

### **THIRD SESSION – FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 27, 2025**

At 8:00 AM, delegates and guests reconvened in the gymnasium. President Miskus brought the Convention to order.

Matins were led by Rev. Jonathan McCall. Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, preached a devotional homily based on Matthew 5:17–19.

At 8:30 AM, President Miskus called on Mrs. Sally Naglich, District Treasurer, to present her report. During her report, Treasurer Naglich highlighted several items for delegates:

- With the Canada Corporation being transferred to Lutheran Extension Fund, Canadian funds are being reported in different ways than in previous triennia when the Canada Corporation was a subagency of the District.
- The financial statements for the fiscal years during this triennium were audited by LCMS Internal Audit Department and found to be conducted according to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- \$2.1 million were placed in the Endowment Fund over the past triennium.
- Total liabilities of the District have declined over the past triennium.
- Net assets of the District have increased over the past triennium.
- Nearly 50% of total unrestricted revenue over the past triennium came from dissolved congregations.
- Congregational support of the District has trended downward, yet currently makes up 49% of budgeted revenue.
- About 42% of total expenses during the triennium consisted of subsidies and grants to congregations and other entities.
- The largest budgeted expenses are salary/benefits and subsidies.

At 8:45 AM, President Miskus called on Rev. Curt Dwyer, pastor of Martin Luther Chapel – East Lansing, MI, to speak about the work of the District Campus Ministry Task Force. He was joined by other church workers involved with campus ministries across the District. Rev. Dwyer presented about the role of the task force to support and collaborate with congregations and church workers working within communities with college students: some are full-time campus ministries, while others have this work as an aspect of the congregation's life. He noted that students who participate within LCMS campus ministries develop into active parishioners in LCMS congregations; some become church workers. He encouraged congregations to seek out resources provided by LCMSU.

At 8:55 AM, President Miskus invited Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger, President of Concordia Seminary – St. Louis, to bring greetings from the Synod's two seminaries in St. Louis, MO and Fort Wayne, IN. A video about the work of the Synod's seminaries to prepare church workers for the Synod was presented to the delegates. He thanked the congregations for their continued financial and spiritual support and for the church workers for their continued service to Christ in their places of ministry. He noted that the seminaries are beginning to emphasize how students can be trained for conducting evangelism and outreach in the current religious environment.

#### ***Report of the Synod Summary***

At 9:04 AM, President Miskus introduced Rev. Peter Lange, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, who was attending the Convention to present the Report of the Synod.

Vice-President Lange brought greetings on behalf of Synod President Harrison. A video from Synod President Harrison about “Book of Concord Lutherans” was presented to the delegates, which highlighted various emphases in the Book of Concord:

- the certainty of Christ’s saving work for people
- the lacking of nothing necessary for the Church
- the unity of essential matters among congregations
- the tie of the Lutheran Church to the Church through the ages
- the role of vocations and good works in the lives of all Christians
- the centrality of delivering Christ’s gifts through preaching and the Sacraments
- the timeless nature of the Christian confession of faith to be given before Christ at the end

Vice-President Lange provided an approximate statistical description of the Synod’s membership:

- 5800 congregations
- 1.675 million baptized members
- 550,000 weekly attendance
- 5,500 active pastors
- 3,500 emeriti pastors
- 1,776 schools (early childhood, elementary, and high schools), of which 674 are K–8.
- 21,500 teachers, of which 53% are rostered church workers

Vice-President Lange shared the Synod President’s analysis that the Synod’s financial position is in one of its best historical conditions. This is due to conservative budgeting and good investing of gifts offered to the Synod. However, direct giving to the Synod has been static in recent years.

Vice-President Lange spoke about the work of the Office of National Mission. This work is conducted in collaboration with the Synod’s districts in 18 different areas, including school ministries, disaster relief, church planting, ethnic ministry within different communities of the United States, family ministry, and discipleship.

Vice-President Lange commented about the work of the Office of International Mission. There are currently 92 missionaries in 32 different countries. Of the 92 missionaries in the field, approximately half are ordained ministers, one-fourth are commissioned ministers, and one-fourth are laity. The three emphases of international missions are: (1) spread the gospel, (2) plant Lutheran congregations, (3) show mercy. Within the Latin America/Caribbean Region, missionaries and their partners are gathered into regional *Foros* to meet with the Office of International Mission and discuss the strategies and logistics of mission work; this framework is being expanded into other Mission Regions. Short-term mission trips by congregations and individuals can also be supported and guided by the Office of International Mission.

Vice-President Lange briefly discussed the work of the five Synod colleges: Concordia University Irvine, Concordia University St. Paul, Concordia University Nebraska, Concordia University Chicago, and Concordia University Wisconsin/Ann Arbor. He stated that 802 church worker students were recently enrolled at the Synod’s colleges; 383 of those were teacher education students.

Vice-President Lange spoke about the number of calling congregations and the challenge of providing pastors to congregations. At the April 2025 LCMS Council of Presidents meeting, 470 congregations were reported as calling a sole pastor/senior pastor. Challenges of financial support and housing face congregations calling pastors; geographic location is also a different challenge, which can be multifaceted.

Vice-President Lange commented about the work of the Synod’s seminaries and pastoral formation. Enrollment in all pastoral formation tracks (Master of Divinity, Residential Alternate Route, Specific

Ministry Pastor, General Pastor Certificate, Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology, Center for Hispanic Studies, and Cross-Cultural Ministry Center programs) numbered 566 in 2024. In 2025, 112 candidates were placed from the seminaries; 170 congregations had requested candidate placement. The Synod Pastoral Formation Committee is carrying out its four-part assignment concerning the Specific Ministry Pastor program; its report should be published in the First Quarter of 2026.

Following the Report of the Synod, delegates were able to ask questions of Synod Vice-President Lange. Only one topic of question was offered by the delegates:

- ***Can an update be provided about the lawsuits involving the Synod concerning the colleges in Portland, OR and Austin, TX?***

Vice-President Lange gave a succinct summary of the status of both incidents, while noting that both matters are ongoing and remain to be fully adjudicated.

A video concerning the upcoming 2026 Synod Convention was presented to the delegates. The convention theme is “Christ Is Risen Indeed!” It will be held in Phoenix, AZ.

### ***Keynote Speaker, Part 2 Summary***

At 10:45 AM, President Miskus invited the essayist to present the second part of his essay. Rev. Dr. Kendall continued by speaking about the nature of protreptics within Christian teaching.

Protreptics involves a narrative structure that includes extradiegetic discourse and intradiegetic discourse. This is not unique to its Christian use. Greek philosophers such as Aristotle used this approach. Extradiegetic discourse uses narrative that includes the speaker, where the speaker shares his thoughts or actions to convince or persuade the person being told the narrative. Intradiegetic discourse uses narrative, where the thoughts or actions of the characters in the narrative attempt to convince or persuade the person being told the narrative.

Examples of extradiegetic and intradiegetic discourse in the New Testament can be seen:

#### ***Extradiegetic discourse:***

- The Synoptic Gospels’ reporting of Jesus’ baptism.
- Account of Jesus’ instruction of the Church’s mission in Acts 1.
- The narrative of Paul’s conversion in Acts 9.

#### ***Intradiegetic discourse:***

- John the Baptist’s reporting of Jesus’ baptism in John’s Gospel.
- Paul’s statement about his carrying out the Church’s mission in Acts 26.
- Paul’s speaking about his conversion in Acts 22 & Acts 26.

Protreptics can frame the dialogue that Christians have with inquirers to the faith, so that these interactions reflect the slowness of God. New rhythms of listening to bring hope are necessary. These dialogues can come from a position of weakness on the part of the Christian instead of a position of strength. Even in this inquiry stage, the Christian is bringing the inquirer into the start of spiritual care, preparing the inquirer for catechesis.

President Miskus announced that the offerings collected for the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission at the Opening Service was \$2,140.

President Miskus instructed individuals about the necessity to register for transport to the airport, if necessary.

At 11:23 AM, Secretary Zimmerman provided a credentials report as of 10:45 AM on June 27, 2025, as follows:

Voting Delegates – Ordained:	88
Voting Delegates – Lay:	84
<b>Total Voting Delegates:</b>	<b>172</b>
<i>Total Advisory Delegates:</i>	<i>21</i>
Youth Representatives:	8
Board Members:	5
District Staff:	6
Guests/Presenters:	36
<b>Total in Attendance:</b>	<b>248</b>

The credentials report was accepted without objection.

At 11:27 AM, President Miskus opened the floor to nominations for the District Endowment Fund Board of Managers. No floor nominations were offered. After this, the slate of candidates for District Endowment Fund Board of Managers was declared closed.

At 11:27 AM, President Miskus opened the floor to nominations for the District Committee on Nominations. No floor nominations were offered. After this, the slate of candidates for District Committee on Nominations was declared closed.

At 11:28 AM, President Miskus opened the floor to nominations for the 2026 Synod Committee on Convention Nominations. No floor nominations were offered. After this, the slate of candidates for 2026 Synod Committee on Convention Nominations was declared closed.

At 11:28 AM, President Miskus recognized Rev. Todd Arnold to offer a special resolution “To Thank and Recognize Mrs. Peggy Oke”:

WHEREAS, Mrs. Peggy Oke has rendered joyful personal and professional work for the English District; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Peggy Oke is completing thirty-eight years of faithful District employment;

Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the English District in Convention glorify God and honor Mrs. Peggy Oke for her years of dedicated service; and be it further

*Resolved*, That we thank Mrs. Peggy Oke and pray the Lord’s continued blessings on her and her family.

Motion carried by voice vote.

At 11:30 AM, President Miskus summoned Floor Committee 3 (Structure & Administration) to the dais. Prior to resolutions being offered for adoption, President Miskus asked Secretary Zimmerman to address the delegates concerning proposed actions. Secretary Zimmerman noted that both alignment of Visitation Circuits and amending of District Bylaws require District Convention actions. Additionally, the amending of District Bylaws also involves approval by the Synod Commission on Constitutional Matters before becoming effective; resolutions doing so have either been pre-cleared by that entity or will receive approval in the months following the Convention.

Floor Committee 3 moved Resolution 3–01B “To Realign and Rename Visitation Circuits” (*June 27, 2025 Addendum, pp. 6–40 through 6–42*) for adoption. During discussion, a question was raised whether any effect would be concerning electoral circuit formation; that is a matter for the Board of Directors to address. Another member noted that a congregation listed in the resolution is closed; it was noted that the congregation still exists on the roster at this date, but the closure will become finalized. Following debate, the motion carried [Y-153; N-7].

Floor Committee 3 moved Resolution 3–02 “To Amend District Bylaw 9.1.2” (*Convention Workbook, p. 4–36*) for adoption. After no delegate desired to speak to the question, the motion carried by voice vote.

Floor Committee 3 moved Resolution 3–03 “To Amend District Bylaw 5.1” (*Convention Workbook, p. 4–37*) for adoption. After no delegate desired to speak to the question, the motion carried by voice vote.

Floor Committee 3 moved Resolution 3–04 “To Amend District Bylaw 6.2.5” (*Convention Workbook, p. 4–38*) for adoption. During discussion, a delegate inquired whether the English District Endowment Fund Governing Document could be provided to delegates for review prior to considering the resolution. The Floor Committee agreed to delay action on the proposal until that could be done.

Floor Committee 3 moved Resolution 3–05A “To Amend District Bylaws 5.4 and 9.1.1” (*June 26, 2025 Addendum, pp. 6–13 through 6–14*) while incorporating a proposed amendment (*June 27, 2025 Addendum, p. 6–39*) for adoption. After no delegate desired to speak to the question, the motion carried by voice vote.

Floor Committee 3 moved Resolution 3–06 “To Declare the Reverend Dr. Jamison Hardy ‘Bishop Emeritus’” (*Convention Workbook, p. 4–41*) for adoption. After no delegate desired to speak to the question, the motion carried by voice vote.

President Miskus thanked Floor Committee 3 for its work and indicated that it would be recalled later.

At 11:55 AM, President Miskus summoned the Elections Committee to the dais to conduct the election for the 2026 Synod Committee on Convention Nominations.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the 2026 Synod Committee on Convention Nominations:

Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy

Rev. Larry Loree

The ballot for the 2026 Synod Committee on Convention Nominations was conducted and the results posted:

<b>Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>(63.23 %)</b>
Rev. Larry Loree	57	(36.77 %)

Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy was elected to serve on the 2026 Synod Committee on Convention Nominations.

With no other candidates on the slate, Rev. Larry Loree was declared elected as alternate for the 2026 Synod Committee on Convention Nominations.

At 11:58 AM, President Miskus invited Mr. Jim Sanft from Concordia Plans Services to speak to the delegates about the work of this Synod-wide Trust Entity. Mr. Sanft spoke about the current coverages that Concordia Plans Services provides to individual church workers. He highlighted the recent development of Concordia Plans Services to create a captive entity that could provide property insurance coverage to congregations and ministries. Concordia Plans Services exists as a way for the Synod to fulfill the objective listed in Article III.10 of the Synod's Constitution: *"Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their families in the event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death."*

At 12:07 PM, President Miskus called Rev. Lackey to offer a meal blessing. President Miskus then declared the convention to be in recess for lunch, with business sessions to resume at 1:30 pm.

#### **FOURTH SESSION – FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 27, 2025**

At 1:30 PM, delegates and guests reconvened in the gymnasium. President Miskus brought the Convention to order.

Midday Prayers were conducted by Rev. Ryan Beffrey. Rev. Zachary Marklevitz, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President, preached a devotional homily based on Colossians 3:5–11.

At 1:46 PM, President Miskus invited the former Bishops of the English District present to address the delegates. He first read a written salutation from Bishop Emeritus David Ritt. Bishop Emeritus David Stechholz spoke statements of blessing based on Jude 2 to the delegates. He also congratulated President Miskus on his election. He exhorted the District to become even more multi-ethnic in its current setting. Bishop Emeritus Jamison Hardy spoke about leaving the role as Bishop to become President of the Concordia University System (CUS). He thanked Mrs. Kathy Stanis for her work as administrative assistant. He also thanked his wife and children for being with him both during his time as Bishop and now at CUS. He closed by giving thanks for the honor that the District had given to him.

Following the greetings, President Miskus invited Bishop Emeritus Hardy to speak about the work of the Concordia University System and for delegates to offer any questions they might have. Delegates asked several questions:

- ***What is to happen with the Ann Arbor campus of Concordia University Wisconsin Ann Arbor?***  
Operations are moving to the north campus. The south campus will go unused for the 2025–2026 academic year. No agreements have been made to actively market the south campus for sale. CUS does not want church work training to be ended at Ann Arbor.
- ***What is the nature of the Hot Chalk lawsuit in Portland?***  
CUS has been removed as a party from the lawsuit. Concordia University Saint Paul has settled its role in the lawsuit. LCMS and LCEF are still parties in the lawsuit.
- ***What is the status of the Concordia University Texas lawsuit?***  
The matter is in litigation over the matter of venue of what court should adjudicate the case: whether it should be a United States District court case or a Texas state court case.
- ***Has the Synod Board of Directors considered acquiring the Ann Arbor south campus property?***  
That idea could be submitted to the Synod for consideration. However, it is beyond the role of CUS to address.

294       ▪ ***What does the future look like for the higher education system institutions of the Synod?***

295       Ideas include:

- 296       • Beginning to subsidize church work students through donations that CUS has received; assets  
297       from the CUS endowment fund can be reallocated to accomplish this goal.
- 298       • Establishing regional campuses, junior colleges, or technical education institutions.
- 299       • Enrollment is currently increasing despite current demographics.

300       ▪ ***What relationship will CUS have with Luther Classical College?***

301       Luther Classical College is taking steps that could lead to membership in CUS, though application  
302       for such membership has not been determined.

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304   At 2:15 PM, President Miskus summoned Floor Committee 1 (Theology & Church Relations) to the dais.

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306   Floor Committee 1 moved Resolution 1–01A “To Encourage the English District of The Lutheran Church—  
307   Missouri Synod to Affirm Unequivocally the Practice of First Communion Prior to Confirmation as a God-  
308   pleasing Practice so as to Encourage Member Congregations and Pastors of the English District to  
309   Recognize the Validity of the Aforementioned Practice and, On That Basis, Commune Visiting Children  
310   Who, Though Not Yet Confirmed, Are Nevertheless Communicant Members in Good Standing and Who,  
311   Therefore, Should Not Be Denied the Lord’s Body and Blood Because They Have Not Yet Been Confirmed.”  
312   *(June 26, 2025 Addendum, pp. 6–3 & 6–4)* for adoption. During discussion, several delegates both spoke  
313   for and against the resolution. A delegate proposed a multifaceted amendment of the resolution. After  
314   the amendment was proposed, the motion to table was offered. Motion carried.

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316   Floor Committee 1 moved Resolution 1–02A “To State Religious Objection to Government Interference of  
317   Parents’ Duty” *(June 26, 2025 Addendum, pp. 6–5 & 6–6)* for adoption. During discussion, delegates spoke  
318   both for and against the resolution. A delegate proposed a series of amendments. Upon presentation of  
319   those amendments, the Floor Committee requested to be dismissed to consider the proposal.

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321   ***Keynote Speaker, Part 3 Summary***

322   At 2:40 PM, President Miskus invited Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall to present the third part of his essay.

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324       Dr. Kendall spoke about how he would use the narrative in Luke 8 of Jairus and the Woman with a  
325       Hemorrhage to open dialogue with inquirers. He pointed to the aspects of protreptics that can be  
326       identified in this narrative.

327

328       Dr. Kendall described how he would move inquirers into understanding how they would be like Jairus  
329       and the Woman with a Hemorrhage in Luke 8 and what those figures would experience. The  
330       experiences that the inquirers thought would be faced by those figures could be tied by the inquirers  
331       to their experiences that need healing or redress by Christ. His discussion demonstrated how various  
332       aspects of the protreptic approach in such a way would present Christ’s Gospel throughout the  
333       ongoing dialogue, even before becoming formal catechesis. The inquirer is being prepared for that  
334       formal catechesis in this earlier phase. They become ready for fully knowing the Christ who is saving  
335       and healing them.

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337       Dr. Kendall pointed to the example of Philip and the Ethiopian in Acts 8 as an example of how the  
338       Scriptures themselves present the protreptic method of reading the Scriptures. This is a form of  
339       spiritual care that Philip brings to the Ethiopian as he ties himself to that inquirer. Philip is now  
340       alongside that Ethiopian as he guides the man into the truth that the Scriptures present about Christ.

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342       Dr. Kendall further commented on how Acts 13 can be seen as a Scriptural incident of protreptic  
343       conflict, where divine truth is seen in some place but is brought back to the source where it belongs.

The figure of Sergius Paulus is pulled between the claims of the false prophet Simon Bar-Jesus and those of Barnabas and Paul. This figure is what the inquirer will be tied to when the narrative of this is presented to them. As Sergius Paulus is led to belief in what Barnabas and Paul present, he is led upwardly to the truth.

At 3:27 PM, President Miskus presented the minutes of the June 26, 2025 convention sessions for approval by the delegates (*June 27, 2025 addendum, pp. 6–28 through 6–38*). The minutes were approved as presented.

At 3:29 PM, the convention entered a recess with business to resume at 3:50 PM.

At 3:50 PM, President Miskus recalled Floor Committee 3 to present again Resolution 3–04. The Floor Committee informed the delegates that the document referred to in the resolution was printed in the Convention Workbook. Floor Committee 3 moved adoption of Resolution 3–04. With no delegates desiring to speak to the question, the motion carried by voice vote.

At 3:53 PM, President Miskus summoned the Election Committee to conduct the elections of the Circuit Visitors, the District Endowment Fund Board of Managers, and the District Nominating Committee. He also called on Rev. Lackey to offer prayer for the delegates who were to elect these office holders.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the four at-large District Endowment Fund Board of Managers positions:

Michael Coffey  
Rev. Fred Gerlach  
Mark Harris  
Terry Leu  
Rev. Larry Loree  
Matthew Thompson  
Ann Marie Weselan

The first ballot for the first position on the District Endowment Fund Board of managers was conducted and the results posted:

Michael Coffey	10	(6.67 %)
Rev. Fred Gerlach	32	(21.33 %)
Mark Harris	21	(14.00 %)
Terry Leu	45	(30.00 %)
Rev. Larry Loree	21	(14.00 %)
Matthew Thompson	6	(4.00 %)
Ann Marie Weselan	15	(10.00 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of Michael Coffey, Mark Harris, Rev. Larry Loree, Matthew Thompson, and Ann Marie Weselan were removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Fred Gerlach	54	(36.49 %)
<b>Terry Leu</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>(63.51 %)</b>

Terry Leu was elected to a first term on the Endowment Fund Board of Managers.



The first ballot for the second position on the District Endowment Fund Board of Managers was conducted and the results posted:

Michael Coffey	8	(5.37 %)
Rev. Fred Gerlach	71	(47.65 %)
Mark Harris	17	(11.41 %)
Rev. Larry Loree	27	(18.12 %)
Matthew Thompson	8	(5.37 %)
Ann Marie Weselan	18	(12.08 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of Michael Coffey, Mark Harris, Matthew Thompson, and Ann Marie Weselan were removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

<b>Rev. Fred Gerlach</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>(68.67 %)</b>
Rev. Larry Loree	47	(31.33 %)

Rev. Fred Gerlach was elected to a third term on the Endowment Fund Board of Managers.

The first ballot for the third position on the District Endowment Fund Board of Managers was conducted and the results posted:

Michael Coffey	10	(6.90 %)
Mark Harris	23	(15.86 %)
Rev. Larry Loree	68	(46.90 %)
Matthew Thompson	13	(8.97 %)
Ann Marie Weselan	31	(21.38 %)

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of Michael Coffey, Mark Harris, and Matthew Thompson were removed. A second ballot was conducted and the results posted:

<b>Rev. Larry Loree</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(65.79 %)</b>
Ann Marie Weselan	52	(34.21 %)

Rev. Larry Loree was elected to a first term on the Endowment Fund Board of Managers.

The first ballot for the fourth position on the District Endowment Fund Board of Managers was conducted and the results posted:

Michael Coffey	17	(11.56 %)
Mark Harris	33	(22.49 %)
Matthew Thompson	17	(11.56 %)
<b>Ann Marie Weselan</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>(54.42 %)</b>

Ann Marie Weselan was elected to a first term on the Endowment Fund Board of Managers.

Rev. Alex Sabol presented the slate of candidates for the District Nominating Committee. He noted that the positions for Ordained Minister (Eastern Region), Ordained Minister (Western Region), Commissioned Minister/Lay (Eastern Region), and Commissioned Minister/Lay (Midwestern Region) each had only one candidate.

438 Rev. Sabol asked the Secretary to cast one vote for the following individuals, electing them to those  
439 positions:

440	Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	Ordained Minister (Eastern Region)
441	Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse	Ordained Minister (Western Region)
442	Connor Hagey	Commissioned Minister/Lay (Eastern Region)
443	Rod Lane	Commissioned Minister/Lay (Midwestern Region)

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445 Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse, Connor Hagey, and Rod Lane were elected to the  
446 District Nominating Committee.

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448 Rev. Sabol presented the slate of candidates for District Nominating Committee, Ordained Minister (Lake  
449 Erie Region):

450	Rev. Mark Braden
451	Rev. Larry Loree
452	Rev. Dr. David Petersen

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454 The first ballot for District Nominating Committee, Ordained Minister (Lake Erie Region) was conducted  
455 and the results posted:

456	Rev. Mark Braden	34	(22.82 %)
457	Rev. Larry Loree	23	(15.44 %)
458	<b>Rev. Dr. David Petersen</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>(61.74 %)</b>

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460 Rev. Dr. David Petersen was elected to the District Nominating Committee.

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462 Rev. Sabol presented the slate of candidates for District Nominating Committee, Commissioned  
463 Minister/Lay (Lake Erie Region):

464	Jonathan Busarow
465	Mark Harris
466	Terry Leu

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468 The ballot for District Nominating Committee, Commissioned Minister/Lay (Lake Erie Region) was  
469 conducted and the results posted:

470	Jonathan Busarow	50	(33.78 %)
471	Mark Harris	49	(33.11 %)
472	Terry Leu	49	(33.11 %)

473  
474 With no candidate receiving a majority of votes and a tie for last place, no names were removed. A second  
475 ballot was conducted and the results posted:

476	Jonathan Busarow	60	(39.47 %)
477	Mark Harris	40	(26.32 %)
478	Terry Leu	52	(34.21 %)

479  
480 With no candidate receiving a majority of votes, the name of Mark Harris was removed. A third ballot was  
481 conducted and the results posted:

482	<b>Jonathan Busarow</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>(53.29 %)</b>
483	Terry Leu	71	(46.71 %)

484  
485 Jonathan Busarow was elected to the District Nominating Committee.

Rev. Sabol presented the slate of candidates for District Nominating Committee, Ordained Minister (Midwestern Region):

Rev. Daniel Greg  
Rev. Thomas Engler

The ballot for District Nominating Committee, Ordained Minister (Midwestern Region) was conducted and the results posted:

Rev. Daniel Greg	55	(39.57 %)
<b>Rev. Thomas Engler</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>(60.43 %)</b>

Rev. Thomas Engler was elected to the District Nominating Committee.

Rev. Sabol presented the slate of candidates for District Nominating Committee, Commissioned Minister/Lay (Western Region):

Andrew Grant  
Thomas Honebrink

The ballot for District Nominating Committee, Commissioned Minister/Lay (Western Region) was conducted and the results posted:

Andrew Grant	40	(29.20 %)
<b>Thomas Honebrink</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>(70.80 %)</b>

Thomas Honebrink was elected to the District Nominating Committee.

Following these elections, President Miskus thanked the Elections Committee for its work during the Convention. He also expressed thanks to all individuals who completed their terms of service to the District in various offices.

At 4:10 PM, President Miskus invited Rev. James Huenink and Rev. Dr. Mark Menacher to the dais to assist in the presentation of the Roger D. Pittelko Award to Rev. Steven J. Duescher. A brief summary of Rev. Duescher's work as a pastor, primarily in Southern California, was given. Following this, Rev. Duescher was presented the award. He was joined onstage by his wife, Connie. Rev. Duescher expressed his love for the English District and the service to Christ that he was privileged to conduct within the English District.

At 4:20 PM, President Miskus recalled Floor Committee 1.

Floor Committee 1 moved Resolution 1-03A "To Reject Kinism" (*June 26, 2025 Addendum, pp. 6-7 & 6-8*) for adoption. During discussion, a delegate proposed a substitute motion: "To Request the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) to Produce a New Document on Race."

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture declares that God created all humanity in His image (Genesis 1:27) and that all believers are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28), condemning all forms of racial hatred as sinful (James 2:9); and

WHEREAS, The 1994 CTCR document *Racism and the Church* was commended by the Synod (1995 Res. 2-05A), yet a minority opinion by Rev. Dr. James Voelz, Rev. Dr. Cameron MacKenzie, Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb, and Rev. Dr. Norman Nagel raised concerns about the document's reliance on sociological frameworks not grounded in Lutheran theology; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, new racial ideologies (e.g., Kinism, critical race theory) and secular distortions (e.g., globalism, and the improper binding of consciences on matters such as immigration) have proliferated, leading to widespread confusion; and

WHEREAS, On matters such as immigration policy, Scripture does not bind the Christian conscience to a single political solution, and faithful Christians may, in good conscience, come to differing conclusions (Romans 14:1–4); and

WHEREAS, It is contrary to Christian liberty to bind consciences where God has not spoken; and

WHEREAS, Pastors urgently need theologically sound resources to:

- Proclaim Law and Gospel to those afflicted with the sin of racial hatred.
- Address concerns about cultural and societal distortions.
- Provide faithful care for those harmed by racism.

therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention direct the CTCR to produce a new document on race, revisiting the 1994 *Racism and the Church*, to address:

1. The theological concerns raised in the 1994 minority opinion, ensuring that definitions and frameworks align with Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.
2. Modern racial ideologies (e.g., Kinism, critical race theory) and distortions (e.g., globalism, immigration-related conscience binding), evaluating them through a biblical lens while affirming Christian liberty in areas where Scripture is silent.
3. Pastoral strategies for:
  - Calling sinners to repentance with truth spoken in love (Ephesians 4:15).
  - Ministering to those harmed by racial hatred or confused by racial ideologies and contemporary issues related to race.

and be it further

*Resolved*, That this document provide exegetical analysis of key biblical texts (e.g., Acts 17; Revelation 7; Galatians 3), and clearly distinguish between God’s design for nations, man-made racial constructs, Law and Gospel, and the two kinds of righteousness; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the CTCR complete this document in time for the 2029 LCMS Convention and distribute it to all congregations; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That pastors and congregations make use of this resource to foster repentance, reconciliation, and Christ-centered unity, proclaiming that for those who belong to Christ by faith: “There is neither Jew nor Greek... for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).

The assembly voted to consider the substitute motion [Y-119; N-36]. During discussion of the substitute motion, the motion to table was offered; the motion to table carried [Y-90; N-64].

Floor Committee 1 moved Resolution 1–04A “To Encourage Unity among Our Churches” (*June 26, 2025 Addendum*, p. 6–9) for adoption. During discussion, delegates spoke both for and against the resolution. During discussion, a delegate offered an amendment: “~~To strike from Line 26–27: ‘to repent of any sinful or divisive behaviors, receive the forgiveness and comfort Christ alone can give’ and replace with: ‘to speak well of each other...’~~” The amendment was adopted [Y-131; N-20]. Following debate, the amended resolution was adopted [Y-98; N-52].

At 4:53 PM, President Miskus summoned Floor Committee 4 (Congregational Services) to the dais.

Floor Committee 4 moved Resolution 4–01A “To Request a Comprehensive Review of the Theological Concerns and Practical Procedures When a Call Is Terminated or Self-Terminated” (*June 26, 2025 Addendum*, p. 6–15) for adoption. With no delegate desiring to speak to the resolution, the motion carried [Y-133; N-17].

Floor Committee 4 moved Resolution 4-02A "To Direct the Office of National Mission to Perform a Systematic Review of All Registered Service Organizations (RSOs)" (*June 26, 2025 Addendum, p. 6-16 & 6-17*) for adoption. During discussion, a delegate offered an amendment: "*To strike in Line 54 ~~'those who abet lawbreakers'~~ and replace with 'those who assist illegal activities but not to deny that we give comfort and help to lawbreakers...'*" The amendment was adopted. Following debate, the motion failed [Y-41; N-110].

Floor Committee 4 moved Resolution 4-03A "To Affirm the Board of Regents and Administration of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor in Their Efforts to Resolve Financial Deficits" (*June 26, 2025 Addendum, p. 6-18*) with a committee-initiated amendment in Lines 17-19 for adoption. During discussion, a delegate offered an amendment: "*To strike in Lines 27 & 28: ~~'recognizing that as sinful, fallible mortals their communication efforts could have been handled better.'~~*" The motion to amend failed [Y-41; N-108]. Following debate, the motion carried [Y-125; N-28].

President Miskus thanked Floor Committee 4 for its work and dismissed the committee.

At 5:28 PM, President Miskus invited Rev. Dr. Gerald Paul to the dais to greet the delegates. Rev. Dr. Paul is an LCMS missionary in the Cayman Islands. He thanked the delegates for the generosity that has been shown to support the work at Safe Harbour Lutheran Church in Grand Cayman. The congregation conducts worship in English but is composed of individuals of multiple language groups.

At 5:40 PM, President Miskus called Rev. Lackey to the dais to offer the meal blessing. President Miskus declared the Convention in recess, with business sessions to resume at 7:00 PM.

## **FIFTH SESSION – FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 27, 2025**

At 7:00 PM, delegates and guests reconvened in the gymnasium. President Miskus brought the Convention to order.

President Miskus called Rev. DiConti to the dais to offer prayer at the beginning of the session.

At 7:02 PM, President Miskus recalled Floor Committee 1 to the dais.

Floor Committee 1 moved that Resolution 1-01B "To Encourage the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to Affirm Unequivocally the Practice of First Communion Prior to Confirmation...." be taken from the table; motion carried. The committee moved Resolution 1-01B for adoption. The committee highlighted the edits that it had made to the resolution. With no delegate wishing to speak to the revised resolution, it carried [Y-106; N-28].

Floor Committee 1 moved Resolution 1-02B "To State Religious Objection to Government Interference of Parents' Duty" for adoption. The committee highlighted the edits that it had made to the resolution. During discussion, an amendment was proposed: "*To strike ~~'heretical'~~ in Line 64 and replace it with 'false.'*" The amendment was adopted [Y-104; N-29]. With no delegate wishing to speak further to the amended resolution, it carried [Y-125; N-13].

Floor Committee 1 moved Resolution 1–03A be taken from the table; motion carried. Debate resumed on the substitute motion. With no delegate wishing to speak to the substitute motion, Resolution 1-03S: “To Request the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) to Produce a New Document on Race,” went before the assembly for adoption; motion carried [Y-67; N-63].

President Miskus thanked Floor Committee 1 for its work.

At 7:27 PM, President Miskus called on Rev. Justin Laughridge to speak about the work of the District Mission Action Team. Gordon Marquette spoke about the 1-1-1 Mission Funding Initiative and the level of participation by congregations in that initiative: only 6% of District congregations are currently actively participating. To help revive this initiative, he spoke about the Scriptural statements about God granting all good gifts, while establishing a goal for each congregation to have a member be an “owner” of the 1-1-1 Mission Funding Initiative in their congregation. The Mission Action Team also interacts with campus ministry, the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission, and church planting efforts within the District. Rev. Laughridge announced to the delegates that his time as co-chair of the Mission Action Team will conclude at the end of the triennium.

At 7:43 PM, President Miskus called on Mr. Albert Amling, District Education Executive, to address the Convention. There are currently 30 church work students receiving grants from the District to help subsidize their education. He challenged each pastor to recruit one church work student in the next triennium. He also reminded the delegates about the recipients of the Professional Educator of the Year for 2023, 2024, and 2025, respectively: Mrs. Bethany Dillon, Mrs. Sara Miller, and Mrs. Katie Brech. He also announced that Mrs. Janet Stechholz has been granted the Lifetime Ministry Service Award.

At 7:48 PM, President Miskus called on Rev. Derek Mathers, Assistant to the Bishop, to address the Convention. He highlighted the four areas of work that he conducts for the District: (a) advising the Bishop on ecclesiastical matters, (b) promoting worker wellness, (c) advancing the 1-1-1 Mission Funding Initiative, and (d) supporting mission efforts. During his presentation, he also spoke about the District’s identity being defined by mission rather than geography, legacy congregations that contribute significant gifts at their dissolution to continue mission work, congregational institutional vitality (human stewardship), and mission planting by local congregations or groups of congregations.

At 8:09 PM, President Miskus invited the members of the District Office Staff to the dais to formally introduce them to the Convention and to thank them for their dedicated service to the District. District Office Staff honored were: Sally Naglich – District Business Manager; Kathy Stanis – Administrative Assistant to the Bishop; Natalya Hrecznyj – Accounting Assistant; Linda Linthicum – Communications Coordinator; and Peggy Oke – Administrative Assistant to the Business Manager. He also thanked Tim Arnold who coordinated audio/visual presentations during the Convention and Kathy Arnold who was taking publicity photographs. He also thanked Frank Naglich and Paul Stanis for their hours of volunteer work for the Convention.

At 8:14 PM, President Miskus called Rev. DiConti to the dais to offer prayer for the conclusion of the day’s session. President Miskus declared the Convention in recess, with business sessions to resume on June 28, 2025 at 8:00 AM.

**2025 CIRCUIT VISITOR SELECTION RESULTS**  
***(following Realignment and Renumbering)***

Election of Circuit Visitors involves a multi-step process, as outlined in Synod Bylaw 5.2.2:

(1) Each Visitation Circuit holds a meeting of its Circuit Forum to select a Circuit Visitor.

(2) The slate of Circuit Visitors selected is then presented to the District Convention, which has the right to alter that slate by amendment.

(3) The District Convention shall then ratify the slate of Circuit Visitors, which will constitute election of the Circuit Visitors.

The following individuals have been selected to serve as Circuit Visitors for the 2025–2028 triennium:

**Circuit 1 (New York)**

Rev. Curtis Stephens

**Circuit 12 (West Michigan)**

Rev. Alexander Sabol

**Circuit 2 (Philadelphia)**

Rev. Christopher Seifferlein

**Circuit 13 (Indiana)**

Rev. Shawn Barnett

**Circuit 3 (Florida)**

Rev. Eric Linthicum

**Circuit 14 (Chicago–South)**

Rev. Douglas Hoag

**Circuit 4 (Georgia)**

Rev. Aaron Sterling

**Circuit 15 (Chicago–North)**

Rev. Daniel Greg

**Circuit 5 (Buffalo)**

Rev. David Walsh

**Circuit 16 (Milwaukee)**

Rev. Fred Reaman

**Circuit 6 (Pittsburgh)**

Rev. Justin Schmidt

**Circuit 17 (Saint Louis)**

Rev. Jon Gruen

**Circuit 7 (Canada–East)**

Rev. Gerald Luck

**Circuit 18 (Texas)**

Rev. Stanley Lacey

**Circuit 8 (Canada–West)**

Rev. James Leistico

**Circuit 18 (Arizona–North)**

Rev. Brian Crane

**Circuit 9 (Cleveland)**

Rev. Robert Weldon

**Circuit 20 (Arizona–South)**

Rev. Bruce von Hindenburg

**Circuit 10 (Detroit–South)**

Rev. Bradford Scott

**Circuit 21 (San Diego)**

Rev. James Huenink

**Circuit 11 (Detroit–North)**

Rev. Timothy Holzerland

**Circuit 22 (Los Angeles)**

Rev. Titus Utecht

**Circuit 23 (Northwest)**

Rev. Kevin Belter