

CONVENTION MINUTES

June 19, 2018

Gathering at Concordia University—Ann Arbor, Michigan, the English District met in convention for the fifty-sixth time. “Love Your Neighbor as Yourself,” a statement drawn from Jesus’ teaching recorded in Matthew 22:39, served as the convention theme.

Prior to the convention opening, floor committees held open hearings on Tuesday, June 19. An orientation for delegates was provided by District Officers and Staff. Both activities took place in Krieger Hall.

FIRST SESSION: TUESDAY AFTERNOON – JUNE 19, 2018

Delegates and guests assembled in the gymnasium of Concordia University—Ann Arbor, Michigan. At 2:00pm, Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, President of the English District, called the Convention to order. President Hardy conducted the Rite of Opening a Convention of a District.

President Hardy presented his report of the 2015–2018 triennium to the Convention. He stated that the condition of the District is good. He thanked the District for supporting his ministry emphasis theme of “Love Your Neighbor.” He highlighted the 22% increase in the District Endowment Fund during the triennium. This helped lead to \$30,000 given to debt relief for professional church workers. Further mission and human care efforts have also been supported because of this increase. Two staff members were added during the triennium: Kevin Klein for church relations, deployed in Washington, DC and Ron Grimm as Gift Planner in cooperation with LCEF.

Rev. Dr. Patrick Ferry, President of Concordia University Wisconsin, greeted the delegates, welcoming them to the Ann Arbor campus. He thanked the District for its participation with Concordia University and past support of Synod higher education institutions, including his alma mater: St. John College – Winfield, KS. A short publicity video “Live Uncommon” produced by the university was shown to delegates. President Ferry noted several challenges facing higher educational institutions in the 21st Century, particularly those which are dedicated to a Christian identity and worldview. One challenge includes the declining enrollment by professional church work students. He highlighted the “Luther Promise,” a special tuition grant assistance initiative for Lutheran students.

Rev. R. Wayne Morton, Chairman of the English District Board of Directors, presented the Board of Directors report for the 2015–2018 triennium. He directed delegates to read the written report that the Board provided in the *Convention Workbook*. Following this, a verbal report was provided. The report spoke of makeup of the Board, the basic duties of the Board, and where the Board had held its meetings during the triennium. Chairman Morton also outlined how the Board fulfilled its 2015–2018 End Statements.

President Hardy directed delegates to the Convention Banner designed by Rebecca Kaiser and made by Carol Leu.

At 2:44pm, Rev. Luke Zimmerman, Secretary of the English District, provided the initial credentials report of the Convention. The credentials report at the opening of the convention at 2:00pm on June 19, 2018 was as follows:

Voting Pastoral Delegates	93
<u>Voting Lay Delegates</u>	<u>87</u>
Total Voting Delegates	180
<i>Total Advisory Delegates</i>	<i>21</i>
Youth Representatives	10
Board Members	1
District Support Staff	6
<u>Visitors/Guests</u>	<u>53</u>
Total in Attendance	271

At 2:47pm, President Hardy summoned Rev. Robert Tauscher, Chairman of the Elections Committee, and Secretary Zimmerman to the dais. Secretary Zimmerman explained how candidates for District President were nominated. He then announced the slate of candidates:

Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy
Rev. Robert Rogers

Rev. Tauscher informed delegates of the election procedures, including how to operate the electronic voting devices. With delegates aware of how voting was to take place, the Convention moved to the election of the District President.

The results of the ballot were posted:

Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy	156
Rev. Robert Rogers	25

Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy was elected to a second term as District President. He invited his wife Wendy to the dais, where photos of them were taken.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for District Vice-President (Eastern Region):
Rev. Ben Eder

The results of the ballot for District Vice-President (Eastern Region):

Rev. Ben Eder	168
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Rev. Ben Eder was elected to a second term as District Vice-President (Eastern Region).

The convention proceeded with balloting for District Vice-President (Lake Erie Region). The results of the first and only ballot were posted:

Rev. Ryan Beffrey	30
Rev. Daniel Grams	54
Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	91

Rev. Jeffrey Miskus was elected to a first term as District Vice-President (Lake Erie Region).

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for District Vice President (Midwestern Region):

Rev. James Huenink
Rev. Robert Rogers

The convention proceeded with balloting for District Vice-President (Midwestern Region). The results of the ballot were posted:

Rev. James Huenink	47
Rev. Robert Rogers	125

Rev. Robert Rogers was elected to a third term as District Vice-President (Midwestern Region).

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for District Vice-President (Western Region):

Rev. Todd Arnold

The convention proceeded with balloting for District Vice-President (Western Region). The results of the ballot were posted:

Rev. Todd Arnold	170
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Rev. Todd Arnold was elected to a second term as District Vice-President (Western Region).

While Convention staff reset the voting apparatus to rank the Vice-Presidents, President Hardy invited Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis, President of the SELC District, to the dais. President Vinovskis greeted delegates, speaking of some of his ties with English District congregations during the past. He also mentioned the opportunities that both the English District and the SELC District as districts without borders and districts in mission have in common.

The convention proceeded to rank the Vice-Presidents. The slate of newly elected Vice-Presidents was presented and delegates were instructed to vote for who should serve as First Vice-President of the English District. The results of the first ballot were posted:

Rev. Todd Arnold	20
Rev. Ben Eder	54
Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	55
Rev. Robert Rogers	53

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Rev. Arnold's name was removed. A second ballot was held. The results of the second ballot were posted:

Rev. Ben Eder	60
Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	64
Rev. Robert Rogers	56

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Rev. Rogers' name was removed. A third ballot was held. The results of the third ballot were posted:

Rev. Ben Eder	87
Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	92

Rev. Jeffrey Miskus was ranked as First Vice-President of the English District.

The convention was presented the slate of candidates for Second Vice-President of the English District. The first and only ballot was held. The results were posted:

Rev. Todd Arnold	26
Rev. Ben Eder	95
Rev. Robert Rogers	62

Rev. Ben Eder was ranked as Second Vice-President of the English District.

The convention was presented with the slate of candidates for Third Vice-President of the English District. The ballot was held. The results were posted:

Rev. Todd Arnold	63
Rev. Robert Rogers	115

Rev. Robert Rogers was ranked as Third Vice-President of the English District. Rev. Todd Arnold was ranked as Fourth Vice-President of the English District.

President Hardy thanked Rev. Tauscher and the Convention Staff for completing the election and ranking of District Vice-Presidents.

At 3:25pm, Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, greeted the delegates. He spoke of the opportunities that both the District and the Seminary have to serve the world. He shared part of the historical background of the seminary and how it met challenges in the new world. President Rast spoke to the challenge being raised by the decline of Master of Divinity student enrollment levels at both seminaries of the Synod. He stated that the Synod and its seminaries are facing challenges that they have not faced before, but these can be opportunities for service. He also reminded delegates that both seminaries of the Synod are considered either very large (Concordia – St. Louis) or large (Concordia Theological Seminary – Fort Wayne) by The Association of Theological Schools. Both are healthy institutions. Both will be able to offer full tuition assistance to incoming students. This is due to the support given by the Synod's congregations and their congregational members, which will be necessary to

continue such efforts. He thanked the District congregations for their participation in Christ's mission in the world.

Following President Rast's presentation, President Hardy summoned the newly-elected Vice-Presidents of the District to the dais for pictures to be taken of them.

At 3:50pm, President Hardy invited Rev. Dr. Darrell Zimmerman, Program Director of Grace Place Wellness Ministries, to speak about the Recognized Service Organization's work for church worker wellness within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Rev. Zimmerman noted the origins of Grace Place in Dr. John Eckrich's work among Lutheran pastors in the St. Louis area to teach them healthy lifestyles; the first wellness retreat was offered in 2000. Two major emphases of Grace Place are teaching church worker self-care and congregations to care for their church workers. Several presentation videos about Grace Place's work were shown to the delegates.

At 4:20pm, President Hardy introduced Rev. Larry Vogel, Associate Executive Director of Commission on Theology and Church Relations. Rev. Vogel led the Convention's theological convocation, entitled "Eat, Pray, Love" that spoke to the Convention's theme "Love your neighbor as yourself." Each of these verbs in the title of Elizabeth Gilbert's memoirs was treated by Rev. Vogel. We eat from love—and we do so in faith; eating is tied to the nourishment that the LORD provides for His people for their salvation. To pray is an expression of our hope; we hope because we are loved by the LORD, most especially seen in the person and selfless work of Christ for our salvation, and we are confident about that divine love being shown to us. To love is to live in Him who has loved us fallen humans; that love shown by Christians acknowledges and meets the need of the neighbor, other fellow fallen humans.

Following the conclusion of Rev. Vogel's presentation and various announcements given to the delegates, President Hardy declared the Convention to be in recess until 8:00am on Wednesday, June 20.

During the evening, delegates and guests enjoyed a banquet held in the Manor Tent on campus, beginning at 5:30pm.

After the banquet, the Convention Divine Service took place in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, gave the sermon. First Trinity Lutheran Church – Pittsburgh, PA, sponsored the Divine Service. The offering collected at the Divine Service was designated to be given to Concordia Lutheran Mission – Myerstown, PA.

Submitted,

Rev. Luke T. Zimmerman
Secretary, English District – LCMS

1 **RESOLUTION 1-03A**

2 **To Encourage Every Sunday Communion**

3
4 *Whereas*, the Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated every Lord's day during the first
5 centuries of Christendom; and

6
7 *Whereas*, the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day was a reality cherished
8 by Dr. Martin Luther and set forth clearly with high esteem in the Confessional writings of the
9 Evangelical Lutheran Church (Article XXIV of the Augsburg Confession and Article XXIV 1 of
10 the Apology of the Augsburg Confession); and

11
12 *Whereas*, our Synod's 1983 CTCR document on the Lord's Supper (p.28) and our Synod's 1986
13 [1991] translation of Luther's *Small Catechism* both remind us that the Scriptures place the
14 Lord's Supper at the center of worship (Acts 2:42, "And they devoted themselves to the apostles'
15 teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 20:7, "On the first day
16 of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to
17 depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight." 1 Corinthians 11:20 "When
18 you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper that you eat." 1 Corinthians 11:23 "For I received
19 from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed
20 took bread . . ."), and not as an appendage or an occasional extra, and that the new 2017
21 edition of Luther's *Small Catechism and Explanation* also notes the importance of receiving the
22 Sacrament and its centrality in worship (pp. 329 [358], 344-345 (374, E); and,

23
24 *Whereas* the English District-LCMS in Convention passed Resolution 91-6-02, "To Urge Weekly
25 Communion" (adopted 6/8/91), which then went as an Overture to the 1995 Convention of The
26 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and was adopted (Resolution 2-08A), encouraging an every
27 Sunday celebration of the Holy Supper of our Lord's Body and Blood; therefore be it

28
29 *Resolved*, that the English District-LCMS commend our congregations and pastors who have
30 instituted weekly Communion in accordance with LCMS Resolution 91-6-02, and continue to
31 encourage them in this common practice, and be it finally

32
33 *Resolved*, that this resolution be sent to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's 2019
34 Convention, encouraging its pastors and congregations to study the scriptural, confessional,
35 and historical witness to every Sunday Communion with a view toward recovering the
36 opportunity for receiving the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day.

1 **RESOLUTION 1-04A**

2
3 **To Encourage Pastors and Laity to Discuss Religion and Politics**

4
5 *Whereas*, Holy Scripture, the Church Fathers, and the writings of Dr. Martin Luther affirm that
6 Christians, as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, are citizens of two Kingdoms — the Kingdom
7 of the Right, Christ's Kingdom of grace, His Church on earth, and the Kingdom of the Left,
8 earthly governments; and

9
10 *Whereas*, St. Augustine, in "City of God" (Book XIX, 21) states, "a republic cannot be
11 administered without justice. Where, therefore, there is no true justice there can be no right.
12 For that which is done by right is justly done, and what is unjustly done cannot be done by
13 right. For the unjust inventions of men are neither to be considered nor spoken of as rights.
14 Thus, where there is not true justice there can be no assemblage of men associated by a
15 common acknowledgment of right, and therefore there can be no people; and if there is no
16 right where there is no justice, then most certainly it follows that there is no republic where
17 there is no justice."; and

18
19 *Whereas*, the Church is encouraged to engage in the public square, that is, to actively intercede
20 in prayer for the Kingdom of the Left (1 Timothy 2:1-4), being mindful of her work toward
21 promoting governance that is in conformity with the will of God as revealed in His Scriptures,
22 including justice, and that in the present governments of the United States and Canada such
23 promotion takes the form of elections, lobbying, and the like; and that Christians are free to
24 work within the present governments of the United States and Canada to establish and
25 maintain a public context that provides for the Church to exist peacefully so that the field
26 remains favorable for the Gospel to be given freely; and

27
28 *Whereas*, many Christians may be reluctant to discuss religion and politics, two realms which
29 undergird the vitality and sustainability of The United States of America and Canada; and

30
31 *Whereas*, many well-known statesmen and other observers have underscored the critical role
32 of religion and morality in general, and Christianity in particular, in the preservation of our
33 freedoms and governance; therefore be it

34
35 *Resolved*, that the English District, without binding consciences to positions not determined by
36 Holy Scripture, encourage its Pastors and congregations to freely and openly discuss and
37 teach at all times possible within their vocations, the necessity of maintaining the Christian
38 religion and its accompanying morality within the United States and Canada, such that we may
39 live a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way, and liberty and justice may
40 continue for the sake of all citizens of the United States and Canada, and ultimately, for the
41 sake of all people.

1 **RESOLUTION 1-07A**

2
3 **To Oppose Binding Christian Consciences to Political Positions**
4 **Not Clearly Mandated by Scripture**
5

6 *Whereas* The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) is currently involved in the Lutheran
7 Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) through denominational support of LIRS and the
8 presence of LCMS members on its Board of Directors,¹ and
9

10 *Whereas* the LIRS has advocated political positions on questions not determined by the Holy
11 Scriptures, and are therefore appropriately subject to debate, and on which Christians may
12 disagree, such as

- 13 1. Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA)² and
- 14 2. the number of refugees entering the United States of America³

15
16 thereby binding the consciences of LCMS Christians who disagree with LIRS' positions and are
17 not necessarily "heartsick"⁴ at every political change, but may well support the change,
18 therefore, be it
19

20 *Resolved* that the English District in convention memorialize the 2019 convention of the LCMS
21 to:

- 22 1. Censure LIRS for binding Christian consciences to political opinions not clearly found
23 in Scripture,
- 24 2. Encourage its pastors and congregations to withdraw any support from the LIRS until
25 such time as its political partisanship comes to an end, and be it finally
26

27 *Resolved* that the English District in its 2021 convention do the same.
28

29 **Notes**

30 ¹ lirs.org/our-work/church-partners/, where it says, "Lutheran Immigration and Refugee
31 Services celebrates strong collaborative relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in
32 America (ELCA), the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod LC-MS, and the Latvian Evangelical
33 Lutheran Church in America (LELCA)...Each (denomination) contributes financially to the
34 mission and is represented on our board of directors."

35 ² "STATEMENT - LIRS Denounces Trump Administration's Decision to End DACA
36 Program," (9/5/2017), [lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/statement-lirs-denounces-trump-](http://lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/statement-lirs-denounces-trump-administration-decision-to-end-daca/)
37 [administration- decision-to-end-daca/](http://lirs.org/our-work/people-we-serve/children/advocating-for-children/) and [lirs.org/our-work/people-we-serve](http://lirs.org/our-work/people-we-serve/children/advocating-for-children/)
38 [/children/advocating-for-children/](http://lirs.org/our-work/people-we-serve/children/advocating-for-children/)

39 ³ lirs.org/refugee-resettlement, where many particular positions on legislation and
40 political issues are listed at length.

41 ⁴ "'Churches and communities, employers and mayors, are heartsick at the
42 Administration's callous and tragic decision to deny welcome to refugees most in need,' said
43 Linda Hartke, LIRS President and CEO," "STATEMENT-LIRS Responds to Historic Low Refugee

1 Admissions Ceiling," (9/27/2017), lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/statement-lirs-responds-
2 to-historic-low-refugee-admissions-ceiling/
3
4

5 **RESOLUTION 2-01A**
6

7 **To Support International Missionaries Who Are Members of the English District**
8

9 WHEREAS, the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20 has been and will until the Last Day
10 remain the heart of the Church's mission, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations;
11 and
12

13 WHEREAS, one of the reasons congregations banded together to form a synodical union is for
14 the sending of missionaries; and
15

16 WHEREAS, the number of missionaries in the LCMS has increased in recent years; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the LCMS employs the Network Supported Model for the funding of missionaries,
19 which requires LCMS missionaries to essentially raise their own salary and funding by visiting
20 congregations and asking for money in order to enter and remain on the mission field; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the English District is blessed to count several career missionaries among its
23 individual members [including Rev. Ted Krey, Rev. Dale Kaster, Rev. Charles Ferry and others];
24 and
25

26 WHEREAS, many congregations of the English District are providing support for international
27 missionaries; and
28

29 WHEREAS, at present the English District does not provide direct support for any international
30 missionaries who are members of the English District; and
31

32 WHEREAS, the English District budget includes a line item for Missions; therefore be it
33

34 *Resolved*, that the English District give thanks to God for the increase of international
35 missionaries; and be it further
36

37 *Resolved*, that the English District celebrate the faithful service of missionaries who are
38 members of the English District by encouraging congregations to support them financially;
39 and be it finally
40

41 *Resolved*, that the English District memorialize the 2019 LCMS Convention to making the
42 funding of international missionaries a key priority for the next triennium.

1 **RESOLUTION 3-03A**

2
3 **To Amend the District Bylaws**

4
5 WHEREAS, The English District Board of Directors has conducted a thorough review of the
6 Bylaws of the District during this past triennium, identifying where revisions would be helpful
7 for the administration of the District; and

8
9 WHEREAS, The LCMS Committee on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has identified required
10 revisions to be made to the Bylaws of the District so that they are in compliance with the
11 Synod Handbook; and

12
13 WHEREAS, The LCMS CCM has suggested revisions to the Bylaws of the District; and

14
15 WHEREAS, The English District Board of Directors has drafted proposed revisions to the
16 Bylaws of the District and submitted them for review by the LCMS CCM; and

17
18 WHEREAS, The LCMS CCM has approved these changes (cf. CCM Opinion 17-2833); therefore
19 be it

20
21 Resolved, that the District in Convention revise the Bylaws of the District as follows:

22
23
24 **PREAMBLE**

25
26 In 1872 an initial conference of English-speaking Lutherans was held in Gravelton, Missouri. In
27 1888 the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri was organized and in 1911 was invited
28 to join the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States as the English
29 Mission District. An agreement dated May 15, 1911, in Saint Louis, Missouri (*Delegatensynod*
30 *von Missouri, Ohio u.a. St.*, 1911, pp. pages 31-35) made the English District official. Because of
31 this origin the English District is unique among the districts of the Synod (Denver Convention
32 *Proceedings*, 1969, Resolution 5-15).

33
34 Since the English District is a district of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, the Constitution
35 of the Synod ~~as given in the Handbook~~ is also the Constitution of the District. Also, the Bylaws of
36 the Synod are primarily the Bylaws of the District. The District’s objectives are as ~~stated~~ noted in
37 Article III of the Synod’s Constitution: ~~(see 2010 Handbook), Article III Objectives:~~

38
39 The Synod, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, shall—

- 40
41 1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3–6; 1 Cor. 1:10), work through
42 its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a
43 united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;
- 44 2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to
45 the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness
into all the world;

- 1 3. Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide
2 opportunity for their continuing growth;
- 3 4. Provide opportunities through which its members may express their Christian concern,
4 love, and compassion in meeting human needs;
- 5 5. Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and
6 to establish agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools and
7 to support synodical colleges, universities, and seminaries;
- 8 6. Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing,
9 promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;
- 10 7. Encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an
11 appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with
12 our common profession of faith;
- 13 8. Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers, and other
14 professional church workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties;
- 15 9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the
16 performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights;
- 17 10. Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their
18 families in the event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death.

19
20 Thus in the light of the Synod’s objectives, the mission of the English District is to seize every
21 opportunity to serve the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, the whole Church in the whole world,
22 and the whole person in the whole society, and in fulfillment of this mission, it shall seek to utilize
23 its unique character to:

- 24 1. Assist congregations of the District in their ministries to their own communities with their
25 own characteristics and needs;
- 26 2. Serve as a progressive element in the church body, both in applying the Gospel to new and
27 changing situations and in demonstrating concern about community problems and
28 ecumenical opportunities;
- 29 3. Begin new churches and support new ministries with particular emphasis on openness to
30 new challenges;
- 31 4. Assist in the revitalization of existing congregations and ministries;
- 32 5. Assist ministries in communities that are changing;
- 33 6. Focus on special, ethnic, urban and campus ministries;
- 34 7. Support mission initiatives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
- 35 8. Support life-long educational ministries within the District; and
- 36 9. Provide opportunities and avenues for congregations and their members to live out their
37 love for God through the Christian stewardship of their time, talents and treasures.

38
39
40 **ARTICLE I**
41 **CONGREGATIONS OF THE DISTRICT**
42

- 43 A. The congregations of the District shall exercise their authority through delegate
44 convention, which shall consist of all duly certified delegates from member congregations.

45

- 1 B. The District shall exercise its authority in harmony with the goals and directives of the
2 Synod and under the guidance of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.
3
4 C. The District shall delegate its authority as hereinafter prescribed. The exercise of such
5 delegated authority shall always be subject to review by the District.
6
7

8 **ARTICLE II**
9 **ADMINISTRATION**

- 10
11 A. The District shall establish an organizational structure for the effective operation of its
12 programs and conduct of its affairs which shall include the District Convention (*referenced*
13 *throughout as "Convention"*), the officers of the District, the Board of Directors, and such
14 other staff and personnel as that Board may deem necessary and appropriate.
15
16 B. The administration of the affairs shall be conducted on three levels:
17 1. The Convention, which shall consist of the District at large through its delegates in
18 convention assembled, and shall be the governing body of the District subject to the
19 Constitution, Bylaws, and Resolutions of Synod, and to these Bylaws;
20 2. The ~~elected~~ officers of the District, who shall have primary responsibility for the
21 implementation of decisions of the Convention and the Board of Directors;
22 3. The Board of Directors elected by the Convention, which serves as the legal
23 representative of the District and the custodian of all property of the District. Between
24 conventions the Board shall provide for implementation within the District of the
25 decisions of the Synod and District conventions, establish and review policy, determine
26 general priorities, approve program budgets, allocate necessary funds for the support
27 of the Synod and District budgets, review program performance, make provisions for
28 necessary staff, and review the performance of the District President. It shall report its
29 activities to the Convention.
30
31 C. For purposes of conferences and elections requiring regional representation, the District
32 shall be divided into four regions: Eastern, Lake Erie, Midwestern, and Western.
33 1. The President and Vice-Presidents of the District and the Board of Directors acting
34 jointly shall determine the membership of the four regions 24 months prior to
35 Conventions of the District.
36 2. For purposes of regional elections, individuals will be considered a part of the
37 geographical region in which they reside.
38
39 ~~D.C.~~ Dispute Reconcilers shall be chosen in such manner and exercise such jurisdiction as
40 provided by Synod Bylaw 1.10ff. ~~the Bylaws of the Synod (see 2010 Handbook bylaw~~
41 ~~1.10.10ff).~~
42
43 ~~E.D.~~ A Committee on Nominations shall be elected at each Convention to prepare the ballot for
44 the next Convention. One minister of religion—ordained pastor and one minister of
45 religion—commissioned or layperson ~~or commissioned minister~~ by name from each of the
46 four regions of the District ~~conference region~~ shall will be elected. The Committee shall

1 will organize itself as outlined in ~~nine months prior to the convention in accordance with~~
2 the District's *Corporate Operations Manual*.

3
4 ~~F.E.~~A Committee for Stewardship shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to comply with
5 the stewardship programs and goals of the Synod, as required by Synod Bylaw 4.6.1. ~~(see~~
6 ~~2010 Handbook Bylaw 4.6).~~

7
8
9 **ARTICLE III**
10 **OFFICERS & STAFF**

11
12 A. The officers of the District are:

- 13 1. A President
14 2. One Vice-President from each of the four regions of the District, in line of succession,
15 as prescribed by these Bylaws.
16 3. A Secretary
17 4. A Treasurer, a layperson appointed by the Board of Directors
18 5. A Circuit Visitor for each Circuit established by the District.

19 ~~There shall be a President (Bishop), four Vice Presidents, a Secretary, an appointed~~
20 ~~Treasurer, and Circuit Counselors.~~

21
22 B. The duties of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Circuit Visitors
23 Counselors are described in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and these Bylaws.
24 Bylaw 5.2 (see 2010 Handbook) and in the resolutions of the conventions.

25
26 C. The Vice-Presidents shall advise the President, serve as his representatives, and assist him
27 in bringing to the Board of Directors any needed recommendations.

28
29 D. All Staff shall be directly accountable to the President.

30
31 **ARTICLE IV**
32 **ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES**

33
34 A. Terms of Office and Tenure Elections

- 35 1. ~~All elections shall take place at the regular Convention.~~
36 2. ~~The President and all other elected officers, board and committee members shall be~~
37 ~~elected by a majority of votes cast.~~
38 3. ~~One Vice President from each of the four regions shall be elected by the delegates. The~~
39 ~~convention shall determine their rank.~~
40 4.
41 1. Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for
42 Stewardship, and Circuit Visitors Counselors shall serve for a term of three years.
43 2. A person's tenure in the same office or function shall be limited to four (4) consecutive full
44 three-year terms. These persons may be elected to their previous office or function after an
45 interval of no less than three (3) years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an
46 interval of no less than two (2) years.

1
2 B. Nomination and Election of District President

- 3 1. Each member congregation of the District shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy
4 roster of the Synod two (2) ordained ministers as candidates for District President.
5 2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall
6 send a letter to the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to
7 submit nominations.
8 3. Nominations for District President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four
9 months prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the
10 Convention Workbook the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received
11 nominating votes.
12 4. The names of the five (5) ordained ministers who receive the highest number of nominating
13 votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall be no opportunity
14 provided for additional nominations.
15 5. The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's
16 experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall
17 be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the
18 convention.
19 6. The District Convention shall elect the District President.
20 a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
21 b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes
22 eliminated from consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast,
23 who shall be declared elected.

24
25 C. Nomination and Election of District Vice-Presidents

- 26 1. Each member congregation of a region of the District shall be entitled to nominate two (2)
27 ordained ministers from the clergy roster of the District with residence in its designated
28 region as candidates for Vice-President.
29 2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall
30 send a letter to the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to
31 submit nominations.
32 3. Nominations for Vice-President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four
33 months prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the
34 Convention Workbook the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received
35 nominating votes.
36 4. The names of the three (3) ordained ministers residing within the boundaries of each region
37 who receive the most nominating votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of
38 candidates. There shall be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.
39 5. The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's
40 experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall
41 be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the
42 convention.
43 6. The District Convention shall elect one (1) Vice-President from each of the four regions of
44 the District.
45 a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

1 b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes
2 eliminated from consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast,
3 who shall be declared elected.

4 7. Upon the election of the Vice-Presidents, a final election will take place ranking the Vice-
5 Presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority of voting delegates determining the
6 first, second, third, and fourth Vice-Presidents in line of succession.

7
8 D. Nomination and Election of Board of Directors

9 1. Six months prior to the opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall
10 send a letter soliciting names from the officers of the District and the congregational and
11 individual members of the District, along with the laypersons of the congregations of the
12 District.

13 2. All suggested names shall be submitted to the Committee on Nominations no later than
14 four months prior to the opening date of the Convention.

15 3. All nominees for a particular regional position must reside within the boundaries of the
16 region for which they are nominated.

17 4. All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered to be nominees.

18 5. The Committee on Nominations shall request from each candidate a description of the
19 candidate's experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning the
20 individual's candidacy. These shall be published and distributed to all the convention
21 delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.

22 6. The Committee on Nominations shall select at least two (2) candidates and at least one (1)
23 alternate for each position.

24 7. The District Convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor.

25 a. Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate at the District Convention.
26 The delegate making such nomination must present the District Secretary written
27 consent of the person whose name is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the
28 convention that the nominee is able and willing to serve if elected.

29 b. Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the District Convention for
30 approval before being added to the ballot.

31 8. The District Convention shall elect one (1) ordained minister from the Eastern or Lake Erie
32 Region, one (1) ordained minister from the Midwestern or Western Region, one (1)
33 commissioned minister from the Eastern or Lake Erie Region, one (1) commissioned
34 minister from the Midwestern or Western Region, and one (1) layperson from each of the
35 four regions of the District.

36 a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

37 b. Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes
38 eliminated from consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast,
39 who shall be declared elected.

40 9. The District Convention shall elect two (2) laypersons as at-large members of the Board of
41 Directors.

42 a. All candidates not elected to a Lay Regional Board of Director positions shall form the
43 ballot for the Lay At-Large Board of Directors positions.

44 b. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

45 c. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving
46 the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall

1 be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or
2 more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the
3 ballot.

4
5 E. Nomination and Election of District Secretary, Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund
6 Managers, and Other Boards or Committees

7 1. The Committee on Nominations shall select candidates for District Secretary, Committee
8 on Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers, and other Boards or Committees. At least two
9 (2) candidates and at least one (1) alternate shall be selected for each position.

10 2. Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall
11 send a letter soliciting names from the officers of the District and the congregational and
12 individual members of the District, along with the laypersons of the congregations of the
13 District.

14 3. All suggested names shall be submitted to the Committee on Nominations no later than
15 four months prior to the opening date of the Convention.

16 4. All nominees for a particular regional position must reside within the boundaries of the
17 region for which they are nominated.

18 5. All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered to be nominees.

19 6. The Committee on Nominations shall request from each candidate a description of the
20 candidate's experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning the
21 individual's candidacy. These shall be published and distributed to all the convention
22 delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.

23 7. The District Convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor.

24 a. Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate at the District Convention.
25 The delegate making such nomination must present the District Secretary written
26 consent of the person whose name is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the
27 convention that the nominee is able and willing to serve if elected.

28 b. Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the District Convention for
29 approval before being added to the ballot.

30 8. Election of these offices shall take place at the District Convention.

31 a. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

32 b. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving
33 the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall
34 be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or
35 more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the
36 ballot.

37 B. Vacancies

38 ~~1. In the event that the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve in~~
39 ~~that capacity because of prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of~~
40 ~~the office of President shall be performed by the 1st Vice President, and the 1st Vice~~
41 ~~President shall remain as the Acting President until the Board determines such illness or~~
42 ~~disability has been removed, the President resigns or dies, or the Board determines that the~~
43 ~~illness or disability is permanent.~~

44 ~~2. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant because of the resignation, death~~
45 ~~or permanent disability of the President, the 1st Vice President shall succeed to the office~~
46 ~~of President and shall serve until the next Convention.~~

- 1 ~~3. The successor need not terminate his current position while completing the unexpired term.~~
2 ~~4. Any Vice President, who by the terms of this Article succeeds to the office of President,~~
3 ~~may decline such office; in which event:~~
4 ~~1. The next ranking Vice President shall become President of the District;~~
5 ~~2. All other Vice Presidents shall move up one rank;~~
6 ~~3. The declining Vice President shall fill the last ranking vacant Vice Presidency.~~
7 ~~4. In the event that all Vice Presidents decline the office of President, the ranking of~~
8 ~~the Vice Presidents shall remain unchanged, and the 1st Vice President shall serve~~
9 ~~as Acting President until the next convention, when a President shall be elected. He~~
10 ~~need not leave his current position while serving as Acting President.~~
11 ~~5. A vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the voting members of the Board.~~
12 ~~6. A vacancy on the Committee on Nominations or in the Vice Presidents shall be filled by~~
13 ~~the Board of Directors.~~
14 ~~7. Vacancies that occur in the office of Circuit Counselor between conventions shall be filled~~
15 ~~by appointment by the District President.~~
16 ~~8. Persons appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors or other elected or appointed~~
17 ~~positions shall serve until successors have been elected by the Convention or appointed~~
18 ~~under the terms of the bylaws.~~
19
20

ARTICLE V VACANCIES

A. District President

- 25 1. In the event that the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve in
26 that capacity because of prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of
27 the office of President shall be performed by the 1st Vice-President, and the 1st Vice-
28 President shall remain as the Acting President until the Board determines such illness or
29 disability has been removed, the President resigns or dies, or the Board determines that the
30 illness or disability is permanent.
31 2. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant because of the resignation, death
32 or permanent disability of the President, the 1st Vice-President shall succeed to the office
33 of President and shall serve until the next Convention.
34 3. The successor need not terminate his current position while completing the unexpired term.
35 4. Any Vice-President, who by the terms of this Article succeeds to the office of President,
36 may decline such office; in which event:
37 a. The next ranking Vice-President shall become President of the District;
38 b. All other Vice-Presidents shall move up one rank;
39 c. The declining Vice-President shall fill the last ranking vacant Vice-Presidency.
40 d. In the event that all Vice-Presidents decline the office of President, the ranking of the
41 Vice-Presidents shall remain unchanged, and the 1st Vice-President shall serve as
42 Acting President until the next convention, when a President shall be elected. He need
43 not leave his current position while serving as Acting President.
44

B. Other Elected Positions.

- 1 1. A vacancy in the Vice-Presidents shall be filled by appointment by the District President,
2 in consultation with the Circuit Visitors within that the region.
- 3 2. Vacancies that occur in the office of Circuit Visitor between conventions shall be filled by
4 appointment by the District President.
- 5 3. A vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the voting members of the Board,
6 in consultation with the Committee on Nominations.
- 7 4. A vacancy on the Committee on Nominations shall be filled by voting members of the
8 Board of Directors, in consultation with the Committee on Nominations.
- 9 5. Vacancies that occur in the office of District Endowment Fund Manager shall be filled:
10 a. A vacancy in any regional manager position shall be filled by appointment by the
11 District President, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
12 b. A vacancy in the Canadian representative position shall be filled by appointment by
13 the Canada Corporation.
- 14 6. Persons appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors or other elected or appointed
15 positions shall serve until successors have been elected by the Convention or appointed
16 under the terms of the bylaws.

ARTICLE V VI

DISTRICT CONFERENCES, CIRCUIT FORUMS, AND CIRCUIT CONVOCATIONS

- 21 A. The President shall confer with the Board of Directors to arrange for the official conferences
22 of the ordained and commissioned ~~professional~~ ministers of the District:;
23 1. There shall be a plenary conference held annually for all ordained and commissioned
24 ministers. In years when District Conventions are held, the plenary conference may be
25 postponed at the discretion of the President and the Board of Directors.
26 2. There shall be a conference for ordained ministers held annually in each of the four regions
27 of the District.
28 3. There shall be at least one conference for commissioned ministers held during each
29 triennium.
- 31 ~~B. There shall be four regional pastoral conferences, which shall meet not less than once each~~
32 ~~year.~~
- 34 ~~C. There shall be at least one District Conference for Commissioned Ministers per triennium.~~
- 36 ~~B.~~ D. Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their Circuit Visitors ~~Counselors~~ to select their
37 Circuit Visitors ~~Counselors~~ and conduct other business no later than the time established by
38 the District. They shall follow ~~and following~~ the procedures stated ~~noted~~ in Synod Bylaws
39 5.2.2 & and 5.3 (see *2010 Handbook*).
- 41 ~~C.~~ E. The Circuit Visitor ~~Counselors~~ and any other officers of the circuit shall have the primary
42 responsibility of preparing the agenda for the Circuit Convocation, following the procedures
43 stated in Synod Bylaw 5.4. (see *Bylaw 5.4, 2010 Handbook*).

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ARTICLE ~~VI~~ VII
POWERS

The District shall have legal powers as follows:

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45
1. ~~A.~~ To purchase, acquire, hold, administer, sell, transfer, mortgage and convey property of every description, both personal and real, in the interest of the District;
 2. ~~B.~~ To accept, hold, administer, sell, transfer and convey legacies, gifts, donations, commercial papers and legal documents of every description in the performance of its work;
 3. ~~C.~~ To delegate to the Board of Directors, who shall exercise the aforementioned powers. No individual or officer of the District shall have the power to usurp this authority.
 4. ~~D.~~ No action on the part of the members of the Board of Directors shall be prerequisite to the borrowing of money or the execution of any mortgage upon personality or realty.
 5. ~~E.~~ There shall be no shares of stock issued in connection with the District.

ARTICLE ~~VII~~ VIII
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. Membership and Composition

1. The Board of Directors shall have no more than fifteen (15) voting members, as follows:
 - a. The President of the District
 - b. The Secretary of the District
 - c. Two (2) ministers of religion—ordained, one of whom shall be elected from either the Eastern Region or Lake Erie Region and one whom shall be elected from either the Midwestern Region or Western Region
 - d. Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned, one of whom shall be elected from either the Eastern Region or Lake Erie Region and one whom shall be elected from either the Midwestern Region or Western Region
 - e. One (1) layperson elected from each of the four regions of the District.
 - f. Two (2) laypersons elected from the District at large
 - g. Up to three (3) at-large laypersons appointed by the elected voting members of the Board of Directors to obtain needed additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.)
2. The Board of Directors shall have six (6) non-voting members:
 - a. The Vice-Presidents of the District
 - b. The Treasurer of the District
 - c. The President of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Canada Corporation).
3. The Board shall elect its own chair and vice-chair from among the voting members of the Board after each convention. The President and Secretary shall be ineligible to be elected as chair or vice-chair.
4. Each Board member shall avoid conflicts of interest and shall disclose to the Board chair any potential conflicts of interest, as defined in Synod Bylaw 1.5.2.

1 5. Members of the Board of Directors may be removed for cause, as defined in Synod
2 Bylaw 1.5.8.

3 6. No member of the Board of Directors shall receive remuneration (beyond allowable
4 reimbursement) for service on the Board.

5 ~~The Board of Directors shall be composed of twelve (12) voting members: the President~~
6 ~~and the Secretary of the District; two (2) pastors, one of whom shall be elected from the~~
7 ~~Eastern/Lake Erie Regions and one from the Midwestern/Western Regions; two (2)~~
8 ~~commissioned ministers, one of whom shall be elected from the Eastern/Lake Erie~~
9 ~~Regions and one from the Midwestern/Western Regions; and six (6) lay persons, one~~
10 ~~from each of the four (4) regions and two (2) elected at large. The Board shall also~~
11 ~~include six (6) non-voting members: four (4) Vice Presidents, the appointed Treasurer,~~
12 ~~and the President of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod~~
13 ~~(Canada Corporation). They shall serve only in an advisory capacity. The Board shall~~
14 ~~elect its own chair and vice chair from among the voting members of the Board after~~
15 ~~each convention. The President and Secretary may not serve as chair or vice chair.~~

16
17 B. Powers and Duties

18 1. The Board of Directors shall have such powers and duties as are accorded to it by the
19 Constitution, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, resolutions, and policies of the
20 Synod, as well as those of the District. Subject to such limitations, it shall operate
21 within the applicable federal and state laws.

22 2. The Board's chief responsibility is developing and amending policy.

23 ~~3.2.~~ ~~The Board~~ ~~It~~ shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the
24 District's business and legal affairs and shall adopt policies and require procedures
25 which assure that said management and supervision is affected.

26 ~~4.3.~~ In fulfilling its functions and in coordinating its work with the Synod, the Board shall
27 be guided generally by the functions of the Board of Directors of the Synod as
28 defined in Synod Bylaw 3.3.4ff ~~s 3.3.5ff~~ (see *2010 Handbook*) as these apply to
29 districts.

30 ~~5.4.~~ Between Conventions it shall provide for implementation within the District of the
31 decisions of the Synod and District Conventions and allocate necessary funds for the
32 support of the Synod and District budgets.

33 6. The Board of Directors shall report at each Convention.

34
35 C. Meetings of the Board of Directors

36 1. ~~C.~~ Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least four (4) times a
37 year at such time and place as the Board shall determine.

38 2. ~~D.~~ Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or upon
39 request of seven (7) board members at any time, by means of written or email notice,
40 at least three (3) days in advance of the time, place and purpose thereof to each
41 director. ~~Special meetings may be held by means of conference telephone, video~~
42 ~~conferencing, or similar communications equipment through which all persons~~
43 ~~participating in the meeting can hear each other. A director participating by such~~
44 ~~means is deemed to be present in person at the meeting.~~

45 3. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be conducted electronically, using audio,
46 video, or internet-based conferencing technologies.

- 1 a. In such cases, the technology must be allow for each Board member to fully
2 participate (hear, speak, have or been given access to documents and other
3 materials as appropriate), including the opportunity to vote.
4 b. Board members must be given a reasonable opportunity to access the electronic
5 meeting. If a Board member does not have access to the technology to be used,
6 arrangements will be made for the member to participate in person by coming to
7 the District Office or other mutually agreed upon location.
8 c. Any Board member listening or watching shall acknowledge their presence to the
9 meeting. These names along with the attending Board members shall be recorded
10 in the minutes of the meeting.
11 4. ~~A majority of voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any~~
12 properly called or scheduled meeting. A majority of the voting directors shall
13 constitute a quorum.
14 5. The Chair may authorize a Board member to participate in meetings of the Board by
15 use of electronic technology described in Article VIII.C.3. Such participation by a
16 Board member shall be considered as being present for the sake of establishing a
17 quorum.
18 6. In situations where board members are not able to meet as described above, the Board
19 of Directors may take action by use of electronic ballot (i.e., e-mail, internet-based
20 voting, etc.), provided all voting members of the board cast a vote and the result of
21 the voting is unanimous.
22 ~~F. If and when all voting directors have been polled and a majority consent in writing to any~~
23 ~~action to be taken by the District, such action shall be as valid corporate action as though~~
24 ~~it had been authorized at a meeting of the Board of Directors.~~
25 7. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings that record a summary of the major points of
26 discussion and any action(s) taken.
27

28 D. Appointment of Officers and Agents

- 29 1. ~~G.~~The Board of Directors shall have power to appoint such other officers and agents
30 as the Board may deem necessary for the transaction of the business of the District.
31 2. ~~H.~~The Board of Directors may require any officer or agent to file with the District a
32 satisfactory fidelity bond.
33

34 E.~~I.~~Execution of Instruments.

- 35 1. All checks, drafts, and orders for payment of money shall be signed in the name of
36 the District and may be countersigned by such officers or agents as the Board of
37 Directors designates for that purpose or by the Treasurer alone.
38 2. When the execution of any contract, conveyance or other instrument has been
39 authorized without specification of the executing officers, the President and the
40 Secretary may execute the same in the name of and on behalf of the District and may
41 affix the corporate seal thereto. The Board of Directors shall have power to designate
42 the officers and agents who shall have authority to execute any instrument on behalf
43 of the District.
44

1 F.J. Borrowing Authority

- 2 1. The Board of Directors shall act on behalf of the District to borrow money the Board
3 deems necessary and appropriate.
4 2. In such case the Board may authorize the proper officers of the District to make,
5 execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of the District such notes, bonds and
6 other evidence of indebtedness as the Board should deem proper.
7 3. ~~The Board~~ ~~It~~ shall have full power to mortgage the property of the District, or any
8 part thereof, as security for such indebtedness, and no action on the part of the
9 membership of the District shall be requisite to the validity of any such note, bond,
10 evidence of indebtedness or mortgage.
11

12 G. Annual Budgetary Responsibilities

- 13 ~~1.L.~~The Board of Directors shall establish the annual District budget.
14 ~~2.M.~~The Board of Directors shall establish the salary of the District President on an
15 annual basis.
16

17 H. District *Corporate Operations Manual*

- 18 ~~1.K.~~The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain the District's *Corporate*
19 *Operations Manual* and shall approve appropriate modifications.
20 2. Only the District in Convention, ~~however~~, shall have the power to amend the
21 *Corporate Operations Manual* with respect to sections dealing with the election of
22 officers and the Board.
23 3. Modifications to the *Corporate Operations Manual* approved by the Board to any
24 other sections shall be reported at the next Convention.
25

26 ~~N. The Board of Directors shall report at each Convention.~~

27
28 ~~I.O.~~The Board of Directors shall conduct, supervise, and manage all affairs of the District not
29 otherwise assigned.
30

31 ~~P. The Board of Directors shall have full power and authority to exercise any and all of the~~
32 ~~powers set forth in Article VI.~~
33

34 ~~Q. No member of the Board of Directors shall receive remuneration (beyond allowable~~
35 ~~reimbursement) for service on the Board.~~
36

37 ~~R. Each Board member shall avoid conflicts of interest and shall disclose to the Board chair~~
38 ~~any potential conflicts of interest.~~
39

40 ~~S. A member of the Board of Directors may be removed for witness or actions that are~~
41 ~~contrary to the mission and ministry of the District or to the functions of a Board~~
42 ~~member. Such removal requires an affirmative vote of at least three fourths (3/4) of the~~
43 ~~voting members of the Board present at a duly noticed and constituted Board meeting.~~
44 ~~All actions must be in accord with Synod Bylaw 1.5.7 (see 2010 Handbook).~~
45

1 **ARTICLE VIII IX**
2 **ENGLISH DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND**

- 3
4 A. The District shall establish and maintain an endowment fund, providing a stewardship
5 opportunity for congregations and their members and a resource for the support of District and
6 Synod ministries. (The structure and operation of the fund is described in the English District
7 *Corporate Operations Manual*.)
8
9 B. The Board of Directors shall exercise oversight for the English District Endowment Fund
10 (EDEF).
11
12 C. The Board shall ensure ~~assure~~ that the EDEF Board of Managers reports on its work at least
13 annually to the Board.
14
15 D. The Board shall elect one of its voting members to serve on the EDEF Board of Managers.
16
17

18 **ARTICLE IX X**
19 **CONFLICTS**

- 20
21 A. No article of the Bylaws of the District shall be valid which conflicts with the Constitution and
22 Bylaws of the Synod.
23
24 B. Any matter, rule or regulation not specifically herein contained in the Bylaws shall be governed
25 by comparable provision in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
26
27

28 **ARTICLE X XI**
29 **AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS**

30
31 Changes, additions, and alterations to the Bylaws may be made by Conventions of the District:
32 ~~provided they:~~

- 33 1. ~~A. They shall not conflict with~~ Are not contrary to the Constitution or Bylaws of the
34 Synod;.
35 2. ~~B. They shall be~~ Are separately considered and acted upon by the Board of Directors;.
36 3. ~~C. They shall be submitted~~ Are presented for review to the Commission on Constitutional
37 Matters of the Synod for review and approval prior to consideration by a District
38 convention;.
39 4. ~~D. They shall be~~ Are presented in writing to the District in convention; ~~and~~
40 5. ~~E. They shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and~~
41 voting. Are passed by a majority of the voting delegates in convention.
42

1 RESOLUTION 3-04A

2
3
4 **To Amend the English District Corporate Operations Manual**

5
6 WHEREAS, the LCMS Committee on Constitutional Matters reviewed the Corporate Operations
7 Manual of the District and published Opinion 15-2778 which stated:

8
9 Under COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS, "Duties": This entire section is not the
10 responsibility of the nominations committee but of the secretary, as in the case of the
11 Synod's Secretary (Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.6). It is the responsibility of the district
12 secretary to obtain nominations for district president (paragraph A), obtain
13 nominations for district vice-president (paragraph B), prepare slates of regional
14 positions (paragraph C), etc.; and

15
16 WHEREAS, District Bylaw VII.K governs the process of modifying and amending the *District*
17 *Corporate Operations Manual*:

18
19 The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain the District's *Corporate Operations*
20 *Manual* and shall approve appropriate modifications. Only the District in Convention,
21 however, shall have the power to amend the *Corporate Operations Manual* with respect to
22 sections dealing with the election of officers and the Board. Modifications, approved by
23 the Board to any other sections, shall be reported at the next Convention; therefore be it

24
25 *Resolved*, That the District in Convention amend the District's Corporate Operations Manual to
26 bring it into compliance with CCM Opinion 15-2778, as follows:

27
28 **COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS** (*Note English District Bylaw Article # IV*)

29 Function: Prepare slates of candidates for the offices ~~and for the Board, and any other~~
30 ~~positions to be voted upon by the District Convention.~~ of Secretary, Board of Directors,
31 Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers, and Other Boards or Committees,
32 as required by the bylaws of the Synod and District.

33 Membership: The committee shall consist of one pastor, and one layperson or
34 commissioned ~~ministry minister by name~~ from each region of the District, elected at the
35 District Convention. They shall organize themselves nine months prior to the Convention at
36 the "call" of the President.

37 Duties: A. ~~With regard to candidates for the office of the President:~~

- 38 1. ~~Send a letter six months prior to the District convention to the constituent~~
39 ~~congregations of the District listing the qualifications for the presidency;~~
40 2. ~~Request each congregation to submit up to two nominations in writing;~~
41 3. ~~Secure from each nominee a statement in writing of his willingness to serve if~~
42 ~~elected, accompanied by a description of the nominee's experience and~~
43 ~~qualification;~~
44 4. ~~Present to the convention a slate of up to five candidates who receive the~~

1 —highest number of nominations.

2 B. ~~With regard to the candidates for the office of vice president, request each District~~

3 ~~congregation to nominate up to two pastors from its area six months prior to the electing~~

4 ~~convention. The three pastors receiving the highest number of votes in each area shall be~~

5 ~~the nominees.~~

6 A. Receive nominations for Secretary, Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations,

7 Endowment Fund Managers, and Other Boards or Committees from the congregations,

8 officers, and members of the District, and the laypersons of the congregations of the District.

9 G. ~~B. With regard to the other positions, prepare~~ Prepare a slate of at least two candidates

10 and one alternate for each above-listed position to be filled by ~~the~~ elections at the District

11 convention. ~~Nominations from the floor may be made by any delegate; but the delegate~~

12 ~~making such nomination must present the District secretary with the written consent of the~~

13 ~~person whose name is being placed in nomination, in order to assure the convention that~~

14 ~~the nominee is able and willing to serve if elected;~~

15 D. C. Request from all nominees candidates for elected positions (1) biographical

16 information and (2) a statement concerning his/her candidacy. Publish and distribute the

17 same to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention. The

18 committee may pose questions to the candidates and limit the length of the response.

19 E. ~~The cutoff date for acceptance of nominations for the president and vice presidents shall~~

20 ~~be four months prior to the opening of the electing convention.~~

21

1 **RESOLUTION 4-01A**

2 **To Support the Well-being of All the Church's Workers and Church Worker Families**
3 **in the English District**

4
5 WHEREAS, the well-being of the church's workers is vital to the ministry and mission of the
6 church; and

7
8 WHEREAS, those who are called to serve the church in various capacities are well advised to
9 care for themselves and for their families so that they can carry out their work to the best of
10 their ability; and

11
12 WHEREAS, congregations, schools, and other agencies are vital to the well-being of their
13 church workers as they support those workers in pursuit of their well-being; and

14
15 WHEREAS, major challenges to the well-being of the church's workers are known and
16 documented, such as depression, addiction, marital strife, and burnout, etc.; and

17
18 WHEREAS, there are effective strategies to deal with those challenges to enhance their well-
19 being; therefore be it

20
21 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention express its support for all efforts of
22 congregations, schools, and agencies to care for our workers and support them and their
23 families in their wellbeing, including the following components of holistic well-being: spiritual,
24 financial, vocational, intellectual, relational, emotional, and physical; and be it further

25
26 *Resolved*, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to do all they can to
27 support the holistic well-being of their church workers, focusing on intentional, strategic,
28 practical efforts at preventing problems before they develop and resolving them before they
29 become crises; and be it further

30
31 *Resolved*, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to support the holistic
32 well-being of all their workers' families as well; and be it further

33
34 *Resolved*, that the church's workers of the English District be encouraged to care for
35 themselves in every aspect of holistic well-being so that they can continue to serve to the best
36 of their ability with the gifts and strength that God supplies; and be it further

37
38 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention publicly recognize and show appreciation for
39 the District Ministerial Health Committee for all of the work it does; and be it finally

40
41 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention memorialize the 2019 Regular Convention of
42 the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to encourage the care and well-being of church workers
43 and their families throughout the Synod.

1 **RESOLUTION 4-03A**

2

3 **To Encourage Synodical Educational Institutions to Train Students to Become Organists**

4

5 WHEREAS our congregations have much trouble finding capable organists; and

6

7 WHEREAS in the past many of our teachers were trained to play organ and direct choirs; and

8

9 WHEREAS the Wisconsin Synod still does this, proving this is still practical; therefore be it

10

11 *Resolved* that the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the colleges and schools
12 of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod encourage all their students to learn to become
13 competent Lutheran organists.