

# Convention Workbook - Part II



**“NOURISHED for the JOURNEY ... Remember · Renew · Return”**

**104th Michigan District Convention**

**Concordia University Ann Arbor**

**June 22-24, 2025**

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# PROPOSED DAILY AGENDA

## Michigan District Convention

### June 22-24, 2025



#### Sunday, June 22 – *NOURISHED for the JOURNEY ... Remember · Renew · Return*

*Ministry Tent Open 3:00–6:30 p.m.*

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
1:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Registration	Student Union
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Floor Committee Open Hearings	Krieger Hall
3:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Ministry Tent Open	West Campus Parking Lot
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Picnic Dinner – <i>(Hosted and Served by St. John, Rochester)</i> Music Provided by St. John, Rochester	Ministry Tent
5:00 p.m.	Choir practice	Chapel of the Holy Trinity
5:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Delegate Orientation (Option 1)	Convention Hall/Gym
7:00 p.m.	Opening Worship Service The Preacher: Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, LCMS President	Chapel of the Holy Trinity
8:15 p.m.	Sundaes on Sunday Reception	Lawn area outside of chapel
8:15 – 9:00 p.m.	Registration	Student Union

## Monday, June 23 – *NOURISHED for the JOURNEY ... Remember · Renew · Return*

*Ministry Tent Open 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.*

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
7:00 a.m.	Organized walk and prayer time <i>Sponsored by Commission for Church Worker Care</i>	Outside chapel
7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast ( <i>Hosted and served by St. Paul/Christ the King, Flint and Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society</i> )	Cafeteria
7:00 – 10:45 a.m.	Registration	Student Union
7:30 a.m.	Delegate Orientation (Option 2)	Convention Hall/Gym
8:15 a.m.	Service of Invocation The Preacher: Rev. Christopher R. Bodley	Chapel of the Holy Trinity
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Ministry Tent Open	West Campus Parking Lot
9:15 – 9:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration Report – Rev. J. Derek Riddle, District Secretary</li> <li>• Official Opening – Rev. David A. Davis</li> <li>• Introduction of Parliamentarian – Hon. Christopher Nuechterlein</li> <li>• Adoption of Agenda and Standing Rules</li> <li>• Greetings – Mr. O. Dennis Sohn, Convention Committee Chairman</li> <li>• Welcome – Concordia Wisconsin</li> </ul>	Convention Hall/Gym
9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee on New and Revised Constitutions – Rev. Brad Hubbard, Chairman</li> <li>• Reception of Congregations, Ministers of Religion Ordained and Commissioned who have joined the Synod in the past triennium (<i>printed in Workbook Part II</i>)</li> </ul>	
9:45 – 10:10 a.m.	District President’s Address Rev. David A. Davis, Michigan District President	
10:10 – 10:40 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominations Committee – Rev. Eric W. Majeski, Chairman</li> <li>• Elections Committee – Rev. Joseph W. Polzin, Chairman</li> <li>• Elections of District President and Vice Presidents</li> </ul>	
10:40 – 11:10 a.m.	Break ( <i>Sponsored by Church Extension Fund</i> )	Outside of Ministry Tent
11:10 – 11:15 a.m.	Introduction of Synodical President	Convention Hall/Gym
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synodical President Presentation – Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison</li> <li>• Synodical Video Presentation + Q &amp; A</li> </ul>	
12:15 p.m.	Dismissal / Prayer – Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper	
12:15 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch ( <i>Hosted and served by Christ Our Savior, Livonia</i> )	Manor Tent
12:15 p.m.	Caucus for election of advisory ordained and commissioned delegates to LCMS Convention	Convention Hall/Gym
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Elections Continue for Boards and Committees	Convention Hall/Gym
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Essayist – Rev. Dr. Joel D. Biermann	Convention Hall/Gym
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Break	Ministry Tent

**Monday, June 23 – NOURISHED for the JOURNEY ... Remember · Renew · Return**  
 Ministry Tent Open 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Floor Committee # 4 – Missions	Convention Hall/Gym
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Floor Committee # 3 – Education	
4:30 – 4:50 p.m.	Discussion	
4:50 – 5:15 p.m.	Floor Committee # 1 – Administration	
5:15 – 5:40 p.m.	Floor Committee # 2 – Doctrine	
5:40 – 5:50 p.m.	Elections Continue	
5:50– 5:53 p.m.	Group picture	
5:53 – 6:00 p.m.	Closing Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Military Chaplain Celebration / Special Celebrations</li> </ul>	
6:00 p.m.	Closing Prayer – Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper	Manor Tent
6:15 p.m.	Dinner ( <i>Sponsored and Served by St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth</i> ) Entertainment by St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth	
8:00 – 9:30 pm.	Possible evening session for Floor Committees (if needed)	Convention Hall/Gym

**Tuesday, June 24 – NOURISHED for the JOURNEY ... Remember · Renew · Return**  
 Ministry Tent Open 9:30 a.m.–1:40 p.m.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
7:00 a.m.	Organized walk and prayer time Sponsored by Commission for Church Worker Care	Outside chapel
7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast ( <i>Sponsored and Served by Redeemer, Jackson</i> )	Cafeteria
8:15 a.m.	Memorial Service The Preacher: Rev. Robert B. Appold	Chapel of the Holy Trinity
9:20 a.m.	Brunch ( <i>Hosted and Served by St. Paul, Ann Arbor</i> ) for family members of those honored at the Memorial Service	Kreft Center Black Box
9:30 a.m. – 1:40 pm.	Ministry Tent Open	West Campus Parking Lot
9:35 – 10:25 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Omnibus Resolutions</li> <li>• Floor Committee #3 – Education</li> </ul>	Convention Hall/Gym
10:25 – 10:45 a.m.	Discussion II	
10:45 – 11:15 a.m.	Break	Outside Ministry Tent
11:15 – 11:20 a.m.	Ratify Circuit Visitor Slate	Convention Hall/Gym
11:20 – 11:40 a.m.	Presentation by Mr. Jim Saalfeld, CEO, Church Extension Fund	
11:40 – 11:55 a.m.	Presentation by Mr. David M. Gehm, President and CEO of Wellspring Lutheran Services	
11:55 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Floor Committee # 1 – Administration	
12:30 p.m.	Adjournment / Lunch Prayer – Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper	
12:30– 1:40 p.m.	Lunch ( <i>Sponsored and Served by Our Savior, Lansing</i> )	Manor Tent
1:45 p.m.	Service of Installation The Preacher: Rev. David A. Davis	Chapel of the Holy Trinity
2:50 – 3:00 p.m.	Break/Snack/Pack up car ( <i>Sponsored and Served by St. Paul's, Hillsdale</i> )	Outside of Chapel

**Tuesday, June 24 – NOURISHED for the JOURNEY ... Remember · Renew · Return**

*Ministry Tent Open 9:30 a.m.–1:40 p.m.*

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	Floor Committee #3 – Education	Convention Hall/Gym
3:15 – 3:45 p.m.	Floor Committee # 2 – Doctrine	
3:45 – 4:15 p.m.	Floor Committee # 4 – Missions	
4:15 – 4:35 p.m.	Discussion III	
4:35– 5:30 p.m.	Floor Committees (As needed)	
5:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Registration Report – Rev. J. Derek Riddle</li> <li>• Ingathering Report – Mr. O. Dennis Sohn</li> <li>• Closing Comments – Rev. David A. Davis</li> </ul>	
5:50 p.m.	Closing Reading/Prayer and Adjournment – Rev. David A. Davis	

## Section 2 - 2025 Proposed Special Standing Rules

1. The Convention shall adopt the Proposed Daily Agenda printed in the Convention Workbook – Part II.
2. The chair shall see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
3. Resolutions of each floor committee shall be prioritized by number and shall normally be presented in the numerical sequence published in the Convention Workbook – Part II.
4. Each member of the convention, when recognized by the chair, shall (a) state his name, (b) the name of his congregation or administrative unit he represents, and (c) the city or town where it is located.
5. Any person eligible to speak is limited to one time on any given issue and to two minutes except for the person or committee who made the motion, who will be entitled to two minutes after debate is closed.
6. In order to ensure that Advisory Delegates have an opportunity to advise the convention on resolutions, the following procedures will be followed:
  - When debate begins on a new or substitute resolution and an Advisory Delegate is at a microphone reserved for the Advisory Delegates, the Chairman of the Convention will call upon an Advisory Delegate to speak first to the issue at hand.
  - Before the vote is taken on the main motion on any numbered resolution from a floor committee (or a substitute motion to such), the Advisory Delegates will be asked to participate in an advisory poll and the results of the advisory poll will be shared with the convention. The chair will use the same type of polling procedure (voice, keypad, or raising of the right hand) that he intends to use for the main vote.
7. A delegate who speaks on an issue may not move to call the question at the close of his or her speech.
8. While any voting delegate may call the question at any time, after every 30 minutes of debate on any one motion there shall be an automatic call of the question by the chair.
9. Instead of only a voice vote on motions before the convention, the chair may also call for a keypad vote or raising of the right hand.
10. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter shall be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for offering it, and a member of the floor committee shall be offered two minutes to present rationale for not considering the proposed substitute, after which the convention shall decide by majority vote without further debate whether or not to consider the substitute.
  - If the decision is in the affirmative and if the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails.
  - If the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again considered. (This is an adaptation of the so-called “Behnken Rule” used at the Synodical Convention for addressing substitute motions.)
11. Whenever possible, substitute resolutions and amendments to proposed resolutions shall be submitted to the Secretary in advance of the proposed resolutions’ introduction to the convention. When this is not possible, a written copy of the proposed substitute motion or amendment shall be provided to the Secretary immediately after it is offered from the floor.
12. Any amendment exceeding ten (10) words must be submitted in writing to the chair.
13. A motion to close debate (“call the question”) shall apply only to the immediately pending question.
14. Questions of privilege shall be addressed in writing to the chair, or its appointee, instead of consuming convention time.

15. In the sessions of the last day, the chair shall have the privilege of calling up for action resolutions which, in his judgment, must be acted upon by the convention before adjournment.
16. Out of respect for others, and in order to promote an orderly and non-distracting convention atmosphere, the following guidance shall apply to the use, and area of use, of electronic equipment, including wired and wireless communication devices, laptops, tablets, cell phones, smart phones, pagers, PDAs, or other similar devices. **In all cases where use is permitted, the sound-producing capabilities of such devices shall not be used.** (NO personal extension cords will be allowed on the convention floor.) Please see chart below.

Attendees in Convention Hall	Type of Usage Permitted in Designated Area				
	Voice calls	Text messages, email, Internet browsing, or other forms of communication	Casting votes with official keypad	Accessing official polling application or website	Accessing stored documents on personal devices
Voting Delegates	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Advisory Delegates	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
BOD & Special Guests	No	Yes, convention business only	No	No	Yes
All Other Guests	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Convention Staff	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

17. The convention will be streamed via an online service that both broadcasts and archives the video and audio of the proceedings. Portions of the convention will be made available online for post-convention on-demand viewing. **Participant Release:** Participants who choose to engage in the proceedings of the convention give the Michigan District, LCMS implicit permission to record, broadcast, transcribe, and publish the audio and video. No releases are required.
- **Recording Authorization:** Unauthorized audio and/or video recordings of the Convention proceedings are strictly prohibited. Permission to record must be sought prior to the recording process. Private recording is not allowed without written permission. The Convention Chair is authorized to request that the recording be stopped.
  - **Transcriptions:** Approval must be obtained from Convention Chair with the understanding that the recording is ONLY for transcription purposes unless otherwise cleared (as in the policy above).
  - **Transcription Publication:** Publication of any record requires the approval of all participants whose material is represented in the record. Permission request and subsequent authorization is the exclusive responsibility of the requester.
  - **Copyright:** The Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod maintains ownership of the copyright.

18. No new business or motion for reconsideration may be offered in the afternoon of the last day of the convention. New business includes, but not exhaustively, substitute motions and original overtures.
19. Unless covered by these Special Standing Rules, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of *Robert’s Rule of Order Newly Revised*.

# Section 3 - 2025 Convention Nominations

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## NOMINATIONS 2025

\* Incumbent

### DISTRICT PRESIDENT (Vote for 1)

#### Darryl L. Andrzejewski

58827 Frost Rd, Lenox, MI 48048

Age 58

Current Position: Senior/Administrative Pastor, Historic Trinity, Detroit

Education/Degrees/Honors: Lutheran High East; B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; D.Min. Candidate, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

#### HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT

Service: Associate Pastor, St. Thomas, Eastpointe; Pastor, New Hope, Hudsonville; Senior Pastor, Guardian, Dearborn; Senior/Administrative Pastor, Historic Trinity, Detroit

District: Board of Youth; All Pastors Conference Committee; Professional Church Workers Conference; District Nominating Committee; Advisory Member, Board of Directors; Advisory Member, Governance Committee; District Secretary; Metro East Regional Vice-President

Synod: Advisory Pastoral Delegate to Synodical Convention for Michigan District 2023

Community: President-Board of Directors, Lutheran High School Association; Board of Directors, Lutheran Special Education Ministries; Mission Partners Platform (DBA: The Center)

Other: Association of Historic Downtown Churches, Detroit; Association of Downtown Lutheran Churches; Associate Producer, 4-time Emmy winning PBS Documentary, *Detroit, The City of Churches* (2022), and *Detroit: The City of Faith* (2024); Little League Baseball Coach, Hazel Park, Mich., Warsaw, Ind., Eastpointe, Mich., Allendale, Mich.; 5-8th grade Basketball Coach, Grand Haven, Mich.; Police Chaplain, Wyoming, Mich.

#### Erik K. Cloeter

509 Butler St, Clio, MI 4840

Age 53

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Messiah, Clio

Education/Degrees/Honors: Minneapolis Lutheran High School, Minneapolis, Minn.; B.A., Concordia University St. Paul, Minn.; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.; Graduate Studies, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.; Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI)

#### HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT

Service: Sole Pastor, Bethlehem, Wales, Wisc.; Assistant, Senior Pastor, Messiah, Clio

Circuit: Circuit Visitor

District: Vice-Chair, Planning Committee, 2008 All Church Workers Conference; Floor Committee #3, 2015 Michigan District Convention; Chairman, Elections Committee, 2018 Michigan District Convention; Worship Co-Chair, 2022 Michigan District Convention; CEF Board of Directors; Vice President, North and East Region, Michigan District

Synod: Advisory Pastoral Delegate to Synodical Convention for Michigan District 2023

Community: Board of Directors, Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw; Liaison to Miracle Connect, a Christian outreach to Muslims; Former Head Coach, Girls' Travel Soccer

Other: Catalyst to growing the Church through outreach, education, and confessional worship; baptizing over 330 people ranging in age from 0-78, over half being adults, and confirming over 370 in the past 18 years of ministry.

Other: Health Advisory Committee, Spring Lake; Downtown Pastors' Group, Grand Rapids; Area Clergy

**\* David A. Davis**

1242 Naples Court, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Age: 67

Current Position: Michigan District President

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.; Classical Studies, Washington University, St. Louis; Governance and Executive Training, Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI)

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Pastor, St. Matthew, Spring Lake; Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Trenton; Senior Pastor, Immanuel, Grand Rapids; Senior Pastor, St. Luke, Haslett/Christ Lutheran, Lansing; Michigan District President

Circuit: Circuit Mission Coordinator, Muskegon Circuit; Church Planting Committee; Mission Board; Church Planter of Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship, Ferrysburg and Grace, Coopersville; Chairman of Exploratory Committee, West Michigan Lutheran High School, Grand Rapids; Board Member of Martin Luther High School, Lansing

District: West Region Vice President; Chairman, Board for Mission Development; Task Force on Reorganization; Ablaze Initiative Director, Ablaze Torch Relay: Hell to Paradise, Coast to Coast, and For the Heart of Michigan; Chairman, West Region and North and West Region Pastors Conference; Chairman, Southwest Detroit Mission; Chairman, Lutheran Adult Gathering Committee; Chairman, Michigan District Board of Directors, Convention Delegate Health Advisory Committee, Spring Lake

Synod: Advisory Pastoral Delegate to Synodical Convention for Michigan District 2019, Circuit Realignment Task Force, Floor Committee Member 2023 Convention; EIIT mentor

Other: Downtown Pastors' Group, Grand Rapids; Area Clergy Cluster, Meridian Township; Meridian Township Community Marketing Committee; Chaplain, LLL Retreat and CEF Representatives' Conference; Sectional Leader, Lutheran Adult Gathering; Participant in Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST); author of Toward Significance: A Guide for Pastoring Well; Chairman, Michigan Advisory Board of Christian Outreach for Africa; Adjunct Faculty, Concordia University Ann Arbor; Lutherans For Life Counselor

**Sean A. Willman**

2651 W Bacon Rd, Hillsdale, MI

Age 44

Current Position: Senior Pastor, St. Paul's, Hillsdale

Education/Degrees/Honors: Marion High School, Marion, IN; B.A., Concordia University Mequon, Wisc.; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, St. John, Mayville, Wisc.; Sole Pastor, Good Shepherd, Pleasant Prairie, Wisc.; Associate to Senior Pastor, St. Paul's, Hillsdale

Circuit: Pastoral Delegate to the Synodical Convention

Synod: PALS Steering Committee

Other: Staff, The Bugenhagen Conference

**VICE PRESIDENT - Metro East Region  
(Vote for 1)**

\*Incumbent

**\*Darryl L. Andrzejewski**

58827 Frost Rd, Lenox, MI 48048

Age 58

Current Position: Senior/Administrative Pastor, Historic Trinity, Detroit

Education/Degrees/Honors: Lutheran High East; B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; D.Min. Candidate, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, St. Thomas, Eastpointe; Pastor, New Hope, Hudsonville; Senior Pastor, Guardian, Dearborn; Senior/Administrative Pastor, Historic Trinity, Detroit

District: Board of Youth; All Pastors Conference Committee; Professional Church Workers Conference; District Nominating Committee; Advisory Member, Board of Directors; Advisory Member, Governance Committee; District Secretary; Metro East Regional Vice-President

Synod: Advisory Pastoral Delegate to Synodical Convention for Michigan District 2023

Community: President-Board of Directors, Lutheran High School Association; Board of Directors, Lutheran Special Education Ministries; Mission Partners Platform (DBA: The Center)

Other: Association of Historic Downtown Churches, Detroit; Association of Downtown Lutheran Churches; Associate Producer, 4-time Emmy winning PBS Documentary, *Detroit, The City of Churches* (2022), and *Detroit: The City of Faith* (2024); Little League Baseball Coach, Hazel Park, Mich., Warsaw, Ind., Eastpointe, Mich., Allendale, Mich.; 5-8th grade Basketball Coach, Grand Haven, Mich.; Police Chaplain, Wyoming, Mich.

**Mark N. Schwichtenberg**

1283 Thames Court, Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Age 54

Current Position: Senior/Administrative Pastor, St. John, Rochester

Education/Degrees/Honors: Mayer Lutheran, Mayer, Minn.; B.A., Concordia University Chicago; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Currently enrolled in Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI) Senior Leadership Training

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, Immanuel, East Dundee, Ill.; Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Mt. Prospect, Ill.; Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Mt. Prospect, Ill.; Senior/Administrative Pastor, St. John, Rochester

District: Communications Committee; Chair, Convention Floor Committee; KINDLE Devotion Leader; District Convention Devotion Leader; Outreach Conference Presenter; District Youth Gathering Speaker/Presenter

Community: Lutheran High School Association Board of Directors; Christian Outreach for Africa (COFA) Michigan Advisory Board; Chaplain, Chaplain to Community VFW Events

Other: Short-term missionary trip to Sri Lanka; Dean/Presenter, Camp Arcadia; OAF National Gathering; Keynote speaker, various youth encounters.

**VICE PRESIDENT - Metro West Region  
(Vote for 1)**

**Andrew D. Gruenhagen**

15001 Maplewood Ln, Plymouth, MI, 48170-2695

Age 50

Current Position: Senior Pastor, St. Michael, Wayne

Education/Degrees/Honors: Borah High School, Boise, ID; B.S., Concordia River Forest, Ill.; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Pastor, Hope, St. Helen; Senior Pastor, St. Michael, Wayne

Circuit: Circuit Visitor, Dearborn Circuit

District: Michigan District Nominating Committee

Community: Board Member, Richfield Township Public Library; Wayne Police Chaplain

Other: Recipient of the Father John B. Zwiers Award from Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (MANS); Thrivent Congregational Service Team Director for North Central Michigan Chapter

**Andrew M. Johnson**

2044 Woodview Dr, Wixom, MI 48393

Age 38

Current Position: Sole Pastor, Christ, Milford

Education/Degrees/Honors: Walled Lake Northern High School; B.A., Concordia University Chicago; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.; Ph.D., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.; Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI)

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Assistant Pastor, St. Paul, Lapeer; Sole Pastor, Christ, Milford

Circuit: Circuit Visitor, Kensington Circuit

Synod: Pastoral Delegate to Synod Convention

Other: Adjunct Professor of Theology, Concordia University Wisconsin/Ann Arbor

**VICE PRESIDENT - North and East Region  
(Vote for 1)**

\*Incumbent

**\*Erik K. Cloeter**

509 Butler St, Clio, MI 4840

Age 53

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Messiah, Clio

Education/Degrees/Honors: Minneapolis Lutheran High School, Minneapolis, Minn.;

B.A., Concordia University St. Paul, Minn.; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.; Graduate Studies, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.; Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI)

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Sole Pastor, Bethlehem, Wales, Wisc.; Assistant, Senior Pastor, Messiah, Clio

Circuit: Pastoral Delegate to Synodical Convention; Circuit Visitor

District: Vice-Chair, Planning Commission, 2008 All Church Workers Conference; Floor Committee #3, 2015 Michigan District Convention; Chairman, Elections Committee, 2018 Michigan District Convention; Worship Co-Chair, 2022 Michigan District Convention; CEF Board of Directors; Vice President, North and East Region, Michigan District

Synod: Advisory Pastoral Delegate to Synodical Convention, 2023

Community: Board of Directors, Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw; Liaison to Miracle Connect, a Christian outreach to Muslims; Former Head Coach, Girls' Travel Soccer

Other: Catalyst to growing the Church through outreach, education and confessional worship; baptizing over 330 people ranging in age from 0-78, over half being adults, and confirming over 370 in the past 18 years of ministry.

**Aaron T. Schian**

411 Ireland St, Auburn, MI 48611

Age 39

Current Position: Sole Pastor, Grace, Auburn

Education/Degrees/Honors: Frankenmuth High School, Frankenmuth, Mich.; B.A., Concordia University Chicago; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Westfield House Cambridge, UK; Doxology Graduate

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Sole Pastor, Zion, Owego, N.Y.; Sole Pastor, Grace, Auburn

Synod: 2016 Synodical Convention Committee; LLL Pastoral Advisor, Eastern District; Pastoral Delegate to Synodical Convention

Community: Optimist Club; Co-Director of Common Ground Community Center

Other: Higher Things Retreat Leader

**VICE PRESIDENT - West Region  
(Vote for 1)**

\*Incumbent

**\*Craig L. Bickel**

C/O Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2 Michigan St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Age 58

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Immanuel, Grand Rapids

Education/Degrees/Honors: Frankenmuth High School; B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI)

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Assistant/Sole/Administrative Pastor, Grace, Pensacola, Fla.; Sole Pastor, Peace, Shelby Township; Senior Pastor, Immanuel, Grand Rapids

District: West Region Ordained Member of Michigan District Board of Directors; Michigan District Board of Directors Advisory Delegate to Synodical Convention; Southern District Family Life Team; Vice President, Michigan District, West Region; Governance Committee Chairman, Michigan District Board of Directors

Synod: Advisory Pastoral Delegate to Synodical Convention, 2023

Community: IRB Member, Van Andel Institute; IBC Member, Van Andel Institute; Thrivent Board Member, Grand Rapids Region; Detroit Lutheran High School Association

**William R. Wangelin**

C/O: Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7910 E St Joe Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917

Age 44

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Our Savior, Lansing

Education/Degrees/Honors: Lutheran High School North, Macomb, Mich.; B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, Holy Cross, Jenison; Senior Pastor, Our Savior, Lansing

Circuit: Circuit Visitor, Capitol Circuit; Circuit Secretary

District: Chairman, Planning Committee for All Pastors' Conference; Planning Committee for 500th Anniversary Worship Service at the Breslin Center; Michigan District South Africa Ambassador; Michigan District Theological Conference Host; Worship Chair, Michigan District 2022 District Convention; Chairman, Planning Committee for Lutheran Adult Gathering.

Synod: Concordia Historical Institute Research Assistant; Pastoral Delegate to the Synodical Convention

Other: Pastoral Advisor, Lutherans for Life, Grand Rapids Chapter

**DISTRICT SECRETARY**  
**(Vote for 1)**

\* Incumbent

**Jason P. Peterson**

9352 Crest Circle Dr NE, Rockford, MI 49341

Age 45

Current Position: Sole Pastor, St. Peter, Rockford

Education/Degrees/Honors: Millington High School; B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Pastor, St. John, Burt, Iowa; Vacancy Pastor, Zion, LuVerne, Iowa; Vacancy Pastor, Immanuel, Livermore, Iowa; Vacancy Pastor, St. Paul, Wittemore, Iowa; Sole Pastor, St. Peter, Rockford

District: Michigan District West Region Pastors Conference Committee 2023–24 (Chairman); Iowa District West Ministerial Growth & Support Committee 2014–2016 (Chairman); Iowa District West Human Care Committee 2014–2016; Iowa District West Evangelism Committee 2008–2014 (Chairman); Iowa District West Missions Committee 2008–2014; Circuit Treasurer 2023–present; Circuit Visitor 2018–2022; Circuit Secretary 2006–2009

Synod: Synod Convention Delegate 2013

Community: Rockford HS Marching Band Props Chairman and Road Crew Member, 2020–present; Rockford Area Ministerial Association, 2016–present; School Board Candidate, Rockford Public Schools, 2024; StoneCrest SCA Board of Directors, 2018–2019 (Treasurer); Auto Racing Chaplain, Kossuth Co. Speedway, 2008–2016; Iowa Caucus Site Chairman & Precinct Delegate, 2008–2016; Good Samaritan Society, Algona, Iowa Advisory Board 2008–2010 (VP); Burt (Iowa) Lions Club, 2006–2016 (VP, President)

Other: Iowa Central Community College – Adjunct Religion Instructor 2012–2016; Best Practices for Ministry Heartland – Breakout Session Presenter 2021, 2022

\* **J. Derek Riddle**

1007 W. Washington Ave, Jackson, MI 49203

Age 52

Current Position: Pastor, Trinity, Jackson

Education/Degrees/Honors: Peoria High School, Peoria, Ill.; B.A., Concordia University Wisconsin; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Pastor, Immanuel, Lindenwood, Ill.; Pastor, Christ/ St. Luke's, Delavan/San Jose, Ill.; Pastor, Peace, Rogers City; Pastor, Trinity, Jackson

District: DeKalb Circuit Secretary (Northern Illinois District), 1999–2003; Lincoln Circuit Forum Program Committee (Central Illinois District); Northern Illinois District Pastors Conference & Regional Pastors Conference Program Committees; Central Illinois District Pastors Conference Program Committee; TAMSMAC (The Alpena & Mackinac Straits Mission Action Council) Secretary, 2012–2022; "Here We Stand" Campaign Circuit 1 Co–Coordinator, 2016–2019; Michigan District Convention Nominating Committee, 2018–2022; Michigan District Board of Directors, 2018–2022; Michigan District Board of Directors Recording Secretary, 2019–2022; Michigan District Secretary, 2022–present

Community: Eswood Elementary School Safe School Audit Committee Member (Lindenwood, Ill.); Ogle County "708" Board Member, 2000–2003 (Northern Illinois); Delavan Drug Task Force Chairman, 2009–2012 (Delavan, Ill.); 4–H Expansion Committee, Member, 2015–2016 (Rogers City, Mich.); Salvation Army Volunteer Service Co–Representative for Presque Isle County, 2016–2022; Rogers City Area Schools Sex Education Curriculum Review Committee Member, 2017–2022; Presque Isle County Suicide Prevention Team Member, 2017–2022; Presque Isle Basketball Association, Volunteer Coach, 2018; Rogers City Middle School Track Coach, 2022; Trinity Lutheran School Volunteer Cross County & Track Coach (2023–present)

**Andrew R. Twietmeyer**

5200 Cronk Road, Jonesville, MI 49250

Age 35

Current Position: Associate Pastor, St. Paul's, Hillsdale

Education/Degrees/Honors: Grand Rapids South Christian; B.A., Concordia University Wisconsin; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Sole Pastor, Messiah, Grand Rapids; Associate Pastor, St. Paul's, Hillsdale

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

\* Incumbent

### Metro East Region

#### **Ordained Minister (Vote for 1)**

##### **Chad S. Y. Foster**

C/O: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 47120 Romeo Plank Rd, Macomb, MI 48044

Age: 50

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Immanuel, Macomb

Education/Degrees/Honors: Stockbridge High School, Stockbridge, Ga.; B.S., Oglethorpe University; M. Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.; D. Min., Trinity Theological Seminary, Liverpool, England; Post-Doctorate Studies, Yale Divinity School; Certificate of Studies, Academy of Apologetics and Human Rights, Strasbourg, France

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Sole Pastor, Immanuel, Murray, Ky.; Associate Pastor, St. Peter's, Columbus, Ind.; Senior Pastor, Immanuel, Macomb

Community: Volunteer at local nursing homes/long term care facilities to lead devotions and be on call; participate in a local radio talk show; host weekly radio show. Serve on local community education action council; board of Directors member for local charities

##### \* **Stephen D. Grafe**

Address 1011 W University Dr, Rochester, MI 48307

Age: 66

Current Position: Executive Pastor, St. John, Rochester

Education/Degrees/Honors: Walled Lake Central; B. A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M. A., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Additional Training: Concordia Seminary St. Louis - student mentor

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Assistant Pastor, Associate Pastor, Cross of Christ, Bloomfield Hills; Sole Pastor, Messiah, Holt; Executive Pastor, St. John, Rochester

Circuit: Steering Committee: Lansing Area Lutheran High School Assoc.

District: Metro East Regional Ordained Member, Michigan District Board of Directors; Liaison to the Constitutional Committee for the Michigan District Board of Directors; 2013 All Pastors Conference Planning Committee.

Community: Board for Crisis Pregnancy Center; Birmingham/Bloomfield coalition

#### **Commissioned Minister (Vote for 1)**

##### **Jennifer L. Blickensdorf**

55644 Placid Dr, Macomb, MI 48042

Age: 48

Current Position: Teacher/Director of Children's Music, Immanuel, Macomb

Education/Degrees/Honors: Lutheran High North, Macomb; B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Teacher, Lutheran Special Education Ministries, Detroit; Teacher/Children's Music, Immanuel, Macomb

Community: Member of Macomb Area Community Band

Other: Lutheran Schools Music Committee

##### **Michael A. Nelson**

8639 Leslie Dr, Sterling Heights, MI 48314

Age: 41

Current Position: Principal, Peace, Shelby Township

Education/Degrees/Honors: Kansas City Lutheran HS, Kansas City, Mo.; B.S., Concordia University Nebraska; M.A., Concordia University Nebraska

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Teacher/Athletic Director, Sierra Lutheran HS, Carson City, Nev.; Assistant Principal/Teacher, Lutheran High Northwest, Rochester Hills; Principal, Peace, Shelby Township

Other: SLED Graduate; Elder at Trinity, Gardnerville, Nev.; Board of Education President, Peace, Shelby Township

**Layperson (Vote for 2)**

**Nicholas DeMiro**

533 Wilcox St, Rochester, MI 48307

Age: 58

Current Position: Automotive Industry Executive

Home Congregation: Grace, Romeo

Education/Degrees/Honors: Verona High School, Verona, N.J.; B.S., Mechanical Engineering (Aerospace), United States Military Academy; M.S., Systems Management, University of Southern California

Additional Training: 6 years of active duty as an Army Aviator

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Community: Member of the President's Club at Hillsdale College; Board Member on small Non-Profit Organizations: For the Vets, One Iron; Member of Vistage, a CEO Coaching and Peer Advisory Group.

Other: President of an Automotive Supplier

**Julie Nemeth**

2850 Ranch Rd, Holly, MI 48442

Age: 57

Current Position: Marketing/Public Relations

Home Congregation: St. Trinity, Clarkston

Education/Degrees/Honors: Lakeville Memorial High School, Otisville; B.A., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; M.A., Michigan State University; Executive Certificate, Indiana University School of Philanthropy

Additional Training: Crisis Communications; Google Ads; Local directories management

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Community: Marketing Committee Chairperson, University of Michigan Alumnae Council

Other: Volunteer Marketing/PR for Franklin Avenue Mission, Flint

**Dan Nickodemus**

3066 Cross Creek Ct, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Age: 63

Current Position: Financial Advisor

Home Congregation: Historic Trinity, Detroit

Education/Degrees/Honors: Reese High School; B.S., Business Administration, Central Michigan University; M.B.A., Northwood University DeVos Graduate School; Certified Financial Planner (CFP) designation, College for Financial Planning

Additional Training: FINRA Series 7 & 66 Licenses (General Securities and Registered Investment Advisor);

Michigan Life, Health, Variable Products Insurance Licenses

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Treasurer and Vestry member, Historic Trinity, Inc.; Director and Secretary, Past Council Member, St. Lorenz Lutheran Church, Frankenmuth; Past Council Member, Our Savior Lutheran Church, S. Windsor, Conn.

District: Lay Delegate to District Convention (X2); Michigan District Endowment Advisory Committee

Synod: Lay Delegate to Synod Convention

Community: Travis Pointe Condominium Association & Road Association Board of Directors; Travis Pointe Country Club, Past President and Board of Directors

Other: Past Board Member, Lutheran Home Care Agency (now Wellspring Lutheran Services); Past Board of Regents, Concordia University Ann Arbor

## West Region

### *Ordained Minister (Vote for 1)*

#### **\* Paul C. Appold**

2351 Norcrest Dr, Muskegon, MI 49441

Age: 62

Current Position: Pastor, Trinity, Muskegon

Education/Degrees/Honors: Bay City Handy; B.Ed., Concordia College Ann Arbor; M.Ed., Wayne State University; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

Additional Training: Pastoral Leadership Institute

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Pastor, Trinity, Lansing, Ill.; Pastor, Trinity, Muskegon

District: Chairman of Northern Illinois Pastors Conference; “Echo God’s Love,” Stewardship initiative committee, Northern Illinois District; VP conference committee, 2006 Pastors Conference; Board of Directors, West Region, Ordained

Community: Volunteer Minister at Muskegon Men’s Rescue Mission

Other: Stephen Minister Trainer

#### **A. Trevor Sutton**

4392 Elmwood Dr, Okemos, MI 48864

Age: 38

Current Position: Senior Pastor, St. Luke, Haslett

Education/Degrees/Honors: White Lake, Lakeland HS; B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.; M.A., Michigan State University; Ph.D., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Assistant, St. Luke, Haslett; Associate, St. Luke, Haslett; Senior Pastor, St. Luke, Haslett

Community: Soccer Coach

Other: Adjunct Instructor: Concordia University, Irvine; Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

### *Commissioned Minister (Vote for 1)*

#### **Scott L. Jung**

10488 Hunters Creek Dr, Zeeland, MI 49464

Age: 50

Current Position: Director of Family Life & Discipleship, Zion, Holland

Education/Degrees/Honors: Concordia Lutheran High School, Fort Wayne, Ind.; B.A., Concordia University Nebraska

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: DCE, Grace, Bradford, Pa.; DCE/Family Life Director, Holy Cross, Indianapolis, Ind.; Director of Family Life & Discipleship, Zion, Holland

#### **Kyle J. Smith**

12732 S. Coleman Rd, Empire, MI 49630

Age: 41

Current Position: Principal/Athletic Director, Trinity Lutheran School, Traverse City

Education/Degrees/Honors: Lutheran High Northwest, Rochester Hills; B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Ed., Concordia University Wisconsin

Additional Training: Tec 21; Attend annual teacher conferences

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Teacher, St. John, Rogers City; Principal/Teacher/Athletic Director, Immanuel, Saginaw; Principal/Teacher, Trinity, Traverse City

Community: Coach

Other: Michigan Association of Non Public Schools (MANS) Administrative Conference Planning Committee; Michigan District, LCMS Accreditation Committee Member

**Layperson (Vote for 2)**

**Kathleen Flynn**

11330 7 Mile Rd NE, Belding, MI 48809

Age: 51

Current Position: Public School Administrator

Home Congregation: Mount Calvary, Greenville

Education/Degrees/Honors: Rockford High School; B.S., Grand Valley State University; M.Ed., Grand Valley State University

Additional Training: Michigan Teacher Certification - Elementary Education, Special Education (Cognitive & Emotional Impairment endorsements); Michigan School Administrator Certification; Michigan Special Education Director Certification

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Sunday School Teacher

Community: Member of Central Montcalm Community Foundation Board; Volunteer at Rockford Equest Center for Therapeutic Riding

**Timothy Haberling**

1244 Bates St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Age: 58

Current Position: Banker

Home Congregation: Immanuel, Grand Rapids

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.B.A., Central Michigan University; M.B.A, Western Michigan University

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Treasurer; Elder; Congregation President

District: Michigan Church Extension Fund

**Scott Liggett**

1810 Wisconsin Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417

Age: 54

Current Position: Senior VP of Development & Marketing for Family Policy Alliance and Family Policy Alliance Foundation

Home Congregation: St. John's, Grand Haven

Education/Degrees/Honors: Lutheran High West, Detroit; B.S., Central Michigan University; Teacher Certification, Grand Valley State University; Master's Degree in Nonprofit Administration, University of Notre Dame

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Elder; Chair, Audit Committee; Constitution & By-Laws Committee; Nominating Committee

Community: Past School Board President

Other: Was a trained Stephen Ministry leader back in the day

**\* O. Dennis Sohn**

7550 Roxborough Lane, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Age: 69

Current Position: Retired

Home Congregation: Our Savior, Lansing

Education/Degrees/Honors: Walled Lake Central; B.A., Chemistry, University of Detroit; B.S., Pharmacy, University of Michigan

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Board of Elders; Chairman of Congregation

District: Lay delegate to District Convention; Lay member, Michigan District Board of Directors; Committee member and Committee Chairman of the Lutheran Adult Gathering; Chairman of 2025 Michigan District Convention Committee

Community: Vice President of Pointe West Preserve HOA

Other: Board of Education; Endowment Committee; Chairman, Board of Directors

## CHURCH EXTENSION FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

\* Incumbent

### *LCMS Rostered persons (Vote for 1)*

#### **Matthew T. Dent**

5606 Johnsfield Rd, Standish, MI 48658

Age: 52

Current Position: Sole Pastor, Bethlehem, Standish

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Additional Training & Specialization: Credits toward an S.T.M. at Concordia Seminary St. Louis; Certified, Prepare & Enrich Facilitator

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Assistant Pastor, Christ the King, Grosse Pointe Woods; Vacancy Pastor, Risen Christ, Plymouth; Vacancy Pastor, Holy Redeemer, Sandusky, Ohio; Sole Pastor, Bethlehem, Standish

Synod: Circuit Pastoral Delegate - Synod Convention, 2016, 2019, 2023

Community: Vice President & Treasurer, FBLC Cooperative Corp.; Manager, FBLC Community Farms; LLC

Other: Circuit Pastoral Advisor - LWML (2014–2021); Station Manager – Michigan Lutheran Radio

#### \* **Eric W. Majeski**

6532 Westridge, Washington Township, MI 48094

Age: 58

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Grace, Romeo

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI)

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, Redeemer, Warrington, Fla.; Assistant Pastor, St. John, Fraser; Associate Pastor, St. John, Fraser; Associate Pastor, Grace, Romeo; Senior Pastor, Grace, Romeo

Circuit: Circuit Visitor

District: Convention Nominating Committee; CEF Board of Trustees; Metro East Pastors Conference Committee Chair

Synod: Ordained Delegate to Synod Convention

Community: Mentor, Kids Hope USA; Ambassador, Northern Macomb Chamber of Commerce; Facilitator, Macomb County Rotating Emergency Team; Host, Gleaners Mobile Site

Other: Chair, Lutheran High School Association Board of Directors; Event Leader, Macomb Transformed for Christ

#### **Martin P. Measel**

1593 South Teakwood Dr, Stevensville, MI 49127

Age: 58

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Christ, Stevensville

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.S., Lawrence Tech Univ. – Architecture; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Additional Training & Specialization: Hospital chaplain; Doxology

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, Christ, Stevensville; Senior Pastor, Christ, Stevensville

Circuit: Delegate to District and Synod conventions; Committee for West Region Pastors Conference

Other: Board member, Benton Harbor Lutheran Outreach Ministry; Monthly church service at Pineridge Assisted Living

**Laypersons or Rostered Workers Not Called or Assigned (Vote for 3)**

**Michael A. Eichberger**

7130 Fillmore St, Allendale, MI 49401

Age: 44

Current Position: School Partnership Specialist, Grand Valley State University

Home Congregation: Holy Cross, Jenison

Education/Degrees/Honors: Port Huron Northern High School; B.Pol.Sc., Grand Valley State University; M.P.A, Grand Valley State University

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Daily Shepherd Pre-School Board member at Holy Cross Lutheran Church (2015–2017); Holy Cross Lutheran Church Board of Vestry member (2019–2021), Holy Cross Lutheran Church Board of Vestry Vice-Chair (2020), Holy Cross Lutheran Church Board of Vestry member (2024–2026)

Community: Career and Technical Education (CTE) advisory board member, Hudsonville High School Business program; Career and Technical Education (CTE) advisory board member, Charlotte High School Teacher Academy program; Career and Technical Education (CTE) advisory board member, Sparta High School Teacher Academy program

**Amy Engelhardt**

5095 Hilltop Estates Dr, Clarkston, MI 48348

Age: 46

Current Position: Physician – Chief Medical Officer, Henry Ford Hospital

Home Congregation: St. John, Rochester

Education/Degrees/Honors: Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw; B.S., Michigan State University; M.B.A., University of Michigan Stephen M. Ross School of Business; D.O., Des Moines University

Additional Training & Specialization: Transitional Year Internship, Henry Ford Hospital (2005–2006); Internal Medicine Residency, Henry Ford Macomb (2006–2008); Physician Leadership Institute, Henry Ford Medical Group (2019–2020)

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Community: Commissioner, State of Michigan; Certificate of Need Commission MiSide Quality Board Member

**Al D. Kaul**

c/o Valley Lutheran High School 3560 McCarty Rd, Saginaw, MI 48603

Age: 56

Current Position: Executive Director, Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw

Home Congregation: Immanuel, Saginaw

Education/Degrees/Honors: Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw; B.A., University of Michigan; M.S.W, University of Michigan

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Various elected church positions; Valley Lutheran High School’s various boards and committees prior to hire

District: Lay Delegate to District Convention

Community: Leading Age Michigan Board of Directors; Valley Society of Human Resource Management Board of Directors

Other: Wellspring Lutheran Services – various positions; Crossroads Counseling Services Board of Directors

**Michael Martin**

3337 Poinsetta Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Age: 63

Current Position: Executive Director of Christian Outreach For Africa

Education/Degrees/Honors: Mason High School, Mason; B.S.G.E, Michigan Tech University; M.B.A. (Finance), Michigan State University

Home Congregation: St. Matthew, Grand Rapids

Additional Training & Specialization: Charter Financial Analyst

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Board of Directors, Chairman and Treasurer; Call Committee Chairman; Endowment Committee Chairman

District: Member of Michigan Church Extension Fund’s Investment Committee

Community: Member of Volunteers In Service’s Board of Directors

Other: Member of Christian Outreach For Africa’s Michigan Advisory Board

**Julian H. Petzold**

24752 Victoria Ct, Harrison Township, MI 48045

Age: 54

Current Position: President, Lion Safety Consulting

Home Congregation: Trinity, Clinton Township

Education/Degrees/Honors: Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw; B.A., Concordia University Chicago; M.A., Oakland University, Rochester, Mich.; Ph.D., Concordia University Chicago

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Teacher, St. John, Rochester; Director of School Ministries, Rochester; Principal/EC Director, Trinity, Saint Joseph; Principal, Trinity, Clinton Township; Executive Director, Valley Lutheran H.S., Saginaw

District: CEF Board of Trustees (2007–2021)

**James A. Sundstrom**

12374 Madonna Dr, Lansing, MI 48917

Age: 61

Current Position: Sales Manager, ETM Enterprises

Home Congregation: Our Savior, Lansing

Education/Degrees/Honors: Northwest High School, Jackson; B.B.A., Spring Arbor University

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Chairman of Board of Elders, Our Savior, Lansing; Board of Directors, Our Savior, Lansing

District: Lay Delegate to District Conventions; CEF Ambassador

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE - 2028 MICHIGAN DISTRICT CONVENTION

\* Incumbent

### Metro East Region

#### *Ordained Minister (Vote for 1)*

\* **Eric W. Majeski**

6532 Westridge, Washington Township, MI 48094

Age: 58

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Grace, Romeo

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI)

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, Redeemer, Warrington Fla.; Assistant Pastor, St. John, Fraser; Associate Pastor, St. John, Fraser; Associate Pastor, Grace, Romeo; Senior Pastor, Grace, Romeo

Circuit: Circuit Counselor

District: Convention Nominating Committee; CEF Board of Trustees; Metro East Pastors Conference Committee Chair

Synod: Ordained Delegate to Synod Convention

Community: Mentor, Kids Hope USA; Ambassador, Northern Macomb Chamber of Commerce; Facilitator, Macomb County Rotating Emergency Team; Host, Gleaners Mobile Site

Other: Chair, Lutheran High School Association Board of Directors; Event Leader, Macomb Transformed for Christ

**Dante B. Pronsati**

52895 North Ave, Macomb, MI 48042-3814

Age: 27

Current Position: Associate Pastor, St. Peter, Macomb

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.S., Concordia University Texas; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, St. Peter, Macomb

#### *Commissioned Minister (Vote for 1)*

\* **David S. Kusch**

750 Lawnview Ct, Rochester Hills, MI 48307-3013

Age: 63

Current Position: Teacher, Lutheran High Northwest, Rochester Hills

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.S., Concordia University Ann Arbor

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Teacher, Concordia High School, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Principal/Teacher, St. Paul's, Farmington Hills; Principal, Concordia, Redford; Teacher, Lutheran High Westland; Minister of Music, St. Paul's, Farmington Hills; Teacher, Lutheran High Northwest, Rochester Hills

District: Accreditation Committee; Chair, Principals Conference Committee; Chair, Oakland Principals Group

Synod: Convention Delegate; Floor Committee on Higher Education; Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support (2023 and 2007)

Community: Precinct Chair, Rochester Hills Elections; President, Scottish Cultural Society of Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Executive Director, Indiana Highland Games; Member, Indiana Thespians State Board

## **Layperson (Vote for 1)**

### **Stephen Boergert**

5439 Bristol Parke Dr, Clarkston, MI 48348

Age: 66

Current Position: Business Owner

Home Congregation: Cross of Christ, Bloomfield Hills

Education/Degrees/Honors: Parma Sr. High School, Parma, Ohio; B.S., Industrial Engineering, Cuyamaca College, Spring Valley, Calif.; M.Res., University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, UK; Engineering Doctorate, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, UK; International Welding Engineer, International Institute of Welding, Genoa, Italy; Senior Welding Engineer, Naval Nuclear Propulsion, Naval Sea Systems Command

Additional Training & Specialization: Certified Welding Engineer, Naval School of Sciences (American Welding Society); Navy Emergency Response Management; Fire and Emergency Services Chief; Certified Radiation Health Specialist, Radiological Affairs Office; Quality and Compliance Specialist, LAB University of Applied Science

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: VP Finance, Church Council (2005–2006); Chairman, Church Council (2006–2016); Liturgist/Lay Deacon (2005–2021); Board of Elders, Member (2006–2012); Board of Elders, Chairman (2012–2021)

District: Chairman, Michigan District Board of Directors; Lay delegate to District Convention (x1)

Synod: Lay Delegate to Synod Convention (x2); Advisory Delegate to Synod Convention (x1)

Community: Board Member, United States Selective Service System; Chairman, Homeowners Association

Other: Religious Ministry Lay Leader/Licensed Deacon, US Navy, various locations (1978–1992); Church Council Member, Member of Board of Elders, Lay Deacon, Youth Ministry Leader, Valley Lutheran Church, Chagrin Falls, Ohio (1996–2004); Board of Directors Member, Haiti Lutheran Mission Society (2002–2004); Delto – Vicar, “Building Hope in the City”, St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio (2001–2005)

## **Metro West Region**

### **Ordained Minister (Vote for 1)**

#### **Aaron W. Roggow**

8278 S Warwick Ct, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Age: 42

Current Position: Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Ann Arbor

Education/Degrees/Honors: Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw; B.A, Concordia University Ann Arbor; M. Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.; STM, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, St. Peter, Arlington Heights, Ill.; Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Ann Arbor

District: All Pastors Conference Committee (2019); Jr. High Youth Gathering Committee (2022–present); South and East Pastors Conference Committee (2024–present)

Synod: Pastoral Delegate to Synod Convention (2023)

#### **Tyler A. Walworth**

3 Adams Ln, Dearborn, MI 48120

Age: 35

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Emmanuel, Dearborn; Pastor, Our Savior Deaf, Beverly Hills

Education/Degrees/Honors: Lutheran High School, Kansas City, Mo.; B.A., Concordia University Nebraska; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Lutheran Friends of the Deaf Mission Facilitator, Mill Neck, N.Y.; Michigan District Missionary at Large to the Deaf; Associate Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Birmingham; Associate Pastor, Emmanuel, Dearborn; Senior Pastor, Emmanuel, Dearborn; Pastor, Our Savior Deaf, Beverly Hills

Other: Board member of Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society

**Joel A. Werner**

9210 Harrison St, Livonia, MI 48150

Age: 28

Current Position: Associate Pastor, Christ Our Savior, Livonia

Education/Degrees/Honors: Munising High School; B. A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, Christ Our Savior, Livonia

Other: LWML Zone Counselor for Wayne – Oak Hills Zone (Spring 2024–present)

**Mark K. Witte**

630 N Monroe St, Monroe, MI 48162

Age: 44

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Grace, Monroe

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., Concordia University Chicago; M. Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, Grace, Monroe; Senior Pastor, Grace, Monroe

Circuit: Circuit secretary and treasurer, Circuit Visitor

Community: Youth soccer, basketball and baseball coach; monthly columnist for local newspaper

***Commissioned Minister (Vote for 1)***

**David A. Nelson**

7250 Lochmoor Dr, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Age: 40

Current Position: Director of Discipleship/DCE, St. Luke, Ann Arbor

Education/Degrees/Honors: Loy Norrix High School, Kalamazoo; Teacher/DCE Certification, Concordia University Chicago; M.A., Concordia University St. Paul

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Youth Ministry, Mount Olive, Rockford, Ill.; Youth and Family Ministry, St. Paul, Westlake, Ohio; Director of Youth and Family Discipleship, St. Luke, Ann Arbor

Other: Sticky Faith Cohort Completion

***Layperson (Vote for 1)***

**Robert Bourassa**

141 S Riverbank, Wyandotte, MI 48192

Age: 63

Current Position: Music Instructor / Church Musician

Home Congregation: Calvary, Lincoln Park

Education/Degrees/Honors: Wyandotte Roosevelt High School; Oakland County CC; Macomb County CC

## North & East Region

### ***Ordained Minister (Vote for 1)***

#### **Paul R. Biber**

1591 Briarson Dr, Saginaw, MI 48638

Age: 51

Current Position: Pastor, Good Shepherd, Saginaw

Education/Degrees/Honors: Ramona High School, Riverside, Calif.; B.A. & M.A., University of Southern California; M.Div. and D.Min., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

Additional Training: PLI - 2005–2008; Peacemaker Training - 1999

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Pastor, Pentecost, Racine, Wisc.; Pastor, St. Lucas, St. Louis, Mo.; Pastor, Good Shepherd, Saginaw

Circuit: Circuit Visitor

District: Deacon Faculty Member - New Testament and Office of the Ministry - Michigan District (2019–Present)

Synod: Pastoral Delegate to Synod Convention 2022; Adjunct SMP Professor - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. (2013–2020)

Other: Brazil Mission Society Board of Directors and Vice-Chairman

#### **Michael D. Boyer**

816 E Bay St, Sebewaing, MI 48759

Age: 44

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Immanuel, Sebewaing

Education/Degrees/Honors: Lutheran Westland, Westland, Mich.; B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Sebewaing; Senior Pastor, Immanuel, Sebewaing

Circuit: Thumb Zone West LWML Pastoral Counselor, October 2008–October 2010; Thumb Zone West LWML Pastoral Counselor, October 2010–October 2014; Thumb East/West Winkel Secretary, July 2007

Synod: Pastoral Delegate to Synodical Convention 2016

Community: T-Ball Coach (Unionville-Sebewaing Little League) Summer 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017; Girls Softball Coach (Sebewaing) Summer 2015; Unionville-Sebewaing Area Baseball Coach - 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

### ***Commissioned Minister (Vote for 1)***

#### **Brian J. Heinlein**

311 Southridge Dr, Hemlock, MI 48626

Age: 47

Current Position: Director of Parish Music, St. Peter, Hemlock

Education/Degrees/Honors: Vassar High School, Vassar, Mich.; B.A., Concordia University Wisconsin; Master of Church Music, Concordia University Wisconsin

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Director of Music/Teacher, Trinity, Sheboygan, Wisc.; Director of Parish Music, St. Peter, Hemlock

Community: Member of the American Guild of Organists; Handbell Musicians of America; Dairyland Theater Organ Society; Frankentrost Band

Other: Director of the Mixed Choir and Handbell Choir, member of the building committee, long-range planning committee, stewardship life committee, and chair of the sanctuary renovation committee

**Layperson (Vote for 1)**

**Steven Kern**

12191 Arrowood Dr, Otisville, MI 48463

Age: 71

Current Position: Retired

Home Congregation: St. Paul, Millington

Education/Degrees/Honors: Millington High School; Bachelor's, Central Michigan University;

Certification, Michigan State University; Master's, Saginaw Valley State University; Certification, Ferris State University

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: 12 Years Treasurer of St. Paul Lutheran Church; 11 Years Elder of St. Paul Lutheran Church (currently serving); Member of Strategic Planning Committee; Member of St. Paul Historical Committee; Updated St. Paul Lutheran History for the 125th Anniversary of the Church; Organizer of the "In Home Bible Study" Groups at St. Paul Lutheran

District: Lay Delegate to the last 3 District Conventions

Synod: Lay Delegate to Synodical Convention 2019

Community: Member of the Millington Lions Club

**West Region**

**Ordained Minister (Vote for 1)**

**Paul C. Appold**

2351 Norcrest Dr, Muskegon, MI 49441

Age: 62

Current Position: Pastor, Trinity, Muskegon

Education/Degrees/Honors: Bay City Handy; B.Ed., Concordia College Ann Arbor; M.Ed., Wayne State University;

M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

Additional Training: Pastoral Leadership Institute

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Pastor, Trinity, Lansing, Ill.; Pastor, Trinity, Muskegon

District: Chairman of Northern Illinois Pastors Conference; "Echo God's Love," Stewardship initiative committee Northern Illinois District; VP conference committee, 2006 Pastors Conference; Ordained Member, Michigan District Board of Directors, West Region

Community: Volunteer Minister at Muskegon Men's Rescue Mission

Other: Stephen Minister Trainer

**Christopher M. Boehnke**

13477 Ravine View Dr, Grand Haven, MI 49417

Age:54

Current Position: Pastor, Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship, Spring Lake

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., University of Nebraska at Omaha; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Pastor, St. John's, Hooker, Okla.; Pastor, Attonement, Omaha, Neb.; Pastor, Risen Savior, Tea, S.D.; Pastor, Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship, Spring Lake

District: Chairman, Outreach Services; Chairman, Spring Pastors Conference 2008; Speaker for exegetical studies at Pastors Conferences; District Convention Floor Committee Work; Circuit Visitor 2012 – 2019, 2022 – present

Community: Ministerial Alliance of Hooker; Tri-Cities pastors' prayer group; Barnabas ministries; opening prayer for Grand Haven City Council

Other: Spiritual Growth Workshops for District LWML; Bible Editorial Committee member; God's Word to the Nations Bible Society; Short-term missionary to Jiangmen, China, 2008

**Brian D. West**

7100 Jasper Dr, Hudsonville, MI 48426

Age:48

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Holy Cross, Jenison

Education/Degrees/Honors: Elkhorn High School, Elkhorn, Neb.; B.A., Concordia University Nebraska; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

Additional Training: Training in Coaching

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, Christ the King, Kingwood, Texas; Associate Pastor, Trinity, Clinton Township; Senior Pastor, Holy Cross, Jenison

Circuit: Circuit Visitor

District: 2023 Michigan District Professional Church Workers Conf. Committee; Theological Conference Moderator; All Pastors Conference Planning Committee (2018)

Community: Serve on the Board of Young Life for Eastern Ottawa County North

Other: Speaker at various events

***Commissioned Minister (Vote for 1)*****Lori S. Wieneke**

7487 Emerald Woods Dr SE, Byron Center, MI 49315

Age: 49

Current Position: Director of Spiritual Formation, St. Matthew, Grand Rapids

Education/Degrees/Honors: Lutheran High Westland; B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Teacher, St. John's, Grand Haven; Teacher/Music, Our Savior, Lansing; Director of Children's Ministries/Director of Music, St. Matthew, Grand Rapids

District: Commissioned Member, Michigan District Board of Directors, West Region

***Layperson (Vote for 1)*****Timothy Haberling**

1244 Bates St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Age: 58

Current Position: Banker

Home Congregation: Immanuel, Grand Rapids

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.B.A., Central Michigan University; M.B.A, Western Michigan University

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Treasurer; Elder; Congregation President

District: Michigan Church Extension Fund

**Michael Stack**

6999 Stephen Miller Dr, Newaygo, MI 49337

Age: 65

Current Position: Retired Senior Account Manager

Home Congregation: Bethel, Howard City

Education/Degrees/Honors: Oscoda High School; B.S. Electrical Engineering, University of Michigan – Flint

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Elder

Other: Executive Committee Member, Newaygo County Republican Party; Chaired and served on several committees for the NCRP; Executive Committee Member, 2nd Congressional District and currently chair a committee

## LCMS COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS

*Layperson (Vote for 1, then vote for 1 alternate)*

### **Stephen Boergert**

5439 Bristol Parke Dr, Clarkston, MI 48348

Age: 66

Current Position: Business Owner

Home Congregation: Cross of Christ, Bloomfield Hills

Education/Degrees/Honors: Parma Sr. High School, Parma, Ohio; B.S., Industrial Engineering, Cuyamaca College, Spring Valley, Calif.; M.Res., University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, UK; Engineering Doctorate, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, UK; International Welding Engineer, International Institute of Welding, Genoa, Italy; Senior Welding Engineer, Naval Nuclear Propulsion, Naval Sea Systems Command

Additional Training & Specialization: Certified Welding Engineer, Naval School of Sciences (American Welding Society); Navy Emergency Response Management; Fire and Emergency Services Chief; Certified Radiation Health Specialist, Radiological Affairs Office; Quality and Compliance Specialist, LAB University of Applied Science

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: VP Finance, Church Council (2005–2006); Chairman, Church Council (2006–2016); Liturgist/Lay Deacon (2005–2021); Board of Elders, Member (2006–2012); Board of Elders, Chairman (2012–2021)

District: Chairman, Michigan District Board of Directors; Lay delegate to District Convention (x1)

Synod: Lay Delegate to Synod Convention (x2); Advisory Delegate to Synod Convention (x1)

Community: Board Member, United States Selective Service System; Chairman, Homeowners Association

Other: Religious Ministry Lay Leader/Licensed Deacon, US Navy, various locations (1978–1992); Church Council Member, Member of Board of Elders, Lay Deacon, Youth Ministry Leader, Valley Lutheran Church, Chagrin Falls, Ohio (1996–2004); Board of Directors Member, Haiti Lutheran Mission Society (2002–2004); Delto – Vicar, “Building Hope in the City”, St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio (2001–2005)

### **Michael Stack**

6999 Stephen Miller Dr, Newaygo, MI 49337

Age: 65

Current Position: Retired Senior Account Manager

Home Congregation: Bethel, Howard City

Education/Degrees/Honors: Oscoda High School; B.S., Electrical Engineering, University of Michigan-Flint

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Elder

Other: Executive Committee Member, Newaygo County Republican Party; Chaired and served on several committees for the NCRP; Executive Committee Member, 2nd Congressional District & currently chair a committee

### **Deb Wulff**

3131 Gemini Dr, Sterling Heights, MI 48314

Age: 68

Current Position: Preschool Aide, St. John, Fraser

Home Congregation: Hope, Warren

Education/Degrees/Honors: C.S.Mott/Warren; Medical Assistant Degree, Macomb Community College

Additional Training & Specialization: 16 Hours Yearly Continuing Education; CPR & First Aid

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: VBS Teacher; Sunday School Teacher; Committee Member, 25th Anniversary; Committee member, His Love Our Response Program; Youth Board Chair; Church Council; Committee Chair, Pastor Duerr 20th Anniversary in Ministry; Co-Director of Passion Play; Chairperson of Photo Directories; Chairperson, 40th Anniversary Committee; Chairperson, 50th Anniversary and 500th Reformation Anniversary; Coordinator of Spoonful’s of Love Meal Ministry; Coordinator of Delivering Disciples Food Ministry; MCREST committee member and volunteer; Choir Member

Community: Girl Scout Leader

Other: Librarian, Peace Lutheran School; Committee Member LHNW Auction; Cheerleading Coach, LHNW



# Section 4 - District Reports

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# 104th Convention of the Michigan District – Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

June 22–24, 2025

Ann Arbor, Michigan

## DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hills and dales. City streets. Neighborhood walkways. Steps forward. Steps backwards. Mountain top experiences. Wandering the valley of the shadow of death. Psalm 84:5 says, “Blessed are those ... whose hearts are set on pilgrimage” (NIV).

Life is pilgrimage. Life is journey. We gather for the 104th Convention of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to be *Nourished for the Journey: Remember, Renew, Return*. We will spend time contemplating that worn-out man of God, Elijah, and like him be nourished by God to resume the call he has on our life individually and corporately. There are more with us than we might realize. There is One for us against whom nothing can stand.

You do not have to read widely to know that it looks as though the Church, including The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is in decline. Fewer members. Fewer congregations. In 2015 there were 370 congregations in the Michigan District; today we have 343. In 2015 we had 145,854 communicant members; today we have 114,557.

But when we read widely in the Scriptures, we see that God continues to work through all time to build his Kingdom. There is no force or power or authority that can withstand His will to build His Kingdom through the proclamation of Jesus Christ: crucified, raised, reigning, and returning. And so we gather to be reminded of all that God is and does, to be renewed in energy, hope, and conviction and then, having had worship and fellowship together, we return to our individual callings and congregations invigorated, nourished by the hand of God, to love God and our neighbor in our daily pilgrimage, and to share good news of the Kingdom.

These past three years our District congregations, workers, Board of Directors, staff, and other organizations have built on past leadership efforts to continue forward in mission and ministry. This report will highlight themes, directions, organizations, and

activities that further our life together as *People of Hope: Vigorously Making Known the Love of Jesus*.

Our overall focus as a District organizationally is a four-fold target:

- Great Commission Ministry
- Great Compassion Ministry
- Healthy Congregations
- Healthy Church Workers

Our organizing, our staffing, our budgeting, and our activities all grow out of those four targets. We filter our efforts as they relate to these targets. Each of the last three years, the Board of Directors has endorsed a list of measurable indicators that are designed to coordinate the efforts of the overall District ministry toward those targets.

In response to those targets, we have developed particular overarching themes to accent them. These themes have been filtered through conferences and communication pieces throughout the year.

- 2023: *The Word Works: Building an Ethic of Bible Reading*—this is the fuel that leads to all four targets
- 2024: *Love Talks: Daring Conversations of Reconciliation*
- 2025: *Nourished for the Journey: You Are Not Alone*
- 2026: *Live to Talk About It*

Four areas of intentional programmatic concentration grow out of all of the above:

*Reading the Bible:* This is foundational for all that we are. We meet Jesus in His Word. Our faith is formed through the Word. The Spirit builds us up and sends us out through the Word. Imagine how our life would be different if we were all reading the Bible daily, even reading through its entirety annually.

*Church Planting and Revamping:* We continue to accent the planting of new congregations through existing local congregations. Church planting networks are being developed across the District. At the same time, more and more of our congregations are merging or blending ministry together with other congregations. Even as some congregations close,



we seek to leverage their ministry experience in other congregations. This is “revamping.” A crucial piece of this effort includes building broad-based immigrant ministry across the District. This winter we held the first All Nations Worship Service event with 217 in attendance and 6 immigrant ministries representing several countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and other places.

*Leadership Development:* The single biggest effort the District takes annually is the planning, publicizing and carrying out of 56 different conferences. They include conferences for pastors, teachers, early childhood directors, early childhood workers, principals, ministry specialists, lay training, pastors’ wives, new church workers, young pastors, parish nurses, emeriti, and youth (Junior and Senior High). Over 700 adult and youth attended the 2023 High School Gathering on Mackinac Island under the theme *Anchored in Hope* based on Romans 5:1–8. We also provide scholarships for church workers and student loan relief. We operate the Michigan School of Missional Formation that trains credentialed deacons, evangelists, and other congregational workers. To provide more pastors, we have increased our financial support of two non-traditional seminary programs—the Specific Ministry Pastor program and The Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) program.

*Parochial Education 2.0:* Parochial education has been part of our Synod’s heritage and certainly that is the case in the Michigan District. We have 5 high schools, 66 elementary schools, and 125 early childhood centers. We do much through our Superintendent’s office to support schools, teachers, and administrators. Additionally, these last three years we have also been supporting the homeschool movement by encouraging congregations to establish or build on homeschool networks. We have also been working with a number of Circuits to establish “micro” schools. Over the last few months, we have begun to explore beginning a vocational school that would train young people for the trades in a Christian setting.

These four areas of concentration are designed to help our congregations be more effective in reaching their communities. A key outgrowth that is developing is the establishment of great networking in the District to that end. We have established the Harvest Partners Network – Michigan District, which is accenting church planting. As we head into this convention, we are working on enhancing networking with existing campus ministries around the state and establishing new ones. We also hope to build more networking with immigrant populations across the state.

## PERSONAL AND PERSONNEL

Like the children sing, “*The Church is not a building, the Church is not a steeple, the Church is not a resting place, the Church is the people.*”



- Personal connections with church workers and congregations is one of our highest priorities. We have accented visits, phone calls, personal cards, and letters. In **2024** alone the District leadership (without CVs) made **1,781** contacts. These are just the ones that we recorded! In **2024** alone the District leadership (with CVs) made **1,919** contacts.
- Our four regional vice presidents—Dean Davenport, Darryl Andrzejewski, Craig Bickel, and Erik Cloeter—have served as strong advocates for mission and ministry throughout the District. On behalf of the District, they have assisted in worship and installations, attended conferences, worked with congregations, and attended meetings.
- Circuit Visitors, led by Chairman Mike Roth, have served congregations in conflict, assisted in the call process, and organized and led monthly Winkel meetings.
- The District Board of Directors, led by Chairman Stephen Boergert, has worked hard to maintain the interests of local congregations. This past triennium they have held 6 listening events around the District, inviting congregational members to come and share concerns and ideas.
- We bid farewell to the following staff members celebrating their many years of service to the District: Todd Jones, Director of Mission Strategy; Ray Zavada, Assistant to the President, Development; Donna Conrad, Administrative Assistant, Business Office; Jeff Heisner, Video Journalist/Digital Media Director; John Greig, part-time District Facilitator; Megan Schultz, Commissioned Missionary at Large—Family Life, deployed to Detroit; Christian Jones, Missionary at Large, deployed to Flint; Dietrick Gladden, Missionary at Large, deployed to Detroit; Rachel Gehm, Commissioned Missionary at Large, deployed to Flint; Jim Richter, Missionary at Large, Grand Rapids; John Rathje, Church Worker Mental Health Support Coordinator.
- We welcomed the following staff members to help us assist congregations and church workers: Mark Brandt, John Greig, and Dan Meckes as part-time District Facilitators; Laura Thomas, Director of Development; Peter Nickel, part-time Call List Support; Ricardo Granado,

Missionary Pastor for Hispanic Ministries; Luke Esselman, part-time Commissioned Ministry Advocate; Stacy Furgerson, Assistant Business Manager; Adele Werner, Video Journalist/Digital Media Manager; Don Neuendorf, part-time Project Manager; Dcs. Christie Hansard, Mental Health Case Manager (Called); Linda Fritsch, Administrative Assistant Business and Development; Rev. Dr. Scott Yakimow, Director of Mission Development.

## **CALLED WORKERS**

Some of the biggest challenges in the Church are connected with the availability of rostered pastors and teachers. To face those challenges, we have accented the following:

- Refined and sped up the process to provide call lists to congregations for ordained and commissioned workers. District facilitators, Circuit Visitors, and the office staff have been diligently working on this.
- Provided orientation for all new workers to the District. This included all new church workers. Specific events took place for newly graduated day school teachers and for experienced teachers coming into our Lutheran system. We participate in Synod's Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) program.
- Relied on retired pastors to help in both short-term and long-term vacancies.
- Accessed the expertise of Transitional Interim pastors.
- Joined with the Synod's *Set Apart to Serve* program to recruit new workers.

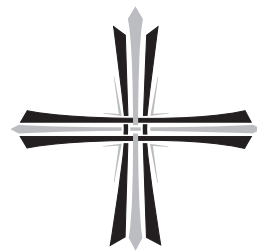
## **CIRCUIT CONVOCATIONS**

The Synod's three-year cycle calls for circuits to hold convocations in the years there is no Synod or District Convention. These convocations came into being in the 1980's but have largely been non-existent across the Synod for decades. The original intent of the convocations was to provide area-wide mission festivals or mission projects.

This past year the Michigan District partnered with our Church Extension Fund to provide grants to circuits to help them restart these convocations. Thanks to the hard work of circuit visitors and many volunteers, 36 of our 41 circuits participated in a convocation and we estimate a total of 6,000 individuals were involved.

## **CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ANN ARBOR**

This past triennium we have seen the demise of what we knew to be Concordia University Ann Arbor.



Started in the early 1960's through the efforts of many across the District and Synod, Concordia had its ups and downs as it went from a junior college to a college in 1976 and ultimately to a university in 2001. The story is well known how the University almost closed in 2013 but with the leadership of then District President David Maier, Concordia Wisconsin President Pat Ferry, Church Extension Fund CEO Ron Steinke, Synodical President Matthew Harrison, and many other leaders, Concordia Wisconsin took over the ministry of Concordia Ann Arbor. Viewed as one university with two campuses, the ministry at Concordia Ann Arbor flourished. Thanks in large part to a strategic plan to increase various medical programs and a comprehensive athletic program, both enrollment and the reach of the university expanded as never before.

In early 2024, Concordia Wisconsin's new administration team and Board of Regents began to explore different directions of ministry that have led to dismantling the existing ministry in Ann Arbor. Leaders in the Michigan District worked for a different outcome that would maintain and expand the ministry here in Ann Arbor. People across the Synod even pledged nearly four million dollars in less than a fortnight to give leadership time to collaboratively come up with a way to continue a full university experience in Ann Arbor.

Regardless of the efforts, we in the Michigan District grieve the loss of the vibrant ministry that was Concordia Ann Arbor. District leadership has striven to be an advocate for Concordia Ann Arbor but at the same time living out the responsibility to behave as Christians. We have worked to support students, families, faculty, staff, and alumni. We have also worked to speak forthrightly into both the Concordia Wisconsin leadership and the leadership of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We have offered various types of support and ideas so that some semblance of what Concordia Ann Arbor had become could be maintained.

At the writing of this report, there is still no clear outcome in view for Concordia Ann Arbor other than what is known as the main campus will be either

sold, leased, or developed for some other purpose. The Michigan District Board of Directors has offered up alternatives so that Lutheran Christian ministry might not be fully abandoned at that site.

## PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

The Michigan District values its partnership with Church Extension Fund under the leadership of CEO Jim Saalfeld and President



Church Extension Fund

John Bates. They continue to support the District and her congregations with loans for building projects, homes for workers, and various grants and services. Annually, they provide over \$1 Million in support of the District and her congregations and ministries. As they prepare to celebrate their 125th Anniversary, the District encourages congregations to both celebrate the work of CEF and encourage their members to invest.



The Michigan District also values its partnership with Wellspring Lutheran Services. Under the able leadership of President

and CEO David Gehm, Wellspring Lutheran Services has been caring for Michigan seniors and their caregivers. Wellspring provides a complete array of senior services across the continuum of care: home health/home care, hospice, respite, housing, assisted living, memory loss, skilled nursing, and rehab services. With a focus on emerging technologies as tools for caregiving, Wellspring has become a leader in innovation and technology application in the service environment. In June 2012, Lutheran Homes of Michigan and Lutheran Child & Family Service of Michigan announced their intent to merge into one single nonprofit organization, designed to serve more people in need with services for Michigan seniors, caregivers, children and families. Together, known as Wellspring Lutheran Services, these ministries employ over 1,500 people across the state of Michigan and touch 15,000 lives with service and care each year. We thank God for their service since 1893.

Additionally, the District works with and has supported financially the following Recognized Service Organizations:

- Camp Concordia
- Camp Lu Lay Lea

- Camp Restore, Detroit
- Concordia Center for the Family
- Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society
- Good Friend Ministries
- Hmong Mission Society
- LAMP Ministry
- Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- Lutheran Special Education Ministries
- Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST)

## INVOLVEMENT IN SYNOD

The Michigan District cherishes its opportunity to participate in the larger work of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Our District annually supports the Synod financially with 32.56% of congregational general offerings for District and Synod over the past triennium. In 2024 this amounted to \$1,428,000, including a special gift of \$22,473.79 to meet the intention the District had shared with the Synod the year before. The average percentage from Districts is 22.7%. We also support the following missionaries:

- Rev. David and Joyce Erber – Africa
- Rev. Steven & Martha Mahlburg – Sri Lanka
- James and Christel Neuendorf – Puerto Rico
- Caitlin Worden Ramírez – Dominican Republic

During the past triennium our Board of Directors hosted President Harrison twice. Dr. Jamison Hardy, the new president of the Concordia University System, addressed the Board once. Additionally, our Board of Directors regularly nominates candidates for Synod Boards. President Davis represents our District at four Council of Presidents meetings annually, and regularly engages in conversation with leaders in the Synod, at the Seminaries, with other District Presidents, and the Presidents of our various Universities. The following are members of Synod Boards:

- Mr. Rick Stathakis, Board of Directors
- Rev. Dr. Scott Yakimow, Board for International Missions
- Mr. Dennis Fliehm, LCMS Foundation
- Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, Board of Regents, Concordia University Wisconsin
- Rev. David Fleming, Board of Regents, Concordia University Wisconsin
- Deaconess Christie Hansard, Parish Nurse and Ministerial Health Liaison

## **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The District seeks to be a responsible steward of money entrusted to it and to maximize the use of money for the support of Great Commission Ministry, Great Compassion Ministry, Healthy Congregations, and Healthy Church Workers. Through the funding of quality staff, wide-ranging and flexible grants, a solid communication network, systems that support local congregations and called workers, scholarships, emergency assistance, as well as international mission workers and the Synod itself, we seek to build ministry capacity across the District.

We continue to work with congregations as a whole and with individual donors to develop the mindset of and the funds for working together.

## **ON A PERSONAL NOTE**

Thank you for the many kindnesses and forbearances that have been extended to me during my time in office. The encouragement so many have shared has encouraged. The prayers that have been offered up are treasured by me and answered by God. The counsel offered by my immediate predecessors, Rev. Dr. John L. Heins, Rev. Dr. C. William Hoesman, and Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, has been instrumental. Thank you to the entire District staff for dealing with a new guy. And of course, thank you to my wife Sallie who has been a constant, gracious, and very wise helpmeet, not to mention patient.

## **IN CONCLUSION**

God has richly blessed the congregations and people of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The times we live in may or may not be “worse” than other times for the Church, but they are our times. We will serve together well. We will serve together faithful to the Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. We will serve together with the expectation that in us, through us, and, where necessary in spite of us, Christ will build His Kingdom the gates of hell notwithstanding!

We have been, we are, and we will be *people of hope vigorously making known the love of Christ.*

## DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT

### Nominations to 2025 Michigan District Convention

April 25, 2025

The following nominations were received from congregations of the Michigan District for consideration by the District Convention.

#### District President

Darryl Andrzejewski	2	Accepted
Craig Bickel	1	Declined
Erik Cloeter	3	Accepted
Dean Davenport	2	Declined
David Davis	54	Accepted
Edward Sikora	18	Declined
Jeremy Swem	1	Declined
Bill Wangelin	1	Declined
Sean Willman	1	Accepted

#### Regional Vice Presidents

##### North and East Region

*Erik Cloeter	10	Accepted
Matthew Durance	7	Accepted
Joshua Haller	1	Declined
Dennis Matyas	1	Accepted
*Aaron Schian	6	Accepted

##### Metro East Region

*Darryl Andrzejewski	9	Accepted
Eric Majeski	1	Declined
*Marc Schwichtenberg	2	Accepted

##### Metro West Region

Joel Baseley	1	Declined
Dean Davenport	4	Declined
*Andrew Gruenhagen	4	Accepted
*Andrew Johnson	4	Accepted

##### West Region

*Craig Bickel	14	Accepted
Chris Boehnke	1	Declined
Paul Doellinger	1	Accepted
Michael Goers	1	Accepted
Daniel Lepley	1	Accepted
Edward Sikora	3	Accepted
Michael Saylor	1	Accepted
Jeremy Swem	1	Accepted
*William Wangelin	1	Accepted
Sean Willman	1	Accepted
Ryan Winningham	1	Declined

\* Regional nominees selected by nominating ballot according to Bylaw 5.10e at the regional pre-convention meetings for submission to the convention for final election.

Total congregations submitting nominations for President: 85

Total congregations submitting nominations for Regional Vice President:

North & East: 26      Metro East: 13      Metro West: 14      West: 26

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. J. Derek Riddle, Michigan District, Secretary

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

**“Being People of Hope,” as reflected in our Board’s Vision, Critical Target and Critical Outcome Statements, is based on the words of our Lord:**

Christ has graced us with *“an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for ALL who believe in Him as Savior and Lord” (1 Peter 1:4).*

Our Lord’s life, death, and resurrection has given the whole world the greatest and most certain hope: Christ Himself!

Your Michigan District Board of Directors (BOD) is made up of four voting members from each of the four regions of our District: two Lay, one Commissioned, and one Ordained. Advisory members include the District President, the regional Vice Presidents, the Circuit Visitor chair, the District Treasurer, and the District Secretary.

The BOD meets five times each calendar year, per District bylaw, with one meeting being a two-day retreat. The normal rhythm of our meetings includes time to hear and focus on God’s Word, hear the President’s report on the state of the District and the Synod, monitor the work of our wonderful District staff, receive and review financial statements and the annual audit report. Additionally, the BOD addresses property items, reviews its Policy Manual, and discusses special items put before it.

To further its work in guiding and supporting our Michigan District and the District President, the BOD will review and discuss books and engage speakers on topics appropriate for our growth which aid in recognizing trends and changes in society and the nation. In the past three years, the Board has heard from Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis), David Gehm (CEO, Wellspring Lutheran) and discussed *The Great Dechurching*, by Davis Graham.

The four critical target ministries of our District are Great Commission, Great Compassion, Healthy Congregations, and Healthy Church Workers. These targets are set forth in the Board Policy Manual and are the guiding principles of the Board’s work. Great Commission Ministry means letting the light of Jesus’ love shine through our congregations as we *“Go and make disciples...”* by the power and blessing of the Holy Spirit. Great Compassion embodies the work of caring for all God’s people, putting our love into action, and blessing those whom Jesus loves. Healthy Congregations recognizes that each distinct

congregation has a unique ministry and a different community to minister in, yet there are common items that allow ministry to go forth in synergy. Healthy Church Workers are strong in the Lord. They are spiritually and physically healthy, and emotionally prepared when the challenges of life and ministry are given to them. The BOD monitors, prays, and works to improve in these four areas, with a focus on the Word of God, unity and love among God’s people, the blessing of God’s people working together, and the financial resources to carry out the ministry.

The BOD practices “policy-based” governance. This means that the Board sets guidelines and desired outcomes for the District, while allowing the District President and his staff to work toward those outcomes in the best manner possible. Since the last District convention, the Board has received reports from the President indicating that our targets are being met, despite declining membership and other societal factors. At the Board’s request, the President has developed a more thorough reporting strategy, which is better aligned with our critical targets. Our District remains strong, both financially and in our intent to spread the Word. The Board is pleased with the new District staff additions and the streamlining of the organizational structure. The District is positioning itself to meet future challenges, both physical and financial, by implementing strategies that more closely align with the Board policies and targets.

Fiduciary responsibilities are a large part of the Board’s work. Reviewing our financial records, discussion around our financial policies, and making sure that the properties of the District are administered wisely are all reviewed. The Finance Committee of the Board works closely with the Vice President of Finance to ensure that the monetary workings of the District are understood and that the Board can accept each year’s budget with confidence.

Over the past triennium, the BOD has undertaken the task of better communication with our congregations, termed our “Moral Owners” in the Policy Manual. Our policies call for attention to the needs of our congregations, and for effective, continual communication. To that end, the Board initiated “Listening Events,” where congregations in a region are invited to attend and meet members of the Board, share concerns, and participate in discussion. In the first year of these events, the focus was on informing the congregations about the

function of the Board and asking what resources the District might provide. In this past year, the focus has been shifted to encouraging synergy between congregations by asking their members to share stories of ministries that work (or don't work), and building relationships that will strengthen the District as a whole. Minutes of these meetings are shared with the District staff and with all the participants.

Of course, we must address the issue of our Concordia University Ann Arbor. The BOD and our President have been extremely diligent in expressing the feelings of our District to all parties. It needs to be said that our BOD has no direct power over the workings of the CUWAA Board of Regents. That being the case, our BOD has met with members of the CUWAA Regents, the CUWAA President, the Synod BOD and President, and members of the Concordia University System. In every instance, your BOD has carried the message that our District would do whatever necessary to ensure the continuance of the Ann Arbor campus and its vital mission in preparing workers for the Kingdom. As most of you know, the District initiated a capital campaign to provide for continuing funding of Concordia AA. The BOD accepted responsibility for oversight of those generous donations and in the end, due to a lack of commitment on the part of the CUWAA Regents, chose to apply those funds in other areas of Lutheran education. The CUWAA story is yet to be finished, but please be assured that our BOD and District staff remain committed to preserving as much of our Ann Arbor heritage as possible.

What a privilege it has been for the Board to work with President Davis, the Vice Presidents, Advisory Members, and our wonderful District staff over the last three years. God has truly blessed us with these men and women. The Board is looking forward to working with those elected at this convention.

At the end of this convention, we will say goodbye to several members of our Board, including our long-serving chairman Steve Boergert. God is faithful, and God's people who serve in our Michigan District are wonderfully faithful also! To those newly elected to the Board, welcome. To those finishing their service on the Board, we will miss you and we give thanks to God for you!

In these trying times, challenges are always before us. Yet Jesus has called us out of darkness and laid down His life for His sheep. Because Jesus has conquered the grave, because Jesus has given us the keys to the Kingdom, because Jesus partners with us

and has called us to take His love out to the people of Michigan and beyond, we are empowered to be People of Hope! May we live, celebrate, and share the hope that lies within us. To God be the glory!

## BUSINESS/FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Thanks to the congregations of the District and other donors, the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was again blessed with financial resources to carry out mission and ministry and maintain a strong net asset position. The district's net assets (equity) increased \$669,446 from \$19,410,665 to \$20,080,111 over the past triennium.

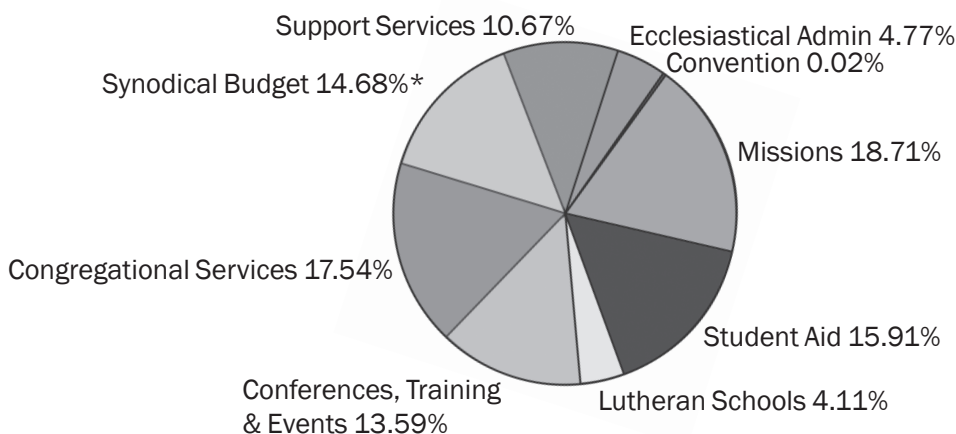
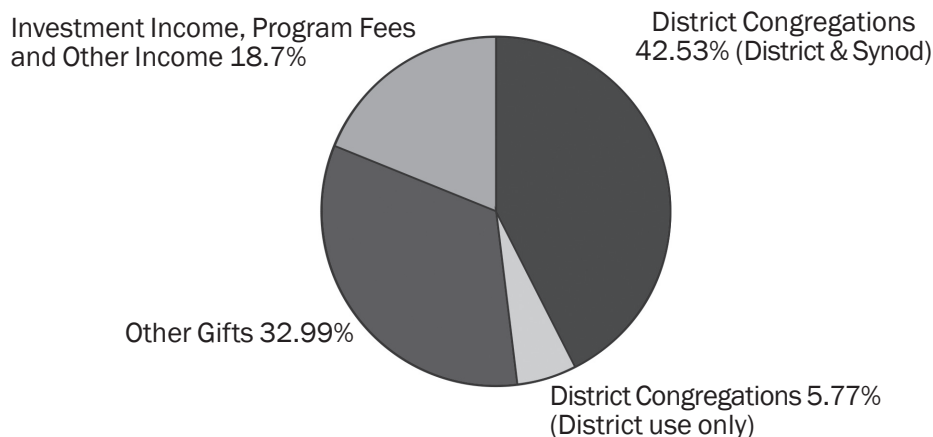
report. For the past three fiscal years, the district sent 32.56% of the District/Synod congregation offerings on to Synod for national and international ministry and allocated 2.44% of those offerings for special support of at-large ministries, including Concordia University Ann Arbor, additional support of national Synod, and various Recognized Service Organizations and camps serving Michigan.

Actual unrestricted cash receipts from congregations averaged \$4.7 million the past 3 years, slightly above the prior triennium, and off the high of \$6.4 million in 2001. (Note the Statement of Activities shows bigger swings due to the timing of receipt of congregation commitment forms.) As is done each triennium, a detailed report of this giving is attached to this

### REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Fiscal Year Ending January 31, 2025

Revenue



Expenses

Following is the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Activities, and the Statement of Functional Expenses as included in the Annual Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for the year ended January 31, 2025 (with comparisons for 2024 and 2023). 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 by calling 888.225.2111.

**Michigan District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**For the Year Ended January 31, 2025**  
**With Comparative Information for 2024 and 2023**

	January 31, 2025		January 31, 2024		January 31, 2023	
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Total	Total	Total
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 40,462	\$ 377,412	\$ 417,874	\$ 249,920	\$ 283,321	\$ 283,321
Investments	3,739,574	10,613,822	14,353,396	14,006,029	14,726,960	14,726,960
Accounts receivable	41,974	-	41,974	58,189	24,575	24,575
Contributions and grants receivable - net	-	3,061,471	3,061,471	2,860,785	3,097,051	3,097,051
Prepaid expenses	43,999	-	43,999	26,649	44,336	44,336
Notes and loans receivable	2,899,812	-	2,899,812	3,491,467	3,752,626	3,752,626
Funds held in custody by others	75,234	302,160	377,394	329,548	306,115	306,115
Property and equipment - net	2,797,551	-	2,797,551	2,422,005	2,513,588	2,513,588
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 9,638,606</b>	<b>\$ 14,354,865</b>	<b>\$ 23,993,471</b>	<b>\$ 23,444,592</b>	<b>\$ 24,748,572</b>	<b>\$ 24,748,572</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>						
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Accounts payable	\$ 91,788	-	\$ 91,788	\$ 73,785	\$ 46,515	\$ 46,515
Due to affiliated organizations	197,790	-	197,790	192,036	149,894	149,894
Deferred revenue	64,110	-	64,110	67,413	81,603	81,603
Synodical pledge	1,339,520	-	1,339,520	1,428,000	1,400,000	1,400,000
Grants payable	109,005	-	109,005	131,231	192,698	192,698
Notes payable	1,907,495	-	1,907,495	2,085,920	2,407,414	2,407,414
Funds held for other entities	-	203,652	203,652	333,225	335,460	335,460
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>3,709,708</b>	<b>203,652</b>	<b>3,913,360</b>	<b>4,311,610</b>	<b>4,613,584</b>	<b>4,613,584</b>
<b>Net assets</b>						
Without donor restrictions	4,815,223	-	4,815,223	4,781,992	5,117,850	5,117,850
Undesignated	1,113,675	-	1,113,675	980,685	1,279,852	1,279,852
Designated by the Board	5,928,898	-	5,928,898	5,762,677	6,397,702	6,397,702
<b>Total without donor restrictions</b>						
With donor restrictions	-	2,786,492	2,786,492	2,624,036	2,303,720	2,303,720
Perpetual in nature	-	3,061,471	3,061,471	2,942,167	3,181,716	3,181,716
Time restrictions	-	8,305,250	8,305,250	7,804,102	8,251,850	8,251,850
Purpose restrictions	-	14,153,213	14,153,213	13,370,305	13,737,286	13,737,286
<b>Total with donor restrictions</b>						
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>5,926,898</b>	<b>14,153,213</b>	<b>20,080,111</b>	<b>19,132,982</b>	<b>20,134,988</b>	<b>20,134,988</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 9,636,606</b>	<b>\$ 14,356,865</b>	<b>\$ 23,993,471</b>	<b>\$ 23,444,592</b>	<b>\$ 24,748,572</b>	<b>\$ 24,748,572</b>

## Michigan District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

### Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended January 31, 2025

With Comparative Information for 2024 and 2023

	January 31, 2025		Total	January 31,	
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions		2024	2023
<b>Support, Revenues and Gains</b>					
Support					
District congregation - District and Synod	\$ 499,031	\$ 3,785,298	\$ 4,284,329	\$ 4,264,277	\$ 4,745,567
District congregation - District only	120,640	460,601	581,241	271,233	221,031
Other gifts and grants	570,608	2,752,699	3,323,307	723,379	2,377,289
Revenues and gains					
Publications	43,414	-	43,414	35,280	32,651
Program fees	609,333	-	609,333	981,188	442,405
Convention registration and combined assessment	180,991	-	180,991	167,374	248,794
Investment income (loss)	298,679	660,916	959,595	702,206	(152,000)
Gain on sale of assets	(5,000)	-	(5,000)	-	12,485
Other	95,300	-	95,300	72,800	72,800
Net assets released from restrictions	6,876,606	(6,876,606)	-	-	-
Total support, revenues and gains	<u>9,289,602</u>	<u>782,908</u>	<u>10,072,510</u>	<u>7,217,737</u>	<u>8,001,022</u>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Program services					
Ecclesiastical administration	434,970	-	434,970	383,086	475,003
Convention	1,820	-	1,820	374,143	263,790
World and national mission	1,707,481	-	1,707,481	1,770,910	1,860,776
Student aid	1,452,249	-	1,452,249	265,688	195,277
Lutheran schools	374,928	-	374,928	365,207	361,314
Conferences, training, and events	1,240,346	-	1,240,346	1,418,828	805,352
Other congregational services	1,600,675	-	1,600,675	1,378,579	1,095,068
Support services					
Synodical budget	1,339,520	-	1,339,520	1,495,303	1,466,368
Management and general	636,631	-	636,631	514,168	518,554
Fundraising	336,761	-	336,761	253,831	235,197
Total expenses	<u>9,125,381</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,125,381</u>	<u>8,219,743</u>	<u>7,276,699</u>
<b>Change in net assets</b>					
Net assets - beginning of year	164,221	782,908	947,129	(1,002,006)	724,323
	5,762,677	13,370,305	19,132,982	20,134,988	19,410,665
<b>Net assets - end of year</b>	<u>\$ 5,926,898</u>	<u>\$ 14,153,213</u>	<u>\$ 20,080,111</u>	<u>\$ 19,132,982</u>	<u>\$ 20,134,988</u>

**Michigan District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod**  
**Statement of Functional Expenses**  
**For the Year Ended January 31, 2025**  
**With Comparative Information for 2024 and 2023**

	January 31, 2025					January 31, 2024	January 31, 2023	
	Program Services	Synodical Budget	Support Services		Fundraising			Total
			Management and General	-				
Salaries and related costs								
Salaries and wages	\$ 1,927,963	-	\$ 266,278	\$ 182,552	\$ 2,276,928	\$ 2,158,424		
Payroll taxes	57,329	-	17,703	12,855	77,671	70,531		
Employee benefits	632,832	-	80,455	66,364	794,020	747,482		
<b>Total salaries and related costs</b>	<b>2,618,124</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>364,436</b>	<b>261,771</b>	<b>3,148,619</b>	<b>2,976,437</b>		
Subsidies, grants, and other assistance	2,484,010	1,339,520	-	1,675	2,726,863	2,594,152		
Legal and auditing	7,740	-	51,540	-	26,935	21,050		
Other professional services	396,540	-	14,559	11,536	348,191	178,416		
Communications, publications, and promotion	45,239	-	-	8,172	38,045	48,865		
Supplies and office expenses	68,294	-	24,533	11,573	97,585	129,727		
Information technology	21,576	-	28,810	1,251	52,143	35,541		
Occupancy	131,056	-	51,781	12,945	191,087	215,367		
Travel, transportation, and professional development	278,627	-	66,857	13,357	295,527	259,444		
Conference hotel, meals, and arrangements	604,289	-	-	907	1,107,802	630,040		
Interest	2,318	-	-	-	2,789	3,263		
Depreciation	124,460	-	26,416	12,454	153,687	151,218		
Insurance	30,196	-	7,699	1,120	30,470	33,179		
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 6,812,469</b>	<b>\$ 1,339,520</b>	<b>\$ 636,631</b>	<b>\$ 336,761</b>	<b>\$ 8,219,743</b>	<b>\$ 7,276,699</b>		

**Michigan District, LCMS**  
**Unrestricted Cash Received From Congregations**

ID	City, Congregation	2023 Confirmed Membership*	Unrestricted Cash Contributions*			Average Per Year Per Confirmed*
			FYE 1/31/2023	FYE 1/31/2024	FYE 1/31/2025	
<b>Circuit 1 - Mackinac Straits</b>						
500102	De Tour Village, Redeemer	14	700.00	2,400.00	1,209.00	76.95
500103	Drummond Island, Drummond Island	70	4,100.00	-	9,000.00	46.79
500104	Engadine, Bethlehem	82	65.41	-	-	0.20
500105	Curtis, Grace	74	5,961.84	6,938.34	5,168.00	61.04
500107	Kincheloe, St. Paul	6	500.00	600.00	300.00	58.33
500109	Newberry, Trinity	102	2,750.00	3,500.00	4,200.00	25.61
500114	Sault Sainte Marie, Saint Barnabas	64	4,000.00	4,000.00	3,200.00	43.75
800118	Saint Ignace, Hope	11	-	1,000.00	14,000.00	Closed
<b>Circuit 2 - Alpena</b>						
500201	Alpena, Immanuel	1087	30,250.00	33,000.00	33,000.00	22.14
500203	Hubbard Lake, St. Paul	261	7,869.58	7,411.25	8,500.00	22.78
500204	Hillman, St. John	302	9,166.63	10,833.29	9,166.63	24.14
500206	Ossineke, Good Shepherd	40	-	800.00	800.00	10.00
500210	Cheboygan, St. John	166	5,160.00	5,160.00	5,230.00	23.42
500211	Onaway, Holy Cross	130	-	-	-	0.00
500212	Rogers City, Immanuel	159	3,948.00	4,702.00	4,490.00	20.66
500213	Rogers City, St. Michael	250	7,462.00	8,478.00	8,707.00	24.65
500214	Rogers City, St. John	257	8,677.50	8,499.00	7,950.00	24.44
500215	Rogers City, Peace	316	9,775.10	9,315.02	8,059.76	21.48
500216	Hawks, Faith	85	6,000.00	5,500.00	6,000.00	51.47
<b>Circuit 3 - Timberline</b>						
500301	Au Gres, St. John	248	7,000.00	7,695.86	7,616.16	22.49
500302	Glennie, Our Savior	26	-	200.00	200.00	3.85
500303	Hale, St. Paul	291	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,125.00	11.28
500304	Oscoda, Trinity	120	6,059.58	7,104.20	7,382.43	42.80
500305	Prescott, Faith	179	8,000.00	8,000.00	7,992.66	33.51
500307	Tawas City, Zion	219	6,200.00	6,000.00	4,000.00	18.49
500308	Whittemore, Good News Ministries	33	3,139.82	3,524.54	3,069.62	73.74
500309	Mio, Living Water	45	2,400.00	2,400.00	-	26.67
<b>Circuit 4 - Gladwin</b>						
500401	Clare, Prince Of Peace	49	3,660.00	3,660.00	3,660.00	56.02
500402	Gladwin, Our Savior	160	9,166.67	10,833.33	10,249.98	47.27
500403	Harrison, St. Luke	130	7,300.00	9,000.00	9,416.67	49.46
500404	Houghton Lake, St. John	343	9,600.00	8,800.00	10,400.00	20.99
500405	Saint Helen, Hope	82	800.00	900.00	1,000.00	8.23
500406	West Branch, St. John	98	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	42.09
500407	Standish, Bethlehem	178	2,975.00	2,600.00	2,560.00	11.43
500408	Pinconning, St. John	200	9,750.00	12,500.00	10,000.00	40.31
<b>Circuit 5 - Midland</b>						
500501	Alma, Peace	97	-	-	-	0.00
500502	Auburn, Grace	330	27,500.00	33,000.00	29,000.00	67.80
500503	Auburn, Zion	798	53,437.66	58,286.26	60,661.33	54.01
500504	Midland, Messiah	1271	-	-	-	0.00
500505	Midland, Our Savior	77	3,790.00	3,480.00	3,500.00	34.97
500506	Midland, St. John's	699	87,749.65	90,092.35	99,794.25	99.30
500507	Mount Pleasant, Zion	435	9,166.63	9,999.96	10,833.29	17.24
500509	Sanford, St. Paul	329	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	2.28
500510	Wheeler, Immanuel	118	11,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	48.73
500511	Midland, Lord Of New Life	96	500.00	500.00	500.00	3.91
500512	Brant, St. John	95	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	9.47
<b>Circuit 6 - Bay City</b>						
500601	Bay City, Faith	560	52,000.00	53,500.00	36,000.00	63.17
500602	Bay City, Immanuel	1043	45,200.00	32,940.00	28,620.00	25.59
500603	Bay City, St. John	478	2,869.20	11,866.60	7,603.20	11.68
500604	Bay City, Trinity	595	17,103.03	15,830.24	15,736.32	20.45
500605	Bay City, Zion	699	6,281.02	11,000.00	13,200.00	10.90
500606	Essexville, Pilgrim	131	1,650.00	1,950.00	1,800.00	10.31
500607	Bay City, St. Paul	758	29,534.44	26,337.58	24,482.89	26.50
<b>Circuit 7 - Thumb East</b>						
500701	Bad Axe, Our Savior	432	11,330.00	12,731.00	12,100.00	20.93
500702	Kinde, St. Peter	72	5,165.00	4,636.00	4,894.00	51.02
500703	Minden City, Trinity	47	1,976.00	1,607.00	1,495.00	27.01
500704	Harbor Beach, Zion	443	10,715.08	11,376.73	3,006.80	14.16
500705	Palms, St. John	67	885.00	970.00	1,075.00	10.93
500706	Port Hope, St. John	452	6,680.00	6,060.00	1,800.00	8.04
500707	Port Sanilac, St. John	60	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	12.50
500708	Sandusky, Peace	288	2,000.00	4,000.00	2,000.00	6.94
500709	Marlette, Our Savior	156	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	20.19

**Michigan District, LCMS**  
**Unrestricted Cash Received From Congregations**

ID	City, Congregation	2023 Confirmed Membership*	Unrestricted Cash Contributions*			Average Per Year Per Confirmed*
			FYE 1/31/2023	FYE 1/31/2024	FYE 1/31/2025	
<b>Circuit 8 - Thumb West</b>						
500801	Sebewaing, St. Peter	67	1,607.00	2,000.00	1,500.00	19.06
500802	Pigeon, Good Shepherd	94	1,800.00	5,500.00	3,750.00	29.39
500803	Cass City, Good Shepherd	283	4,192.79	3,749.10	4,397.76	10.90
500805	Sebewaing, St. John	152	2,251.90	7,557.00	415.00	16.82
500806	Pigeon, St. Paul	365	4,810.00	3,949.00	5,673.60	9.89
500807	Sebewaing, Immanuel	805	26,566.91	25,018.96	36,025.59	27.21
500808	Unionville, St. Paul	222	19,345.98	12,740.82	12,805.54	50.55
500809	Fairgrove, Grace	69	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,000.00	57.97
<b>Circuit 9 - Frankenmuth</b>						
500901	Caro, St. Paul	521	30,827.95	34,055.04	41,124.98	50.87
500903	Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz	4139	300,066.43	323,709.38	340,000.00	58.21
500904	Millington, St. Paul	1172	20,164.96	20,662.14	20,037.87	12.98
500905	Munger, Trinity-St. James	360	4,000.00	2,678.00	-	4.64
500906	Reese, Trinity	861	4,662.66	2,816.04	7,375.62	4.31
500907	Reese, St. Michael's	1053	55,065.00	63,353.89	57,304.30	41.72
500908	Saginaw, Immanuel	460	24,416.23	19,116.40	17,696.94	33.28
<b>Circuit 10 - Saginaw</b>						
501002	Hemlock, St. Peter	1035	29,375.00	42,562.00	23,221.00	22.99
501003	Hemlock, Zion	325	17,755.03	18,067.94	18,475.01	41.77
501005	Saginaw, Bethlehem	667	1,932.09	609.07	3,588.00	2.30
501006	Saginaw, Good Shepherd	683	24,000.00	23,500.00	16,500.00	23.43
501007	Saginaw, Messiah	97	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	46.39
501008	Saginaw, Peace	1774	34,000.00	34,000.00	34,000.66	14.37
501009	Saginaw, Holy Cross	310	5,000.00	13,000.00	12,000.00	24.19
501011	Saint Charles, Nativity	75	4,492.00	4,404.00	3,366.00	40.87
501012	Saginaw, St. Mark	256	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,250.00	7.08
<b>Circuit 11 - Flint North</b>						
501102	Birch Run, St. Martin	410	3,410.38	2,846.77	2,318.69	5.23
501103	Clio, Messiah	1434	63,716.66	65,124.92	60,958.26	33.09
501104	Flint, Christ The King	34	250.00	500.00	1,000.00	12.87
501105	Flint, United in Christ	107	-	-	-	0.00
501106	Flint, Our Savior	137	4,655.00	3,900.00	3,300.00	21.63
501108	Flint, St. Paul	366	-	500.00	-	0.34
501109	Flushing, Holy Cross	262	12,500.00	13,000.00	11,500.00	35.31
501110	Owosso, St. Philip	90	2,860.00	1,000.00	3,000.00	19.06
501111	Bridgeport, Faith	223	33,003.22	34,221.13	26,966.66	105.60
<b>Circuit 12 - Flint South</b>						
501201	Burton, Pilgrim	126	1,200.00	1,100.00	1,200.00	6.94
501202	Fenton, Trinity	318	5,000.00	6,000.00	7,000.00	14.15
501205	Goodrich, Christ	37	-	-	-	0.00
501206	Grand Blanc, Faith	1181	83,906.04	77,916.63	85,433.35	52.34
501208	Linden, Hope	166	250.00	-	-	0.38
501210	Swartz Creek, NewLife Community	189	4,583.37	5,416.71	5,000.04	19.84
501211	Flint, Lamb of God	174	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	21.55
<b>Circuit 13 - Lapeer</b>						
501301	Davison, Trinity	467	8,000.00	6,986.00	6,864.00	11.70
501302	Dryden, Holy Redeemer	170	14,098.00	17,704.37	18,179.90	73.50
501304	Flint, St. Mark	506	27,000.00	27,000.00	25,000.00	39.03
501305	Lapeer, St. Paul	740	15,000.00	11,250.00	19,750.00	15.54
501307	North Branch, New Life In Christ	104	-	150.00	-	0.36
501308	Otisville, St. Timothy	169	16,034.00	16,044.00	17,337.00	73.10
511309	Flint, Franklin Avenue Mission	7	-	-	-	Mission
501310	Imlay City, Family of Christ	51	108.75	-	500.00	2.98
501311	Memphis, St. Andrew	40	-	-	-	0.00
<b>Circuit 14 - Port Huron</b>						
501401	Algonac, First	46	300.00	-	574.00	4.75
501402	Armada, Our Saviour	186	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	2.69
501403	Fair Haven, St. Peter	127	-	-	500.00	0.98
501404	Goodells, Hope	13	-	-	-	0.00
501405	Lexington, St. Matthew	394	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	2.54
501406	Port Huron, Faith	336	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	26.79
501407	Port Huron, Trinity	759	13,166.00	15,167.00	17,000.00	14.93
501408	Richmond, St. Peter's	1325	6,000.00	3,500.00	5,000.00	2.74
501409	Saint Clair, Immanuel	551	15,000.00	14,313.30	15,000.00	20.11
501411	Marine City, Living Faith	44	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	28.41
501413	Marysville, Light of Christ	73	13,979.75	16,647.09	16,165.83	160.25

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<b>Circuit 15 - Macomb North</b>						
501501	Clinton Township, St. Luke	393	-	-	1,500.00	0.95
501502	Clinton Township, Trinity	1134	41,250.00	43,000.00	43,000.00	28.05
501503	Macomb, Immanuel	2254	-	-	-	0.00
501504	Macomb, St. Peter	3319	34,106.00	58,826.24	41,444.44	10.12
501505	Chesterfield, Good Shepherd	59	600.00	700.00	800.00	8.90
501506	New Baltimore, Christ	83	300.00	600.00	600.00	4.52
501507	Ray, St. John	140	-	-	-	0.00
501508	Clinton Township, Cross Point	16	-	-	-	0.00
<b>Circuit 16 - Macomb Northwest</b>						
501601	Bruce Township, Grace	563	20,000.00	50,000.00	-	31.08
501602	Shelby Township, Peace	467	8,100.00	9,450.00	9,350.00	14.40
501604	Sterling Heights, St. Paul	235	700.00	700.00	700.00	2.23
501605	Troy, Faith	2369	15,000.00	15,000.00	12,500.00	4.49
501606	Utica, Trinity	2819	14,250.00	14,250.00	-	2.53
501607	Washington, Our Redeemer	309	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	29.13
501608	Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate	795	18,750.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	21.62
501611	Troy, Faith Tamil	62	-	300.00	300.00	2.42
<b>Circuit 17 - Oakland North</b>						
501701	Clarkston, St. Trinity	290	26,608.26	33,861.50	28,692.00	76.86
501702	Lake Orion, Good Shepherd	152	6,536.98	11,232.98	14,880.89	53.70
501705	Rochester Hills, Crown Of Life	72	1,000.00	-	-	3.47
501706	Rochester Hills, GoodLife	42	1,600.00	1,600.00	900.00	24.40
501708	Rochester, St. John	1754	96,606.81	111,228.81	125,529.50	47.51
501709	Waterford, St. Stephen	243	12,518.78	14,769.66	22,397.26	51.12
501712	Pontiac, St. Paul Community	11	879.00	960.00	588.15	55.16
501713	Ortonville, Prince Of Peace	47	1,000.00	1,041.67	1,375.00	18.17
501715	Oxford, Journey	264	10,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	18.94
<b>Circuit 18 - Birmingham</b>						
501802	Birmingham, Our Shepherd	1001	39,474.00	42,250.00	39,000.00	30.15
501803	Birmingham, Redeemer	1471	60,022.29	66,243.34	55,402.31	30.87
501804	Bloomfield Hills, Cross Of Christ	392	68,125.00	43,500.00	21,500.00	84.90
501806	Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods	241	7,795.20	8,410.18	5,095.96	22.10
501807	Beverly Hills, Our Savior Deaf	36	300.00	-	300.00	4.17
501808	Royal Oak, St. Paul	620	19,368.86	14,448.57	13,869.86	19.23
501809	Troy, St. Augustine	162	4,587.00	-	5,421.00	15.44
501810	Warren, Holy Cross	270	18,983.33	7,800.00	7,816.67	32.04
<b>Circuit 19 - Macomb South</b>						
501901	Eastpointe, St. Peter's	912	-	-	-	0.00
501902	Eastpointe, St. Thomas	339	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	6.64
501903	Fraser, St. John	1032	77,865.61	79,237.29	80,103.20	57.46
501904	Roseville, Bethlehem	100	-	-	-	0.00
501906	Warren, Hope	319	36,850.00	16,250.00	15,000.00	53.37
801907	Warren, Peace	66	-	-	-	Closed
501908	Warren, Trinity	62	-	-	-	0.00
501909	Clinton Township, All Nations	88	-	300.00	300.00	1.70
<b>Circuit 20 - Detroit East</b>						
502001	Detroit, Bethany	73	6,740.00	11,169.00	12,470.00	104.04
502002	Detroit, East Bethlehem	51	3,000.00	2,400.00	2,600.00	39.22
802003	Detroit, Charity	51	-	-	-	Closed
502005	Detroit, Mount Calvary	117	140.00	170.00	-	0.66
502007	Detroit, Peace	100	-	-	-	0.00
502010	Detroit, Historic Trinity	1025	5,000.00	5,000.00	-	2.44
502011	Detroit, St. Philips	146	1,888.00	1,200.00	1,802.00	8.37
502012	Detroit, Nazareth	38	-	-	-	0.00
<b>Circuit 21 - Dearborn / Detroit</b>						
502104	Detroit, Pan De Vida	46	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	10.87
502106	Detroit, St. John	57	838.40	-	-	3.68
502107	Detroit, St. Stephen	76	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,500.00	16.78
502108	Detroit, Family of God	54	280.00	-	200.00	2.22
502109	Detroit, Evergreen	52	-	-	-	0.00
502112	Detroit, Outer Drive Faith	105	-	-	-	0.00
502114	Dearborn, Atonement	57	-	1,500.00	2,700.00	18.42
502116	Dearborn, Emmanuel	242	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	6.20
502117	Dearborn, Guardian	738	30,000.00	30,000.00	27,500.00	29.64
502118	Wayne, St. Michael	447	6,550.00	7,201.50	7,148.64	11.69
502119	Westland, St. Matthew	362	2,946.70	2,556.82	2,961.64	5.85

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<b>Circuit 23 - Down River</b>						
502302	Flat Rock, Community	103	3,208.00	2,041.69	3,500.04	21.24
502303	Southgate, Christ The King	1308	177,600.00	177,600.00	175,300.00	101.40
802304	Taylor, Our Redeemer	79	1,800.00	1,650.00	-	Closed
502305	Taylor, St. John's	116	4,800.00	4,600.00	2,700.00	26.08
502306	Trenton, St. Paul	951	51,566.00	50,867.00	59,781.00	42.64
502307	Wyandotte, Trinity	275	11,503.00	12,737.00	13,286.00	34.11
502308	Allen Park, Mount Hope	94	2,500.00	2,000.00	1,500.00	15.96
502309	Lincoln Park, Calvary	203	-	-	-	0.00
<b>Circuit 24 - Monroe</b>						
502401	New Boston, St. John's	515	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	17.48
502403	Monroe, Grace	274	29,778.72	30,834.86	32,136.65	84.63
502404	Monroe, Holy Ghost	482	8,639.88	4,295.00	5,579.00	9.60
502405	Monroe, Immanuel (Wixom Site)	344	5,000.00	-	10,000.00	10.90
502406	Monroe, Trinity	1037	62,216.16	67,114.86	55,022.58	44.44
502407	Lambertville, Christ The King	137	3,994.00	4,104.00	4,924.00	23.76
502408	Petersburg, St. Peter	118	683.60	725.00	408.25	3.85
<b>Circuit 26 - Kensington</b>						
502601	Brighton, Shepherd Of The Lakes	1094	48,000.00	31,000.00	19,915.96	22.60
502602	Highland, Faith	388	25,380.00	25,415.00	23,650.00	47.97
502603	Milford, Christ	297	34,941.50	36,561.60	36,286.42	90.73
502604	South Lyon, Cross of Christ	291	2,037.00	2,000.00	2,400.00	5.53
502606	West Bloomfield, St. Mark's	96	750.00	750.00	750.00	5.86
502607	Walled Lake, St. Matthew	1194	169,746.40	168,441.91	174,333.37	122.82
522609	Walled Lake, St. Matthew (Wixom Site)	Incl Above	25,760.00	24,717.00	23,612.00	Incl Above
502608	Waterford, Peace	163	-	3,000.00	3,000.00	9.20
<b>Circuit 27 - Livonia</b>						
502701	Westland, Salem National	77	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	9.74
502703	Farmington Hills, Prince Of Peace	82	11,624.45	964.00	1,817.77	43.92
502704	Northville, St. Paul	383	26,497.98	34,666.70	28,916.72	58.80
502705	Livonia, Christ Our Savior	1245	82,500.00	97,500.00	88,750.00	53.97
502706	Redford, Hosanna-Tabor	45	600.00	850.00	1,300.00	15.28
502707	Dearborn Heights, Immanuel	29	-	-	-	0.00
502709	Canton, Grace	30	900.00	1,200.00	1,500.00	30.00
502710	Farmington Hills, Shadow of the Cross	240	-	-	-	0.00
<b>Circuit 28 - Milan</b>						
502801	Britton, Emmanuel	141	3,800.00	2,850.00	2,600.00	16.40
502802	Saline, Christ Our King	483	57,475.00	68,100.00	59,325.00	95.70
502804	Ypsilanti, Faith	59	-	200.00	400.00	2.54
502805	Milan, St. Paul	100	9,498.86	11,811.36	13,547.15	87.14
502806	New Boston, St. Paul's	124	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,416.74	31.08
502807	Ann Arbor, St. Thomas	38	3,600.00	3,300.00	3,600.00	69.08
502808	Van Buren Twp, Open Arms	89	13,454.08	13,592.55	14,309.70	116.17
502811	Ann Arbor, Peace	381	19,838.00	25,185.00	25,368.00	46.19
502812	Chelsea, Our Savior	176	20,768.00	31,670.00	25,529.00	110.75
<b>Circuit 29 - Ann Arbor</b>						
502902	Ann Arbor, St. Luke	294	48,248.74	22,831.26	69,771.00	119.77
502904	Ann Arbor, St. Paul	733	41,332.33	48,000.00	41,242.45	44.53
502905	Ann Arbor, ULC	294	-	-	2,500.00	2.13
502907	Whitmore Lake, St. Paul	576	34,466.00	50,334.00	56,965.00	61.53
502908	Pinckney, Trinity	112	750.00	800.00	2,000.00	7.92
502910	Whitmore Lake, Living Water	67	6,100.00	6,100.00	6,075.00	68.19
502911	Ypsilanti, Cross & Resurrection	63	16,062.50	16,329.20	16,741.59	194.97
512913	Ann Arbor, Emmaus	23	-	1,000.00	-	Mission
<b>Circuit 30 - Jackson</b>						
503001	Adrian, Hope	171	1,000.00	1,500.00	-	3.65
503002	Adrian, St. John's	492	20,000.00	18,326.00	17,338.33	28.28
503003	Brooklyn, St. Mark's	109	7,700.00	7,700.00	7,725.01	53.04
503004	Hudson, Our Saviour	69	500.00	685.00	515.00	6.16
503005	Jackson, Redeemer	276	29,011.66	32,044.14	35,051.06	87.05
503006	Jackson, Trinity	437	7,425.00	8,100.00	10,350.00	14.80
503007	Addison, Lutheran Church Of The Lakes	237	23,750.05	17,542.27	15,115.70	59.50
503008	Adrian, St. Matthew's	106	-	500.00	1,103.00	3.78
503010	Blissfield, Blessed Savior	10	260.00	260.00	275.00	19.88
<b>Circuit 31 - Petoskey</b>						
503102	Boyer City, Christ	381	20,974.37	21,936.21	23,677.04	43.69
503103	Charlevoix, Bethany	51	720.00	500.00	-	5.98
503104	Gaylord, Trinity	147	14,662.58	20,031.00	20,720.75	94.24
503105	Grayling, Mount Hope	91	11,960.00	13,060.00	16,005.00	112.71
503106	Kalkaska, St. Paul	296	1,100.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	2.62
503107	Mancelona, St. Matthew	88	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	5.68
503108	Petoskey, Zion	253	16,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	37.55
503110	Lewiston, Bethlehem	132	15,049.23	14,774.94	13,710.67	82.45

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<b>Circuit 32 - Traverse City</b>						
503201	Benzonia, Our Savior	53	-	-	96.00	0.45
503202	Elk Rapids, Grace	78	1,375.00	1,500.00	1,200.00	13.06
503203	Cedar, St. Pauls	50	810.00	1,810.00	1,905.00	22.63
503204	Glen Arbor, Bethlehem	78	6,000.00	6,713.37	12,000.00	79.21
503205	Interlochen, Redeemer	200	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	7.50
503206	Leland, Immanuel	134	12,974.27	14,022.84	9,265.77	67.65
503207	Traverse City, St. Michael's & All Angels	131	-	4,000.00	4,000.00	15.27
503208	Traverse City, Trinity	984	39,199.28	38,419.26	40,410.47	29.99
<b>Circuit 33 - Manistee</b>						
503301	Arcadia, Trinity	321	-	6,500.00	8,179.42	11.43
503302	Cadillac, Emmanuel	257	6,416.63	7,585.04	6,780.00	20.22
803304	Ludington, Peace		1,000.00	1,000.00	-	Closed
503305	Manistee, Trinity	536	2,468.75	2,625.00	2,625.00	3.60
503306	Mesick, Faith	18	1,500.00	1,650.00	1,800.00	68.75
503307	Manistee, Norwalk	55	200.00	200.00	200.00	2.73
503308	Onekama, Trinity	141	-	5,000.00	5,000.00	17.73
503309	Scottville, Our Savior	475	12,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	16.84
503310	Wellston, Beautiful Savior	12	600.00	-	-	12.50
503311	Ludington, St. John's	242	6,282.83	4,412.01	5,389.70	16.62
503312	Pentwater, Lighthouse	57	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	13.16
<b>Circuit 34 - Big Rapids</b>						
503401	Baldwin, Grace	47	200.00	200.00	200.00	3.19
503402	Big Rapids, St. Peter's	690	23,840.72	25,915.96	26,189.03	27.52
503404	Fremont, Redeemer	82	6,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	48.78
503405	Mecosta, Chapel Of The Lakes	100	7,458.69	13,627.78	11,237.56	80.81
503406	Reed City, Trinity	428	5,000.05	5,000.04	5,000.03	8.76
503407	White Cloud, Christ	141	4,725.00	4,331.25	5,118.75	25.13
503409	Howard City, Bethel	125	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	15.00
503410	Sand Lake, Resurrection	131	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	6.87
503411	Stanton, Hope	32	3,700.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	60.16
<b>Circuit 35 - Capitol</b>						
503501	Charlotte, First	240	14,000.00	14,000.01	13,999.99	43.75
503505	Holt, Messiah	253	18,095.76	18,181.73	20,035.19	55.64
503506	Holt, St. Matthew	150	8,585.00	7,950.00	5,000.00	35.89
503507	Lansing, Our Savior	1040	4,999.99	4,583.33	4,999.98	3.51
503508	Lansing, Trinity	99	-	-	-	0.00
503509	Leslie, Grace	70	6,621.00	2,378.00	-	32.14
503511	Lansing, Living Word	42	-	-	-	0.00
503512	Howell, Heart of the Shepherd	186	19,601.47	24,252.34	19,800.00	85.56
503516	Lansing, Good Shepherd	75	5,838.00	5,020.67	4,587.00	51.49
<b>Circuit 36 - Saint Johns</b>						
503601	Carson City, Calvary	41	1,760.00	-	-	10.73
503602	DeWitt, Hope	215	1,200.00	-	-	1.40
503603	Fowler, St. Paul	92	-	-	-	0.00
503604	Portland, St. Andrew	61	6,144.94	3,975.98	5,739.38	65.00
503605	Saint Johns, St. John's	273	7,200.00	7,200.00	6,600.00	19.23
503606	Saint Johns, St. Peter	173	7,569.32	10,385.73	1,750.00	28.48
503608	East Lansing, Ascension	126	6,000.00	5,000.00	1,000.00	23.81
503609	Haslett, St. Luke	730	95,768.00	95,860.00	94,500.00	97.99
<b>Circuit 38 - Muskegon</b>						
503801	Conklin, Trinity	473	22,000.00	18,100.00	21,700.00	32.66
503802	Montague, St. James	487	11,000.00	13,000.00	11,000.00	17.97
503804	Norton Shores, St. Mark	305	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,250.00	14.96
503805	Muskegon, Trinity	367	27,500.00	34,600.00	30,800.00	63.28
503806	Nunica, St. Luke	161	9,100.00	8,533.00	10,059.00	43.00
503807	Shelby, St. Stephen's	35	1,750.00	1,400.00	1,750.00	35.00
503808	Whitehall, Faith	139	9,000.00	8,250.00	9,750.00	48.56
<b>Circuit 39 - Holland</b>						
503901	Coopersville, Grace	245	31,329.27	33,639.78	36,789.40	103.84
503902	Spring Lake, Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship	232	10,000.00	10,000.00	11,000.00	33.41
503903	Grand Haven, St. John's	528	42,708.38	45,000.00	46,750.00	63.66
503904	Holland, Christ Our Savior	108	15,938.06	15,417.91	16,538.23	110.87
503905	Holland, Zion	283	50,027.88	52,625.47	53,955.89	138.35
503907	Spring Lake, St. Matthew	98	7,250.00	5,500.00	6,000.00	47.83
503909	West Olive, United	34	1,465.00	1,935.00	2,579.00	43.96

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<b>Circuit 40 - Grand Rapids Northeast</b>						
504001	Grand Rapids, St. Matthew	585	96,290.00	90,585.00	100,632.00	122.87
504002	Grand Rapids, Immanuel	516	32,250.00	35,000.00	32,083.33	48.13
504003	Grand Rapids, Messiah	253	19,742.07	20,392.38	22,642.14	62.03
504005	Grand Rapids, Our Savior	287	-	500.00	500.00	0.87
504007	Grand Rapids, St. James	139	924.99	2,500.00	2,520.00	10.69
504008	Rockford, St. Peter's	242	-	-	-	0.00
504010	Belding, Holy Cross	71	1,200.00	1,490.00	2,347.00	17.74
504011	Greenville, Mount Calvary	165	16,250.00	16,858.34	17,785.08	77.11
504012	Ionia, St. John	68	2,500.00	2,000.00	500.00	18.38
504013	Lowell, Good Shepherd	55	4,804.85	4,972.86	5,165.86	67.93
<b>Circuit 41 - Grand Rapids Southwest</b>						
504101	Caledonia, St. Paul	356	13,500.00	15,000.00	17,000.00	31.95
504102	Grandville, Bethel	53	1,566.67	1,000.00	1,200.00	17.77
504103	Hudsonville, New Hope	152	12,982.68	13,900.08	12,926.41	65.48
504104	Jenison, Holy Cross	1296	33,221.50	55,506.40	57,036.60	28.12
504105	Jenison, St. John	26	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	34.62
504106	Kentwood, St. Mark	238	3,866.00	4,517.00	3,513.00	12.50
504107	Middleville, Good Shepherd	42	2,199.96	2,199.96	2,400.00	40.48
504110	Walker, The Vine	32	10,083.14	7,439.83	8,584.02	203.96
<b>Circuit 42 - Battle Creek</b>						
504202	Battle Creek, St. Mark	470	4,121.40	3,082.80	4,584.84	6.27
504203	Battle Creek, Redemption	233	-	-	-	0.00
504204	Battle Creek, St. Paul	109	-	-	-	0.00
504205	Kalamazoo, Immanuel	140	7,050.00	7,800.00	9,450.00	43.39
504206	Kalamazoo, Zion	657	11,591.65	8,442.39	12,088.01	12.22
504208	Marshall, Christ	170	5,964.77	7,572.00	6,705.27	29.77
504211	Paw Paw, Trinity	498	16,958.37	10,791.69	23,958.37	25.96
504212	Portage, St. Michael	555	27,000.00	27,000.00	27,000.00	36.49
<b>Circuit 43 - St Joseph</b>						
504301	Berrien Springs, Trinity	279	-	5,000.00	4,000.00	8.06
504302	Bridgman, Immanuel	529	8,750.00	8,100.00	8,925.00	12.18
504303	Buchanan, St. Paul	62	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	14.52
504304	Cassopolis, St. Paul	95	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,750.00	23.03
504305	Coloma, Salem	193	-	500.00	750.00	1.62
504306	Buchanan, Trinity	400	14,224.50	12,407.00	11,772.50	24.00
504308	Niles, St. Paul's	222	-	-	-	0.00
504309	Saint Joseph, Trinity	855	13,000.00	13,250.00	10,750.00	10.82
504310	Sawyer, Trinity	204	1,544.00	5,328.94	3,786.10	13.06
504311	Stevensville, Christ	934	10,000.00	4,000.00	11,250.00	6.76
<b>Circuit 44 - South Central</b>						
504401	Burr Oak, St. John	120	3,850.00	4,375.00	2,100.00	21.51
504402	Centreville, St. Paul's	66	-	-	-	0.00
504403	Sturgis, Salem	27	-	-	-	0.00
504404	Coldwater, St. Paul	187	4,125.00	5,670.00	7,363.00	22.94
504405	Colon, St. Paul's	36	800.00	-	-	5.56
504406	Hillsdale, St. Paul's	346	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	3.25
504408	Sturgis, Trinity	445	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	16.85
504409	Union City, Our Savior	125	360.00	360.00	360.00	2.16
514410	Mendon, Creator's Praise	31	4,500.00	-	-	Mission
504411	Albion, St. Paul	211	18,974.60	18,024.30	21,557.10	69.38
504412	Three Rivers, St. Peter	129	2,400.00	2,400.00	4,400.00	17.83
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>		117,202	4,579,015.69	4,737,278.83	4,672,321.48	39.78

\* Notes All member congregations of the District as of May 1, 2025 are included as well as mission and closed congregations that have made contributions or reported confirmed membership in 2023.  
 Contribution amounts include gifts given for Synod/District ministries and those given for Michigan District only ministries.  
 Does not include restricted giving in support of the *Here We Stand* campaign or a particular program, agency, or ministry.  
 Confirmed Member numbers compiled from 2023 statistical report filed with Synod, or most recent data available.

## CIRCUIT VISITORS RATIFICATION

WHEREAS, the following ordained ministers of religion have been nominated by their respective circuits according to Bylaw 5.2.2 of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following slate of nominees be ratified by the Michigan District in convention to constitute election.

#1 – Mackinac Straits	Charles Burhop - St. Paul/Saint Barnabas, Kincheloe/Sault Ste. Marie
#2 – Alpena	Jason Mandley - St. John, Hillman
#3 – Timberline	Frederick Cordts - Emeritus
#4 – Gladwin	Timothy Sheridan - St. Luke, Harrison
#5 – Midland	Daniel Kempin - St. John's, Midland
#6 – Bay City	David Jung - Emeritus
#7 – Thumb East	Matthew Durance - Zion, Harbor Beach
#8 – Thumb West	Michael Boyer - Immanuel, Sebewaing
#9 – Frankenmuth	Cameron Steele - St. Paul, Caro
#10 – Saginaw	Charles Buckhahn - Emeritus
#11 – Flint North	Tyge Zucker - Holy Cross, Flushing
#12 – Flint South	Matthew Hein - New Life, Swartz Creek
#13 – Lapeer	Todd Frusti - Trinity, Davison
#14 – Port Huron	Gerhardt Doroh - Emeritus
#15 – Macomb North	Nikolai Gibbons - Immanuel, Macomb
#16 – Macomb Northwest	Norm Koy - Emeritus
#17 – Oakland North	Paul Undlin - St. Trinity, Clarkston
#18 – Birmingham	Evan Gaertner - Our Shepherd, Birmingham
#19 – Macomb South	Mark Hetzner - Emeritus
#20 – Detroit East	Harold Avers - Emeritus
#21 – Dearborn / Detroit	Richard Robinson - St. John, Detroit
#23 – Down River	Jason Cashmer - Christ the King, Southgate
#24 – Monroe	Kyle Jones - St. John's, New Boston
#26 – Kensington	Jake Bellinghausen - Cross of Christ, South Lyon
#27 – Livonia	
#28 – Milan	Daniel Pezzica - Our Savior, Chelsea
#29 – Ann Arbor	Bryan Schindel - Cross and Resurrection/St. Mark's, Ypsilanti/Brooklyn
#30 – Jackson	Zachary Holdorf - Redeemer, Jackson
#31 – Petoskey	Matthew Peters - Zion, Petoskey
#32 – Traverse City	Michael Goers - Trinity, Traverse City
#33 – Manistee	Brennan Woell - Emmanuel, Cadillac
#34 – Big Rapids	Paul Tonn - Trinity, Reed City
#35 – Capitol	William Wangelin - Our Savior, Lansing
#36 – Saint Johns	Edward Filter - Emeritus
#38 – Muskegon	William Lahrman - Emeritus
#39 – Holland	Christopher Boehnke - Lakeshore, Spring Lake
#40 – Grand Rapids Northeast	Glenn Schaeffer - St. James, Grand Rapids
#41 – Grand Rapids Southwest	Brian West - Holy Cross, Jenison
#42 – Battle Creek	Karl Streng - Redemption, Battle Creek
#43 – Saint Joseph	Michael Roth - Trinity, St. Joseph
#44 – South Central	Kurt Kuhlmann - St. John, Burr Oak

## CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

### NEW CONSTITUTIONS AND BYLAWS

Clinton Township, Cross Point Church – 8/9/22

Walker, The Vine Church – 5/21/24

### REVISED CONSTITUTIONS AND/OR BYLAWS

Adrian, St. John – 1/9/24

Albion, St. Paul – 10/22/24

Ann Arbor, St. Paul – 3/19/24

Au Gres, St. John – 8/7/23

Battle Creek, St. Mark – 1/7/25

Big Rapids, St. Peter – 1/17/23

Bridgman, Immanuel – 3/6/25

Britton, Emmanuel – 8/7/23

Cadillac, Emmanuel – 8/7/23

Centreville, St. Paul – 5/23/23

Charlotte, First – 1/7/25

Cheboygan, St. John – 5/23/23

Clinton Twp, St. Luke – 3/6/25

Coopersville, Grace – 3/6/25

Dearborn, Emmanuel – 10/18/22

Fairgrove, Grace – 10/17/23

Grand Rapids, St. James – 5/23/23

Hamburg, St. Paul – 1/7/25

Haslett, St. Luke – 7/2/22

Highland, Faith – 3/23

Holland, Christ Our Savior – 7/28/22

Howard City, Bethel – 1/7/25

Jackson, Redeemer – 10/18/22

Jenison, St. John – 8/9/23

Kentwood, St. Mark – 10/17/23

Lansing, Our Savior – 7/27/22

Manistee, Trinity – 1/7/25

Monroe, Grace – 3/19/24

Monroe, Trinity – 7/27/22

Newberry, Trinity – 1/7/25

Pigeon, St. Paul – 5/21/24

Reese, Trinity – 1/9/24

Rogers City (Moltke Twp.), Immanuel – 8/6/24

Saginaw, Bethlehem – 3/18/25

Saginaw, Holy Cross – 3/14/23

Saginaw, Lutheran Church of the Messiah – 10/17/23

Saint Johns, St. John's – 5/23/23

St. Joseph, Trinity – 10/17/23

Scottville, Our Savior – 8/6/24

Shelby Twp., Shepherd's Gate – 1/9/24

South Lyon, Cross of Christ – 5/21/24

Spring Lake, St. Matthew – 8/6/24

Troy (Clinton Twp), All Nations – 8/7/23

Utica, Trinity – 3/19/24

Walled Lake, St. Matthew – 5/21/24

West Branch, St. John – 1/9/24

Whitehall, Faith – 3/18/25

## CONVENTION COMMITTEE 2025

Chairman	Mr. Dennis Sohn
Vice Chair	Mrs. Laurie Brown
Convention Manager	Mr. Chad Woltemath
Communications	Mrs. Debby Fall
Worship Chair	Rev. Chris Garcia
Elections	Rev. Joseph Polzin
Convention Venue Arrangements	Mr. Jerry Novak
Presentations/Website	Mrs. Linda Ekong
Ministry Tent Arrangements	Ms. Debra Cameron
District President	Rev. David Davis
District Secretary	Rev. J. Derek Riddle
Nominating Committee Chairman	Rev. Eric Majeski

## FLOOR COMMITTEES 2025

### Floor Committee #1 – Administration

#### Ordained:

Rev. Phillip A. Baerwolf  
4444 W Park Dr  
Bay City MI 48706-2512

Rev. Tyge C. Zucker  
3191 Woodvalley Dr  
Flushing MI 48433-2226

Rev. Cameron K. Steele  
1445 Eudora Dr  
Caro MI 48723-9513

Rev. Dean Davenport, Chairman 1st Vice President Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Rd Livonia MI 48154-5422
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#### Commissioned:

Ms. Susan L. Hooper  
6102 Kings Shire Rd  
Grand Blanc MI 48439-8712

Deac. Miriam R. Yakimow  
6095 Sundance Tr  
Brighton MI 48116-7716

#### Lay:

Mr. James R. Saalfeld  
2070 Hollow Oak Dr  
Ann Arbor MI 48103-8402

Mr. James Williams  
20578 25 Mile Rd  
Macomb MI 48042-1819

Mr. Brian Heyniger  
2581 Pleasant Lakeshore Dr  
Cadillac MI 49601-8823

#### Advisory:

District Staff: Rev. Don Neuendorf, Mr. Chad Woltemath

## Floor Committee #2 – Doctrine

### Ordained:

Rev. Dr. Matthew H. Durance  
216 N Third St  
Harbor Beach MI 48441-1111

Rev. Dr. Theodore J. Hopkins  
2704 Maize Loop  
Saline MI 48176-1817

Rev. A. Trevor Sutton  
4392 Elmwood Dr  
Okemos MI 48864-3035

Rev. William R. Wangelin  
7006 Captiva Dr  
Lansing MI 48917-5821

Rev. Brennan A. Woell  
127 Evert St  
Cadillac MI 49601-2307

### Commissioned:

Mrs. Amanda R. Jones  
3310 Warringham Ave  
Waterford MI 48329-3052

Mr. Joshua B. Kittleman  
8232 Rickie Ln  
Westland MI 48185-1611

Ms. Stacy J. McGhee  
7966 River Run Dr  
Brighton MI 48116-4801

### Lay:

Mr. Bruce Glennie  
22214 Long Blvd  
Dearborn MI 48124-1147

### Advisory:

District Staff: Rev. Christopher Bodley

Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, Chairman 2nd Vice President Historic Trinity Lutheran Church 1345 Gratiot Ave Detroit MI 48207-2720
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## Floor Committee #3 – Education

### Ordained:

Rev. Paul C. Appold  
2351 Norcrest Dr  
Norton Shores MI 49441-4448

Rev. Dr. Bryce S. Rosche  
42420 Gateway Dr  
Plymouth MI 48170-5440

Rev. Erik Cloeter, Chairman  
4th Vice President  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
520 Butler St  
Clio MI 48420

### Commissioned:

Dr. Ronald M. Allen  
475 Pine Brae St  
Ann Arbor MI 48105-2743

Ms. Jill M. Kopper  
54731 Marissa Way  
Shelby Township MI 48316-5621

Ms. Natalie A. Haupt  
16890 25 Mile Rd  
Macomb MI 48042-1704

Mr. Paul J. Looker  
20007 Hudson Bay  
Clinton Township MI 48038-1495

### Lay:

Mr. Herman J. Arends  
3555 N Cochran Rd  
Charlotte MI 48813-9704

Mr. Chance Childers  
13669 Phelps St  
Southgate MI 48195-1923

Ms. Elizabeth Fink  
820 Stanley St  
Ypsilanti MI 48198-3014

Mr. Timothy H. Haberling  
1244 Bates St SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49506-2618

Mr. Dan Nicholson  
C/O Cross of Christ Lutheran Church  
1100 Lone Pine Rd  
Bloomfield Hills MI 48302-2817

Mrs. Linda Sproul  
7966 Lake Crest Dr  
Ypsilanti MI 48197-6751

### Advisory:

District Staff: Mr. Travis Grulke, Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper

## Floor Committee #4 – Mission

### Ordained:

Rev. Jason C. Bauer  
7511 Secor Rd  
Traverse City MI 49685-9019

Rev. Joseph A. Casiglia  
39434 Lakeshore Dr  
Harrison Twp MI 48045-1862

Rev. Adam J. Peck  
3555 Lenters Dr  
Hudsonville MI 49426-7522

Rev. Craig Bickel, Chairman 3rd Vice President Immanuel Lutheran Church 2 Michigan St NE Grand Rapids MI 49503-2500
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

### Commissioned:

Mrs. Amy L. Fanta  
808 Ruffner Ave  
Birmingham MI 48009-1772

Mr. Martin L. Moro III  
29435 Evergreen St  
Flat Rock MI 48134-1278

Deac. Norma P. Polk  
535 Berkshire Dr  
Saline MI 48176-1082

### Lay:

Mr. Robert V. Brooks, Jr.  
4715 Paisley Ct  
West Bloomfield MI 48322-2231

Mr. John H. Bates  
1775 High Pointe Ln  
Ann Arbor MI 48108-9584

Mr. Kevin Kleimola  
11634 Restful Way  
Allendale MI 49401-8480

Mr. Joe Thomas  
660 E Pine River Rd  
Midland MI 48640-8389

Mr. Mark Smith  
969 Maple Cove Dr  
Leonard MI 48367-3415

### Advisory:

District Staff: Rev. Randy Johnson

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

### Officially becoming members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by the Signing of the Constitution

#### CONGREGATIONS

Cross Point Church, Clinton Township (8/8/22)

The Vine Church, Walker (5/21/24)

#### MINISTERS OF RELIGION ORDAINED

Ashley, Jeremy	Garrett, Morgan J.	Overway, Kurt R.
Britton, Joshua D.	Greenhagen, Jesse R.	Petzold, Carl R.
Brooks, Micah J.	Greenwalt, James H.	Pronsati, Dante B.
Brooks, Patrick J.	Gustafson, Thomas M.	Schultz, David M.
Dangba, Moses	Hughes, Michael W.	Shanburn, Eric J.
Dueker, Jonathan A.	Lampi, Stephen A.	Stainbrook, Michael S.
Dwyer, Keith E.	Lewis, Richard E.	Varblow, Bryan S.
Flanick, Adam R.	Marsh, Benjamin D.	Werner, Joel A.
Gapski, Nicholas C.	Mundorf, Christian Q.	Yaeger, Kaleb J.

#### MINISTERS OF RELIGION COMMISSIONED

Adams, Grace K.	Hansen, Ankara T.	Massey, Madison N.
Andrzejewski, Rachel M.	Greenwood-Armstrong	Newman, Katherine G.
Bickel, Reagan B. Geno	Hansen, Maxwell A.	Penhallegon, Gabriel C.
Brown, Justin T.	Hohnstadt, Kyra M.	Prisby, Tyler M.
Buelow, Janis M. W.	Homrich, Kaeleen R. Sugden	Reddeman, Rachel
Bulgrien, Rachel R. Finck	Illiff, Melissa L. Kerns	Schaeff, Natalie M. Yurgens
Coomer, Hannah E.	Jackemeyer, Sarah M.	Schroeder, Lydia E.
Cronkright, Brandi L. Mitti	Johnson, Leah J. Livo	Schwark, Sadie A. Nier
Dashkevicz, Shirley J.	Jolliff, Katherine S. Gramzow	Sherry, Patrice N. Giltrop
Davis, Stephanie L.	Jung, Sara M. Anderson	Splattstoesser, Kelsey E. Baarck
Ellison, Robert H.	Kasper, Holly E. Burggraf	Tausz, Lydia G.
Gehm, Rebecca A.	Krueger, Brendan J.	Teltow, Kelly N. Laeder
Hackbarth, Samuel O.	LaPerriere, Sandra J. Weig	Volz, Hannah R.
Hansard, Christie L. Rowe	Leapley, Elizabeth G.	Yakimow, Miriam R. Sailer

**Section 5 - Overtures**  
**(Inadvertently omitted from Workbook Part I)**

Overture	Title	Page
3-16	To Clarify the Prior Approval Process and Provide Appropriate Transparency	231



1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education  
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-16  
3 SUBJECT: To Clarify the Prior Approval Process and Provide Appropriate  
4 Transparency  
5  
6

7 Preamble

8 The LCMS is blessed by a wide variety of institutions that all work to accomplish the common mission  
9 of the Gospel. This walking together requires both unity in doctrine and practice but also distinct  
10 specialization within different institutions. It requires oversight and accountability but also trust and  
11 autonomy. The prior approval process works to keep unity in doctrine and practice. However, it  
12 currently does not provide adequate transparency in the process. The goal for adding clarity to the  
13 prior approval process is to build trust and accountability among institutions and individuals as they  
14 relate to the overall Synod structure.

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, the leadership of Synod does have the authority and the responsibility to provide  
17 oversight to the direct institutions of Synod; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, the leaders and boards of a specific institution have an interest in selecting candidates  
20 that best accomplish the mission of that synodical institution and selecting individuals that fit their  
21 culture and the unique requirements of that role; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the candidates nominated are open to serve that institution if selected and have  
24 knowledge they have been nominated and await news of their eligibility to serve; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, an ordained and actively rostered pastor or worker in good standing within the LCMS is  
27 already fully equipped to fulfill a variety of roles for the church and its various ministries; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, it builds trust between individuals and institutions if there is appropriate clarity and  
30 transparency for why decisions are made; therefore be it

31  
32 **Resolved**, that the prior approval board publish the specific metrics they are using to assess a  
33 candidate's eligibility to serve; and be it further

34  
35 **Resolved**, that the prior approval board give timely notification to the institution and the nominated  
36 individual within a week of their decision; and be it finally

37  
38 **Resolved**, that if a nominated candidate is determined by the prior approval board to be ineligible,  
39 the individual will, in confidence, be given specific details why they do not qualify to hold that  
40 position.

41  
42 Submitted by: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Macomb, MI



## Section 6 - Resolutions

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1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-01  
3 SUBJECT: To Encourage Partnerships With English District  
4 Congregations  
5 REFERENCE: Overture 1-11  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, The English District was established in 1911 to receive the congregations of the English  
9 Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States into the German LCMS, and continues as a non-  
10 geographic district with 158 congregations in the US and Canada, including 23 congregations  
11 currently in Michigan; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, The number of congregations and the size of congregations across the Synod are  
14 generally decreasing, and new strategic partnerships are necessary for coordinated ministry and  
15 mission outreach; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District is encouraging a greater cooperation between congregations,  
18 fraternal bonds among pastors, and more strategic partnerships and collaboration to make a greater  
19 Kingdom impact in its geographic area; therefore be it  
20

21 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District encourage all LCMS congregations within the geographical  
22 parameters of the Michigan District to work together and foster greater cooperation and mutual  
23 support in carrying out the mission of the Church, regardless of district affiliation; and be it further  
24

25 **Resolved**, That the English District congregations be invited and welcome to participate and  
26 collaborate with the geographical district congregations nearest them, including circuit events,  
27 conferences, mission projects, and community outreach efforts; and be it finally  
28

29 **Resolved**, That the pastors of the Michigan District and English District be encouraged to foster a  
30 spirit of collegiality and partnership with each other, for the strengthening of all congregations and a  
31 greater impact for the Kingdom of God.  
32

33 Submitted by: Committee #1 – Administration  
34 Rev. Dean Davenport, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-02  
3 SUBJECT: Realignment of Circuits  
4 REFERENCE: Overture 1-04  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, St. Stephen, Waterford has grown close to the ministries of the Kensington circuit; and  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The Kensington Circuit is at risk of losing its electoral status due to congregations  
10 shrinking and closing; therefore be it  
11

12 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention transfer St. Stephen, Waterford from the North  
13 Oakland Circuit to the Kensington Circuit.  
14

15 Submitted by: Committee #1 - Administration  
16 Rev. Dean Davenport, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-03  
3 SUBJECT: Sharing Information for Voters  
4 REFERENCE: Overture 1-02, 1-03, 1-12, 1-13  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Delegates at the regional assemblies should be informed regarding the candidates for  
8 election; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, There is an established method for providing comparable information about lay,  
11 ordained, and commissioned minister candidates who are presented for election to positions or  
12 offices of the Michigan District in Workbook II; therefore be it  
13

14 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District prepare the biographical information normally included in  
15 Workbook II and share it at least one week in advance of the regional assemblies; and be it finally  
16

17 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention amend Bylaw 5.6c to read "...The regional  
18 nominating committee shall obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, as well as  
19 biographical data, and supply the regional assembly with this information one week prior to the  
20 regional assembly..."  
21

22 Submitted by: Committee #1 - Administration  
23 Rev. Dean Davenport, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-04  
3 SUBJECT: To Revise RSO Requirement of 100% LCMS Board  
4 Membership  
5 REFERENCE: Overture 1-05  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, The 2016 Synodical convention created a task force to review the current structure  
9 and recommend the best model for the Synod’s relationship to RSOs (Recognized Service  
10 Organizations); and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, The Task Force was charged, among other things, “to ensure that all  
13 recommendations maintain the important relationships with the organizations that are  
14 recognized by the Synod;” and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, The 2019 Synodical Convention adopted the recommendation of the Task Force in  
17 Resolution 4-06a; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, This resolution thoroughly revised and redefined the structure and expectations of  
20 synodical RSOs; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, An unintended consequence of adopting such a large and sweeping change in a  
23 single resolution was that some long-standing synodical RSOs found themselves *post facto* to be  
24 no longer qualified; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, The language of bylaw 6.2.2a, adopted in 2019 resolution 4-06a, states that any  
27 WSO (Witness Service Organization - new subcategory) must now have 100% of its Board of  
28 Directors hold membership in an LCMS congregation; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, An organization involved in mission or service in areas without LCMS representation,  
31 or that desires to expand into regions without LCMS churches, would find it invaluable to recruit  
32 board members who better understand the mission context; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, It is not reasonable to expect an RSO to reject a qualified board member when that  
35 board member may not even be in the proximity of an LCMS congregation; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, This requirement has forced RSOs to choose between proudly partnering and  
38 affiliating with the Synod, and pursuing the mission goals for which they exist; therefore be it

39  
40 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention memorialize the Synod to revise the 2019  
41 change in Bylaw 6.2.2a so that a WSO have board membership of at least two-thirds LCMS  
42 congregation members or members of the Synod’s partner churches; and be it further

43  
44 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention commend the work of the many and various  
45 service organizations and their support of the Gospel proclamation; and be it finally

46  
47 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention express the earnest desire that longtime and  
48 faithful RSOs not be needlessly severed from affiliation with the LCMS.

49  
50 Submitted by: Committee #1 – Administration  
51 Rev. Dean Davenport, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-05  
3 SUBJECT: To Ensure the Sustainability of Concordia Plan Services  
4 REFERENCE: Overture 1-14  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Concordia Plan Services (CPS) provides significant blessings to workers enrolled in their  
8 health, retirement, and disability plans; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The cost of the Concordia Health Plan, Retirement Plan, and Disability Plan offered by  
11 CPS is a substantial expense borne by congregations, schools, and other ministries of the LCMS; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, The pool of workers available to enroll in the CPS benefit plans is relatively small; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, A larger pool of workers contributing to the health plan, retirement plan, and disability  
16 plan would provide the opportunity to spread expenses over a larger membership base and would  
17 increase the ability of Concordia Plan Services to negotiate with vendors; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, There are other church bodies with whom we agree in biblical morality and medical  
20 ethics; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, Our doctrine permits us to cooperate in externals with other church bodies in non-  
23 doctrinal matters; therefore be it  
24

25 **Resolved**, That the Synod in convention would amend the Synod's Bylaws so that Concordia Plan  
26 Services can serve a wider population, by working with other church bodies to increase collective  
27 worker enrollment, in order to stabilize the overall cost of the benefits offered by CPS.  
28

29 Submitted by: Committee #1 - Administration  
30 Rev. Dean Davenport, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-06  
3 SUBJECT: To Call for the Publication of the Council of Presidents Manual  
4 REFERENCE: Overture 1-06  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The Council of Presidents of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is expected to have  
8 policies that guide both the corporate work of the Council and the individual work of its members  
9 (synodical bylaw 3.10.1.2); and

10 **WHEREAS**, Those policies have been codified in a manual distributed to the Council’s members, but  
11 not available for public viewing; and

12 **WHEREAS**, That private manual is often cited to defend the actions and positions taken by district  
13 presidents; therefore be it

14 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention urge the Council of Presidents to make public  
15 their manual; and be it further

16 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention memorialize Synod to require the Council of  
17 Presidents to make public its manual; and be it further

18 **Resolved**, That the Council of Presidents Manual be available on the website of The Lutheran  
19 Church—Missouri Synod in the “Document Library;” and be it finally

20 **Resolved**, That the manual available online be the most recent iteration, as updated periodically by  
21 the Council.

22  
23  
24  
25  
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27  
28  
29 Submitted by: Committee #1 - Administration  
30 Rev. Dean Davenport, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-07  
3 SUBJECT: To Make Clarifications Regarding Credentialed Lay Deacons  
4 REFERENCE: Overture 1-08  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, There is always a need for more workers in the Church; and  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, It is incumbent on the Church to provide training and preparation for effective service;  
10 and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Michigan District have discontinued the  
13 practice of Licensed Lay Deacons, in conformity with Synod resolution 13-02A (2016), but the need  
14 for trained assistants to the ordained ministers of the Church still remains; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS** The Michigan District has conducted a thorough program of instruction for deacons which  
17 consists of training by rostered workers of the LCMS in Scripture, Christian doctrine, and practical  
18 ministry, preparing them to assist ordained clergy in the care of congregations, and that program  
19 recognizes this training by credentialing deacons; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, These Credentialed Lay Deacons are not authorized to serve in Word and Sacrament  
22 ministry, but in case of need may be transitioned through the Specific Ministry Pastor program to  
23 become ordained clergy; therefore be it  
24

25 **Resolved**, That the District in convention commend the faithful laborers who have trained workers to  
26 assist our congregations; and be it further  
27

28 **Resolved**, That the convention give thanks for the willing and humble service of deacons in our  
29 District and pray for their continued service to the people of God.  
30

31 Submitted by: Committee #1 – Administration  
32 Rev. Dean Davenport, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-08  
3 SUBJECT: Encouraging Accuracy of Call Documents  
4 REFERENCE: Overture 1-10  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the LCMS states that one of the objectives of the LCMS is to “Aid in  
8 providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their families in the  
9 event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death” (*LCMS Handbook 2023*, Article III,  
10 Objectives, Objective 10, page 12); and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, In some cases the Call Documents presented to professional church workers have  
13 incorrectly identified benefits provided by the congregation and have resulted in the professional  
14 church workers not receiving the pay and/or benefits noted in the Call Documents presented to them  
15 by the calling entities; therefore be it  
16

17 **Resolved**, That congregations and other calling entities be encouraged to verify and double check  
18 that the Call Documents have been prepared correctly, comparing the benefits offered in the Call  
19 Documents to the employer benefit election sheet provided by Concordia Plans prior to the start of  
20 each benefit year as well as other benefit plans the congregation may have.  
21

22 Submitted by: Committee #1 – Administration  
23 Rev. Dean Davenport, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration  
2 RESOLUTION: 1-09  
3 SUBJECT: To Respectfully Decline Overtures  
4 REFERENCE: Overtures 1-01, 1-07, 1-09  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for  
8 various reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it  
9

10 **Resolved**, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:  
11

12 Overture1-01 To Affirm and Appreciate the Efforts of the Commission on Constitutional  
13 Matters and Emphasize That Their Researched Opinions are Solely  
14 Recommendations to the Leadership That Appointed the Commission  
15

16 Reason: The overture is flawed in indicating that matters are only advisory as this  
17 contradicts bylaw 3.9.2.2(c) which indicates, "An opinion rendered by the  
18 commission shall be binding on the question decided unless and until it is  
19 overruled by a convention of the Synod."  
20

21 Overture 1-07 To Encourage Presidential Visitation  
22

23 Reason: As per the District President, District staff is not involved in ecclesiastical  
24 supervision. In addition, the Board of Directors has no authority in  
25 ecclesiastical supervision.  
26

27 Overture 1-09 To Declare the Commission on Constitutional Matters Unconstitutional  
28

29 Reason: The Floor Committee does not agree that the establishment and function of  
30 the Commission on Constitutional Matters are inconsistent with the  
31 constitution and, while rendering binding opinions on issues, have no judicial  
32 power to enforce opinions.  
33

34 Submitted by: Committee #1 - Administration  
35 Rev. Dean Davenport, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-01  
3 SUBJECT: To Define and Affirm Lutheran Identity  
4 REFERENCE: Overtures 2-03, 2-04, 2-05, 2-07  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The term “Lutheran Identity” is used without having a clear definition, nor having  
8 Scriptural or Confessional references; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states in Article II of its constitution:

11 Article II Confession

12 The Synod, and every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation:

- 13 1. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule  
14 and norm of faith and of practice
- 15 2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated  
16 statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles’  
17 Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the  
18 Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, the  
19 Small Catechism of Luther, and the Formula of Concord; and  
20

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, The Augsburg Confession Article VII. [THE CHURCH] declares, “...It is enough to agree  
23 concerning the teaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments. It is not necessary  
24 that human traditions or rites and ceremonies, instituted by men, should be alike everywhere. It is as  
25 Paul says, ‘One faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all,’ etc.” (Eph. 4:5, 6) ACVII; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, According to article XXVIII of the Augsburg Confession: “It is necessary that the doctrine of  
28 Christian freedom be preserved in the churches. In other words, the bondage of the Law is not  
29 necessary in order to be justified, as it is written in the Epistle to the Galatians, ‘Do not submit again  
30 to a yoke of slavery’ (5:1). It is necessary for the chief article of the Gospel to be preserved, namely  
31 that we obtain grace freely by faith in Christ, and not by certain observances or acts of worship  
32 devised by people ... It is proper to keep such ordinances just so long as consciences are not  
33 burdened to think that they are necessary to salvation, or to regard it as sin if they are changed  
34 without offending others” (51, 52, 56); and  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, According to article X of the Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration: “As soon as Christian  
37 freedom is weakened and human traditions are forced on the Church with coercion, as though it  
38 were wrong and a sin to omit them, the way is already prepared for idolatry. In this way, human  
39 traditions are multiplied and regarded as divine worship, not only equal to God’s ordinances, but  
40 even placed above them” (15); and  
41

42 **WHEREAS**, There is great benefit in common traditions, rites, and ceremonies, as stated in the  
43 Augsburg Confession XXIV, “nearly all the usual ceremonies are preserved ... to teach the people,”  
44 and stated in 4-04A Resolution of the 2016 Convention, “To Appeal to the LCMS Congregations,  
45 Workers, and Institutions within Christian Freedom and for Love’s Sake to Maintain a Common Order  
46 of Service for the Lord’s Supper” although they do not form the basis of our unity or identity, but are  
47 useful for teaching the faith; therefore, be it  
48

49 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District reaffirm the definition of “Lutheran Identity” as already listed in  
50 the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions and Synodical Constitution namely that:

- 1 (1) Lutheran Identity is found in the right teaching of the Gospel and the administration of the  
2 Sacraments, not in the uniformity of human rites, ceremonies, or traditions instituted by men  
3 (2) Lutheran Identity is found in the acceptance of the Scriptures of the Old and the New  
4 Testament as the written, inerrant Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of  
5 practice  
6 (3) Lutheran identity is found in the acceptance of all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical  
7 Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God;  
8 and be it further  
9
- 10 **Resolved,** That all policies and bylaws of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod regarding “Lutheran  
11 Identity,” be examined and brought into conformity with the Scriptures and the Confessions  
12 mentioned above; and be it finally  
13
- 14 **Resolved,** That if adopted, this Overture is memorialized and sent onto Synod for the 2026 Synodical  
15 Convention.  
16
- 17 Submitted by: Committee #2 – Doctrine  
18 Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-02  
3 SUBJECT: To Pause and Correct the Deficiencies in the *Lutheran Identity*  
4 *and Mission Outcomes Standards*  
5 REFERENCE: Overtures 2-05, 2-06  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, The purpose of *Lutheran Identity and Mission Outcomes Standards* (LIMOS) was to find  
9 Lutheran identity for accreditation in mission and outreach; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Those involved diligently and in great effort of their time developed LIMOS to improve the  
12 mission and outreach of our universities; and  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, We do not want those efforts to go to waste and have LIMOS fall short in reaching its  
15 purpose; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, There are deficiencies with various questions, which result in the following problems:  
18 • “Lutheran Identity” is presented as a doctrinal category but not defined, allowing the  
19 interviewer and interviewee to define it subjectively and how they believe it should be applied.  
20 • The absence of a definition of “Lutheran Identity” could lead our congregations, our schools,  
21 and our associations to be confused about what it means to be Lutheran.  
22 • An unclear definition of “Lutheran Identity” could be used inappropriately, unethically, unjustly,  
23 and unlovingly.  
24 • The use of technical language without definition (e.g. “High Christology” “Lutheran Values”).  
25 • The use of “yes or no” questions and the overuse of the word “explain” as a “catch all”; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, These problems and deficiencies have caused a lack of trust in how LIMOS have been  
28 used; therefore be it  
29

30 **Resolved**, That, because of the problems in LIMOS, it should be paused in its use until these issues  
31 are addressed; and be it further  
32

33 **Resolved**, That the LCMS in Convention 2026 be memorialized to adopt this resolution and form a  
34 new task force which includes but is not limited to CUS representatives and all Concordia University  
35 Presidents to improve and remedy the issues in the LIMOS stated above; and be it finally  
36

37 **Resolved**, That the review and corrections be made fully transparent to the members of the Lutheran  
38 Church—Missouri Synod.  
39

40 Submitted by: Committee #2 – Doctrine  
41 Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-03  
3 SUBJECT: To Encourage Young People to Enter Church Worker  
4 Vocations  
5 REFERENCE: Overture 2-08  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord states that, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few,” and commands  
9 his church to “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”  
10 (Matt. 9:37-38); and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a long, rich history of educating men and women  
13 towards church work vocations that continues to this day; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, There is an apparent dearth of young people seeking to enter church work vocations,  
16 especially Lutheran school teachers and pastors; and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Most church workers attribute their vocational decisions to mentors and other church  
19 work leaders throughout their lives; therefore be it  
20

21 **Resolved**, That each and every church worker in the Michigan District be encouraged to set a goal of  
22 encouraging at least one individual per year towards professional church worker training; and be it  
23 further  
24

25 **Resolved**, That every congregation in the Michigan District seek to support both in encouragement  
26 and finances the sending of young people to such institutions as train these workers; and facilitate  
27 the use of “Set Apart to Serve” and celebrate church worker Sundays throughout the year by  
28 highlighting various vocations; and be it further  
29

30 **Resolved**, That every educational institution of the Michigan District be urged and encouraged to  
31 require its teachers to complete the Synod’s colloquy program; and be it further  
32

33 **Resolved**, That every church worker be encouraged to conduct oneself in word and deed in such a  
34 way that actively (and passively) encourages young people to seek church work vocations; and be it  
35 finally  
36

37 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District memorialize the Synod in convention to adopt a similar  
38 resolution.  
39

40 Submitted by: Committee #2 - Doctrine  
41 Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-04  
3 SUBJECT: To Put Confessional Subscription Into Practice During the  
4 Upcoming Triennium  
5 REFERENCE: Overture 2-11  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Confessions are in accord with the Word of God; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The ordained clergy of our congregations have made these confessions their own; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, The ordained clergy of our congregations have made a solemn promise before God and  
13 man to “perform the duties of [their] office in accordance with these Confessions, and that all [their]  
14 preaching and teaching and [their] administration of the Sacraments will be in conformity with Holy  
15 Scripture and these Confessions;” and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, In these last days of this transitory world, many false and misleading doctrines have been  
18 introduced and have crept into our land; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, The answers to the questions of our day concerning “Lutheran Identity” are certainly to be  
21 found in the Lutheran Confessions; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, It is good and pleasant when brothers dwell in unity (Psalm133:1) and true unity is found  
24 in agreement with the will of the Father and the teaching of His Son (Matthew 12:50, John 6:40);  
25 and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting to remember the 450th anniversary of the publication of the Formula of  
28 Concord during the upcoming triennium; and  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, Synod in convention adopted Resolution 6-07A, “To Recommend and Implement  
31 Rigorous Program of Study in Circuit *Winkels*,” therefore be it  
32

33 **Resolved**, That the Lutheran Confessions be encouraged and promoted as devotional aids and study  
34 materials for the people of our district by our district officials; and be it further  
35

36 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District be encouraged to devote the spring regional pastors  
37 conferences of 2027 A.D. to the study of the Formula of Concord for the edification of our ministry  
38 and to the honor of those who wrote and subscribed to this blessed confession 450 years ago; and  
39 be it finally  
40

41 **Resolved**, That each circuit in our district, in preparation for these conferences and in accordance  
42 with Synodical Resolution 6-07A, devote significant time and effort during their *Winkels* in the first  
43 half of 2027 A.D. to the study of the Formula of Concord.  
44

45 Submitted by: Committee #2 – Doctrine  
46 Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-05  
3 SUBJECT: Encourage Regular Use of Confession and Absolution  
4 REFERENCED: Overture 2-02  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The practice of Confession and Absolution is firmly established in our Lutheran  
8 Confessions, cf. the Augsburg Confession, Article 25: “Confession in the churches is not abolished  
9 among us; for it is not usual to give the body of the Lord, except to them that have been previously  
10 examined and absolved. And the people are most carefully taught concerning faith in the absolution,  
11 about which formerly there was profound silence. Our people are taught that they should highly prize  
12 the absolution, as being the voice of God, and pronounced by God’s command. The power of the  
13 Keys is set forth in its beauty and they are reminded what great consolation it brings to anxious  
14 consciences, also, that God requires faith to believe such absolution as a voice sounding from  
15 heaven, and that such faith in Christ truly obtains and receives the forgiveness of sins,” and, “Our  
16 people are taught that they should highly prize the Absolution as being God’s voice and pronounced  
17 by God’s command—when the pastor absolves us—that is, says, “I forgive you all your sins”—he  
18 speaks with Christ’s authority and on His behalf” [Explanation of the Small Catechism 2017, pages  
19 309–310]; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, Our Lutheran Confessions include Confession and Absolution as one of our Sacraments,  
22 considering it “the third Sacrament” [Apology to the Augsburg Confession Article XIII, paragraph 4],  
23 “Now Baptism, the Eucharist, and Absolution are true Sacraments; for they are commanded of God,  
24 and have the promise of grace, which in reality belongs to, and is the New Testament;” therefore be  
25 it  
26

27 **Resolved**, That the congregations and pastors of the Michigan District esteem and regularly practice  
28 Confession and Absolution in their services; and be it further  
29

30 **Resolved**, That the officiants of said services treat reverently the general confession of the  
31 congregation, allowing opportunities for examination and sincerity among the congregants, as well as  
32 speak reverently the comforting words of Absolution, just as they speak during the administration of  
33 Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, allowing the congregants to receive the words of Absolution gladly  
34 and gratefully; and be it finally  
35

36 **Resolved**, That the congregations of the Michigan District be encouraged to regularly use the words  
37 of the Confession of sins and Absolution from our LCMS-approved hymnals and resources to the end  
38 that such regular repetition implants the words firmly into the memory of each congregant, available  
39 for times of crisis when meaningful and comforting words are needed.  
40

41 Submitted by: Committee #2 - Doctrine  
42 Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-06  
3 SUBJECT: To Condemn "Stone Choir" and Call Proponents  
4 of Its Teachings to Repentance  
5 REFERENCE: Overture 2-01  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Twitter/X personalities Corey J. Mahler (@CoreyJMahler) and Ryan "Woe" Dumperth  
9 (@treblewoe) began releasing episodes of the Stone Choir podcast on Oct. 19, 2022, to tackle  
10 issues relevant to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that, in their judgment, the  
11 pastors and leadership of the LCMS were not addressing, leaving Mahler and Dumperth to  
12 function as "the very stones" who must "cry out" because the clergy are silent (Luke 19:40); and  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, These issues on which the pastors and leadership of the LCMS are accused by the Stone  
15 Choir hosts of remaining silent include the ostensible necessity of the reintroduction of racial  
16 segregation; the ostensible sinfulness of interracial marriage; the ostensibly pernicious nature of the  
17 Jewish race today; and the ostensibly fictitious nature of the Jewish Holocaust perpetrated by the  
18 National Socialists during World War II; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, None of Stone Choir's positions on these aforementioned issues is taught in Holy Scripture,  
21 and indeed their positions on these issues cause great offense to many Christians of good will; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, Stone Choir hosts Mahler and Dumperth are active on Twitter/X, and Stone Choir listeners  
24 are likely to be influenced not only by what Mahler and Dumperth teach on the Stone Choir podcast,  
25 but also by what they post on Twitter/X; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, On Twitter/X, Corey Mahler and Dumperth, among other outrageously offensive behaviors,  
28 openly praise Adolf Hitler, call for the genocide or deportation of Jews, Muslims, and Blacks from  
29 the United States, and condemn as sin the practice of interracial marriage and adoption, causing great  
30 offense to Christian consciences; and  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, Through their activity on the Stone Choir podcast and on Twitter/X, Mahler and Dmnerth  
33 have sought to associate confessional Lutheranism with devotion to Adolf Hitler, opposition to the  
34 Jewish race, and a desire for segregation of Blacks from white society; and  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, Mahler and Dumperth have publicly denounced all pastors of the LCMS as "either apostate  
37 or derelict" and on their podcast and on Twitter/X have attempted to turn their listeners against  
38 their pastors, including through the use of threats, intimidation, and harassment of pastors, their  
39 wives, and their families; and  
40

41 **WHEREAS**, pastors, their wives, and their families have been threatened, intimidated, and harassed  
42 in several LCMS districts, to the extent that district and synodical presidents have condemned such  
43 speech; and  
44

45 **WHEREAS**, Mahler is excommunicated and therefore under discipline and Dumperth is no longer a  
46 member of an LCMS congregation and is therefore beyond the reach of church discipline, yet both  
47 usurp the Pastoral Office through public "sermons" and teachings; therefore be it  
48

49 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention publicly condemn the Stone Choir podcast and its  
50 hosts, Corey J. Mahler and Ryan Dumperth, for the offense they cause by their public devotion to Adolf  
51 Hitler, their stirring up of antipathy toward our Jewish and Black neighbors, their denunciation as sin

1 of that which God has not called sin, and their open hostility toward the pastors and leadership of the  
2 LCMS; and be it further  
3  
4 **Resolved,** That the laity of the Michigan District be warned against the Stone Choir podcast and its  
5 hosts, and that the pastors of the Michigan District be encouraged to admonish members of their  
6 congregations whose approval of such racist and anti-Semitic beliefs has become known; and be it  
7 further  
8  
9 **Resolved,** That pastors and teachers of the Michigan District be encouraged to examine the  
10 teachings of Stone Choir according to the norm of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions,  
11 demonstrating from these clear and firm testimonies how Stone Choir is in error; and pastors and  
12 teachers of the Michigan District acknowledge that these teachings violate the Fifth Commandment;  
13 and be it further  
14  
15 **Resolved,** That pastors and teachers of the Michigan District be encouraged to teach the truth of  
16 God's Word that all human creatures of all nations, tribes, languages, and peoples are made in  
17 God's image and redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus, and that pastors and teachers  
18 would use Synod and District resources that promote the same; and be it finally  
19  
20 **Resolved,** That the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn the Stone Choir podcast and its  
21 hosts and followers, and to admonish pastors and teachers who promote the same.  
22  
23 Submitted by: Committee #2 – Doctrine  
24 Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-01  
3 SUBJECT: Giving Thanks for Leaders who Developed CUW/CUAA  
4 Partnership  
5 REFERENCE: Overtures 3-07; 3-08  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, The congregations and people of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
9 Synod have treasured a close relationship with Concordia University Ann Arbor since its founding in  
10 1963; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, In July 2013, a strategic partnership between Concordia University Ann Arbor and  
13 Concordia University Wisconsin became official; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, For over a decade this merger resulted in the flourishing of CUAA, with an expansion of  
16 programs and facilities, record growth in enrollment, a greater community impact, and most  
17 importantly the spiritual development of students in the Christian faith, resulting in numerous  
18 students being converted and baptized through the work of the Holy Spirit, choosing church work  
19 careers, and having a greater desire to embrace the Christian faith and our Lutheran Confession;  
20 therefore be it

21  
22 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention give thanks to God for the mission and ministry of  
23 Concordia University Ann Arbor since its founding in 1963, and especially for the years of flourishing  
24 as a result of the merger with CUW; and be it further

25  
26 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention commend all leaders, past and present, of CUWAA  
27 and the Michigan District for their support of the mission and ministry of CUAA since its founding in  
28 1963 and their remarkable efforts to see it flourish for the last decade, for their communication of the  
29 vision and their encouragement and support of the many faculty and staff who helped the merger take  
30 place, to the glory of God; and be it further

31  
32 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention memorialize the Synod convention to, with united  
33 hearts and voices, give thanks and praise to God for the blessings He has bestowed upon the Kingdom  
34 at large through the work of His Holy Spirit and the ministry fulfilled at Concordia University Ann Arbor,  
35 specifically, and as a whole, through all our Concordia universities; and be it finally

36  
37 **Resolved**, That the assembly rise and join in singing the Doxology as an expression of thanksgiving.

38  
39 Submitted by: Floor Committee #3 - Education  
40 Rev. Erik K. Cloeter, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education  
2 RESOLUTION: 3-02  
3 SUBJECT: To Express Lament and Sympathy Regarding Concordia  
4 University Ann Arbor  
5 REFERENCE: Overtures 3-01, 3-02, & 3-05  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, The congregations and people of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
9 Synod have treasured a close relationship with Concordia University Ann Arbor since its founding in  
10 1963; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Concordia University Wisconsin and Concordia University Ann Arbor formally joined  
13 together in ministry in 2013, with Concordia University Wisconsin taking on the primary financial  
14 responsibility; and the Districts surrounding Concordia University Ann Arbor, including our Michigan  
15 District, the Ohio District, the English District, as well as a number of donors from the same, including  
16 the Michigan District Church Extension Fund, all contributed financial support; and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Concordia University Ann Arbor was listed as one of the fastest-growing private colleges in  
19 the state of Michigan, with the 2024-25 school year on track to have the highest enrollment in its  
20 history; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, The majority of the Board of Regents of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor  
23 approved in 2024 President Erik Ankerberg's plans that have substantially and materially reduced  
24 operations of the Ann Arbor campus; and that despite the heroic efforts of faithful supporters,  
25 including President David Davis, the Michigan District Board of Directors, and many generous  
26 donors, to simply delay drastic changes so that better plans might be explored and implemented;  
27 and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, These changes have resulted in the loss of employment for a number of staff, negatively  
30 impacted students and their families, caused anger and distrust of Synod and the university's  
31 leadership among alumni and many faithful members of Synod, and damaged the once close and  
32 treasured relationship between Concordia University Ann Arbor with the congregations and people of  
33 the Michigan District; therefore be it  
34

35 **Resolved**, That the congregations of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
36 here in convention express lament over the ill-advised and poorly executed actions of President Erik  
37 Ankerberg and the majority of the Board of Regents of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann  
38 Arbor; and be it further  
39

40 **Resolved**, That the congregations of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
41 here in convention express sympathy with the many that have been adversely affected by these  
42 actions; and be it finally  
43

44 **Resolved**, That, as *People of Hope*, the congregations of the Michigan District of The Lutheran  
45 Church—Missouri Synod lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer as they are *nourished for the*  
46 *journey*, keeping in mind the words of Paul in Romans 8:28 that God works for the good of those who  
47 love Him and have been called according to His purpose.  
48

49 Submitted by: Committee #3 - Education  
50 Rev. Erik K. Cloeter, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-03  
3 SUBJECT: Commissioned Minister – Teacher Debt Relief Resource  
4 REFERENCE: Overture 3-13  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Resolution 12-03A, “To Address Commissioned Minister – Teacher Student Debt” was  
8 adopted at the 2023 Synodical Convention; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Our Lutheran schools continue to struggle to find rostered teachers to serve in the  
11 classrooms; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, In 2023 there were requests for 455 teachers to be placed and only 84 placements  
14 occurred; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, The reality of student loan debt and educational costs play an important role in the  
17 decision whether to attend a CUS school and seek employment within the Lutheran school system or  
18 not; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Many of the scholarship and debt assistance programs are not communicated to the  
21 potential students and their parents for use in their decision-making process; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, A key part of *Set Apart to Serve*, the church worker formation initiative, affirmed and  
24 strengthened in Resolution 6-01 at the 2023 Synodical convention, was that *Set Apart to Serve* and  
25 their key partners are to address church worker wellness, which includes student debt,  
26 compensation, and benefits; therefore be it  
27

28 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District produce a consolidated resource, in print and online, for use by  
29 congregations, circuit visitors, pastors, teachers, youth leaders, parents, and potential future church  
30 workers, containing information on District scholarships, Concordia Plan Services grants and loan  
31 repayment assistance, any LCEF and CEF student loan consolidation and low interest loans  
32 availability, and any other assistance available; and be it further  
33

34 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District encourage congregations to establish scholarship funds and  
35 student loan debt assistance programs within their congregations, and that District will be available  
36 to assist them in this endeavor; and be it further  
37

38 **Resolved**, That congregations be reminded and encouraged to financially support our universities,  
39 seminaries, and District scholarship programs; and be it finally  
40

41 **Resolved**, That we give thanks to God for our Lutheran schools and the loving, dedicated teachers  
42 who serve there, and for His continued blessing on their work.  
43

44 Submitted by: Floor Committee #3 – Education  
45 Rev. Erik K. Cloeter, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-04  
3 SUBJECT: A Call for Concordia University Wisconsin Ann Arbor's  
4 Leadership to Accountability and Repentance  
5 REFERENCE: Overture 3-04  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Concordia University Ann Arbor (CUAA), was founded in 1963 by The Lutheran Church—  
9 Missouri Synod (LCMS), and since 2013 has been governed by the CUWAA Board of Regents; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, On Feb 8, 2024 a majority of the CUWAA Board of Regents (BOR) voted unilaterally to take  
12 action and President Ankerberg announced in a Feb 13 email to significantly reduce operations, enact  
13 staff reductions and dispose of property, facilities and equipment; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, The Eighth Commandment requires truthfulness in all our dealings with others, and the  
16 Ninth and Tenth Commandments protect us from all evil desires which lead to the breaking of all the  
17 other commandments; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, The May 31, 2024 CUWAA Task Force Report states, “In the first week of April, the  
20 Subcommittee contacted the Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana District Presidents, the English District  
21 Bishop, the LCMS Board of Directors, the Concordia University System Board, and the Michigan District  
22 Extension Fund, to determine (a) whether, and to what extent, each entity would be willing to make an  
23 initial “launch” contribution toward an independent CUAA by December 31, 2024, and (b) whether,  
24 and to what extent, each entity would be willing to commit to ongoing annual support for an  
25 independent CUAA. Per the Resolution, other CUS schools were not approached to serve as financial  
26 partners for the Ann Arbor campus (p. 24);” and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, Mr. James Saalfeld, CEO of MI District CEF, wrote on June 14, 2024 in his CEO Update, “The  
29 report then states CEF failed to respond to this inquiry. This is not true. First, CEF was never contacted as  
30 alleged in the report. Second, CEF’s rich history of supporting CUAA makes the implication that CEF was  
31 indifferent without merit.” ([churchextensionfund.com/news/ceo-update](http://churchextensionfund.com/news/ceo-update)); and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, the Ohio District Board of Directors of the LCMS wrote to the CUWAA Board (June 14,  
34 2024), “No dialogue with the Ohio District President or Board of Directors ever occurred. While  
35 Michigan may have responded affirmatively, Ohio did not have the opportunity to consider it.”  
36 ([oh.lcms.org/images/documents/BOD/2024-06-14-OH-BOD\\_RESPONSE-LTR-CUWAA.pdf](http://oh.lcms.org/images/documents/BOD/2024-06-14-OH-BOD_RESPONSE-LTR-CUWAA.pdf)); and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, Follow-up correspondence in July 2024 with all parties indicate that all hold to their  
39 previous statements or have no further comment; therefore be it

40  
41 **Resolved**, That the CUWAA Board of Regents and responsible administrators be held to account for the  
42 above false statement and libel, by repenting in writing to all MI-CEF and Ohio District constituents  
43 confessing the sin and admitting the defamation of reputation of the harmed; and be it further

44  
45 **Resolved**, That the President of Synod, the Presidents of Ohio and Michigan Districts and the CEO of  
46 the MI-CEF stand prepared to grant holy absolution at the appropriate Synodical and District  
47 Conventions to the CUWAA Board Officers and President who state their repentance and desire to  
48 relate in forthright honesty with one another; and be it finally

49  
50 **Resolved** That the Michigan District initiate a good faith effort with the CUWAA Board of Regents by  
51 September 2025 to rebuild trust and confidence among its disenfranchised supporters and that the  
52 effort be widely disseminated in the official publications of the Michigan District and forwarded for  
53 publication in the LCMS Reporter, as well as the Concordia Wisconsin’s social media and printed  
54 communication venues.

55  
56 Submitted by: Floor Committee #3- Education  
57 Rev. Erik K. Cloeter, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-05  
3 SUBJECT: To Clarify the Prior Approval Process and Provide Appropriate  
4 Transparency  
5 REFERENCE: Overture 3-03 & 3-16  
6  
7

8 **Rationale**

9 Since the 2013 Synod Convention, appointments to theological faculties at all CUS  
10 universities and seminaries, as well as all college, university, and seminary presidential  
11 appointments, have been subject to the prior approval process. While the convention in 2013  
12 amended the bylaws to delegate the responsibility for prior approval to specific groups (see bylaws  
13 referenced below) the bylaws did not, and still do not, stipulate how the process of prior approval  
14 should be carried out. Over time, this has led to questions as to the standards used to evaluate  
15 candidates as well as the process utilized by the prior approval panels. In the hopes of building trust  
16 and relieving any undue criticism of the panels and the process, the following overture aims to  
17 increase transparency for the process and standards used by the panels as well as ensuring clear  
18 communication between the panels, the candidates, and the Synod.  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, One of the expressed purposes of Synod is to “recruit and train pastors, teachers, and  
21 other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth” (Art. III.3);  
22 and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, Synod has the responsibility to oversee that training; and has designated that  
25 responsibility to the prior approval panels outlined in various bylaws (3.6.6.1, 3.10.5.7.3, 3.10.6.8.2,  
26 3.10.6.9.2); and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, Those panels have responsibility not only to work on behalf of the Synod but also are  
29 responsible to the Synod; and  
30

31 **WHEREAS**, Those under consideration for theological professorships and other such positions as  
32 require prior approval have ordinarily been ordained into the Office of Holy Ministry or have been  
33 commissioned and/or consecrated into an auxiliary office of the Church; and  
34

35 **WHEREAS**, Those under consideration for aforementioned positions have also been examined and  
36 approved for service on the roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, Those individual members of Synod have, by virtue of their membership in the Synod,  
39 agreed to the confessional basis as outlined in Art. II, as well as recognize and affirm the validity of  
40 Bylaws 1.6–1.8; therefore be it  
41

42 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention give thanks to the Lord of the Church for using the  
43 Synod and its agencies to preserve and enlarge the workers of the harvest; and for those involved in  
44 the various prior approval processes for being engaged in difficult and important work; and be it  
45 further  
46

47 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to do the  
48 same; and be it further

1 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to require  
2 that process used by the various panels to carry out the responsibility entrusted to it by the Synod be  
3 made transparent and publicly available; and be it further  
4  
5 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to stipulate  
6 that, unless those under consideration by the prior approval panels are found to be in violation of  
7 their ordination, commissioning, consecration, or installation vows, their approval be assumed; and  
8 be it further  
9  
10 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to stipulate  
11 that, if those under consideration are thought to be in violation, that the candidate be given every  
12 opportunity to clarify their position to the panel; and be it finally  
13  
14 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to stipulate  
15 that, if such a violation be found, the panel would, with the appropriate District President as that  
16 individual's ecclesiastical supervisor, engage in the appropriate processes to restore the erring  
17 brother or sister so that one deemed unworthy to teach at one of the Synod's institutions not be  
18 permitted to remain on the roster or serve a congregation and thus lead that congregation to err or  
19 become out of step with Synod.  
20  
21 Submitted by: Floor Committee #3 – Education  
22 Rev. Erik K. Cloeter, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education  
2 RESOLUTION: 3-06  
3 SUBJECT: To Request Transparency From CUWAA  
4 REFERENCE: Overture 3-12  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The common goal of the Concordia University System is to develop Christian leaders for  
8 the church, community, and the world; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Mich. has been developing Christian leaders for the  
11 church, community, and the world since 1963; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, In a report dated February 1, 2024, CFO Colleague, a financial consultancy for higher  
14 education institutions, analyzed recent financial performance for the university and concluded:  
15 *The structural deficit for the combined entity of CUW and CUAA requires immediate and*  
16 *substantial attention. ... It is difficult to see a way forward for CUAA, given its enormous*  
17 *deferred maintenance needs, inadequate NTR per student and the use of net tuition to fund*  
18 *athletic costs. ... The time is now to craft a multi-year plan that addresses these clear*  
19 *challenges* (CUAA TASK FORCE REPORT ISSUED: MAY 31, 2024, pgs. 6-7); and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.4 states, “All mission boards, commissions, and governing boards may  
22 appoint standing committees of specialists to provide professional or technical assistance to the  
23 board or commission and may delegate certain responsibilities to such committees while retaining  
24 supervision. Standing committees may be made up of or include non-board or commission members.  
25 The creation of standing committees shall be reported to the President and the Board of Directors of  
26 the Synod;” and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, *In response to the CFO Colleague Report, the Board of Regents, on February 29, 2024,*  
29 *adopted a resolution for “a special subcommittee to explore the possibility of the Ann Arbor*  
30 *campus applying for self-governance within the Concordia University System”* (CUAA TASK FORCE  
31 REPORT ISSUED: MAY 31, 2024, pg.7); and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, Members of the special subcommittee reported that their work veered outside of the  
34 scope of the Board of Regents’ resolution; and  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, Members of the subcommittee were either required to sign non-disclosure agreements  
37 (NDAs) or were removed from the special subcommittee; and  
38

39 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.5 states, “All agencies of the Synod shall develop policies and  
40 procedures for making available official minutes of their meetings. All mission boards and  
41 commissions shall develop policies and procedures to make available upon request and at a  
42 reasonable price a verbatim copy of the official minutes of their meetings except for executive  
43 sessions. Any member of the Synod may request a copy of any official minutes of mission boards or  
44 commissions by submitting a written or electronic (via email) request to the Secretary of the Synod,  
45 who shall provide such minutes according to the policy of the Board of Directors;” and  
46

47 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 3.10.6.1(o) states, “In fulfilling its commonly understood fiduciary duties  
48 owed to the institution, and its governance responsibilities, the board of regents shall: maintain  
49 effective internal controls and operate with financial transparency, annually reviewing and approving  
50 the institutional budget and providing, within 30 days of board acceptance and final issuance of the

1 institutional audit, audited financial statements and other information as specified in the policies of  
2 the Synod Board of Directors and to congregations of the Synod upon request;" and  
3  
4 **WHEREAS**, Congregations of the Michigan District have requested these financial statements and  
5 have not received them from the CUWAA Board of Regents; and  
6  
7 **WHEREAS**, The congregations of the Michigan District desire to bear with CUWAA in love, eager to  
8 maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1-5); and  
9  
10 **WHEREAS**, The congregations of the Michigan District desire to walk as children of light and expose  
11 things done in secret to the light so that Christ would shine on all things (Ephesians 8b-14);  
12 therefore be it  
13  
14 **Resolved**, That the District in Convention formally requests CUWAA Board of Regents to rescind the  
15 NDAs signed by the special subcommittee members as a sign of good faith and to restore the shared  
16 trust and confidence in the process; and be it further  
17  
18 **Resolved**, That the CUWAA Board of Regents make available the verbatim copies of the official  
19 minutes and the video recordings of the meetings of the special subcommittee to the LCMS District  
20 Presidents for the benefit of building national consensus on this issue; and be it further  
21  
22 **Resolved**, That the CUWAA Board of Regents respond to the previous and all subsequent  
23 congregational requests for audited financial statements; and be it finally  
24  
25 **Resolved**, That the district memorialize the Synod to encourage transparency in the financial states  
26 of the Concordia Universities and the Synod at large.  
27  
28 Submitted by: Floor Committee #3 – Education  
29 Rev. Erik K. Cloeter, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-07  
3 SUBJECT: Postmortem Examination of CUAA  
4 REFERENCE:  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, It is desirable to enhance the level of trust and support in the Concordia University  
8 System (CUS) and the respective Concordia institutions contained therein, regarding processes and  
9 decisions that lead to any substantial and material downsizing or elimination of any university; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, There has not been an independent analysis of the actions taken by the Board of Regents  
12 of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor regarding the contractual framework and resultant  
13 decisions leading to the substantial and material reduction of operations of the Ann Arbor campus;  
14 therefore be it  
15

16 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod memorialize the Synod  
17 in convention to direct that an independent committee be established, under the oversight of the  
18 Board of Directors of Synod, to do a post-mortem analysis of the contractual agreements involved in  
19 the acquisition of Concordia Ann Arbor by Concordia Wisconsin, audited financial statements, and  
20 processes involved regarding decisions pertaining to the acquisition and subsequent downsizing of  
21 the Concordia Ann Arbor campus and its programs; and be it further  
22

23 **Resolved**, That the independent committee's membership include at a minimum those District  
24 Presidents representing all former and current Concordia Universities excluding those Districts that  
25 are associated with a Concordia University involved in any current litigation with Synod; and be it  
26 finally  
27

28 **Resolved**, That the findings of this committee be made available to the Synod and all District  
29 Presidents.  
30

31 Submitted by: Floor Committee #3 - Education  
32 Rev. Erik K. Cloeter, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education  
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-08  
3 SUBJECT: To Support New Educational Endeavors  
4 REFERENCE: Overture 3-14  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District has a long history of excellence in education at every age and stage  
8 of life, so that we are proud and grateful to support 126 preschools, 66 elementary schools, and 5  
9 high schools throughout our state; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District has been richly blessed by the ministry of Concordia University Ann  
12 Arbor, where we have witnessed what the Holy Spirit can do in leading young men and women to  
13 faith while they are preparing for many different careers; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, Many are seeing an increased need for non-college education that prepares men and  
16 women for fruitful service in their communities, and we recognize that this is in harmony with the  
17 Table of Duties and the many "callings" or vocations to which God leads His people; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, People in all fields of endeavor are called to use their labor to the glory of God and the  
20 blessing of their neighbor; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, Vocational education which imparts technical skills to serve others may also provide the  
23 opportunity to teach the spiritual value of service, the true meaning of labor as the hands of Christ,  
24 and the knowledge of the One who blessed Bezalel and Oholiab (Exodus 31:1-11) to glorify God  
25 through the labor of their hands; therefore be it

26  
27 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District explore opportunities to establish a Vocational or Technical  
28 School, or to partner with an existing such school, which would bless those in need of honorable  
29 employment, engage with and serve its community, and combine an excellent technical education  
30 with the opportunity to grow in faith toward Jesus Christ and love and service to the neighbor.

31  
32 Submitted by: Floor Committee #3 - Education  
33 Rev. Erik K. Cloeter, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-09  
3 SUBJECT: To Strengthen our Process for Supporting our Concordias  
4 REFERENCE: Overture 3-09  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, at the 2022 Michigan District Convention, Resolution 2-05a was considered. It read (as  
8 amended before it was voted on):  
9

10 ***WHEREAS**, Our Concordia Universities have long been beloved and treasured by the  
11 members and member congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and a  
12 vital part of the communities in which they are located; and*

13  
14 ***WHEREAS**, Our Concordia Universities have historically been at the very heart of our  
15 Synod’s stated identity and purpose (Synodical Constitution, Article III Objectives (3)  
16 Recruit and train pastors, teachers and other professional church workers and provide  
17 opportunity for their continued growth; and (5) Aid congregations to develop processes  
18 of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish agencies of Christian  
19 education such as elementary and secondary schools and to support synodical colleges,  
20 universities, and seminaries); and*

21  
22 ***WHEREAS**, Our Concordia Universities not only exist to train professional church workers  
23 but also to train Christian laymen and laywomen who will be godly and influential  
24 leaders in their workplaces, communities, churches, and families; and*

25  
26 ***WHEREAS**, Our Lord Jesus Christ calls His followers to be salt and light in the world at  
27 large and not only in safe, homogeneous communities {Matthew 5:13-16}; and*

28  
29 ***WHEREAS**, Our six remaining Concordia Universities (on seven residential campuses) give  
30 our Synod a valuable foothold in increasingly diverse, multicultural, and urban settings  
31 where the Church’s presence is in many cases not especially prominent in the 21st  
32 century; and*

33  
34 ***WHEREAS**, Our Concordia Universities, by their very existence, have the potential to bring  
35 the mission field to our Synod’s doorstep and to provide safe places for difficult  
36 theological and cultural issues to be openly and honestly engaged; and*

37  
38 ***WHEREAS**, three of our Concordia Colleges and Universities have unfortunately closed  
39 their doors in recent years (Selma in 2018, Portland in 2020, and Bronxville in 2021; and*

40  
41 ***WHEREAS**, Our Synod is filled with many generous givers and donors with the means  
42 and/or the desire to lend needed financial support to our Concordia Universities if called  
43 upon to do so; and*

44  
45 ***WHEREAS**, Our God Himself is “able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or  
46 think” (Ephesians 3:20), even though we may not always be immediately able to identify  
47 a viable solution; therefore be it*

48  
49 ***Resolved**, That the Michigan District investigate opportunities for how it can provide  
50 support (prayer, church worker and other student recruitment, financial, etc.) to help*

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ensure the continuation of the residential campus of Concordia University Ann Arbor (CUAA) located within its own District; and be it finally

**Resolved,** That the Michigan District memorialize to the 2023 Synodical Convention the previous Whereases and the following resolves:

**Resolved,** To affirm our commitment, as far as humanly possible, not to allow any more of our remaining Concordia Universities to close their doors before first exploring all possible avenues to assist them to remain open and to continue to fulfill their missions; and be it further

**Resolved,** To instruct synodical leadership to refuse to take any future action(s) with respect to our six remaining Concordia Universities without being fully transparent with the professional church workers and the lay membership of the entire Synod’s congregations, namely, regarding any course of action being considered, prior to any such course of action being carried out, and without first giving the members and member congregations of the Synod every opportunity to respond to such a potential course of action in generosity and/or with creativity; and be it finally

**Resolved,** To be encouraged to further unite behind a renewed commitment to keep the doors of our six remaining Concordia Universities open as long as our gracious God sees fit, to His glory, honor, and praise.

and

**WHEREAS,** This Resolution was addressed by the Synodical President as “canned, it has been going around to a number of districts ... is false, contains material error” (*minutes surrounding 2-05, from the 2022 Michigan District convention proceedings, page 43*); and

**WHEREAS,** This Resolution was subsequently defeated by the Convention. Then, sadly, eighteen months later, the majority of the CUWAA Board of Regents undertook the “reimagining” of Concordia Ann Arbor; therefore be it

**Resolved,** That the Michigan District in convention recognizes that the actions of the majority of the Board of Regents showed the need for the 2022 Resolution 2-05a; and be it finally

**Resolved,** That the Michigan District memorialize to the 2026 Synodical Convention the WHEREAS statements listed in 2022 Resolution 2-05a with the following resolves:

**Resolved,** To instruct Synod in convention to direct synodical leadership, the Concordia University System, and each university’s Board of Regents to be fully transparent with the professional church workers and the lay membership of the entire Synod’s congregations regarding any course of action being considered prior to any such course of action being carried out; and be it further

**Resolved,** To affirm our commitment, as far as humanly possible, not to allow any more of our remaining Concordia Universities to close their doors or significantly reduce operations on a campus before first exploring all possible avenues with members and member congregations of the Synod to assist them to remain open and to continue to fulfill their missions; and be it finally

1            ***Resolved,*** To instruct the administrations of Concordia University System schools to not ask  
2 newly elected Board of Regents members to undertake significant actions (such as we saw  
3 the CUWAA Administration undertake in regards to Concordia Ann Arbor), until the Regents  
4 have been trained as required under Synod Bylaw 3.10.6.2.l(d).

5  
6 Submitted by: Floor Committee #3 – Education  
7                    Rev. Erik K. Cloeter, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-10  
3 SUBJECT: To Respectfully Decline Two Overtures  
4 REFERENCE: 3-06 & 3-10  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District Floor Committee #3 – Education, has considered all overtures  
8 assigned to it and has concluded, for various reasons, that certain overtures should be declined;  
9 therefore be it

10  
11 **Resolved**, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reason(s) given:

12  
13 Overture 3-06 To Seek Historic Site Designation for the Chapel of the Holy Trinity of CUAA  
14

15 Reason: The Education Floor Committee is unable to act on this overture since the  
16 resolved outcome cannot be achieved or influenced through the Michigan  
17 District Convention. To attain protected site status for a historical site in  
18 Michigan, the property must first be assessed for eligibility for inclusion in the  
19 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This involves submitting a  
20 nomination package to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the  
21 State Historic Preservation Review Board for review. If approved, the property is  
22 then formally listed in the NRHP. Local historic districts can be established by  
23 local governments through ordinances; however, this requires a study  
24 committee to assess the area and potentially establish a district.  
25

26 Historical designation does not necessarily prevent a site from demolition.  
27 Listing in the National Register of Historic Places is a recognition of a property's  
28 historical significance, but it does not impose restrictions on what a non-federal  
29 owner can do with their property. Protection from demolition typically requires  
30 local ordinances or preservation easements.  
31

32 The City of Ann Arbor further states that National and State register  
33 designations are purely honorary. They do not protect historic properties from  
34 alteration or demolition. Local historic district designation is the only way to  
35 protect historic properties.  
36

37 This effort and process requires significant resources of time and legal counsel  
38 beyond that of the Michigan District.  
39

40 \*Data supporting this statement can be found online at National Park Service  
41 ([www.nps.gov/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/index.htm)) and City of Ann Arbor ([www.a2gov.org](http://www.a2gov.org))  
42

43 Overture 3-10 Dissolving “Partnerships” with Non-Lutheran Universities  
44

45 Reason: The overture is flawed in that it states that Lutheran students are “given  
46 ‘Lutheran’ mentors, with the intent that those who complete the Kairos Program  
47 will *then* enter the LCMS Specific Ministry Pastor program.” Whereas, in fact,  
48 The Michigan School of Missional Formation (MSM) utilizes **ONLY** our Michigan

1 District, LCMS terminal-degreed faculty who are faithful to the inspired  
2 Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions drawn from them; and the MSM  
3 program of study was found to qualify as a master's degree program on the  
4 Kairos University platform so that deacon students are able to receive a Master  
5 of Arts in Missional Formation in recognition of their achievement. Some  
6 graduates (Credentialed Deacons), because of their congregation's needs, may  
7 enter the seminary training toward ordination via Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP)  
8 or Alternate Route (AR). The affiliation with KAIROS University serves only as an  
9 asynchronous platform for our Michigan School of Missional Formation and an  
10 accrediting agency.

11  
12 Submitted by: Floor Committee #3 – Education  
13 Rev. Erik K. Cloeter, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-01  
3 SUBJECT: To Exhort Members of the LCMS to Earnestly and Regularly  
4 Pray for and Pursue Synodical Unity  
5 REFERENCE: Overture 4-02  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed for the unity of His Church so that the world might believe  
9 He has been sent by the Father (John 17:11, 20-23); and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Jesus stated, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for  
12 one another” (John 13:35); and “In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may  
13 see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16); and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, The Apostle Paul enjoins God’s people to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which  
16 you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in  
17 love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:1-3); and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, Holy Scripture is filled with many other similar prayers for and exhortations to pursue  
20 unity and reconciliation in the Church (Psalm 133:1; Matthew 5:23-25; 7:1-5; 18:15-35; Romans  
21 12; 15:5; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:12; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:4-6;  
22 Philippians 1:27; 2:1-11; Colossians 3:14; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 John 4:20, etc.); and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, The first objective listed in Article III of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s  
25 Constitution is to “Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10), work  
26 through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a  
27 united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;” and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, Unity in the Church is a gift from God (Romans 15:5-6) we should humbly seek from Him  
30 in prayer; and  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, Division and acrimony between Christians severely compromises the witness of the  
33 Church to the world and may directly impede the proclamation of the Gospel and may thereby  
34 threaten the eternal salvation of numerous souls; and  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, Such disunity, where it is not necessary to maintain fidelity to God, the Scriptures, and  
37 the Confessions, but is rather the result of human sin, tarnishes God’s name and thus violates the  
38 Second Commandment; and  
39

40 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS is frequently known even outside of the Synod for its internal conflicts and for  
41 the refusal of pastors, congregations, and circuits to commune together; and  
42

43 **WHEREAS**, Strife and division in the Church for sinful reasons are indications that the Church is  
44 reflecting the ways of the world rather than providing a godly alternative to it; and  
45

46 **WHEREAS**, Satan, who is the father of all lies and a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44),  
47 fervently desires to catechize Christians in the ways of Hell and in demonic discord that so frequently  
48 marks interactions in the world; therefore be it

1 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention strongly urge its members to pray fervently, both in  
2 corporate worship and as individuals, for the unity and health of The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
3 Synod, believing that all things are possible with God (Phil. 4:13); and be it further  
4

5 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention exhort its members to review and renew their commitment  
6 to the Eighth Commandment and to self-restraint in speech and anger (James 1:19); and be it  
7 further  
8

9 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention implore its members be quick to listen (James 1:19) and to  
10 seek out opportunities to listen to and dialogue with those they disagree with, in order that mutual  
11 understanding, fidelity to doctrine, harmony, forgiveness, and reconciliation might be facilitated and  
12 abound among us; and be it further  
13

14 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention encourage its members to employ extraordinary efforts  
15 toward caution, patience, clear communication, and love when navigating issues which have  
16 historically been or have the potential to be a source of division, and that all such issues be  
17 approached with a posture of humility and repentance for any ways in which we have contributed to  
18 disunity in the past; and be it further  
19

20 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention exhort its members to resist the temptation to imitate  
21 secular partisanship by lording it over each other and employing slander, coercion, secrecy, and  
22 power as the default means of addressing disagreements, but rather to seek to be servants of all  
23 (Matthew 20:25–28), to engage in substantive and long-suffering efforts toward reconciliation with  
24 those who have something against us (Matthew 5:23–25) and to display the mind of Christ  
25 (Philippians 2:1–11); and be it further  
26

27 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention memorialize Synod in Convention to all the same ends; and  
28 be it finally  
29

30 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention memorialize Synod in Convention to organize a task force  
31 representative of Synod’s makeup as a whole to study and develop recommendations: 1) to clarify  
32 the distinction between doctrine and adiaphora (matters of indifference neither commanded nor  
33 forbidden by God) in matters which are currently the source of conflict; 2) to avoid imitating patterns  
34 of secular politics and partisan ways of relating to each other within the Church; and 3) to address  
35 and resolve divisions of altar fellowship within the Synod where and if any such divisions are not a  
36 matter of conscience borne out of doctrinal necessity, but instead stem from differences of opinion  
37 or preference.  
38

39 Submitted by: Floor Committee #4 – Mission  
40 Rev. Craig Bickel, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-02  
3 SUBJECT: To Encourage District Congregations to Conduct Personal  
4 Witness Training  
5 REFERENCE: Overture 4-05  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Christians as God’s people are to “proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of  
9 darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9) and maintain constant preparation “to make a  
10 defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15); and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, As Martin Luther observed, it might seem “best for God to take away our breath and let  
13 us die as soon as we are baptized and have begun to believe. But He lets us live here in order that  
14 we may lead other people to believe, doing for them what He has done for us” (*What Luther Says*,  
15 [CPH, 1959] number 3021; WA 12:267); and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, Christians know and interact with many non-Christians and unchurched people through  
18 their vocations and daily lives (e.g., family, coworkers, classmates), people who will not hear the  
19 Gospel or learn of Jesus Christ unless someone tells them; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, In this sinful world, Christians often fear to speak of Christ with others; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, Such fear can be addressed through teaching and learning not only the biblical message  
24 of the Gospel but also particular ways to converse about matters of faith; and  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, Without intentional effort, our congregations can become places where we can talk about  
27 Jesus Christ, but our homes and places of work may become places where our faith is concealed;  
28 and  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, The Synod in its Resolution 1-01A (2023) urged Districts “to encourage and assist  
31 congregations as they train their members to tell the Good News about Jesus;” therefore be it  
32

33 **Resolved**, That the District encourage its pastors, other church workers, and lay leaders to teach  
34 people to engage in witness, providing frequent instruction and encouragement; and be it further  
35

36 **Resolved**, That the District encourage congregations to make use of the many teaching resources for  
37 personal witness, including the *Spiritual Conversations* (and other) series from Lutheran Hour  
38 Ministries, *Every One His Witness* from the Synod, *Joining Jesus on His Mission*, and many others,  
39 and instruct the Regional District Facilitators to assist congregations in finding appropriate training  
40 materials and instructors.  
41

42 Submitted by: Floor Committee #4 – Mission  
43 Rev. Craig Bickel, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-03  
3 SUBJECT: To Commend the Deacon and Ministry Assistant Training  
4 Through the Michigan School of Missional Formation and to  
5 Encourage Greater Enrollment  
6 REFERENCE: Overture 3-15  
7  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, already in 1989, recognized the need for  
10 intentional lay training programs in the synodical Districts to equip men as deacons (Resolution 3-  
11 05B), and again in its 2016 national convention the Synod encouraged districts to continue such lay  
12 training programs even as this resolution was framed to regularize the service of Licensed Lay  
13 Deacons (Resolution 13-02A); and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, The practice of appointing deacons has served to expand the effectiveness of the  
16 ordained pastoral ministry since the earliest days of the Church, as recognized by Dr. Samuel  
17 Nafzger in his address to the 1989 delegates, “The adoption of Resolution 3-05(B) does not initiate  
18 a single new practice in the doctrine of the ministry of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It will,  
19 however, initiate proper supervision of those practices we have long recognized as being consistent  
20 with our understanding of the doctrine of the ministry” (1989 Convention Proceedings, pg. 114); and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District has been a leader in such training programs, and has been training  
23 deacons for assistance to the pastoral ministry since 1989 and has continued to expand and  
24 improve the quality and effectiveness of the training through the ongoing work of the Commission on  
25 Deacon Qualifications; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, Michigan District deacons serve only under a supervising LCMS pastor as assistants to  
28 his ministry, and in the case of a congregation where a credentialed deacon may need to be  
29 temporarily “licensed” for Word and Sacrament ministry because the District is unable to provide a  
30 pastor. When “emergency knows no rule” (see Res. 13-02A, 2016, p. 237) then that deacon is  
31 enrolled in the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) or the Alternate Route (AR) to ordination. In the last  
32 triennium, three credentialed deacons or deacon candidates have enrolled in studies at one of our  
33 LCMS seminaries toward ordination through SMP and two through AR; and  
34

35 **WHEREAS**, The servant leadership of well-trained and credentialed deacons has blessed many  
36 Michigan District congregations and their pastors; and  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District Commission on Deacon Qualification (CDQ) has worked diligently to  
39 honor the requirements of both Resolution 3-05(B) 1989 and Resolution 13-02(A) 2016, and has  
40 successfully developed a way (both the non-degreed “Classic-Plus” and the MA degree on the  
41 KAIROS University asynchronous platform) to effectively train lay students in the Scriptures,  
42 Lutheran doctrine, Church history, and ministry disciplines of Christian caregiving, Christian outreach,  
43 teaching the faith, Lutheran worship, basic biblical interpretation, and leadership; and  
44

45 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan School of Missional Formation utilizes ONLY our Michigan District, LCMS  
46 terminal-degreed faculty who are faithful to the inspired Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions  
47 drawn from them; and the MSM program of study was found to qualify as a master’s degree program  
48 on the Kairos University platform so that deacon students are able to receive a Master of Arts in  
49 Missional Formation in recognition of their achievement; therefore be it

1 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District in Convention thank God for the ongoing work of the  
2 Commission on Deacon Qualification and the faculty of the Michigan School of Missional Formation;  
3 and be it further  
4  
5 **Resolved,** That the training provided through the Michigan School of Missional Formation be  
6 commended to the congregations of the District and each congregation be encouraged to prayerfully  
7 identify one or more men from among their membership to be raised up and trained as credentialed  
8 deacons and one or more women from among their membership be raised up and trained as  
9 ministry assistants through said school; and be it further  
10  
11 **Resolved,** That the ongoing services of well-trained credentialed deacons and ministry assistants,  
12 under the supervision of ordained pastors, continue to be encouraged and celebrated in the  
13 Michigan District; and be it further  
14  
15 **Resolved,** That with respect to Synod Resolution 13-02A (2016), the Council of Presidents continue  
16 to support the district training of credentialed deacons and, in times of emergency where needed,  
17 license them for Word and Sacrament ministry, and by facilitating their entry into the SMP or AR  
18 programs toward ordination, as recommended by the immediate District President who is best  
19 situated to recognize the need in a particular ministry.  
20  
21 Submitted by: Floor Committee #4 - Mission  
22 Rev. Craig Bickel, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-04  
3 SUBJECT: A Triennial Mission and Ministry Emphasis on the Clear  
4 Proclamation of the Gospel, Unity in Christ, and Multicultural  
5 Ministry  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, “the District convention shall, through the delegate vote, forward to the national  
9 convention a list of two or three triennial mission and ministry emphases for consideration by the  
10 national convention” (Bylaw 4.2.1(d)); and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, The *Apology of the Augsburg Confession* Article IV, on Justification, confesses the central  
13 teaching of the Gospel, namely, that we are justified by grace through faith in Christ alone; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Romans 1:16 proclaims, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of  
16 God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile”; and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Part II, Article I of the *Smalcald Articles* states, “The first and chief article is this: That  
19 Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins and was raised again for our justification” (Romans  
20 4:25); and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, The temptation of the flesh and the work of the enemy continually seek to distort, add to,  
23 or replace the Gospel with a false alternative; and we confess that we in the LCMS are not exempt  
24 from this temptation; and  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, Ephesians 4:15-16 reminds us, “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to  
27 become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole  
28 body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as  
29 each part does its work;” and  
30

31 **WHEREAS**, We should celebrate the unity we have in Christ; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, Jesus commands His people, “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love  
34 one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John  
35 13:34,35); and  
36

37 **WHEREAS**, The Church is beautifully diverse in language, ethnicity, and life experiences; and  
38

39 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District witnessed and celebrated this diversity at our first “All Nations”  
40 gathering in the spring of this year; and  
41

42 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS has historically emphasized taking the Gospel to all nations and continues to  
43 support Gospel ministry and theological education around the world; and  
44

45 **WHEREAS**, We proclaim the clear and compelling Gospel for all people, without distinction; and  
46

47 **WHEREAS**, There is a great need for a clear and unified ministry emphasis for the upcoming  
48 triennium; therefore be it  
49

50 **Resolved**, That the LCMS return boldly and faithfully to its roots of proclaiming the Gospel clearly,  
51 confidently, and joyfully in all its purity, without confusing it with any works of men; and be it further

1 **Resolved,** That we in the LCMS actively work to celebrate our unity in Christ within our fellowship—  
2 which expresses itself in sacrificial love, in bearing with one another, and in seeking the good of the  
3 whole body of Christ; such love being evident in circuit forums, circuit meetings, Harvest Network  
4 gatherings, and other places where we walk together; and be it further

5  
6 **Resolved,** That the LCMS emphasize, throughout the next triennium, multi-cultural ministry within the  
7 United States; that we celebrate and support local congregations engaged in “all nations” ministry  
8 among us; and that we increase support for the St. Louis Seminary’s Ethnic Immigrant Institute of  
9 Theology, the Spanish Institute, District lay deacon training programs for ethnic ministries, and for  
10 the equipping of evangelists (all of us) for the clear proclamation of the Gospel in our communities;  
11 and be it finally

12  
13 **Resolved,** That this triennial mission and ministry emphasis be submitted to the national convention  
14 of the LCMS, urging the Synod to focus its work on 1) the clear proclamation of the Gospel, 2)  
15 walking together in love and trust, and 3) supporting ethnic and multicultural ministry within our own  
16 borders.

17  
18 Submitted by: Floor Committee #4 – Mission  
19 Rev. Craig Bickel, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-05  
3 SUBJECT: To Encourage Prayer, Partnership, and Participation in  
4 International Mission  
5 REFERENCE: Overtures 4-01 and 4-04  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District is committed to the four outcomes—Great Commission, Great  
9 Compassion, Healthy Congregations, and Healthy Church Workers—which begin with Christ’s call to  
10 make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19); and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Michigan District congregations have demonstrated faithful generosity through efforts  
13 like the *Here We Stand* campaign, which provided over \$1.25 million to missionary endeavors,  
14 showing the value of reliable and ongoing support for flourishing mission efforts; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Scripture exhorts believers to “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out  
17 laborers into his harvest” (Matt. 9:38) and to be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond  
18 of peace” (Eph. 4:3); and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District partners with Lutheran church ministries around the world, such as  
21 with Lutheran Church of Uganda through Women of the Pearl, MOST Ministries, LAMP, and the LCMS  
22 mission in Puerto Rico through the *Foro* model (<https://international.lcms.org/events-foros/>);  
23 therefore be it  
24

25 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention commend our Gospel partnership with the  
26 Lutheran churches in the world to all congregations as a worthy focus for prayer and thanksgiving in  
27 corporate worship; and be it further  
28

29 **Resolved**, That the District encourage congregations to commit to praying regularly for the Lord to  
30 raise up pastors and to prosper the ministry of the Lutheran churches in the world, and to consider  
31 supporting their works through their time, talents, and treasures as the Spirit moves them; and be it  
32 further  
33

34 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District adopt the synodically commended practice of participation in  
35 forums, such as the Latin American *Foro*, committing to regular support, including a financial  
36 commitment and the appointment of a District representative (the President or his designee) to  
37 attend their gatherings; and be it further  
38

39 **Resolved**, That the District consider how the *Foro* model could be employed to strengthen additional  
40 mission partnerships around the world; and be it further  
41

42 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District Board of Directors evaluate the need for the next capital  
43 campaign to fund international ministries that the District sees as important; and be it further  
44

45 **Resolved**, That the District encourage congregations to prayerfully explore the *Foro* model as a  
46 framework for deepening their connection to the global mission of the Church through financial  
47 support and personal involvement; and be it finally  
48

49 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District memorialize the LCMS in convention to likewise support the  
50 Lutheran churches in the world and commend *Foro*-based mission partnerships across the Synod.  
51

52 Submitted by: Floor Committee #4 – Mission  
53 Rev. Craig Bickel, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-06  
3 SUBJECT: To Direct Concordia Publishing House to Prioritize Mission and  
4 Distribution  
5 REFERENCE: Overture 4-03  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Concordia Publishing House was established in 1869 to serve the congregations of the  
9 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by publishing materials that are useful to the church and faithful to  
10 the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, The Mission Statement of Concordia Publishing House further states that it “will develop,  
13 produce, market, and distribute products and services that are faithful to the Scriptures and the  
14 Lutheran Confessions and which will effectively serve such proclamation to people throughout the  
15 world. All to the Glory of God;” and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, The Vision Statement of Concordia Publishing House states that they will “strive to be the  
18 premier publisher and provider of choice for products and services that are faithful to the Scriptures  
19 and the Lutheran Confessions,” but does not envision a role in the Great Commission purpose of the  
20 Church (Matthew 28:16-20); and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, Concordia Publishing House is well known for producing high quality and durable  
23 materials that serve well in North American congregations that can afford them, and may also be too  
24 expensive for our mission partners in other nations; and  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, Concordia Publishing House generously offers discounts to our Synod missionaries for  
27 their personal books, but does not offer such assistance for bulk distribution of helpful teaching  
28 materials that can be used to extend the Kingdom of God in the world; and  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, Northwestern Publishing House provides us with a praiseworthy example of support for  
31 the mission of the Church by providing publications to Wisconsin Synod missionaries for free or for a  
32 steep discount (see [nph.net/multi-language-productions](http://nph.net/multi-language-productions) for an example); and  
33

34 **WHEREAS**, The protection of copyrights has discouraged our missionaries from translating useful  
35 materials into the languages of their mission field by making them prohibitively expensive, and has  
36 hampered our missionaries in their task of reaching the lost with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ;  
37 and  
38

39 **WHEREAS**, Even our confessional documents and catechisms are protected by copyright from wide  
40 distribution in the mission field (ex: CPH sells the Book of Concord in Spanish for \$28.99); therefore  
41 be it  
42

43 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District memorialize to the 2026 Synodical Convention the previous  
44 Whereases and the following resolves:  
45

46 **Resolved**, That we give thanks to God for Concordia Publishing House and its faithfulness to  
47 the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions in providing material to churches and church  
48 workers for 156 years; and be it further  
49

50 **Resolved**, That Concordia Publishing House, in addition to its mission to provide products  
51 that are faithful to the Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, be directed to prioritize the

1 Great Commission and seek every way to provide free or low-cost materials for use by Synod  
2 missionaries in their congregations and communities; and be it further  
3

4 ***Resolved,*** That Concordia Publishing House be directed to work in cooperation with Synod  
5 missionaries in the field to identify and remove obstacles to providing affordable resources to  
6 the work of missions, including possible alternatives to the current copyright agreements;  
7 and be it finally  
8

9 ***Resolved,*** That the laborers and congregations of the Synod give thanks to God for the  
10 faithful authors, hymnwriters, and others who often work in obscurity to provide useful  
11 teaching material to the Church, and pray God to bless the wide distribution of their labors to  
12 the glory of God and the coming of His Kingdom.  
13

14 Submitted by: Floor Committee #4 - Mission  
15 Rev. Craig Bickel, Chairman

## OMNIBUS RESOLUTIONS

### OMNIBUS RESOLUTION A

**WHEREAS**, Many overtures request action that is the responsibility of various boards, commissions, or individuals to study and to implement; therefore be it

**Resolved**, That that the following overtures be referred to the designated board, commission, task force, or individual:

<i>Overture</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Board, Commission, Task Force, Individual</i>
3-11	Seminary Preparation	The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Pastoral Formation Committee

## OMNIBUS RESOLUTIONS

### OMNIBUS RESOLUTION B

**WHEREAS**, A number of issues have been presented through overtures to which the Michigan District and/or Synod, in convention, has previously spoken; and

**WHEREAS**, After careful consideration of these matters, there appears to be insufficient rationale to change or alter the stated position of the Michigan District; therefore be it

**Resolved**, That petitioners offering the following overtures be referred to previous convention action as indicated.

<i>Overture</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Board, Office, Individual, Commission</i>
2-09	To Condemn Abortion In the State of Michigan	1971 Synod Convention Resolution 2-39 1979 Synod Convention Res.3-02A 2016 Synod Convention Res. 3-04 2019 Synod Convention Res. 11-01A 2022 Michigan District Convention Resolution 1-17
2-10	Closed Communion	1998 Synod Convention Res. 3-28 2016 Synod Convention Res. 5-15 2018 Michigan District Convention Resolution 1-06