spoke the word of God, and labored among us."

The assembly was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

Elaine Bickel presented a 125th Anniversary vignette which focused on the benefits of Lutheran schools.

Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer concluded his presentation on the topic "The Office of the Ministry / Priesthood of Believers," and Rev. Galan Walther facilitated a time of discussion in small groups.

Judge Gene Schnelz was thanked for his faithful service to the church and to our District.

A stretch break was taken.

Video greetings were offered by Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST Ministries). Rev. Mark Hetzner spoke on behalf of the Michigan District Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support. Lutheran Blind Mission provided a video greeting.

Ethnic ministries were highlighted by Rev. Steven Essenberg (Lutheran City Ministries), Rev. Gregory Lorenz (LATINO), Rev. Amer Khan (POBLO), Vicar Yang Lang (Hmong), and Rev. Steven Schilke (Missions to the Upper Peninsula).

The final registration report was given: 261 Voting Pastors; 249 Voting Lay, 206 Advisory, and with guests a total of 902 were present. 297 congregations were represented.

President Hoesman thanked Rev. Peter Larsen for his role as Agenda Coordinator. He also thanked the Convention committee (Rev. John Merrill, chairman), and the District staff for their faithful work.

The convention closed at 11:30 a.m. with a prayer, and in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A Service of Sending was held in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, with Rev. Farrukh Khan as the preacher.

COMMITTEE NAME: THEOLOGY, MISSION and RELATIONS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-01
SUBJECT: To Encourage Michigan District Congregations to Embrace an “All Nations” Emphasis
REFERENCE: Overture 1-01, CW Overtures Page 1

WHEREAS our communities are the recipients of many of those transitioning to life in our country or to new states and cities as well as many who have been here for generations and have not yet received the Gospel, and

WHEREAS Jesus breaks through all racial, cultural and economic barriers through His death and resurrection, and

WHEREAS Jesus commands His church to make disciples of “all nations,” (Matthew 28:18-20), and therefore it is reasonable to expect that Christian churches in the United States would be an integration of God’s people, of all different ethnic backgrounds, genders, ages, and socio-economic classes worshiping God together, and

WHEREAS some of our Michigan District congregations are divided because of a failure to make an intentional effort toward evangelism to all people, and

WHEREAS our LCMS, which is blessed with the absolute biblical truth, can not preach the Gospel and get involved in the struggle against injustice, poverty and disease with true sincerity to the rest of the world until we seek the outreach of all the people in our communities within our churches, and

WHEREAS exclusivity is a bad witness to the non-Christian world, and we can not be effective ambassadors for Christ abroad if we cannot embrace an All Nations emphasis here at home, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the 2006 Convention of the Michigan District encourage each of the congregations of the Michigan District to pray for the Holy Spirit to help them intentionally embrace all socio-economic, ethnic and cultural groups in their communities, and be it further

RESOLVED that we reaffirm that Jesus’ death and resurrection has broken all barriers and that it is our solemn duty as LCMS congregations, equipped with the absolute biblical truth, to ensure that we preach Christ’s universal redemption and practice it daily, and be it finally

RESOLVED that because the Gospel is for everyone, our Michigan District congregations address the issue of inclusion at all levels and come up with specific intentional strategies to engage and seek out all people in our respective communities.

ACTION: Adopted

COMMITTEE NAME: THEOLOGY, MISSION and RELATIONS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-02
SUBJECT: To Encourage Professional Church Workers and Congregational Experience in Mission Work
REFERENCE: Overture 1-02, CW Overtures Page 3

WHEREAS Jesus sent his disciples out into the world (Matthew 28:18-20), and

WHEREAS our church body has its roots and heart in worldwide evangelization, and

WHEREAS many have learned much from a mission experience, and

WHEREAS there are a number of excellent LCMS mission sending agencies, and

WHEREAS professional church worker leadership is crucial for congregational development, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the 2006 Convention of the Michigan District encourages each of the District's congregations to enable through financial support its professional church worker(s) to participate in a short term mission experience during the next triennium, and be it further

RESOLVED that the District Board of Directors encourage called district staff to likewise participate in a short term mission experience during the next triennium, and be it finally

RESOLVED that each of our congregations encourage members to participate in a short term mission experience in the next triennium.

ACTION: Adopted

COMMITTEE NAME: THEOLOGY, MISSION and RELATIONS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-03
SUBJECT: To Encourage Each of Our Congregations to Register for Ablaze Tabulation Project
REFERENCE: Overture 1-03, CW Overtures Page 4

WHEREAS our church body has its roots and heart in worldwide evangelization, and

WHEREAS we have been presented with a bold challenge to share the Gospel with 100,000,000 people between now and 2017, the 500th Anniversary of the Posting of the 95 Theses, and

WHEREAS we already count many things in our congregations, District and Synod, and

WHEREAS the saving of lost people adds great joy in heaven (Luke 15:7), and

WHEREAS we have committed to walk together by being part of the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod, therefore be it

RESOLVED that each of our congregations be encouraged to develop a system by which Gospel contacts made by members in that congregation can be counted, and be it further

RESOLVED that each of our congregations be encouraged to improve methods within the congregation to equip and encourage members to make more Gospel contacts, and be it further

RESOLVED that any of our congregations that have already registered as partners in Ablaze be commended for their leadership, and be it further

RESOLVED that each of our congregations that has not done so be encouraged to register on line as a partner in Ablaze, and be it finally

RESOLVED that delegates from congregations not presently registered be most evangelically encouraged to do so in the Ministry Tent before the end of the 2006 Convention.

ACTION: Adopted

COMMITTEE NAME: THEOLOGY, MISSION and RELATIONS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-04-A
SUBJECT: To Encourage Implementation of Ethical Guidelines as Adopted by the Board of Directors
REFERENCE: Overture 1-04, CW Overtures Page 5

WHEREAS one of the major outcome goals of our Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is that “Michigan District congregations and professional church workers demonstrate respect, trust, and support for each other ... as they engage in interdependent ministries,” and

WHEREAS the way congregations and professional church workers conduct themselves in their contacts and transactions with one another greatly affects relationships between them, and

WHEREAS there has long been a felt need to encourage one another to be Christ-like in attitude and action in our dealings with one another and to incorporate that into formalized Professional Church Worker “Ethical Guidelines” and Congregational “Ethical Guidelines”, and

WHEREAS such guidelines have been prepared for both congregations and professional church workers, and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the Michigan District has adopted the two ethic documents entitled “Partners in Ministry: Ethical Conduct for Professional Church Workers” and “Partners in Ministry: Ethical Conduct for Congregations,” and

WHEREAS most professions have ethical guidelines that are subscribed to by the members of that profession, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod receive with gratitude the ethical guidelines that have been developed, and be it further

RESOLVED that the congregations, professional church workers, and circuits of the Michigan District devote sufficient time to study and reflect upon these guidelines and report suggested changes to the Board of Directors of the District, and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Michigan District, after these guidelines have been studied, prayerfully considered and possibly amended, present them to the 2009 convention for adoption.

ACTION: Adopted

COMMITTEE NAME: THEOLOGY, MISSION and RELATIONS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-05
SUBJECT: To Encourage Spiritual Leadership of Convention Delegates
REFERENCE: Overture 1-05, CW Overtures Page 6

WHEREAS, we believe, teach and confess that we are redeemed by the grace of Jesus Christ and trust that we are powerless to achieve anything without His aid, and

WHEREAS the delegates, voting and advisory, of the Michigan District are leaders in their congregations, and

WHEREAS Dr. Luther in his Large Catechism (15-19, Tappert) challenges believers to develop specific spiritual disciplines and practices, and

WHEREAS God invites us into His word and promises great things through it (John 8:31-32), and

WHEREAS God invites us to prayer and promises great things through it (Matthew 7:7-8), and

WHEREAS God wants us to put our trust in Him and to follow no other gods (Matthew 6:19-34), and

WHEREAS God wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (I Timothy 2:4), therefore be it

RESOLVED that all of the delegates assembled in Convention be encouraged to take the lead in their respective congregations in the area of spiritual discipline, and be it further

RESOLVED that each of the assembled delegates be encouraged to read through the Bible annually, and be it further

RESOLVED that each of the assembled delegates be encouraged to pray at least one half hour a day, and be it further

RESOLVED that each of the assembled delegates be encouraged to tithe to Jesus through the local congregation, and be it further

RESOLVED that each of the assembled delegates be encouraged to intentionally cultivate a Christian relationship with at least four un-churched people, and be it finally

RESOLVED that each of the assembled delegates be encouraged to encourage others to do the same.

ACTION: Adopted

COMMITTEE NAME: THEOLOGY, MISSION and RELATIONS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-06
SUBJECT: To Petition the Synod to Discuss Issues with Mutual Respect
REFERENCE: Overture 1-06, CW Overtures Page 7

WHEREAS in this fallen world, differences of opinion among Christians are to be expected, and

WHEREAS such differences of opinion might even be welcomed as an opportunity to carefully review what God's Word says about a subject, and

WHEREAS our witness to the world is affected by the way we conduct ourselves when we have a disagreement with a brother or sister in Christ, and

WHEREAS the early Church provides a model in Acts 15 for settling disputes without resorting to charges and accusations, and

WHEREAS there are many who have strongly held opinions on disputed matters in our synod, and

WHEREAS all are equally eager to be about the mission of the church, and

WHEREAS an enormous amount of time, energy, and money has already been expended in debating these matters, and

WHEREAS our synod has committed itself to theological convocations to discuss the disputed matters, therefore be it

RESOLVED that everyone involved in discussing these issues seeks to understand, articulate, and accurately

represent the position of others with no exaggeration, acrimony or misrepresentation, and be it further

RESOLVED that the example of Acts 15 and the admonitions of Matthew 18 be carefully followed in all our disagreements, and be it further

RESOLVED that we each individually re-commit ourselves to carefully preserving the saving Gospel while at the same time energetically spreading it, and be it finally

RESOLVED that our Michigan District in convention memorialize the synod to put these resolutions into effect church-wide.

ACTION: Adopted

COMMITTEE NAME: THEOLOGY, MISSION and RELATIONS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-07
SUBJECT: To Encourage Congregations and Professional Church Workers to Become Educated on Dealing With Conflict
REFERENCE: Overture 2-03, CW Overtures Page 10

WHEREAS one of the major outcome goals of our Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is that “Michigan District congregations and professional church workers demonstrate respect, trust, and support for each other and for District and Synod as they engage in interdependent ministries,” and

WHEREAS conflicts between and among congregations and professional church workers are counter to the achievement of that goal, and

WHEREAS such conflicts persist, and

WHEREAS our witness to the world is affected by the way we conduct ourselves when we have a disagreement with a brother or sister in Christ, and

WHEREAS we know that the real Enemy is not our fellow Christians, but Satan himself, and

WHEREAS protracted conflicts are emotionally draining for all involved and deflect needed resources from ministry, and

WHEREAS the Michigan District desires to assist congregations to identify conflict in the early stages and to effectively manage these conflicts to the glory of God and the welfare of our neighbor, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the congregations of the Michigan District be made aware of and be encouraged to make use of available district resources (such as Circuit Counselors, Congregation Ministry Facilitators, and others who have been trained in Christian conflict resolution), and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations of the Michigan District seek education regarding the stages of conflict, the characteristics of conflict in each stage, and effective approaches to dealing with conflict at the various stages, and be it further

RESOLVED that program committees of circuit and district conferences of professional church workers be encouraged to help with that education by including a topic on conflict resolution on their agendas in the next triennium, and be it finally

RESOLVED that this information be shared at the congregational level through special workshops, regular meetings, etc. with the prayer that increased understanding would enable those congregations to deal with conflict in a

manner that leads to a beneficial and God-pleasing conclusion.

ACTION: Adopted

COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION/CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-01
SUBJECT: To Present and Promote Lutheran Service Book in the Michigan District
REFERENCE: Overture 2-01, CW Overtures Page 8

Background Over the past seven years the Synod, through its Commission on Worship, has been preparing a new hymnal and service book for the congregations. At the 2004 Convention of the Synod the delegates passed the resolution “To Accept *Lutheran Service Book* as an Official Service Book and Hymnal of Synod” by a substantial margin. The final “Resolved” of 2004 Resolution 2-03A stated “Resolved, that congregations and other entities of Synod be encouraged to participate in the introductory process for the new hymnal.

WHEREAS The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod in Convention has reviewed, received, and accepted the *Lutheran Service Book* and *Agenda* as an official service book and hymnal of the Synod, and

WHEREAS a complete introductory process for these worship materials has been planned for usage in all of the districts of the Synod in the coming months, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Michigan District in Convention receive these worship materials with thanksgiving and affirm the participation of the District and its congregations in the introductory process, including participation in regional workshops coordinated by the national Commission on Worship, and be it finally

RESOLVED that each congregation of the Michigan District give thoughtful and prayerful consideration to utilizing the *Lutheran Service Book* and its supporting materials in its worship life in the coming months and years.

ACTION: Adopted

COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION/CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-02
SUBJECT: To Encourage Congregations to Use the District Compensation Guidelines for Their Workers
REFERENCE: Overture 2-02, CW Overtures Page 9

WHEREAS one of the major outcome goals of our Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is that “The Michigan District has a sufficient number of Ministers of Religion-Ordained and Commissioned to meet the needs of its congregations and ministries. These workers have a personal relationship with Christ and are filled with integrity and joy, are well respected *and supported financially* (emphasis added),” and

WHEREAS there is a need to treat the professional church workers in the Michigan District in a fair and appropriate manner in all things, including financial compensation, and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the Michigan District has approved and issued salary guidelines (mailed to each congregation and available online at www.michigandistrict.org) for use by district congregations, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Michigan District in convention strongly support and encourage congregations to use district compensation guidelines when establishing compensation for their workers.

ACTION: Adopted

COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION/CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-03
SUBJECT: To Increase Financial Support for LCMS Professional Church Work Students and Programs
REFERENCE: Overture 2-04, CW Overtures Page 11

WHEREAS Article III of the Constitution of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod speaks to the recruitment and training of professional church workers as a key objective, and

WHEREAS many members of the Synod’s congregations are unaware of the financial plight of the seminaries and schools of the Concordia University System and the consequent negative impact of high tuition costs on enrollment, and therefore be it

RESOLVED that the District provide its member congregations with accurate information regarding professional church worker educational costs, and be it further

RESOLVED that the congregations of the District be encouraged to share this information with its members, and be it finally

RESOLVED that the District encourage its member congregations and individual members of those congregations to make direct contributions to the institutions and students over and above their normal unrestricted giving to District and Synod.

ACTION: Adopted

COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION/CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-04
SUBJECT: To Give the Board of Directors the Option of Selling the District Property at Eastern Michigan University
REFERENCE: Overture 2-05, CW Overtures Page 12

WHEREAS the 1997 District convention has directed that no campus ministry property be sold until the campus ministry report has been delivered to the Board of Directors, and

WHEREAS the District owns a building and land at 812 Ann Street, Ypsilanti near Eastern Michigan University (the site), and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors adopted the campus ministry report recommendations relating to Eastern Michigan University which included 1) retaining the site, 2) maintaining the site and leasing to suitable groups, 3) extending the covenant agreement with International Student Ministries, and 4) seeking a covenant agreement with St. Luke Lutheran Church of Ann Arbor for North American Students, and

WHEREAS the District has leased the site to various ministry groups over the last decade and has had covenant arrangements with both International Student Ministries (whose usage has decreased over the years) and St. Luke Lutheran Church (whose usage has terminated), and

WHEREAS Campus ministry at Eastern Michigan University can take place through coordination with local congregations and the campus ministry at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor without the need for this particular building, and

WHEREAS the building does now and will, over time, require maintenance items that will require the expenditure of District resources on items that will not further the direct ministry outcomes of the Michigan District as outlined by the Board of Directors, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the District in convention authorize the Board of Directors, at its discretion, to sell the property owned by the District at 812 Ann Street in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and be it further

RESOLVED that the proceeds of the sale be used to support the ongoing campus ministry program of the District.

ACTION: Adopted

COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION/CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-05
SUBJECT: To Transfer Heart of the Shepherd Lutheran Church, Howell, Michigan from Circuit #26 to Circuit #35
REFERENCE: Overture 2-06, CW Overtures Page 13

WHEREAS Heart of the Shepherd Lutheran Church, as a mission congregation of Shepherd of the Lakes in Brighton, was assigned to its Circuit – the Kensington Circuit #26, and

WHEREAS all of the churches in the Kensington Circuit #26, except for Heart of the Shepherd and Shepherd of the Lakes in Brighton, are east of U.S. 23, and

WHEREAS Heart of the Shepherd Lutheran Church is now an official member of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod with a more westerly mission emphasis toward Fowlerville, Williamston, Okemos and Lansing, and

WHEREAS Heart of the Shepherd Lutheran Church in Howell, Michigan, requests to be aligned with LCMS churches in those areas, therefore be it

RESOLVED that Heart of the Shepherd Lutheran Church in Howell, Michigan, be transferred to Capitol Circuit #35.

ACTION: Adopted

COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION/CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-06
SUBJECT: To Establish a Task Force to Study the District Convention

WHEREAS the process we now have for our District Convention has been in place for many years, which includes for example, District Bylaw specified Regional Assemblies on a specific date, which have been poorly attended, and

WHEREAS there may be ways to increase participation, utilizing greater stewardship of resources, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the District in convention direct the President of the District to establish a task force to reexamine the Regional Assemblies, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Task Force be directed also to study the length, timing and logistics of the District Convention, and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Task Force report its findings to the District Board of Directors for consideration and possible action at the 2009 Michigan District Convention.

ACTION: Adopted

**BYLAWS
THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT
OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
(AS AMENDED BY THE 2003 CONVENTION JUNE 22 – 25, 2003)**

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

- 1.1 Membership in the District shall consist of those congregations, Ministers of Religion, Ordained and Commissioned, who have been admitted to membership in the Synod and received by the District or the Synod.
- 1.2 The District shall establish an organizational structure for the effective operation of its program and conduct of its affairs, which structure shall embrace the Convention, Regional Assemblies, the Board of Directors, and such other Boards, Commissions, Committees, officers and functionaries as may from time to time be established.
- 1.3 The governance and control of the District's affairs shall be conducted on the basis of four (4) levels of organization.
- a. The Convention which shall consist of the District at large through its delegates in Convention assembled and shall be the governing body of the District subject to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Resolutions of Synod, and to these Bylaws.
 - b. The Regional Assemblies (4) shall meet prior to the District Convention, at which time delegates shall consist of the regularly elected and delegated representatives, cf 2.3, of said regions. The purpose of the Regional Assemblies shall be to evaluate their Regional as well as District needs, and to nominate for District elections.
 - c. The Board of Directors shall be construed as District in constant session to establish policy and direct the affairs of the District subject to the Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions of Synod, and to these Bylaws and the Resolutions of the District in Convention.

ARTICLE II - CONVENTIONS

- 2.1 District Conventions shall be held and conducted as prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod.
- 2.2 The Convention shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws or the Bylaws of Synod.
- 2.3 Representation - The District Convention shall be composed of regularly elected and delegated representatives and of certain individual persons, as follows:

- a. Representatives of congregations entitled to vote. Every congregation or parish is entitled to two (2) votes, one (1) of which is to be cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate.
 - b. The advisory members of the Synod (Synodical Handbook, V.B.).
 - c. Advisory representatives of the Board of Directors, other boards, commissions, and educational institutions and such as by virtue of their office are required to attend District Conventions.
- 2.4 **QUORUM.** For a legal Convention, a constitutional convocation of the meeting and the presence of at least one-fourth of the constitutionally-elected voting representatives are necessary.

ARTICLE III - REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES

- 3.1 Regional Assemblies shall meet on the first Saturday in May prior to the Convention of the Michigan District. The Regional Vice-President shall call at a place of his choosing an assembly of his region.
- 3.2 The Regional Assembly shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, except as otherwise provided by these Bylaws or the Bylaws of Synod.
- 3.3 Representation: Each congregation shall be represented at this assembly as it is at District Conventions; namely, by two voting delegates (one pastor and one layperson) and by the advisory members of Synod (cf 2.3).
- 3.4 The Regional Vice-President shall chair the assembly and shall appoint a secretary to record the proceedings.
- 3.5 **QUORUM.** For a legal assembly of the Region, the presence of at least one-fourth of the voting representatives shall be present.
- 3.6 The purpose of the Regional Assembly shall be:
- a. To study the needs of the Region in mission and ministry;
 - b. To hear and discuss the total needs of the District;
 - c. To be informed about major issues to come before the District Convention;

- d. To nominate from its Region two (2) pastors for election by the District Convention to the office of Regional Vice-President in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 5.12 and the Schedule of Elections.
- e. To nominate from its Region two (2) ordained ministers, two (2) commissioned ministers, from the roster of the district and four (4) lay persons from a slate prepared by the Regional Nominating Committee for election by the District Convention to the Board of Directors of the District.
- f. To nominate as specified in 5.8 c. and d.

ARTICLE IV - QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

- 4.1 Officers and board members shall meet all qualifications established from time to time by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and such other qualifications as may be established from time to time by these Bylaws.
- 4.2 Officers and members of the Board of Directors must be members in good standing of congregations which are members of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, except as noted in Bylaw 5.11a. No congregation of the District shall have more than one (1) member from its congregation as a voting member of the Board of Directors to the district.

ARTICLE V - ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

- 5.1 Elective Officers. The Elective Officers of the District shall be the President, four Vice-Presidents (one from each Region), a Secretary, a Treasurer and the Circuit Counselors.
- 5.2 The Elective Board of the District shall be the Board of Directors.
- 5.3 Term of Officers and Board Members.
 - a. The term of office of each elected officer shall be three (3) years. All officers other than Circuit Counselors may be elected or appointed to the same office for four (4) consecutive terms after which a period of three (3) years shall elapse before such person is again eligible for election or appointment to the same office, unless otherwise provided by these Bylaws. An officer, elected or appointed to fill an unexpired term, who serves two (2) or more years, shall be considered to have completed one (1) term. Circuit Counselors may serve an unlimited number of terms.
 - b. The term of office of each board member shall be six (6) years. All board members may be elected or appointed to the same office for two (2) consecutive

terms after which a period of six (6) years shall elapse before such person is again eligible for election to the same board, unless otherwise provided by these Bylaws. A board member, elected or appointed to fill an unexpired term, who served four (4) or more years, shall be considered to have completed one (1) term.

- c. The President may be elected to succeed himself in office no more than three (3) times.
- d. The Board of Directors shall be composed of four (4) ordained ministers, four (4) commissioned ministers, and eight (8) laypersons with equal representation from each Region of the District.

The size of the Church Extension Board of Trustees shall be determined by its bylaws.

- e. District board members who move inter-Regionally may complete their term of office.

5.4 Salaried Executives Without Vote.

Executive Level staff of the District and the Chief Executive Officer for the Church Extension Board of Trustees are not eligible for voting membership on any board of the District. They shall not at the same time hold an executive position to which they have been called and the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer of the District. If such staff is elected by the Convention to one of these positions, he must resign his executive office to accept such an election.

5.5 If President is Unable to Serve.

The duties and responsibilities of the Office of President shall be assumed by the First Vice-President whenever the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve in that capacity because of his prolonged illness or disability, and the First Vice-President shall remain as the Acting President until the Board of Directors determines such illness or disability has been removed.

5.6 Vacancies.

- a. A vacancy in the office of Vice-President shall be filled by advancing the lower ranking Vice-Presidents. An acting Vice President for the resulting vacancy may be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, until the elections at the next District Convention.
- b. A vacancy in the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws or the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The appointee shall serve the unexpired term.
- c. A vacancy in any other elective office (Secretary, Treasurer, etc.) shall be filled by appointment by the

Board of Directors. The appointee shall serve the unexpired term to which he is appointed.

- d. The Church Extension Board of Trustees will fill vacancies in accordance with its own Bylaws.

5.7 Time of Elections.

- a. The election of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the District elected members of the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Ann Arbor, approximately one-half of the Board of Directors members and the ratification of the Circuit Counselors shall take place at each District Convention.
- b. Regional Assemblies shall nominate for all positions with the exception of District President, District Secretary, District Treasurer, Church Extension Board of Trustees, and the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Ann Arbor.
- c. At their Regional Assemblies prior to the Convention held in even-years, the Metro-East Region and the West Region shall nominate for the Board of Directors.
- d. At their Regional Assemblies prior to the Convention held in odd-years, the Metro-West Region and the North and East Region shall nominate for the Board of Directors.

5.8 Committee on Nominations.

- a. The District Convention shall elect a 12-member nominating committee consisting of one (1) ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister, and one (1) layperson from each Region of the District and the President shall designate the chairman thereof. The three committee members from each Region shall serve as the Regional Nominating Committee.
- b. The Committee on Nominations shall meet at the call of the President of the District.
- c. The Regional Nominating Committee shall draw up from its Region a list of candidates and alternates for the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 5.8 and 5.9 and the Schedule of Elections. The Regional Nominating Committee shall obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, as well as biographical data, and supply the Regional Assembly with this information. Following the Regional Nominations, the biographical data of persons nominated shall be transferred to the District Nominating Committee so that the District Ballot may be drawn up.

- d. The District Nominating Committee shall draw up a list of candidates and alternates for all other District offices, namely, the District Secretary, Treasurer, Church Extension Board of Trustees, and the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Ann Arbor. The Nominating Committee shall obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, and transmit its final report to the Secretary of the District in ample time to provide for its publication in a pre-convention issue of the District's official publication and also in the official Convention Book of Reports and Overtures. This report shall contain the occupation or profession, residency, and specific experience and qualifications for the proposed office.
- e. The Chairman or his designate shall submit the Committee's Report to the District Convention.
- f. If between the Regional Assembly and the District Convention a nominee becomes ineligible for election, the Nominating Committee will fill the slate with a qualified candidate.
- g. The Convention shall have the right to alter the ballot by amendment. The amendment procedure shall include a motion, a second, and a majority vote on the amendment. Any delegate making a nomination for the floor shall have secured prior written consent and biographical data from the candidate whom he wishes to nominate as detailed in 5.8 c., d. This material shall then be submitted to the District Secretary.
- h. The Chairman shall have on hand at the Convention a reserve list of nominees, approved by his Committee, for use if required if a new board is to be elected. Whenever possible, however, the Committee on Nominations should be informed in advance if any new board is likely to be elected at a District Convention, so that it may have a slate of candidates in readiness.

5.9 Floor Committee on Elections.

- a. Elections, other than those held in Regional Caucus, shall be conducted by a Floor Committee on Elections, appointed by the President before the Convention. The Secretary of the District shall furnish the Committee a copy of suggested election procedures.
- b. The Committee shall consist of one (1) ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister and two (2) laypersons.
- c. The Committee may appoint tellers, who need not be voting delegates, to assist in conducting the elections. The Chairman shall give the list of tellers to the Secretary of the District, who shall announce them to the Convention.

- d. A Regional Floor Committee on Elections shall be appointed by the Vice-President of that Region to conduct the nominating elections at the Regional Assemblies and whose duties shall be consistent with the District Floor Committee on Elections.

5.10 Majority and Plurality of Votes.

A majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect.

5.11 Election of the President.

- a. The Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod shall elect a President from among the clergy of the Synod.
- b. Every voting member congregation of the Michigan District may nominate one pastor as a candidate for the Office of District President.
- c. The nomination of each member congregation shall be submitted to the District Secretary by a time determined by the District Secretary to meet deadlines for publication to the District before the convention.
- d. Candidates for the Office of President shall be the five (5) persons receiving the largest number of nominations in this congregational action.
- e. The District Secretary shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval in writing for inclusion of his name on the Convention ballot.
- f. The District Secretary shall prepare biographical information on the five candidates, which is to be published in District periodicals no later than May 1, and in the Convention Book of Reports and Memorials.
- g. The District Secretary shall submit the names of the five candidates for election of District President to the District Convention.
- h. The Convention shall have the right to alter the slate at the proper time by majority amendment as outlined in Synodical Bylaw 3.961 f.
- i. If no candidate receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the name of the candidate who receives the smallest number of votes shall be dropped from the list and a new ballot taken. The procedure shall be continued until one (1) candidate has received a majority of the votes cast.

5.12 Nominations and Elections of Vice Presidents.

- a. The Michigan District shall elect four (4) Regional Vice-Presidents from among the clergy of the District.

- b. Every voting congregation of a Region may nominate one pastor from its Region as a Regional Candidate for the Office of Vice-President for its Region.
- c. The nomination shall be submitted to the District Secretary no later than four (4) months prior to the opening of the District Convention.
- d. The District Secretary shall notify each nominee, secure his approval in writing, and secure biographical information for the inclusion of the five (5) names receiving the most nominations on the Regional nominating ballot.
- e. At the Regional Assemblies each Region shall choose by ballot two (2) pastors as nominees for election by the District Convention to the office of regional Vice-President.
- f. Each voting delegate in the Region may vote for two (2) nominees for Vice-President, indicating his first and second choice. The tellers, appointed by the Chairman, shall score two (2) points for each first choice and one (1) point for each second choice. The two (2) nominees receiving the largest number of points shall be candidates. The tellers shall report the results of the meeting to the Chairman.
- g. The Chairman of the Regional Assemblies shall report to the Secretary of the District the names of the persons nominated for the office of Vice-President along with the biographical data. The District Secretary shall transmit such names to the Floor Committee on Elections.
- h. The Committee on Elections shall recap the information provided on qualifications and experience for each candidate and shall submit such information together with the ballot on which such election is to take place.
- i. The Convention shall have the right to alter the slate at the proper time by majority amendment as outlined in Bylaw 5.8g.
- j. The Convention shall elect one Vice-President from each Region.

- 5.13 Ranking of Vice-Presidents. After the regional Vice-Presidents have been elected, balloting will continue to determine their rank. The names of all four (4) vice-presidents will constitute the ballot for the First Vice-President, and voting continues until one is elected by majority vote. (If one is not elected on the first ballot, the name of the candidate who receives the smallest number of votes shall be dropped, and the balloting continues in this fashion until one is elected by majority vote.) The remaining three names constitute the ballot for Second Vice-President and the balloting continues as above. The two remaining names constitute the ballot for Third Vice-

President, and the one not elected becomes Fourth Vice-President.

5.14 Election of Circuit Counselors. The Convention shall elect the Circuit Counselors as provided by the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

5.15 The Convention shall elect one (1) ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister, and one (1) layperson to the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Ann Arbor, as provided by the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

5.16 Election of Other Officers.

- a. Election of all officers other than the President and Vice-Presidents will be held at a special period of the Convention session determined and announced by the President in advance.
- b. The Committee on Elections shall submit one (1) ballot containing the nominees furnished by the Committee on Nominations for all elective offices.
- c. The list of nominees for each respective office, together with their experience and qualifications, shall be distributed.

5.17 Order of Names on the Ballot. The names of all candidates in all elections shall be placed on the ballot regionally and in alphabetical order but without any distinctive mark, unless otherwise stipulated by these Bylaws.

5.18 Notifications of Election to Office. At the close of the Convention, the Secretary of the District shall notify every officer and board member in writing of election.

5.19 Exception of Church Extension Board of Trustees. Notwithstanding any of the other provisions of these Bylaws, the Church Extension Fund being a separate corporation created by the District, members of the Church Extension Board of Trustees shall be elected as provided by the Bylaws of the said Church Extension Fund and not by the provisions of these Bylaws.

5.20 Induction and Beginning of Term of Office.

- a. All officers elected at the Convention shall be inducted into their respective offices in an installation ceremony (service) at the Convention.
- b. All officers shall begin their terms of office on October 1.

ARTICLE VI - SUCCESSION IN OFFICE

6.1 In the event that the office of President of the District becomes vacant, the First Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President and shall serve until the District Convention.

6.2 The successor need not terminate his position as pastor of the congregation while completing the unexpired term unless and until he is elected President by a Convention.

6.3 Any Vice-President, who by the terms of this Article succeeds to the office of President, may decline such office; in which event:

- a. The next ranking Vice-President shall become President of the District.
- b. All other Vice-Presidents shall move up one rank.
- c. The declining Vice-President shall fill the last ranking vacant Vice-Presidency.

ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7.1 The Board of Directors shall carry into execution the policies adopted by the District in Convention with full authority to carry them out and shall create and monitor compliance to policies which govern the District and the performance of the District President who shall be in charge of all District operations and staff. The Board of Directors shall carry out its functions as described by Synodical Bylaw 4.91.

7.2 The Board of Directors is authorized to elect from its membership a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary and to appoint such committees as needed to carry out its work.

7.3 The Board of Directors is authorized to extend calls on behalf of the District.

7.4 The membership of the Board of Directors shall be divided into two classes, the voting members and advisory members:

- a. The voting members of the Board of Directors shall consist of one (1) ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister and two (2) laypersons elected from each of the Regions within the District.
- b. The Advisory members shall consist of all the other officers of the District elected by the Convention and the Chairman of the Circuit Counselors.

7.5 The Board of Directors shall meet at least five (5) times per year.

7.6 Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President of the District, the chairman of the Board or any three (3) voting members of the Board upon written notice to all voting and advisory members.

7.7 A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members and the majority of those present and voting shall be sufficient to carry a motion or resolution.

7.8 All commissions and committees of the District shall report regularly to the Board of Directors. Such report may be made in writing or by a representative in person, provided, however, that the Board of Directors may require the report to be made by a representative in person.

ARTICLE VIII - OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATION

8.1 President. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the District, and between conventions and in the recess of the Board of Directors, shall have the general control and management of its business and affairs, subject to these Bylaws. He shall preside at all District conventions. The President shall carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned to his office by the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod. He shall be an ex-officio member of all commissions or committees in the District with the right to speak but not to vote. He shall have the right to designate any one of the Vice-Presidents to sit in his place at meetings of the Board of Directors or any of the District's commissions or committees. As the chief executive officer, he shall manage and supervise the District staff. The office of District President shall be full-time. He shall not be in charge of a congregation, nor hold a chair at any educational institution or fill any other full-time executive office of the District. This prohibition does not apply when a Vice President assumes the office of District President to complete an unexpired term.

8.2 Vice Presidents. In the event that the office of President shall become vacant or in the event of the absence of the President or his disability to discharge the duties of his office, such duties shall for the time being devolve upon the Vice-Presidents in order according to their ranking as further provided in these Bylaws. The Vice-Presidents shall do and perform such other acts as the Convention or Board of Directors may from time to time authorize them to do.

8.3 Secretary. The Secretary of the District shall keep the minutes of the Conventions of the District in books provided for that purpose; he shall attend to the giving and receiving of all notices of the District; he shall sign, with the President or a Vice-President, in the name of the District, all contracts authorized by the Board of Directors, and when necessary shall fix the corporate seal of the District thereto; and his minutes and records shall be opened to examination to any member of the District at all reasonable times; and he shall have such additional duties as may be delegated to him by the Convention or the Board of Directors.

8.4 Assistant Secretaries. The Board of Directors may appoint Assistant Secretaries who shall have the authority of the Secretary when delegated by the Secretary or the Board of Directors, or when the Secretary is unavailable due to disability or absence from the District.

8.5 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have oversight of all funds and securities of the District and shall report to the Board of Directors and the District convention the financial status of the District. The Treasurer, the President of the District

and/or the President's designated staff persons shall have authority to sign on behalf of the District all checks, notes, or other official documents. The Treasurer shall also require on behalf of the board of Directors the annual audit of all District funds. He shall be bonded for the discharge of all his duties as Treasurer, the bond being of such character, form and in such amount as the Board of Directors may require.

8.6 Circuit Counselors. Circuit Counselors shall have the primary responsibility of establishing and maintaining Circuit Forums, as provided by the By-laws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. During the year when there is no Synodical or District Convention, Circuit Convocations will be held, under the leadership of the Circuit Counselors and members of the Circuit Forum.

ARTICLE IX - FISCAL AND AUDITING

9.1 District Budget. The District Budget shall be determined by the Board of Directors through its policies, but no budget shall be approved which allows for expenditures greater than receipts and other funds projected to be available in any given year.

9.2 Auditing. All the District's financial accounts shall be audited at least once every year by a firm of Certified Public Accountants designated by the Board of Directors.

9.3 No commission or committee of the District except the Church Extension Fund which is a subsidiary corporation of the District, shall maintain a separate bank account without the consent of the Board of Directors. In the event such consent is given by the Board of Directors, such account or accounts shall be audited at the same time and in the same manner as heretofore provided.

9.4 The Board of Directors shall develop its own Board Policy Manual for proper governance of the District.

9.5 Those directors duly elected or appointed to the Board of Directors who do not receive anything of value from this corporation for serving as a director other than reasonable per diem compensation and/or reimbursement for actual, reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by such director in service of the capacity as a director shall be deemed a "volunteer director" for all purposes hereunder.

9.6 A volunteer director shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its membership and/or members for monetary damages for any breach of the director's fiduciary duty except for liability arising from or relating to:

- a. A breach of director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its members;
- b. Actual omissions not in good faith or the involvement of intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

- c. An act in violation of the provisions of Michigan law, specifically MCLA 450.2551 (1);
 - d. Any transaction from which a director derives an improper personal benefit.
 - e. Any act or omission resulting in liability occurring before January 1, 1988;
 - f. Any act or omission that is grossly negligent.
- 9.7 The corporation shall assume all liability to any person or entity other than the corporation or its members for all acts or omissions of a volunteer director occurring on or after January 1, 1988.
- 9.8 The corporation, by adoption of a resolution in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 170 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1986, shall have the power to indemnify those persons serving in the position of, or at the request of the corporation as director, officer, trustee, employee or agent against expenses, including attorney fees, judgments, penalties, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by a person in connection with any actions, suits or proceedings, formal or informal, relating to the service of said individual on behalf of the corporation if such person acted in good faith and in a manner that the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the corporation or its members, or with respect to any criminal action or proceeding if the person had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct engaged in was unlawful. The corporation, through its Board of Directors, shall have such further or other authority to indemnify directors, officers, employees or agents consistent with the provisions of Public Acts 170, Michigan Public Acts of 1987.

ARTICLE X - THE CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

- 10.1 The Church Extension Fund shall adopt rules to govern its proceedings not inconsistent with these Bylaws.
- 10.2 The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall:
- a. Consist of nine (9) elected members: (3) ordained ministers, four (4) lay persons, and two (2) commissioned ministers.
 - b. Conduct regular meetings and keep accurate records of its proceedings.
 - c. Have as its purpose to establish a fund and acquire assets to assist, by means of loans, the Michigan District and congregations of the Michigan District to acquire property, to erect buildings and to purchase equipment.

(See Bylaws of the Church Extension Fund attached to Bylaws of the Michigan District.)

ARTICLE XI - RECONCILIATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 11.1 The District shall follow the principles, structures, procedures, and membership described in the Synod Handbook, Bylaw VIII, with regards to Reconciliation and Dispute Resolution.

ARTICLE XII - COMMITTEES

- 12.1 The District Convention and Board of Directors may create standing committees to carry out its responsibilities, as well as temporary committees or task forces for special purposes.
- 12.2 Standing Committees are sub-units of and are appointed by their governing board; the three-year appointments are limited to three consecutive terms.

ARTICLE XIII - COMMISSIONS

- 13.1 The Convention by resolution may from time to time create commissions for special purposes.
- 13.2 The commissions existing at the time of the adoption of these Bylaws shall continue their powers, duties and jurisdiction until further resolution of the Convention.
- 13.3 The Convention resolution creating a commission shall define its powers, duties and jurisdiction and establish its budget.
- 13.4 A commission shall make a report of their activities to the Convention and between Conventions to the Board of Directors upon request.
- 13.5 Members of commissions shall be members in good standing of congregations which are members of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

ARTICLE XIV - REGIONS

- 14.1 The Convention by resolution shall establish no less than four (4) Regions within the Michigan District.
- 14.2 Regions shall consist of circuits designated by the enabling resolution.
- 14.3 Regions existing at the time of the adoption of these Bylaws shall continue until further resolution of the Convention.
- 14.4 Circuits are created, aligned, and/or realigned by convention resolution.

ARTICLE XV - HANDBOOK

- 15.1 The Board of Directors shall cause to be prepared, within three (3) months after the adjournment of each District Convention, a District Handbook.

- 15.2 The Handbook shall include:
- a. The current Bylaws of the District as they may be amended.
 - b. The names of all officers and board members.
 - c. Such other information as the Convention and/or the Board of Directors may direct.

- 15.3 A copy of the Handbook shall be furnished to:
- a. Each member congregation of the District.
 - b. Each officer and board member.
 - c. Such other persons as the Convention and/or the Board of Directors may direct.

ARTICLE XVI - REPEAL AND SAVING CLAUSE

- 16.1 Any and all Bylaws previously adopted by the Convention of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are hereby repealed.
- 16.2 If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of these Bylaws or any amendments thereto, shall be held invalid under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, or under the laws of the State of Michigan, the invalidity of such paragraph, section, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of these Bylaws or Amendments thereto.
- 16.3 All acts, resolutions or orders or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of these Bylaws, and any amendments thereto, to the extent of such conflict, are hereby repealed and all other acts, resolutions or orders or parts thereof not in conflict with the provisions of these Bylaws, or amendments thereto, shall continue in full force and effect.

ARTICLE XVII - AMENDMENTS

- 17.1 Amendments may be made to the Bylaws by the District in Convention providing they are not contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod.
- 17.2 Proposed amendments shall be presented in writing to a Convention of the District.
- 17.3 Proposed amendments shall be specified as Bylaws amendments.
- 17.4 Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the District Committee on New and Revised Constitutions and they shall report to a Convention Floor Committee.
- 17.5 Proposed amendments to the Bylaws may be adopted by an affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting.
- 17.6 All proposed amendments to these Bylaws, before they are given effect, shall first be submitted to the Synodical Commission on Constitutional Matters for review and the approval of that Commission obtained as provided in the Bylaws of Synod.

BYLAWS
CHURCH EXTENSION FUND OF THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Church Extension Fund is to administer a fund and acquire assets to assist by loans, grants, or otherwise the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, congregations of the Michigan District, individuals serving as professional church workers within the Michigan District, LCMS schools and colleges, entities and associations qualifying as Michigan District recognized service organizations, entities and associations qualifying as Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod recognized service organizations, and entities owned and/or operated by member congregations. The purpose for which funds and assistance may be provided shall include, but not limited to, acquiring property, erecting buildings, purchasing equipment, acquiring housing and supporting projects and the operations of the above; all purposes, however, shall contribute to the ministry and purpose of the Michigan District and its member congregations.

II. MEMBERSHIP

The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall consist of nine (9) elected trustees.

1. The elected trustees shall consist of three (3) ordained ministers, four (4) laypersons, and two (2) commissioned ministers. They shall be elected by the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod at its regular Convention in the following manner:
 - a. The District Nominating Committee shall draw up a list of candidates and alternates for the Church Extension Board of Trustees. The Nominating Committee shall obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate and prepare biographical data, including occupation or profession, residency, and specific experience and qualifications for the proposed office, for each candidate.
 - b. Election of Church Extension Board of Trustees shall take place at the same time and in the same manner as the election of all District Officers and Board Members, other than the District President and Vice-Presidents, in accordance with procedures outlined in Articles 5.18, 5.19, and 5.20 of the Bylaws of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.
2. Elections of trustees to fill the places of those whose terms of office expire shall take place at the last regular convention of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, occurring prior to the expiration of the terms of their predecessors.

Approximately one-half of the trustees will be elected at each convention of the Michigan District.

3. The trustees shall be elected for a term of six (6) years. They may be elected for two (2) consecutive terms, after which a period of three (3) years shall elapse before they are again eligible for election as trustees.
4. Vacancies caused by death, resignation, removal, declination to serve or otherwise, may be filled by the remaining trustees, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.
5. All trustees elected at the Convention shall be inducted into office in an installation ceremony at the Convention and shall begin their terms of office on the first of October following induction.

III. ORGANIZATION

1. The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers and subcommittees as it considers necessary for the efficient conduct of its business.
2. The Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer, elected by the Church Extension Board of Trustees at the October meeting following the Convention of the Michigan District shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Church Extension Fund.
3. Legal documents executed in the name of the Church Extension Fund shall bear the signatures of any two members of the Executive Committee or such officer or officers as the trustees shall authorize by resolution duly adopted in accordance with these Bylaws.
4. The trustees may appoint task-oriented committees to assist the Board in carrying out its responsibilities.

IV. MEETINGS

1. The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall schedule regular meetings as the business of the Board shall require, but not less than six times per year.
2. Special meetings may be called by the chairman of the Board or by any four (4) trustees.
3. A majority of the trustees of the Church Extension Board of Trustees shall constitute a legal quorum at all regular and special meetings of the Board.

4. The Executive Committee of the Church Extension Board of Trustees shall meet at the call of the Chairman to conduct and act on matters of business requiring attention between regular meetings of the Church Extension Board of Trustees. A majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee shall be required to take any action. All such actions of the Executive Committee shall be subject to the approval of the Church Extension Board of Trustees.

V. ADMINISTRATION

1. The Church Extension Fund may, in its corporate name, take, hold and manage all property, real and personal, notes, bonds, mortgages, land contracts, leases, evidences of indebtedness, loans and property and assets devised, bequeathed, transferred, leased, or conveyed to them absolutely or in trust for the use and benefit of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod by whose representative body they are elected.
2. The Church Extension Fund may, in its corporate name, invest and reinvest the personal property and assets in its hands and under its control as trustees; and sell, convey by deed, land contract or lease, mortgage or hold in trust and manage any real estate held by them as such trustees; all in accordance with the manner and as specified in the Statutes of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided.
3. The Church Extension Fund may accept gifts or bequests in trust or otherwise, and employ, manage or retain such property, real or personal, devised or bequeathed, on such terms, conditions, or policies approved by the Board of Trustees.
4. The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall adopt rules and regulations in the interest of the orderly administration of its objectives.
5. The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall employ and appoint a Chief Executive Officer, employ and appoint any other such officers or employees deemed necessary to conduct its business affairs in an orderly manner, at a rate of compensation as deemed proper and fair by the Church Extension Board of Trustees.
6. Those trustees duly-elected or appointed to the Board of Trustees who do not receive anything of value from this corporation for serving as a trustee other than reasonable per diem compensation and/or reimbursement for actual reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by such trustee in service of the capacity as a trustee shall be deemed a "volunteer trustee" for all purposes hereunder (being deemed and defined as a "volunteer director" for all purposes under Michigan law and statutes).

7. A volunteer trustee shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its membership and/or members for monetary damages for any breach of the trustee's fiduciary duty except for liability arising from or relating to:
 - a. A breach of trustee's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its members;
 - b. Actual omissions not in good faith or the involvement of intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
 - c. An act in violation of the provisions of Michigan law, specifically MCLA 450.2551(1);
 - d. Any transaction from which a trustee derives an improper personal benefit;
 - e. Any act or omission resulting in liability occurring before January 1, 1988;
 - f. Any act or omission that is grossly negligent.
8. The corporation shall assume all liability to any person or entity other than the corporation or its members for all acts or omissions of a volunteer trustee occurring on or after January 1, 1988.
9. The corporation, by adoption of a resolution in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 170 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1987, shall have the power to indemnify those persons serving in the position of, or at the request of the corporation, as director, officer, trustee, employee, or agent against expenses, including attorney fees, judgments, penalties, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by a person in connection with any actions, suits, or proceedings, formal or informal, relating to the service of said individual on behalf of the corporation if such person acted in good faith and in a manner that the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the corporation or its members, or with respect to any criminal action or proceeding if the person had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct engaged in was unlawful. The corporation, through its Board of Trustees, shall have such further or other authority to indemnify trustees, officers, employees, or agents consistent with the provisions of Michigan law and specifically consistent with the provisions of Public Act 170, Michigan Public Acts of 1987.

VI. RELATIONSHIP TO THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

1. The Church Extension Fund shall be subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod insofar as said

Constitution and Bylaws do not conflict with the laws of the State of Michigan.

2. In the event of the dissolution of the Church Extension Fund as a Michigan Church Trustee Corporation, all property and assets to which it holds title, or over which it has control, shall be transferred forthwith to the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or to its nominee.

VII. AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws of the Church Extension Fund may be amended by a majority vote of those entitled to vote at the Convention of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

(As amended by the Michigan District Convention, June 22-25, 2003)

