

**The 57th Convention of the English District
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
June 20-22, 2022**

Deferred by one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod met in convention June 20-22, 2022, at the Ann Arbor, MI campus of Concordia University. The Convention Theme was “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind” drawn from our Lord Jesus’ teaching recorded in Luke 10:27.

Prior to the convention, floor committees utilized teleconferencing technology that had become familiar to delegates during the pandemic to hold open hearings. These took place on Saturday, June 4, 2022.

Delegate orientation was provided during the morning of Monday, June 20. An opportunity for delegates to meet candidates for various offices to be elected took place during the midday.

OPENING DIVINE SERVICE – MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2022

At 1:30 PM, convention attendees and other guests gathered at the Chapel of the Holy Trinity for the opening Divine Service.

The Divine Service was sponsored by Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church – Hartland, MI. It was conducted according to the order of *Lutheran Service Book* Divine Service, Setting Three with the propers from the *Lutheran Service Book Lectionary* for the First Sunday after Trinity. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, served as preacher; Rev. Christopher Thoma, pastor of Our Savior, served as celebrant. Other liturgical leaders included District President Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel, and the Vice-Presidents of the District. Rev. Brian Westgate and a choir from Our Savior supplied musical leadership. The offering collected at the service was designated to benefit our missionaries in Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

Following the Divine Service, a group picture of convention delegates and other attendees was taken.

FIRST SESSION – MONDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 20, 2022

Delegates and guests assembled in the gymnasium of Concordia University—Ann Arbor, Michigan. At 3:30 PM, 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.

Following the opening of convention, President Hardy introduced two individuals who would help conduct the convention: Rev. John Stieve, parliamentarian; Rev. Luke Zimmerman, Secretary of the English District.

At 3:35 PM, President Hardy presented the Convention Agenda and the Proposed Standing Rules for the Convention to be adopted by the delegates. Motion: ***“To adopt the standing rules.”*** Motion carried. Following the adoption of the standing rules, the agenda was presented for adoption. Motion: ***“To adopt the agenda as presented.”*** Motion carried.

Following adoption of the agenda and the standing rules, President Hardy made several announcements about an anonymous matching grant of \$25,000 given to the District. The same donor offered a grant for congregations to conduct truck stop ministry. He also informed the delegates about a partnership with the Synod Office of National Mission and the Northern Illinois District to restart St John the Divine – Chicago, IL. Another matching grant of \$10,000 has also been offered to the District; President Hardy invited delegates to match the grant before the convention ends.

President Hardy invited two guests to greet the convention attendees: Dr. William Cario, Interim President of Concordia University Wisconsin, Ann Arbor and Rev. Dr. David Maier, President of the Michigan District—LCMS.

At 4:05 PM, Rev. R. Wayne Morton, Chairman of the English District Board of Directors, offered the Board’s Report for the 2018—2022 triennium extended. Prior to this report, Rev. Morton informed the delegates that the Board of Directors at its June 19, 2022 meeting designated \$500,000 for congregational restarts and mission plants. Rev. Morton’s presentation highlighted some of the congregational visits made by the Board as they met during the past triennium. He also spoke of the activities carried out by the Board, as well as the End Statements established by the Board for the past triennium. Following Rev. Morton’s report, a gift from the Board in recognition of his 13 years of service on the Board, including his two-triennium tenure as Chairman of the Board, was presented to him. President Hardy also commended several Board members for their time of service that was ending at the convention: Rev. Ben Eder – 10 years; Mrs. Jane Duffy – 10 years; Mr. Chris Cassel – 7 years; Rev. Thomas Engler – 4 years.

At 4:30 PM, Secretary Zimmerman provided the initial credentials report for the Convention. The credentials report at the opening of the convention at 3:30 PM on June 20, 2022, was as follows:

Voting Delegates – Ordained:	89
Voting Delegates – Lay:	85
Total Voting Delegates:	174
<i>Total Advisory Delegates:</i>	<i>29</i>
Youth Representatives:	15
Board Members:	2
District Staff:	7
Guests/Presenters:	30
Total in Attendance:	257

The credentials report was accepted.

At 4:32 PM, President Hardy summoned the Elections Committee to the dais to conduct the election of District President and District Vice-Presidents. Secretary Zimmerman outlined the processes by which nominations for District President and District Vice-Presidents took place prior to the Convention. Following that presentation, Rev. Jeffrey Teeple, Convention Chaplain, offered prayers for delegates who were about to elect the Praesidium of the District.

Rev. Robert Tauscher, Chairman of the Elections Committee, provided a brief tutorial to the delegates about the electronic voting devices that would be used for elections and other votes.

Following this, Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for District President:

Rev. Jamison Hardy

With no other candidates standing for election, the Elections Committee instructed the Secretary to cast one vote for Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy for District President. The result of the election was 1-0. Rev. Jamison Hardy was elected to a third term as District President. He invited his wife Wendy to the dais where photos of them were taken.

At 4:45 PM, the convention then moved to the election and ranking of District Vice-Presidents.

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

Rev. Martin Erhardt

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

Rev. Douglas Spittel

The ballot for District Vice-President (Eastern Region) was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Martin Erhardt	31	(19.25 %)
Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	47	(29.19 %)
Rev. Douglas Spittel	83	(51.55 %)

Rev. Douglas Spittel was elected to a first term as District Vice-President (Eastern Region).

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

Rev. Daniel Grams

Rev. Justin Laughridge

Rev. Jeffrey Miskus

The ballot for District Vice-President (Lake Erie Region) was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Daniel Grams	68	(40.72 %)
Rev. Justin Laughridge	18	(10.78 %)
Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	81	(48.50 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes, the name of Rev. Justin Laughridge was removed and a second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Daniel Grams	66	(39.76 %)
Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	100	(60.24 %)

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

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

Rev. Robert Rogers

With no other candidates standing for election, the Elections Committee instructed the Secretary to cast one vote for Rev. Robert Rogers for District Vice-President (Midwestern Region). The result of the election was 1-0. 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
Rev. Michael Morehouse

The ballot for District Vice-President (Western Region) was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Todd Arnold	82	(49.70 %)
Rev. Michael Morehouse	83	(50.30 %)

Rev. Michael Morehouse was elected to a first term as District Vice-President (Western Region).

At 4:55 PM, the convention proceeded to rank the newly-elected Vice-Presidents. Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of elected Vice-Presidents was presented and instructed delegates to vote for who should serve as First Vice-President of the English District. The results of the first ballot were posted:

Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	65	(37.79 %)
Rev. Michael Morehouse	22	(12.79 %)
Rev. Robert Rogers	33	(19.19 %)
Rev. Douglas Spittel	52	(30.23 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Rev. Michael Morehouse's name was removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	79	(45.66 %)
Rev. Robert Rogers	38	(21.97 %)
Rev. Douglas Spittel	56	(32.37 %)

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

Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	97	(57.40 %)
Rev. Douglas Spittel	72	(42.60 %)

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

The slate of candidates for Second-Vice President of the English District was presented. A first ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Michael Morehouse	39	(22.94 %)
Rev. Robert Rogers	47	(27.65 %)
Rev. Douglas Spittel	84	(49.41 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Rev. Morehouse's name was removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Robert Rogers	59	(34.91 %)
Rev. Douglas Spittel	110	(65.09 %)

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

The slate of candidates for Third Vice-President of the English District was presented. The ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Michael Morehouse	79	(46.47 %)
Rev. Robert Rogers	91	(53.53 %)

Rev. Rogers was ranked as Third Vice-President of the English District. Rev. Morehouse was ranked as Fourth Vice-President of the English District.

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

At 5:00 PM, President Hardy declared the Convention to be in recess until 6:45 PM. Delegates were dismissed to the Ministry Tent, then to the cafeteria for dinner.

SECOND SESSION – MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 20, 2022

At 6:45 PM, delegates and guests reconvened in the gymnasium. President Hardy brought the Convention to order.

After the convention was brought to order, the English District Ministerial Health Commission presented a video about its work among the rostered workers of the District and their families. After the video, President Hardy thanked the Ministerial Health Commission members.

Convention Essay Summary

President Hardy introduced Rev. Keith Speaks, pastor of Hales Corners Lutheran Church – Hales Corners, WI, as the Convention Essayist.

Rev. Speaks introduced his essay with three Scripture Readings alluding to unity and bonds among the LORD's people: Psalm 133 that praises the unity of the LORD's people; Jesus' High Priestly Prayer in John 17 that also speaks of unity of believers; Romans 14:19 that exhorts Christ's disciples to make effort that leads to peace and mutual edification.

Rev. Speaks then shifted attention to the calling of Christians described in Ephesians 4:1-6 and 1 Peter 3:8-9. His comments noted his own lack of meeting those divine standards established in the Scriptures, while suggesting that others could come to the same conclusion about themselves.

Rev. Speaks then posited that loving, trusting relationships are built on common ground, leading to the question: What do we have in common within the English District?

The essay continued with comments about the matter of churchmanship, speaking about what it is and the marks by which it is known. He suggested several marks that a ministry team within his congregation identified:

- Abiding by the Golden Rule (*Mt 7:12*)
- Having actions governed by the 8th Commandment
- Being men and women of peace (*Mt 5:9*)
- Trusting that brothers and sisters in the Church are faithful in their context
- Humility
- Investing in one another; collaborating instead of competing, recognizing same mission and ministry
- Praying for fellow believers
- Enacting Jesus' teaching about conflict among believers (*Mt 18:15-17*)

Rev. Speaks asked what might be accomplished if the Church and her members would be identified by those marks of churchmanship that stand in direct contrast to the character of the world that is hostile to the Christian faith. Perhaps that difference might draw others to inquire about such a life of discipleship.

At 7:30 PM, Secretary Zimmerman provided the second credentials report of the Convention. The credentials report at the opening of the convention at 6:45 PM on June 20, 2022, was as follows:

Voting Delegates – Ordained:	90
Voting Delegates – Lay:	86
Total Voting Delegates:	176
<i>Total Advisory Delegates:</i>	<i>31</i>

Youth Representatives:	15
Board Members:	2
District Staff:	7
Guests/Presenters:	33
Total in Attendance	264

The credentials report was accepted.

At 7:33 PM, President Hardy summoned Rev. Tauscher to the dais to conduct the elections for District Secretary and the other positions on the District Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for District Secretary:

Rev. Luke Zimmerman

President Hardy directed a delegate to cast one vote for District Secretary. The result of the election was 1-0. Rev. Luke Zimmerman was elected to a third term as District Secretary.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors (Ordained – Eastern/Lake Erie Regions):

Rev. Peter Burfeind

Rev. Daniel Grams

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

The ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Peter Burfeind	22	(13.58 %)
Rev. Daniel Grams	68	(41.98 %)
Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	72	(44.44 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Rev. Peter Burfeind’s name was removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Daniel Grams	76	(46.34 %)
Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	88	(53.66 %)

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky was elected to a first term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors (Ordained – Midwestern/Western Regions):

Rev. David Petersen

With no other candidates standing for election, the Elections Committee instructed the Secretary to cast one vote for Rev. David Petersen for the Board of Directors. The result of the election was 1-0. Rev. David Petersen was elected to a first term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors (Commissioned):

Lucas Fitzgerald

Rod Lane

Keith Vieregge

Rev. Tauscher reminded the delegates that two commissioned ministers are to be elected to serve on the Board of Directors. Balloting would be conducted until one individual would receive a majority of votes. After that was done, balloting would be conducted with the remaining names until one of those would receive a majority of votes.

The ballot for the first commissioned minister on the Board of Directors was conducted and the results posted:

Lucas Fitzgerald	41	(26.62 %)
Rod Lane	74	(48.05 %)
Keith Vieregge	39	(25.32 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Keith Vieregge's name was removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Lucas Fitzgerald	50	(32.47 %)
Rod Lane	104	(67.53 %)

Mr. Rod Lane was elected to a second term on the Board of Directors.

The convention proceeded to conduct the ballot for the second commissioned minister on the Board of Directors and the results were posted:

Lucas Fitzgerald	94	(61.44 %)
Keith Vieregge	59	(38.56 %)

Mr. Lucas Fitzgerald was elected to a first term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for Board of Directors (Lay – Eastern Region):

Rande Casaday
Carol George
Connor Hagey
Steve Kurtz
William Magill

The ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rande Casaday	21	(14.69 %)
Carol George	56	(39.16 %)
Connor Hagey	14	(9.79 %)
Steve Kurtz	34	(23.78 %)
William Magill	18	(12.59 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of Rande Casaday, Connor Hagey, and William Magill were removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Carol George	91	(57.23 %)
Steve Kurtz	68	(42.77 %)

Ms. Carol George was elected to a third term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for Board of Directors (Lay – Lake Erie Region):

Tom Habitz
Terry Leu

The ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Tom Habitz	53	(33.97 %)
Terry Leu	103	(66.03 %)

Mr. Terry Leu was elected to a fourth term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for Board of Directors (Lay – Midwestern Region):

William Bussing
Gail Grieser

The ballot was conducted and the results posted:

William Bussing	66	(43.14 %)
Gail Grieser	87	(56.86 %)

Ms. Gail Grieser was elected to first term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors (Lay – Western Region):

Shirley Holle
Thomas Honebrink
Kristin Wellik

The ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Shirley Holle	47	(30.72 %)
Thomas Honebrink	57	(37.25 %)
Kristin Wellik	49	(32.03 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Shirley Holle’s name was removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Thomas Honebrink	80	(51.61 %)
Kristin Wellik	75	(48.39 %)

Mr. Thomas Honebrink was elected to a first term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher reminded delegates that all candidates for Board of Directors (Lay) who were not elected to regional seats would form the slate of candidates for the two Lay (At-Large) seats on the Board of Directors.

The convention proceeded with balloting for the first Board of Directors (Lay – At-Large) seat. The first ballot was held and the results were posted:

William Bussing	19	(11.66 %)
Rande Casaday	8	(4.91 %)
Thomas Habitz	25	(15.34 %)
Connor Hagey	12	(7.36 %)
Shirley Holle	29	(17.79 %)
Steve Kurtz	20	(12.27 %)
William Magill	5	(3.07 %)
Kristin Wellik	45	(27.61 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of William Bussing, Rande Casaday, Connor Hagey, Steve Kurtz, and William Magill were removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Thomas Habitz	64	(40.00 %)
Shirley Holle	32	(20.00 %)
Kristin Wellik	64	(40.00 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Shirley Holle’s name was removed. A third ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Thomas Habitz	76	(45.78 %)
Kristin Wellik	90	(54.22 %)

Kristin Wellik was elected to a second term on the Board of Directors.

The convention continued with balloting for the second Board of Directors (Lay – At-Large) seat. The first ballot was held and the results were posted:

William Bussing	8	(4.82 %)
Rande Casaday	11	(6.63 %)
Thomas Habitz	78	(46.99 %)
Connor Hagey	4	(2.41 %)
Shirley Holle	40	(24.10 %)
Steve Kurtz	18	(10.84 %)
William Magill	7	(4.22 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of William Bussing, Rande Casaday, Connor Hagey, Steve Kurtz, and William Magill were removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Thomas Habitz	113	(68.48 %)
Shirley Holle	52	(31.52 %)

Mr. Thomas Habitz was elected to a first term on the Board of Directors.

President Hardy thanked Rev. Tauscher for conducting the election of District Secretary and Board of Directors. He also thanked all candidates who stood for election.

At 7:55 PM, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 3 (Administration & Structure) to the dais. Floor Committee 3 moved adoption of Resolution 3-01: "To Reformat and Amend the Bylaws of the English District" (*Convention Workbook, pp. 4-64 to 4-74*). The changes to the format and content of the District Bylaws were explained to the delegates. Following brief discussion, the motion carried [Y - 153; N - 9].

Floor Committee 3 then moved adoption of Resolution 3-05: "To Amend the Articles of Incorporation of the English District" (*June 20 Workbook Addendum, p. 6-24 to 6-26*). The rationale behind amending the Articles of Incorporation was provided to the delegates. Following discussion, the motion carried [Y - 157; N - 7].

At 8:00 PM, President Hardy invited Samuel Preus from Lutheran Classical College to present a video and speak about the development of a new Lutheran institution of higher education. Mr. Preus explained about the nature of this college as a distinctly Lutheran college and why it is being established, hoping to enroll its first students in Fall 2025.

To close the evening, President Hardy thanked the pastors and members of congregations for conducting their ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those who continued to bring Christ's gifts to His disciples in many various ways.

At 8:25 PM, President Hardy declared the Convention to be in recess until 8:00 AM on Tuesday, June 21, 2022. Delegates were provided strawberry shortcake and ice cream and then dismissed for the evening.