



1

PROCEEDINGS

Forty-second Convention

Iowa District West

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Camp Okoboji

Milford, IA

June 8-10, 2025

2

1

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

1

2

3 Preface.....3

4

5 Minutes5

6

7 Resolutions

8 #2 Missions and Ministry41

9 #2-01: To Promote Wellness Among Church Workers 41-42

10 #2-02: To Build a Culture of Church Work Formation and Recruitment 43-44

11 #2-03: To Encourage Every Congregation to Enact Sexual Abuse Prevention Strategies 45-46

12 #2-04: To Give Thanks for the One True Faith as Confessed in the Nicene Creed on its

13 1700th Anniversary 47-48

14 #2-05: To Support and Encourage Adoption 49-50

15 #2-06: To Commission a Study to Support Ethnic Ministry Pastors and Commissioned

16 Workers..... 51-52

17 #2-07: To Advance the Reach of Word and Sacrament Ministry in our Local Community 53

18 #2-08: To Allow Greater Access to the Lutheran Confessions..... 54-55

19

20 #3 Administration and Finances

21 #3-01: To Recognize and Give Thanks for the Leadership of President Steven Turner 56

22 #3-02: To Strengthen Through Realignment Congregations of Circuits 1, 6, 8, 16 57

23 #3-03: To Bring Awareness to Congregations by Encouraging Them to Develop a Disaster

24 and Risk Response Plan..... 58-59

25 #3-04: To Support the Compassionate Mission of Lutheran Family Service 60-61

26 #3-05: To Embrace Biblical Stewardship for the Flourishing of Christ’s Mission 62

27 #3-06: To Review the *Handbook* of Iowa District West 63

28

1 Women's Missionary League; Lutheran Church Extension Fund; the LCMS Foundation;
2 Concordia Publishing House; the Lutheran Laymen's League; David's Harp; Lutheran Federal
3 Credit Union; and LCMS Armed Forces Ministry.
4

5 Under the theme, "One Generation Commends Your Works to Another," the convention
6 adopted 13 resolutions (one resolution was declined). Those actions, along with the minutes of
7 the five convention sessions are included in these convention *Proceedings*. To facilitate your
8 reading of the resolutions, the following may prove helpful:
9

- 10 • An "A" attached to a resolution number indicates that floor committees made changes in
11 those resolutions as originally published before they introduced them for consideration by
12 the convention.
- 13 • The number in parentheses behind the word "Action" below each resolution indicates the
14 convention session during which action on the resolution was taken. More information
15 about the handling of the resolution may be found in the minutes of those sessions.
- 16 • In keeping with the Synod's guidelines for overtures/resolutions, the format used for
17 resolutions proposing bylaw changes is to strike through the wording to be replaced and
18 to underline the proposed changes.
- 19 • Comments in parentheses below the resolutions offer information regarding changes
20 made during discussion of the proposed resolution and actions taken in connection with
21 the adoption of the resolutions. A few of these notes contain information provided by the
22 District Secretary that he hopes will be helpful in the use of a particular resolution.
23

24 The presentation of these *Proceedings* completes my second term as the District
25 Secretary of Iowa District West. In my seven years serving in this position, I have learned a lot
26 about the responsibilities of a District Secretary and the workings of the District—and found out
27 there is still much more to learn! I would like to thank President Turner and the Board of
28 Directors of Iowa District West for their partnership in the Gospel these past three years.
29 President Turner has been a source of encouragement for me, and I pray that the Lord would be
30 with him as he moves on to new opportunities for service in his retirement.
31

32 Thanks also to the staff of our District Office, especially Jill, Sue, and Roger, for their
33 valuable assistance in proofreading minutes and in helping me keep track of all the District and
34 Synod convention details which are my responsibility. Thanks to the Rev. Josh Lowe, who again
35 served as my assistant at the convention. Above all, thanks be to God for His grace in guiding
36 and sustaining me through my many responsibilities as District Secretary, especially during the
37 busy times. The convention has entrusted me with this office for another three years; it is my
38 humble prayer that I may continue to serve faithfully in the new triennium as the Lord blesses
39 me.
40

41 To God be the Glory,

42
43 The Rev. Richard Merrill
44 District Secretary
45

1 THE MINUTES OF THE 42nd CONVENTION
2 OF IOWA DISTRICT WEST
3 OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
4 HELD AT CAMP OKOBOJI, MILFORD, IOWA
5 JUNE 8-10, 2025
6 “One Generation Commends Your Works to Another”
7

8 *Registration and Evening Meal*
9

10 Convention registration got underway at Camp Okoboji, 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 8,
11 2025, in the Discover Center.
12

13 The evening meal was served at Camp Okoboji.
14

15 *Opening Worship*
16

17 The opening worship service was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake.
18

19 The order of worship was Divine Service Setting One from Lutheran Service Book.
20

21 The sermon was given by the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran
22 Church–Missouri Synod. He preached a sermon for the Day of Pentecost, focused on the Word
23 of God. The Word of God is living and active. Pentecost happens because the Holy Spirit dwells
24 in the Word. The Word of God does what it says. The Lord spoke the world into being ("Let
25 there be... and it was so."). Jesus is the Word. God used His Son to speak the world into being.
26 Jesus' Word has power. (Lazarus, come out!) His Word comforts, forgives, brings joy and
27 grace. The Word of God has grabbed you in Baptism. Baptism is not a sign; it is God's act.
28 God's Word in Baptism forgives your sins. The Absolution does what it says—it forgives sins.
29 The Word comes to us in bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. It is what Jesus says it is: "My
30 body...My blood...for the forgiveness of sins." The Word makes it so. You will rise like Jesus.
31 The Word does it.
32

33 Our joy is to announce this good news and to see Christ received, believed, by everyone.
34 God does not look at your face or name, whether you are poor or rich. Everybody needs Jesus.
35 God calls us to love all people who need Jesus. Rev. Harrison encouraged us to speak the Word
36 of Jesus in our families, and in our churches. Forgive your wife. Forgive your pastor. Speak
37 forgiveness. The Word of God is effective when you, the Christian, speak it!
38

39 The Prayer of the Church included petitions for:

- 40 • zeal for the Word of God that we might faithfully proclaim Christ;
- 41 • the LCMS, all her congregations, professional church workers, her leadership,
42 and all her missionaries;
- 43 • Iowa District West in convention;
- 44 • all who are in authority;
- 45 • special concerns.
46

1 The offering was designated for Camp Okoboji, to assist with restoration projects needed
2 due to the flooding in 2024, and to honor the partnership between Camp Okoboji and the many
3 generations of young people they have served.

4
5 *Announcements, Orientation Session, and Floor Committee Meetings*
6

7 The Rev. Dr. Steven Turner, District President, thanked the delegates for their service to
8 Christ and His kingdom. He thanked Immanuel for hosting the service. He asked for a show of
9 hands of those who were attending a District convention for the first time.

10
11 President Turner recognized the District staff and pointed out that they would be happy to
12 help everyone at the convention when needed.
13

14 President Turner shared that the Convention Floor Committees met at the District Office
15 on May 3 and reviewed the overtures that had been submitted. Those overtures have now
16 become resolutions and were posted online. They can be found in the registration packets. The
17 Floor Committees will be meeting tonight at Immanuel. Convention attendees may use this time
18 to address their questions.
19

20 Convention registration will continue at Camp Okoboji.
21

22 The dress for the convention is casual.
23

24 President Turner gave the schedule for Monday morning. Morning Prayer, led by the
25 Rev. John David Mull, will be at the Point at 7 a.m. Breakfast will be served in the Dining Hall
26 at 7:30 (name badges are required). The convention choir will meet for practice in the Christian
27 Life Center at 8 a.m. Choir Director is the Rev. Nathan Sherrill. The opening devotion for the
28 convention will be at 8:30 in the Christian Life Center.
29

30 President Turner reminded the delegates to wear their name badges during the
31 convention. The voting keypads will be placed at delegate seating in the Christian Life Center.
32 Voting delegates will be seated at tables which have a red streamer. Delegates were reminded to
33 bring their convention workbook and the resolution booklet.
34

35 Delegates were also reminded that they represent their congregation and are baptized
36 children of God and that is how we should treat one another when speaking to the convention.
37 All of the microphones on the convention floor will be "live" so they do not need to be turned on.
38 When addressing the convention, delegates should identify themselves with their name and
39 congregation. The convention will follow Robert's Rules of Order and the Rev. Dr. Scott Sailer
40 will serve as parliamentarian. District staff is available for assistance--they will be wearing polo
41 shirts with the convention logo--gray shirts on Monday, white shirts on Tuesday.
42

43 President Turner stated that the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran
44 Church—Missouri Synod, and the Rev. Dr. Nabil Nour, Fourth Vice President of The Lutheran
45 Church—Missouri Synod, are the Synod representatives to the convention. Rev. Harrison will
46 have a presentation Monday morning and a question and answer session Monday afternoon. The
47 Convention Essayist is the Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, President of Concordia University, St. Paul,

1 Minnesota. There will be a special reception Monday evening honoring District workers who are
2 retiring. President Turner hopes to conclude Tuesday afternoon.

3
4 Light refreshments were served at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

5
6 **Session 1**
7 **Morning Session, Monday, June 9, 2025**

8
9 *Morning Prayer and Breakfast*

10
11 Monday, June 9, 2025 began with Morning Prayer at the Point led by the Rev. John
12 David Mull. His devotion was based on Psalm 143, the appointed Psalm for Pentecost, with the
13 title "Enemy and the Spirit." The enemy is not those in our congregations we find difficult to get
14 along with, nor those in the Church with whom we have disagreements. The enemy is the
15 devil—and often, the enemy is myself—my own sinful nature. Jesus has delivered us from the
16 enemy by His death on the cross. "My spirit fails," (v. 7), but God's good Spirit "lead(s) me on
17 level ground." The Holy Spirit unites believers in one Holy Christian Church and directs and
18 empowers our witness to the world.

19
20 Breakfast was served in the Dining Hall at 7:30 a.m.

21
22 *Call to Order*

23
24 The Rev. Dr. Steven Turner, President of Iowa District West, called the convention to
25 order at 8:30 a.m.

26
27 *Welcome from Camp Okoboji*

28
29 Mr. Adam Hengeveld, the Executive Director of Camp Okoboji, welcomed the delegates
30 and guests to Camp Okoboji. He expressed the hope that in the midst of the busy schedule the
31 delegates would have the opportunity to enjoy God and His creation.

32
33 Mr. Hengeveld reminded everyone of the camp office hours and shared where restrooms
34 and shelter during severe weather are located on camp. He noted the hours when the camp store
35 would be open. He said that all meals would be served in the Dining Hall. He invited the
36 delegates and guests to visit the vendor exhibits in the Discover Center.

37
38 *Opening Devotions*

39
40 President Turner gave the opening devotion. The delegates and guests joined in the
41 singing of hymn #582, "God's Word is Our Great Heritage." (All hymns sung during the
42 convention were from *Lutheran Service Book*.)

43
44 The convention choir sang a hymn, composed by the Rev. Timothy Frank, combining the
45 convention theme verse, Psalm 145:4-7, with the hymn, "Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds."

1 President Turner began his devotion with the traditional Pauline greeting, "Grace, mercy,
2 and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ." He commented briefly
3 on this greeting. Grace—God's undeserved love. God loves us! Mercy—God is not angry with
4 us. Peace (Shalom)—the deep, abiding calm that comes from knowing we are at peace with God
5 through our Lord Jesus Christ. No matter what we face, we are anchored in the grace of God and
6 held in His peace. President Turner encouraged the delegates to pause and receive this blessing
7 from God—grace and peace.

8
9 President Turner read the convention theme text, Psalm 145:4: "One generation
10 commends Your works to another." He expressed gratitude and love for the delegates and for
11 the opportunity to serve as District President for ten years. He spoke of the strides our District
12 has made in ethnic ministries, in partnerships between congregations, and in support for God's
13 mission. Our strength does not lie in us, but in the grace and peace that comes from Jesus Christ.
14 President Turner thanked the pastors and professional church workers of the District, the
15 congregations he has been privileged to serve, the Vice Presidents of the District, the District
16 Office staff, Executive Assistants Rev. Dr. B. Keith Haney and Ms. Rhonda Mohr, and Business
17 Manager Mr. Roger Curtis. He recognized Mrs. Sue Light for 46 years of service in the District
18 Office, and Administrative Assistant Mrs. Jill Davis for being a steady hand.

19
20 President Turner spoke of the transfers in leadership coming to the District. Not only will
21 the convention elect a new District President, but Mrs. Carole White has retired after 26 years as
22 Vice President of Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) for the District, and Mr. Jim
23 Schroeder is retiring after 36 years as Gift Planning Counselor for the District. President Turner
24 concluded by saying that this is an exciting time for the District. God will continue to shower
25 His blessings on us. Psalm 145 is a powerful reminder of the importance of celebrating God's
26 mighty acts across many generations. Finally, President Turner thanked his Savior, Jesus Christ,
27 for calling him and using him as a pastor in His church.

28
29 The devotion concluded with the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and other prayers.

30
31 *Committee 1: Registration and Credentials*

32
33 President Turner called on the Rev. Ben Perkins, Chairman of Committee 1: Registration
34 and Credentials. Chairman Perkins gave his initial report. There were 93 registered pastoral
35 delegates and 103 registered lay delegates for a total of 196 registered voting delegates. A
36 quorum was established. There were also 6 advisory pastors, 3 advisory lay delegates, 1
37 advisory commissioned minister, 4 emeritus pastors, 27 guests, 15 exhibitors, and 7 staff present
38 at the beginning of the convention. It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept this initial
39 report of Committee 1.

40
41 A quorum having been established, President Turner declared the 42nd Convention of
42 Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to be in session, "in the name of
43 the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," at 9:07 a.m. He offered a prayer to begin the
44 convention.

1 *Appointments*

2
3 President Turner reminded the convention of the appointments made for the smooth
4 operation of the convention.

5
6 Convention Manager

7 Ms. Rhonda Mohr, Assistant to the President for Education, Youth, and Family
8 Life

9
10 Convention Business Manager

11 Mr. Roger Curtis, District Business Manager

12
13 Convention Choir Director

14 The Rev. Nathan Sherrill

15
16 Convention Organist

17 The Rev. Timothy Frank

18
19 Judge of Elections

20 The Rev. Alex Sloter

21
22 Public Relations Director

23 Mrs. Stacy Travis (Calvary, Sioux City)

24
25 Convention Secretary

26 The Rev. Richard Merrill, District Secretary

27
28 Assistant Secretary

29 The Rev. Dr. Joshua Lowe

30
31 Parliamentarian

32 The Rev. Dr. Scott Sailer, President Emeritus, South Dakota District

33
34 Convention Chaplain

35 The Rev. Merle Mahnken

36
37 District Administrative Staff

38 Jill Davis, Sue Light

39
40 Technology

41 The Rev. Dr. B. Keith Haney, Executive Assistant for Missions, Stewardship, and
42 Human Care
43 Sarah and Josh Wudtke

44
45 Sound

46 The Rev. Robert Zellmer

47

1 *Test of the Voting Machines*

2
3 Voting instructions were given to all delegates. Mr. Mark Lenz of Interactive Church
4 Resources served as technician. He presented a video with instructions on how to operate the
5 electronic voting equipment. The equipment was tested and found to be in good working order.
6

7 *Adoption of the Standing Rules*

8
9 The President called on the District Secretary, the Rev. Richard Merrill, to review the
10 special standing rules found on page seven of the *Convention Workbook*. After they were read, it
11 was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt them as the standing rules of the convention.
12

13 *Report of the Commission on Constitutions*

14
15 District Secretary Merrill directed the delegates to page 35 of the *Convention Workbook*
16 for the report of the Commission on Constitutions.
17

18 The following congregations have submitted Constitution and/or Bylaw revisions in
19 accord with Synod Bylaw 2.4. They have been reviewed by the District Commission on
20 Constitutions and are recommended for ratification by the Board of Directors of Iowa District
21 West.
22

23 February 16, 2023

24 Grace, Correctionville—revised constitution and bylaws
25 Trinity, Algona/St. John, Burt—new multi-point parish agreement
26 Faith, Sioux City—revised constitution and bylaws

27 May 17, 2023

28 Gloria Dei, Urbandale—revised constitution and bylaws
29 Grace, Le Mars—revised constitution and bylaws

30 August 16, 2023

31 Memorial, Ames—revised constitution and bylaws

32 January 25, 2024

33 Christ, Denison—new constitution and bylaws
34 First, Wiota—revised constitution and bylaws

35 May 16, 2024

36 Our Saviour, Des Moines—revised constitution and bylaws
37 Timothy, Council Bluffs—revised constitution and bylaws
38 Trinity, Marcus/Pilgrim, Quimby/Trinity, Hinton—new multi-point parish
39 agreement

40 August 17, 2024

41 Zion, Atlantic—revised constitution and bylaws
42 St. Paul, Sac City—revised constitution and bylaws

43 November 7, 2024

44 St. John, Galva—revised constitution and bylaws
45 St. Paul, Ute—revised constitution and bylaws

46 January 30, 2025

47 Zion, Paullina/Bethel, Sutherland—new multi-point parish agreement

1 Calvary, Sioux City—revised bylaws
2 May 8, 2025 (reported after convention workbook went to press)
3 Good Shepherd, Fort Dodge—revised constitution and bylaws
4 Shepherd of the Valley, West Des Moines—revised constitution and bylaws
5 St. Paul, Fort Dodge/Prince of Peace, Fort Dodge—new multi-point parish
6 agreement
7

8 It was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the report of the Commission on
9 Constitutions.

10
11 *Election of the District President*
12

13 President Turner asked District Secretary Richard Merrill to present the slate of
14 candidates. The Rev. Paul Egger, the Rev. Jonathan Riggert, and the Rev. Chadric Dietrich
15 were ratified by the convention as nominees for the office of District President. There were no
16 nominations from the floor. Chaplain Merle Mahnken led the convention in prayer. The results
17 of the first ballot were:

18		
19	Chadric Dietrich	21 votes (11.0%)
20	Paul Egger	119 votes (62.0%)
21	Jonathan Riggert	52 votes (27.0%)
22		

23 The Rev. Paul Egger was declared to be elected President of Iowa District West, with
24 62.0% of the vote on the first ballot. Rev. Egger briefly addressed the convention, giving thanks
25 to God for His grace enabling him to serve the District and its congregations.
26

27 *Election of the First Vice President*
28

29 For First Vice President, the slate of candidates included: the Rev. Jonathan Riggert, the
30 Rev. Chadric Dietrich, and the Rev. Ryan Roehrig. There being no nominations from the floor,
31 the slate was ratified by the delegates. Chaplain Mahnken led the convention in prayer. The
32 results of the first ballot were:

33		
34	Chadric Dietrich	64 votes (33.2%)
35	Jonathan Riggert	117 votes (60.6%)
36	Ryan Roehrig	12 votes (6.2%)
37		

38 With 60.6% of the vote, the Rev. Jonathan Riggert was declared elected First Vice
39 President of Iowa District West on the first ballot.
40

41 *Election of the Second Vice President*
42

43 The slate of candidates for Second Vice President included the Rev. Benjamin Dose, the
44 Rev. Ryan Roehrig, the Rev. Paul Dare, and the Rev. Jonathan Riggert. The name of Rev.
45 Jonathan Riggert was removed from the slate due to his election as First Vice President. The
46 slate of candidates was ratified with no nominations from the floor. Chaplain Mahnken led the
47 convention in prayer. The results of the first ballot were:

1		
2	Paul Dare	34 votes (17.7 %)
3	Benjamin Dose	106 votes (55.2%)
4	Ryah Roehrig	52 votes (27.1%)
5		

6 With 55.2% of the vote, the Rev. Benjamin Dose was declared elected Second Vice
7 President of Iowa District West on the first ballot.

8
9 President Turner thanked those who willingly allowed their names to stand for
10 nomination. God has blessed Iowa District West with willing servants.

11
12 *Committee 3: Administration and Finances*

13
14 President-elect Rev. Paul Egger was invited to take the chair. He called on the Rev.
15 Chris Nitzel, Chairman of Floor Committee 3: Administration and Finances, to present
16 Resolution #3-01 on pg. 16 in the *Convention Resolutions*, "To Recognize and Give Thanks for
17 the Leadership of President Steven Turner."

18
19 *Recognition for Service to District and the Synod*

20
21 It was moved by Committee 3 and unanimously adopted by the convention to recognize
22 and give thanks to God for the blessing of President Rev. Dr. Steven Turner. The convention
23 expressed their thanks by standing and singing the Common Doxology.

24
25 President-elect Egger invited President Turner and his wife Darlene to the stage. The
26 convention recognized them with a standing ovation. President Turner thanked the delegates for
27 their acknowledgment, then thanked his wife Darlene for her support, patience, and
28 understanding.

29
30 *Recess and Call to Order*

31
32 President Turner declared the convention in recess until 10:25 a.m.

33
34 The assembly gathered with the singing of hymn # 867 "Let Children Hear the Mighty
35 Deeds."

36
37 President Turner called the convention back to order.

38
39 *Report of the Synod's President, Part 1*

40
41 The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,
42 gave the Synod President's report. He showed a video describing the work being done by
43 workers across the Synod. The next convention of the Synod will be held in Phoenix, Arizona in
44 2026 under the theme, "Christ is Risen Indeed!"

45
46 Highlights of the video included:

47 --Office of National Mission: disaster relief, church planting, National March for

1 Life in Washington, D.C.; All Nations Ministry (ethnic communities in the
2 United States), church worker recruitment, LCMS chaplains in the Armed
3 Forces.

4 --Office of International Mission: planting Lutheran churches internationally,
5 LCMS missionaries, FORO program, Luther Academy in Riga, Latvia, Old
6 Latin School in Wittenberg, Germany, church relations with partner churches.
7

8 President Harrison noted that the 500th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession is
9 coming up in 2030, a time for celebration in the Synod. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! We are
10 "Book of Concord Lutherans." That is a good thing. We confess the inerrant Scriptures and the
11 Lutheran Confessions as a faithful explanation of those Scriptures. The Preface to the Book of
12 Concord outlines its purpose: to advance the Gospel everywhere. The confessors were
13 committed to the spread of the Gospel: the planting of the seed of the Word of God; peace and
14 tranquility in our schools and in our churches. We make this confession for the sake of troubled
15 consciences (the word "conscience" appears over 400 times in the Book of Concord), those that
16 are uncertain about eternal life. The whole Book of Concord is about pastoral care—good
17 preaching that tells souls their sins are forgiven because of Jesus Christ.
18

19 President Harrison went over the articles of the Book of Concord. Some highlights:
20 Article 1 – The Holy Trinity. Article 2—Sin. If you don't believe sin is a big problem, you don't
21 need a Savior. Article 3 – Jesus Christ. Article 4 – Justification by Faith; forgiveness of sins for
22 Christ's sake, through faith. Article 5 – Pastors preach the Word and administer the Sacraments.
23 Lay people are privileged to speak the Gospel to one another in their vocations. Article 6 –
24 Good works. Necessary, but not for salvation. Done because we are raised from death to life.
25 Article 7 – The Church. Preach the Word in purity; administer the Sacraments in accord with
26 Christ's institution. Article 8 – The visible church is imperfect; there are unbelievers mixed in.
27 Article 9 – Baptism. It is an action of God. It joins you with Christ. It saves. Article 10 – The
28 Lord's Supper. It is the body and blood of Christ. Article 11 – Private Confession and
29 Absolution. Private or public confession—either way is good. Article 12 – Repentance. Article
30 14 – No one should preach or teach without a regular call (examination and ordination). Article
31 16 – The two kingdoms.
32

33 President Harrison talked about some of the challenges of the Synod. Financially, the
34 Synod has been blessed. It has gone from being in debt to having \$110 million on hand. Gary
35 Thies from Mission Central here in Iowa West has been a big help in funding missionaries. The
36 LCMS is the 7th-wealthiest denomination in the United States and the wealthiest Bible-believing
37 body.
38

39 President Harrison spoke of how God has blessed the work of the Synod. Great things
40 are happening in Central and South America. Churches are being planted in Rome. There are
41 Lutheran churches in Italy, Romania, Moldova, Israel and Pakistan. The Office of National
42 Mission is supporting districts and assisting congregations with their ministry. President
43 Harrison stated that the LCMS has everything we need in the Bible and the Book of Concord. In
44 the LCMS the congregation is pre-eminent.
45

46 President Harrison spoke briefly on Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
47 Twelve years ago the university was on the verge of closing. A partnership with Concordia

1 University Wisconsin (CUW) under the leadership of Patrick Ferry extended the life of
2 Concordia, Ann Arbor for another decade. The annual cost to keep Ann Arbor running is \$4
3 million. The partnership is now in a holding pattern. If Ann Arbor is to close, the regents of
4 CUW will need to submit a plan. No plan has yet been submitted.

5
6 *Committee 5: Nominating Committee*
7

8 President Turner invited the Rev. Mick Wolfram to the stage for the report of the
9 Nominating Committee.

10
11 Rev. Wolfram thanked the members of the nominating committee for their work in
12 preparing the ballot.
13

14 Rev. Wolfram directed the convention to page 59 in the Convention Workbook and
15 shared the comprehensive ballot for the election of officers for Iowa District West. He read the
16 appropriate Bylaws regarding this election. The nominees for these offices and committees were
17 as follows:
18

19 **DISTRICT SECRETARY (elect one):**

20 Richard Merrill, Richard Milbrandt, Keith Schweitzer

21 **DISTRICT TREASURER (elect one):**

22 Kerry Burmeister, Scott Ernst, Mitch Hambleton

23 **CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS (elect one):**

24 Stanton Ullerich, Ralph von Qualen, Kirk Warnke

25 **CHAIRMAN, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (elect one):**

26 Paul Dare, Matthew Krause, Luke Timm

27 **CHAIRMAN, STEWARDSHIP (elect one):**

28 Mitchel Schuessler, Russell Senstad, Nicholas Thackery

29 **CHAIRMAN, YOUTH SERVICES (elect one):**

30 Chris Nitzel, Ryan Roehrig, Alex Slotter

31 **CHAIRMAN, MISSIONS (elect one):**

32 Benjamin Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Joshua Lowe

33 **CHAIRMAN, HUMAN CARE (elect one):**

34 Chadric Dietrich, Paul Ferderer, Thomas Vanderbilt

35 **ORDAINED MINISTER-AT-LARGE (elect one):**

36 Paul Dare, David Kuhfal, Nathan Peitsch

37 **COMMISSIONED MINISTER-AT-LARGE (elect one):**

38 Cory Emily, Bethany Kuhlmann, Tia Pugh

39 **LAY MEMBER-AT-LARGE (elect three):**

40 Kent Hollrah, Jacob Husman, Mark Schulz,

41 Penny Schuessler, Kirk Warnke, Carole White Mandernach

42 **DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

43 **Ordained Ministers (elect three):** Jonathan Riggert, Ryan Roehrig,
44 Steve Schulz, Russell Senstad,
45 Nicholas Thackery, Robert Zellmer

46 **Commissioned Minister (elect one):** Adam Hengeveld, Thomas Wilson

47 **Laypersons (elect three):** Ann Carrick, Amy Hull, Mark Kramer,

Sherrill Phillips, Kirk Warnke,
Carole White Mandernach

There were no nominations from the floor. A request for information was made, seeking clarification on how the ballot was determined. The delegate expressed concern that candidates suggested by congregations were not being given full consideration. The nominating committee assured the delegate that all those suggested for nomination were qualified, and noted that some had declined the nomination. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the slate of candidates as presented. Motion carried by voice vote. Chaplain Mahnken led the convention in prayer before the election.

Election of District Officers

The slate of candidates for the office of **District Secretary** was announced, results of the first ballot were as follows:

Richard Merrill	137 (74.9%)
Richard Milbrandt	18 (9.8%)
Keith Schweitzer	28 (15.3%)

With 74.9% of the votes cast, the Rev. Richard Merrill was declared reelected as District Secretary on the first ballot.

The slate of candidates for **District Treasurer** was announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

Kerry Burmeister	50 (27.9%)
Scott Ernst	98 (54.8%)
Mitch Hambleton	31 (17.3%)

Scott Ernst was declared reelected as District Treasurer on the first ballot, having received 54.8% of the votes cast.

The slate of candidates for **Chairman of the Board of Directors** was announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

Stanton Ullerich	64 (35.2%)
Ralph von Qualen	28 (15.4%)
Kirk Warnke	90 (49.4%)

With no candidate receiving a majority, the name of Ralph von Qualen was removed and a second ballot was taken. Results of the second ballot were as follows:

Stanton Ullerich	64 (34.0%)
Kirk Warnke	124 (66.0%)

1 Kirk Warnke was declared elected on the second ballot, having received 66% of the votes
2 cast.

3
4 The slate of candidates for **Chairman of the Christian Education Committee** was
5 announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

6		
7	Paul Dare	119 (64.0%)
8	Matthew Krause	30 (16.1%)
9	Luke Timm	37 (19.9%)

10
11 Paul Dare was declared elected on the first ballot, having received 64% of the votes cast.

12
13 The slate of candidates for **Chairman of the Stewardship Committee** was announced.
14 Results of the first ballot were as follows:

15		
16	Mitchel Schuessler	38 (20.7%)
17	Russell Senstad	89 (48.3%)
18	Nicholas Thackery	57 (31.0%)

19
20 With no candidate receiving a majority, the name of Mitchel Schuessler was removed and
21 a second ballot was taken. Results of the second ballot were as follows:

22		
23	Russell Senstad	117 (63.9%)
24	Nicholas Thackery	66 (36.1%)

25
26 Russell Senstad was declared elected on the second ballot, having received 63.9% of the
27 votes cast.

28
29 The slate of candidates for **Chairman of the Youth Services Committee** was
30 announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

31		
32	Chris Nitzel	36 (19.9%)
33	Ryan Roehrig	117 (64.6%)
34	Alex Slotter	28 (15.5%)

35
36 Ryan Roehrig was declared elected on the first ballot, having received 64.6% of the votes
37 cast.

38
39 The slate of candidates for **Chairman of the Missions Committee** was announced.
40 Results of the first ballot were as follows:

41		
42	Benjamin Johnson	28 (15.4%)
43	Kevin Johnson	51 (28.0%)
44	Joshua Lowe	103 (56.6%)

45
46 Joshua Lowe was declared elected on the first ballot, having received 56.6% of the votes
47 cast.

1
2 The slate of candidates for **Chairman of the Human Care Committee** was announced.
3 Results of the first ballot were as follows:

4
5 **Chadric Dietrich 105 (57.1%)**
6 Paul Ferderer 16 (8.7%)
7 Thomas Vanderbilt 63 (34.2%)
8

9 Chadric Dietrich was declared elected on the first ballot, having received 57.1% of the
10 votes cast.

11
12 The slate of candidates for **Ordained Minister Member-at-Large** on the Board of
13 Directors was announced. The Rev. Paul Dare removed his name from the ballot due to his
14 election as Chairman of the Christian Education Committee. Results of the first ballot were as
15 follows:

16
17 **David Kuhfal 101 (56.7%)**
18 Nathan Peitsch 77 (43.3%)
19

20 David Kuhfal was declared elected on the first ballot, having received 56.7% of the votes
21 cast.

22
23 The slate of candidates for **Commissioned Minister Member-at-Large** on the Board of
24 Directors was announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

25
26 Cory Emily 56 (31.6%)
27 Bethany Kuhlmann 87 (49.2%)
28 Tia Pugh 34 (19.2%)
29

30 With no candidate receiving a majority, the name of Tia Pugh was removed and a second
31 ballot was taken. Results of the second ballot were as follows:

32
33 Cory Emily 52 (29.6%)
34 **Bethany Kuhlmann 123 (69.9%)**
35 (one empty ballot was cast)
36

37 Bethany Kuhlmann was declared elected on the second ballot, having received 69.9% of
38 the votes cast.

39
40 The slate of candidates for **Layperson Member-at-Large** on the Board of Directors
41 (three to be elected) was announced. Mr. Kirk Warnke's name was removed from the ballot due
42 to his election as Chairman of the Board of Directors. Balloting began with the first lay member
43 position. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

44
45 Kent Hollrah 11 (6.0%)
46 Jacob Husman 42 (22.8%)
47 Penny Schuessler 19 (10.3%)

1 Mark Schulz 40 (21.7%)
2 Carole White Mandernach 72 (39.1%)
3

4 With no candidate receiving a majority, bylaws stipulate that candidates receiving less
5 than 15% of the vote are eliminated from consideration. The names of Kent Hollrah and Penny
6 Schuessler were removed from the ballot.
7

8 A second ballot was conducted. The results of that ballot were:
9

10 Jacob Husman 42 (23.0%)
11 Mark Schulz 33 (18.0%)
12 **Carole White Mandernach 108 (59.0%)**
13

14 Carole White Mandernach was declared elected on the second ballot, having received
15 59% of the votes cast.
16

17 The remaining four names were restored and balloting began for the second position.
18 Results of the first ballot were:
19

20 Kent Hollrah 8 (4.3%)
21 Jacob Husman 85 (46.0%)
22 Penny Schuessler 23 (12.4%)
23 Mark Schulz 69 (37.3%)
24

25 With no candidate receiving a majority, a second ballot was taken. The names of Kent
26 Hollrah and Penny Schuessler were removed from the ballot, those candidates having received
27 less than 15% of the vote. The results of the second ballot were:
28

29 **Jacob Husman 104 (57.8%)**
30 Mark Schulz 76 (42.2%)
31

32 With 57.8% of the votes cast, Jacob Husman was declared elected on the second ballot.
33

34 The remaining three names were restored and balloting began for the third position.
35 Results of the first ballot were:
36

37 Kent Hollrah 18 (10.0%)
38 **Mark Schulz 125 (69.4%)**
39 Penny Schuessler 37 (20.6%)
40

41 With 69.4% of the votes cast, Mark Schulz was declared elected on the first ballot.
42

43 The slate of candidates for **District Nominating Committee—Ordained Ministers** was
44 announced (three to be elected). Delegates were instructed to vote for three candidates. The
45 results of the first ballot were as follows:
46
47

1	Jonathan Riggert	120
2	Ryan Roehrig	87
3	Steve Schulz	103
4	Russell Senstad	74
5	Nicholas Thackery	86
6	Robert Zellmer	76

7
8 With 182 ballots cast, Jonathan Riggert and Steve Schulz were declared elected on the
9 first ballot. Jonathan Riggert was declared chairman of the District Nominating Committee,
10 having received the highest number of votes.

11
12 A second ballot was taken, with delegates voting for one candidate. Results of the
13 second ballot were:

14		
15	Ryan Roehrig	54 (28.9%)
16	Russell Senstad	24 (12.8%)
17	Nicholas Thackery	67 (35.8%)
18	Robert Zellmer	42 (22.5%)

19
20 With no candidate receiving a majority of the vote, the name of Russell Senstad was
21 removed from the ballot and a third ballot was taken. Results of the third ballot were:

22		
23	Ryan Roehrig	52 (27.5%)
24	Nicholas Thackery	90 (47.6%)
25	Robert Zellmer	47 (24.9%)

26
27 With no candidate receiving a majority of the vote, the name of Robert Zellmer was
28 removed from the ballot and a fourth ballot was taken. Results of the fourth ballot were:

29		
30	Ryan Roehrig	59 (31.7%)
31	Nicholas Thackery	127 (68.3%)

32
33 With 68.3% of the votes cast, Nicholas Thackery was declared elected on the fourth
34 ballot.

35
36 The slate of candidates for **District Nominating Committee—Commissioned Minister**
37 was announced (one to be elected). The results of the balloting were as follows:

38		
39	Adam Hengeveld	89
40	Thomas Wilson	88

41
42 By a single vote, Adam Hengeveld was declared elected on the first ballot.

43
44 The slate of candidates for **District Nominating Committee—Laypersons** was
45 announced (three to be elected). Delegates were instructed to vote for three candidates. The
46 results of the balloting were as follows:

1	Ann Carrick	72
2	Amy Hull	89
3	Mark Kramer	105
4	Sherrill Phillips	57
5	Kirk Warnke	104
6	Carole White Mandernach	95

7
8 With 174 ballots cast, Mark Kramer, Kirk Warnke and Carole White Mandernach were
9 declared elected on the first ballot.

10
11 This concluded the elections.

12
13 *Convention Offering*

14
15 President Turner reported that the convention offering from Sunday's opening service
16 totaled \$18,466, to be given to Camp Okoboji to assist with repairs from last year's flooding.

17
18 *Recess and Table Prayer for Lunch*

19
20 President Turner declared the convention to be in recess for lunch. Chaplain Merle
21 Mahnken led the convention in prayer for lunch and included requested intercessions for special
22 needs.

23
24
25
26
27 **Session 2**
28 **Afternoon Session, Monday, June 9, 2025**

29
30 *Call To Order*

31
32 President Turner called the convention back to order at 1:28 p.m.

33
34 *Essayist*

35
36 President Turner introduced the essayist for this convention, the Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich,
37 President of Concordia University St. Paul and a son of Iowa District West.

38
39 Dr. Friedrich shared that President Turner had given him the general idea for his
40 presentation with the statement: "While 'one generation commends your works to another,'
41 mission and ministry are in the present tense." He shared that his intent was to provide practical
42 things to consider as we move from one generation to another. The changing of generations has
43 a personal story, and Rev. Friedrich told the story of his family's history in Iowa District West.
44 He noted that while times are changing, our theology and confession do not change.

45
46 Dr. Friedrich defined a generation as "a group of people born within a certain period of
47 time who share a similar worldview." Sociologists have identified seven generations living

1 among us in the United States. We are called to serve these seven generations. Rev. Heath
2 Curtis notes four challenges facing LCMS congregations: declining and older membership,
3 finances, volunteers, and inactive members. Studying the people we want to serve with the
4 Gospel (the different generations) can help us see how to serve them.

5
6 Dr. Friedrich listed the seven generations and some of their defining characteristics:

- 7
- 8 1. The Greatest Generation (born 1901-1924) – resilience.
- 9 2. The Silent Generation (1925-1945) – resilience, adaptability, organization
- 10 3. The Baby Boomers (1946-1964) – largest generation (till recently); expansion of
- 11 schools, suburbs, and now hospitals and nursing homes
- 12 4. Generation X (1965-1980) – economic uncertainty, advances in technology
- 13 5. Millennials (1981-96) – digital competence
- 14 6. Gen Z (1997-2009) – balance between work and life, anxious, live in a digital world
- 15 7. Gen Alpha (2010-2024) – first generation shaped totally by the 21st century,
- 16 culturally and ethnically diverse.
- 17

18 Dr. Friedrich encouraged us to discuss the generations among ourselves.

19
20 Part 2 of Dr. Friedrich's presentation was entitled, "What Does the Bible Have to Say
21 About Generations?" There are many references to "generations" in the Bible. The word is used
22 52 times in the Psalms alone. Jesus Himself used the word 14 times.

23
24 The Old Testament book of Numbers is a book about generations. It focuses on two
25 generations, which Dr. Friedrich labeled the "exit generation"—the generation that failed to enter
26 the promised land and was sentenced to wander in the wilderness—and the "entrance
27 generation"—the generation 20 and under at the beginning of the wilderness wanderings that did
28 enter the promised land.

29
30 What lessons do we learn from the book of Numbers? Dr. Friedrich suggested there are
31 both moral lessons and Christological lessons. Two important moral lessons are to follow the
32 second generation's faith-filled example and to learn to trust God during life's in-between times.
33 Christological lessons include:

- 34 1. Christ travels with both generations (1 Corinthians 10:4: "they all drank from the
35 Rock...")
- 36 2. Christ is the perfect obedient Israelite.
- 37 3. Christ defeats Satan in the wilderness with the Word of God.
- 38 4. Christ, the Word made flesh, empowers us on our faith journey, especially in the
39 wilderness of our lives.
- 40

41 Life in-between is lived out in the wilderness. In Numbers the exit generation was
42 impatient, idolatrous, and faithful at complaining. There was a minor victory: there were two
43 spies, Caleb and Joshua, that were faithful. Our "wilderness" is life between birth date and death
44 date. We have many ups and downs. We complain, conspire, miss relationships, then repent and
45 pray to God for help. Our most important legacy is faith, active in love and devotion to Jesus
46 Christ.

1 Today we face the challenge that the number of people with a biblical worldview has
2 declined over time (66% of the Greatest Generation vs. only 1% of Millennials). Our wilderness
3 includes wars, pandemics, divorce, and division in the church. The promise is that God has
4 begun a good work in you and will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians
5 1:6).

6
7 *Report of the Assistant to the President for Education, Youth, and Family Life*
8

9 President Turner invited Ms. Rhonda Mohr, Assistant to the President for Education,
10 Youth, and Family Life, to give her report to the convention.
11

12 Ms. Mohr began by speaking about Lutheran school ministry in Iowa District West. The
13 District has 35 preschools serving 1400 children. Christ is at the center of our Lutheran schools
14 and preschools. Sharing Christ with the children impacts the families. They hear about Jesus
15 every day. Ms. Mohr noted that our Lutheran schools have seen substantial growth—262
16 students gained in the last 5 years. Ms. Mohr cited two factors—COVID and the Educational
17 Savings Accounts (ESAs). Three of our schools have expanded their buildings; others are using
18 space creatively to accommodate increased student enrollment.
19

20 Ms. Mohr cited several professional growth opportunities for commissioned workers.
21 She asked the delegates to encourage young people to consider church work as a vocation. She
22 showed a video featuring the Synod's "Set Apart to Serve" program focused on church worker
23 recruitment. She pointed out that Iowa District West has the "Joy in Ministry" program which
24 provides scholarships and grants for those studying for church work careers. Over \$250,000 in
25 District aid was distributed this year to 18 students from Iowa District West. Ms. Mohr showed
26 a video featuring some of the recipients.
27

28 For Youth, Ms. Mohr mentioned the gatherings coming up this fall (publicity handed out
29 in folder). Tia Pugh is the District Coordinator for the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans
30 in July. She has been working on a District event and has shirts for gathering participants. Over
31 400 youth and adults from Iowa District West are registered to attend. YouthLead will have
32 another retreat next year. Ms. Mohr encouraged delegates to identify young people in their
33 congregation(s) who have leadership skills so the District can send them.
34

35 For Family Life, Ms. Mohr pointed to the resources available through the District to help
36 families deal with today's issues, and mentioned the VBS Best Practices Workshops that are held
37 each year.
38

39 Ms. Mohr stated that the safety of our children and youth continues to be a priority. She
40 encouraged congregations to have safety policies and background checks for those who work
41 with children and youth. Ms. Mohr serves as a resource person for our congregations.
42

43 A Pastors' Wives Retreat will be held in October. Congregations are encouraged to cover
44 the cost for their pastor's wife to attend.
45
46
47

1 *Floor Committee 2: Mission and Ministry*

2
3 President Turner invited the Rev. Ryan Roehrig, Chairman of Committee 2, to the stage
4 for the presentation of resolutions. Rev. Roehrig introduced his committee.

5
6 Rev. Roehrig presented Resolution #2-01 on page 3 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To
7 Promote Wellness Among Church Workers." The resolution was read and the committee moved
8 for its adoption. There was no discussion. The resolution was approved by voice vote.

9
10 Rev. Roehrig presented Resolution #2-02 on page 5 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To
11 Build a Culture of Church Work Formation and Recruitment." The resolution was read. The
12 committee moved for its adoption. There was no discussion. The resolution was approved
13 unanimously by voice vote.

14
15 Rev. Roehrig presented Resolution #2-03 on pg. 7 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To
16 Encourage Every Congregation to Enact Sexual Abuse Prevention Strategies." The resolution
17 was read. The committee moved for its adoption. There was no discussion. The resolution was
18 approved unanimously by voice vote.

19
20 Rev. Roehrig presented Resolution #2-04 on pg. 8 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To
21 Give Thanks for the One True Faith as Confessed in the Nicene Creed on Its 1700th
22 Anniversary." The resolution was read. The committee moved for its adoption. There was no
23 discussion. The resolution was approved unanimously by voice vote. The delegates stood and
24 confessed the Nicene Creed together, then joined in the singing of the common doxology.

25
26 Rev. Roehrig presented Resolution #2-05 on pg. 9 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To
27 Support and Encourage Adoption." The resolution was read. The committee moved for its
28 adoption. There was no discussion. The resolution was approved by voice vote.

29
30 Rev. Roehrig presented Resolution #2-06 on pg. 11 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To
31 Commission a Study to Support Ethnic Ministry Pastors and Commissioned Workers." The
32 resolution was read. The committee moved for its adoption, amending line 40 to strike the words
33 "the necessary." There was no discussion. The resolution was approved by voice vote.

34
35 President Turner noted that the Board of Directors needs to put together the memorials
36 for the Synod Conventions approved in Resolutions 2-05 and 2-06. This will be the
37 responsibility of the President-elect and the District Secretary.

38
39 President Turner dismissed Floor Committee 2, with two resolutions remaining to be
40 presented.

41
42 *David's Harp*

43
44 President Turner invited the Rev. Nathan Sherrill (St. Paul, Council Bluffs) to speak
45 about David's Harp.

1 Rev. Sherill showed a video about the ministry of David's Harp. David's Harp is a
2 Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Synod that is helping raise the next generation of
3 church musicians in local congregations. It began in Iowa District West, at St. Paul, Council
4 Bluffs, several years ago. He invited congregations and circuits to intentionally provide
5 opportunities for raising up church musicians. Information was distributed to delegates in their
6 convention folder.

7
8 *Lutheran Federal Credit Union (LFCU)*
9

10 President Turner invited the Rev. Tom Schlund, his former associate pastor at Trinity,
11 Algona, to speak about the Lutheran Federal Credit Union. He greeted the convention and gave
12 information about the LFCU and its services for congregations and workers, including checking
13 accounts, loans, and more.

14
15 President Turner declared the convention to be in recess until 3:50 p.m.

16
17 *Call to Order*
18

19 The convention reconvened with the singing of hymn #500, "Creator Spirit, By Whose
20 Aid."

21
22 President Turner called the convention back to order.

23
24 *Report of the Synod's President, Part 2*
25

26 The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, Synod President, returned to the stage for the second
27 part of the Synod President's report.

28
29 President Harrison commented on the situation at Concordia, Texas (CTX). Contrary to
30 LCMS bylaws, the Board of Regents at CTX voted to remove itself from the Synod's
31 governance. A thorough visit was made by the Synod. There are many good things going on at
32 CTX, but when asked about the acceptance of DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) and sexual
33 practices contrary to Scripture, the Board had no response. The Synod at its convention in 2023
34 voted to call them to repentance. The first action of the Board after the convention was to nullify
35 the Synod's election of 4 members to the Board of Regents. The Synod was forced to file a
36 lawsuit seeking public redress for the elected regents. The issue is currently in court, both state
37 and federal. The Texas court recently granted CTX a victory in the case. President Harrison
38 stated that the church, not the state, determines what its structure is. Now the case is a religious
39 freedom case. Universities are agencies of the Synod. President Harrison stated that we can't
40 ignore the actions of CTX; it would set a bad legal precedent. Our remaining schools are in
41 good shape.

42
43 A question-and-answer session was held following President Harrison's report.
44

45 President Harrison was asked to provide insight on how Synod's leaders seek to provide
46 as much transparency as they can on issues without violating the 8th Commandment. He
47 responded that institutions are important. If they are not functioning as they should, they need to

1 be reformed. It is hard to be transparent and to know when to say what, especially with the
2 Internet. President Harrison said that we can try to be more transparent, but need to be careful
3 not to "stir the pot" in ways that are not helpful. He invited those who have concerns to call him.
4

5 President Harrison was asked if our churches are permitted to work together with other
6 churches to address actions that violate community standards. Example: public schools in a
7 community were providing space for LGBTQ students to meet on school time. President
8 Harrison said, yes, we are permitted to do so. This is called "cooperation in externals." If such
9 groups are given access, Christian groups should also be given access. We should seek out other
10 churches and organizations to advocate for responsible practices in our public schools.
11

12 President Harrison was asked to tell the convention about money going out from the
13 Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to non-government organizations. He noted that
14 there was criticism of the Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service for misuse of funds to support
15 undocumented immigrants. However, the LCMS is no longer in the organization, and it is no
16 longer Lutheran. President Harrison stated that the government is responsible for the situation.
17

18 A delegate noted that getting insurance for church buildings has become increasingly
19 difficult, and asked if the Synod has been looking at any solutions. President Harrison replied
20 yes; liability insurance is already in the works, and property insurance is being discussed for the
21 future. Actuarial charts look promising for LCMS churches, since the highest concentration is in
22 the Midwest.
23

24 A delegate raised the concern that some candidates for ministry were not being
25 sufficiently trained at seminary and yet being placed by congregations. President Harrison
26 responded that the District Presidents are handling the situation very well, and stated that we
27 need residential students at the seminaries.
28

29 President Harrison was asked if the Synod was giving guidance to congregations on the
30 use of artificial intelligence (AI). He replied that the issue is, how do you use AI in a responsible
31 way? Information is developing exponentially, and that can create many problems. He urged
32 the delegates not to fear AI; it can be helpful. He stated that he is more optimistic than fearful.
33

34 President Harrison thanked the convention for its faithfulness. He encouraged delegates,
35 "Don't be down. The Word of God does not return empty. The Missouri Synod is a blessing.
36 Thanks be to God for you." The Convention recognized him with an ovation.
37

38 *Greetings from the Seminaries* 39

40 President Turner invited the representatives from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort
41 Wayne and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to the podium to bring greetings from the Synod's
42 two seminaries.
43

44 Rev. Matthew Montgomery brought greetings from Concordia Theological Seminary,
45 Fort Wayne. Eight students from Iowa District West are currently attending one of our two
46 seminaries. Rev. Montgomery encouraged the delegates to encourage young men who seem

1 qualified for the pastoral ministry. He emphasized that the Fort Wayne and St. Louis seminaries
2 are not in opposition to one another, but are working together to prepare men for the ministry.
3

4 Mr. Bill Wright brought greetings from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He reported that
5 a tornado recently went through campus. There were no fatalities, but the campus lost a lot of
6 trees. The seminary is on the mend. He thanked LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) for the
7 work that they did on campus. St. Louis has a large class coming in next year. Mr. Wright
8 encouraged delegates to visit our two seminaries, and to bring confirmation and high school
9 students. Both seminaries have programs for high school students (Vocatio at St. Louis; Christ
10 Academy at Fort Wayne). Tuition is 100% covered as of now; Mr. Wright said the seminaries
11 would like to continue that support. Donations are encouraged.
12

13 *Report of the Assistant to the President for Missions*
14

15 President Turner invited the Rev. Dr. B. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President for
16 Missions, to give his report to the convention.
17

18 Rev. Haney spoke on connecting with communities. Mission Insight is a resource which
19 walks congregations through data collected about their communities to help the church see how
20 it can meet the needs of the community. "Art of Neighboring" workshops help individuals and
21 congregations see how they can be neighbors to their communities and bring people to hear the
22 Word of God in our churches.
23

24 Rev. Haney commented on the state of the church today. The church is no longer the
25 centerpiece of community life. Weekend activities compete with the church. The old way of
26 thinking, "If you build it, they will come," doesn't work anymore. Only 17.7% of the population
27 attends church on Sunday morning; the percentage has declined 42% since the COVID
28 pandemic. Eighty percent of congregations are struggling or declining. Still, young adults (Gen
29 Z) are becoming more aware of the need to maintain a connection with a church. All this means
30 there is an incredible mission field around us that needs to hear the Gospel.
31

32 Rev. Haney gave updates on some of the congregations in the District who have begun
33 new ways of reaching out to their communities. The Rev. Pedro Lopez has been expanding
34 ministry opportunities with Hispanic communities. Work has begun in Carroll and Hartley. The
35 Rev. Daniel Mapur has been working with the Sudanese congregation at Grace, Le Mars. There
36 are possibilities for Sudanese ministries in Denison, Storm Lake, and Des Moines. Rev. Haney
37 showed a video highlighting the Sudanese ministry at Grace, Le Mars, the cross-cultural
38 ministries at Shepherd of the Valley, West Des Moines, rural and small-town ministry grants,
39 "swaddling clothes" ministries, and community engagement events.
40

41 *Report of the Missionary-at-Large*
42

43 President Turner invited the Rev. Pedro Lopez, Assistant to the President and
44 Missionary-at-Large for Hispanic Outreach, to give his report to the convention.
45

46 Rev. Lopez reported on some of the statistics for Hispanic ministry in the United States.
47 California has the biggest Hispanic population in the United States at 15.7 million.

1 Approximately 1/3 of Hispanic immigrants are undocumented. All are in the immigration
2 process, but some are facing deportation.

3
4 Rev. Lopez reported on the Hispanic Missions in Iowa District West. St. Paul, Hartley
5 has English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and a children's ministry. The new members in
6 Hartley are attending the English worship services. In Carroll County he is providing ESL
7 classes, a Bible study at St. Paul, Carroll, a praise and prayer service every Saturday, and a
8 quinceanera service. At St. John, Storm Lake they are providing help for new mothers caring for
9 their babies, and also have an ESL program. Work is being done at Zion, Denison, in
10 cooperation with Christ and Our Savior churches. Faith, Early has begun a new Bible study for
11 Hispanics.

12
13 Rev. Lopez introduced three men who are deacons in Hispanic ministry in the District.
14 The deacons are being prepared for additional education by Rev. Lopez at the congregational
15 level and will be attending the seminary soon. They spoke words of thanks to the convention for
16 their support.

17
18 *Floor Committee 3: Administration and Finances*

19
20 President Turner invited the Rev. Christopher Nitzel, Chairman of Committee 3, to the
21 stage for the presentation of resolutions.

22
23 Rev. Nitzel presented Resolution #3-02 on page 17 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To
24 Strengthen Through Realignment Congregations of Circuits 1, 6, 8, 16." The resolution was read
25 and the committee moved for its adoption. There was no discussion. The resolution was
26 approved unanimously by voice vote. President Turner advised that during the 1:30 break
27 tomorrow these circuits will need to caucus to choose a circuit visitor.

28
29 Rev. Nitzel presented Resolution #3-03 on page 18 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To
30 Bring Awareness to Congregations by Encouraging Them to Develop a Disaster and Risk
31 Response Plan." The resolution was read, with a change to line 11, striking the words "our faith,"
32 and replacing them with, "God." The committee moved for its adoption.

33
34 A "friendly amendment" was suggested to reword line 25 to strike the word "do" and
35 insert the words "in convention does." The committee accepted the amendment. There was no
36 further discussion. The resolution was approved unanimously by voice vote.

37
38 Rev. Nitzel presented Resolution #3-04 on page 19 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To
39 Support the Compassionate Mission of Lutheran Family Service." The resolution was read. The
40 committee moved for its adoption.

41
42 A delegate asked the committee to clarify the third "Resolved," asking whether the Board
43 of Directors' contribution of 3% is a one-time requirement or whether it would be permanent.
44 Rev. Nitzel responded that the Board is encouraged to continue support while not making it a
45 requirement.

46
47 The resolution was approved unanimously by voice vote.

1
2 Rev. Nitzel presented Resolution #3-05 on page 21 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To
3 Embrace Biblical Stewardship for the Flourishing of Christ's Mission." The resolution was read
4 and the committee moved for its adoption. There was no discussion. The resolution was
5 approved unanimously by voice vote.

6
7 Rev. Nitzel presented Resolution #3-06 on page 22 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To
8 Review the Handbook of Iowa District West." The resolution was read and the committee moved
9 for its adoption. There was no discussion. The resolution was approved by voice vote.

10
11 That concluded the work of Floor Committee 3. President Turner excused the committee
12 for the time being.

13
14 *Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)*

15
16 President Turner welcomed Mrs. Penny Schuessler, President of the Iowa West District -
17 LWML to the podium. She brought greetings from the LWML. She reported that as of May
18 2025, about half of the mission goal established at the 2024 LWML District Convention has been
19 received, with 12 months to go. Over 200 LWML members from Iowa West District are
20 registered for the National LWML Convention in Omaha, Nebraska June 26-28. Planning is
21 underway for the District LWML Convention June 11-13, 2026, at Camp Okoboji.

22
23 *Floor Committee 2: Missions and Ministry*

24
25 President Turner called the Rev. Ryan Roehrig, Chairman of Committee 2, to the stage
26 for the continuation of their resolutions.

27
28 Rev. Roehrig presented Resolution #2-07 on page 13 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To
29 Advance the Reach of Word and Sacrament Ministry in Our Local Community." The resolution
30 was read. The committee moved for its adoption.

31
32 Discussion followed. A delegate noted that the standing rules of the convention state that
33 resolutions involving a financial commitment must specify the source of the funding, and asked
34 where the money for the new initiative would come from. Rev. Roehrig responded for the
35 committee that the funds are already within the budget; the resolution specifies where the funds
36 should be allocated.

37
38 The resolution was approved by voice vote.

39
40 Rev. Roehrig presented Resolution #2-08 on page 14 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To
41 Allow Greater Access to the Lutheran Confessions." The resolution was read. The committee
42 moved for its adoption.

43
44 Discussion followed. A delegate spoke in favor of the resolution, with the concern that it
45 would be costly for Concordia Publishing House (CPH). He stated that if the resolution were to
46 pass, we would want to encourage people to still buy the book.

1 Synod President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison asked if anyone had spoken to CPH about
2 the matter. Rev. Roehrig replied that the committee had consulted a person associated with
3 CPH. President Harrison said that other Districts had passed resolutions, but the cost for
4 permission to use the texts is minor. A delegate spoke against the resolution, citing the
5 difficulties with allowing anyone and everyone to have access to the text; for example, the
6 possibility that mistranslations of the text might be circulated. Another delegate suggested we
7 wait to consider the resolution until CPH has been contacted.
8

9 An electronic vote was taken. There were 55 yes votes and 129 no votes. The resolution
10 was declined, with 70.1% of those casting ballots voting "No."
11

12 That completed the work of Floor Committee 2. President Turner dismissed the
13 committee until a later time.
14

15 *Announcements, Table Prayer and Recess*
16

17 Ms. Rhonda Mohr, Convention Manager, encouraged all delegates to return for closing
18 devotions and a special presentation at 7 p.m.
19

20 Chaplain Mahnken offered requested prayers for urgent needs and led the convention in a
21 table prayer for dinner. President Turner declared the convention to be in recess until 7 p.m.
22
23

24 **Session 3**
25 **Evening Session, Monday, June 9, 2025**
26
27

28 *Call to Order*
29

30 The assembly gathered with the singing of hymn # 895, "Now Thank We All Our God."
31 President Turner declared the convention back in session.
32

33 *Closing Devotion*
34

35 The Rev. Jonathan Riggert, First Vice President-elect, led the closing devotion for the
36 day based on the convention theme verse, Psalm 145:4. The convention sang the first four verses
37 of hymn #733, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past."
38

39 Every family tree has a story. DNA can tell you where you came from. Through the
40 Holy Spirit, we hand our legacy of faith down from generation to generation. DNA cannot tell
41 you where your faith came from. Psalm 145:4 tells us, "One generation commends Your works
42 to another." God's usual way of handing faith down through generations is through families.
43 The most important inheritance in your genealogy is faith. God grafts us into a new family
44 tree—the family of Jesus Christ. We declare His mighty acts, His sacrifice at the cross, His
45 rising from the dead. Every Christian is part of this ongoing work.
46

1 After prayer, the Lord's Prayer, and the Benediction, the devotion closed with the singing
2 of the last two verses of hymn #733.

3
4 *Special Presentations*

5
6 President Turner began the evening presentation. He told the convention that many
7 servants of our District have served faithfully for many years.

8
9 Mr. Jim Schroeder was chosen as gift planning counselor at the 1994 District
10 Convention. He is the only one we have had in this position! President Turner thanked Mr.
11 Schroeder on behalf of the District for his 37 years of service. The convention recognized Mr.
12 Schroeder with a standing ovation.

13
14 President Turner invited the Rev. Phil Krupski, who has been Mr. Schroeder's superior, to
15 say a few words. Rev. Krupski described Mr. Schroeder as "tenacious." He thanked God for
16 Mr. Schroeder and the work he has done in Iowa District West.

17
18 Mrs. Sue Light has served in the District office for 45 years and 9 months. She has been
19 the kind voice who has listened to District pastors, greeting them with, "Iowa District West, this
20 is Sue. How can I help you?" President Turner thanked Mrs. Light for her service. The
21 convention recognized her with a standing ovation. Rev. Robert Riggert, who worked with Sue
22 for many years, was invited to the stage. He thanked her for her help during the time he was in
23 the District Office.

24
25 The Rev. Jonathan Riggert recognized President Turner, who has been the "Face" of the
26 District for ten years. The delegates held up "faces" of President Turner that they had been given
27 for the presentation. Rev. Riggert presented President Turner with a card and with gift cards
28 from Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's and a meat package from Tiefenthaler's out of Holstein. Other
29 speakers recognizing President Turner's service were the Rev. Dr. Scott Sailer, President
30 Emeritus of the South Dakota District, and the Rev. Richard Snow, President of the Nebraska
31 District. The convention recognized President Turner with a standing ovation.

32
33 President Turner declared the convention to be in recess until Tuesday morning.
34 Devotions will be at the Point at 7 a.m.

35
36 The day concluded with cake and ice cream served outside the dining hall.

37
38
39
40 **Session 4**
41 **Morning Session, Tuesday, June 10, 2025**

42
43 *Matins and Breakfast*

44
45 Tuesday, June 10, 2025, began with Morning Devotion at the Point led by the Rev. John
46 David Mull. His devotion was based on Psalm 8, the Psalm for Holy Trinity Sunday, under the
47 title, "What is Man?" Psalm 8 is a psalm of praise, but Rev. Mull said there are times in our lives

1 when it is hard to praise God. As an example, he shared a time when his then 3-year-old son was
2 getting an injection and screaming, "Daddy, make it stop!" He couldn't make the pain stop. But
3 as his son had to endure the pain to get better, so God allows us to endure hard times that
4 eventually will turn out for our good. We are important to Him, so much so that He gave His
5 Son for each one of us. That is reason for praise.

6
7 Breakfast was served in the Dining Hall at 7:30 a.m.

8
9 *Memorial Service*

10
11 The Rev. Paul Egger, President-elect of Iowa District West, led the Memorial Service for
12 those rostered servants of the Lord who had been called to glory during the past triennium.

13
14 The assembly joined in the singing of hymn #676, "Behold a Host, Arrayed in White."

15
16 Scripture readings were from Ephesians 4, 1 Timothy 4:16, and Revelation 7:16-17. The
17 assembly joined in singing hymn #644, "The Church's One Foundation."

18
19 Rev. Egger preached a homily titled, "From One Generation to the Next." What has God
20 given us to pass on to the next generation? First, God has given to us Jesus, who saves us. He
21 has given us words that make the dead live---the words of Jesus. "God's Word is Our Great
22 Heritage" (hymn #582). Today we honor God's servants whom God has brought to Himself
23 these past three years. They have passed God's words to the next generation. For this we praise
24 God.

25
26 The Convention Choir sang "Peace I Leave with You."

27
28 The names of those servants of the Lord called to glory since the 2018 convention were
29 displayed:

30
31 **PASTORS—CALLED TO GLORY**

- 32
33 +Pastor Duane Jalas, emeritus, Sutherland – October 6, 2022
34 +Pastor Andrew Johnson, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Manilla – April 4, 2023
35 +Pastor Peter Wegner, emeritus, West Des Moines – October 22, 2023
36 +Pastor Albert Buelow, emeritus, West Des Moines – April 23, 2024
37 +Pastor Dr. Ray Ohlendorf, emeritus, Remsen – October 10, 2024
38 +Pastor Larry Troxel, emeritus, Waukee – November 15, 2024
39 +Pastor David Viggers, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Odebolt – December 4, 2024
40

41 **COMMISSIONED MINISTERS—CALLED TO GLORY**

- 42
43 +Romaine Marquardt, emeritus, Alta – April 14, 2024
44 +Joann York, emeritus, Clarinda – February 26, 2025
45

46 Prayers were from Dr. Martin Luther and from Bugenhagen at Luther's funeral service,
47 followed by the Lord's Prayer.

1
2 The Memorial Service concluded with the singing of hymn #677, "For All the Saints."
3

4 *Call to Order*
5

6 President Turner called the convention back into session at 9:15 a.m. He thanked the
7 District staff for last night's reception. He thanked the District Presidents From South Dakota
8 and Nebraska for their presence and their kind words.
9

10 President Turner recognized the Rev. Henry Friedrich, who has been an LCMS Pastor for
11 72 years. He is the father of Convention Essayist, the Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich. The convention
12 recognized Rev. Henry Friedrich with a standing ovation.
13

14 *Lutheran Family Service (LFS)*
15

16 President Turner called to the stage the Rev. Max Philips, Executive Director of Lutheran
17 Family Service, for his report.
18

19 Rev. Phillips shared that Lutheran Family Service is the oldest service organization in
20 Iowa, having been organized in 1901. Its mission includes bringing comfort to those who have
21 had an abortion, those who are unexpectedly pregnant, those suffering mental health challenges,
22 and others in need.
23

24 Rev. Phillips showed a video, "Healthy Together: Healthy Workers, Healthy Church."
25 LFS is promoting church worker wellness; the "Healthy Together" Campaign will enable LFS to
26 serve more church workers in more places. Rev. Phillips talked about many of the services LFS
27 has to offer congregations and their members.
28

29 *Greetings from Concordia Universities, Nebraska, Chicago and St. Paul*
30

31 The Rev. Kristopher Morris, Director of Church Engagement for Concordia University--
32 Nebraska (CUNE), brought greetings to the convention. He stated that the number one purpose
33 of CUNE is to prepare church workers. Just over 60% of CUNE students are LCMS members.
34 Nearly one-third are in church work programs. Almost 90% of faculty are members of an LCMS
35 church and share our confession.
36

37 The Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall brought greetings from Concordia University—Chicago
38 (CUC). The mission and identity of CUC involves formation and nurture. CUC is committed to
39 raising up future church workers. Under a new scholarship plan, "Prepared to Serve," church
40 work students will pay a maximum of \$5,000 per year.
41

42 The Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, President of Concordia--St. Paul (CSP), brought greetings
43 from the university. Why is Concordia a Lutheran university? Friedrich answered, "Because
44 Luther points us to Christ, and Christ points us to the world." The 2023 Synod Convention
45 resolution has helped our Concordias to strengthen our Lutheran identity and confession. CSP is
46 the largest Lutheran university in the United States. Academic programs continue to expand.

1 Most important is the opportunity to help students learn more about the Savior who loves them.
2 The school guarantees zero tuition for students entering the pre-seminary program.

3
4 *Essayist*

5
6 Dr. Friedrich stayed at the podium for Session 2 of his essay on "Generations."
7

8 Dr. Friedrich returned to the book of Numbers for comparison of the two generations. He
9 reviewed the characteristics of the "exit generation," the generation which failed to reach the
10 promised land. Their cycle was complaint, followed by judgment, intercession from Moses, and
11 forgiveness. The unfaithful spies represent complaining people, characterized by pride, fear, and
12 lack of trust in God's promises. The result of this generation's unfaithfulness was that Israel
13 wandered in the wilderness for forty years, going in circles. The good news that came out of the
14 wilderness wanderings was that God had prepared a new generation to receive the promise.
15

16 The "entrance generation" is the generation that did enter the promised land. In Numbers
17 God meets the first generation's faithlessness with his faithfulness. He deals with them in
18 *chesed*—grace. No deaths of this generation are recorded in battle. God grants them success in
19 battle and empowers them to conquer the nations in the land of Canaan. The entrance generation
20 is poised for an inheritance: the land, and the Land (heaven).
21

22 A time for discussion at the tables followed. After the discussion Dr. Friedrich described
23 the state of the church in our present time. We live in the post-Christian era. Religious influence
24 in people's lives has declined. The church is one voice among many competing for people's
25 attention. People are less concerned about spiritual things. Ministry is more difficult than it used
26 to be. We feel like we are spinning our wheels ministering to people who don't need a God.
27 How do we do outreach in dark, difficult times?
28

29 Dr. Friedrich listed strategies that have been employed in the past, such as Evangelism
30 Explosion and apologetics, which he called, "delightful defending." He said that today our
31 outreach efforts need to concentrate on belonging and relationships, which he called,
32 "enthusiastic engagement." Studies on the spiritual development of children have emphasized
33 inter-generational relationships. Children with at least 5 non-parent adult Christians involved in
34 their life are more likely to stay in the faith. Parents remain the number one spiritual influence,
35 but intentional relationships beyond parents are essential for growth. God loves a gentle, grace-
36 filled witness—faith active in love.
37

38 Dr. Friedrich noted that Jesus was "for others." What are we for? As Christ's people we
39 are for marriage, for life, good government, family, community, those in need—in short, we are
40 also "for others." Relationships allow us to engage with people who are finding cracks in the
41 secular. "Holy moments"—either of suffering or of great joy—are opportunities to share the
42 good news of the Gospel. Dr. Friedrich pointed to the early church as a model of forgiveness
43 and vulnerability.
44

45 Dr. Friedrich described engaging the generations as a present tense activity. He cited
46 some statistics from Lauren Jackson of the New York Times. 92 percent of Americans say they
47 believe in the supernatural. 70 percent describe themselves as religious. 44 percent say they

1 pray at least once a day. Jackson calls this a major generational shift. Americans are tired of the
2 secular, hungry for religious faith. Her study found that religion helps people with belief,
3 belonging and behaviors.

4
5 Dr. Friedrich cited demographic studies which show that the generations are becoming
6 more ethnically diverse. Gen Alpha is the first generation where whites are a minority. By
7 2045 the caucasian population will be a minority group in the United States. People of two or
8 more races are the fastest growing demographic group.

9
10 How do we reach the generations? There is no "magic bullet," Dr. Friedrich said, it takes
11 prayer and getting to work. It is time to emphasize our Lutheran distinctiveness. We need to be
12 in relationships, to "love one another" after the example of the early Christians—the pagans were
13 impressed with the love and unity of the early church. We need to think beyond programs and
14 podcasts; we need to be with people, learning and helping. Personal invitations are the best.
15 Opportunities for multi-generational ministry are the best.

16
17 Dr. Friedrich gave practical suggestions for serving the seven generations:

- 18 1. The Greatest Generation—listen, pray for them, read the Bible with them.
- 19 2. The Silent Generation—listen, face-to-face interaction, value their hard work.
- 20 3. Baby Boomers—Organize group activities, respite for caregivers, be concerned with
21 their physical and mental well-being, address financial worries after retirement.
- 22 4. Gen X—common-sense solutions, help with financial debt, marriage teaching and
23 enrichment, parenting
- 24 5. Millennials—friendships, use technology for communication.
- 25 6. Gen Z—be open to their questions, give hands-on opportunities to serve.
- 26 7. Gen Alpha—care about what they care about. Show transparency and authenticity.

27
28
29 Discussion at the tables followed. Dr. Friedrich concluded by saying, "God's mission is
30 here. It's right now. It's through us. We have a great Church, and it's a great time to be the
31 Church! By God's grace, we are God's prized and priceless possession, from one generation to
32 another."

33
34 *Announcement, Recess and Call to Order*

35
36 President Turner called the Rev. Mick Wolfram to the podium. Rev. Wolfram announced
37 that the Adair, Council Bluffs, Boone, Des Moines East, and Le Mars circuits would need to
38 caucus during the break to elect a circuit visitor. President Turner assigned spaces for each
39 circuit to meet. Results need to be turned in to Pastor Wolfram. Advisory and emeritus
40 delegates were also directed to caucus to elect an advisory delegate and alternate for the Synod
41 Convention in 2026.

42
43 President Turner declared the convention in recess until 11:15 a.m.

44
45 President Turner called the meeting back to order at 11:15 a.m.

1 *Report of the Assistant to the President for Stewardship and Human Care*

2
3 President Turner invited the Rev. Dr. B. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President for
4 Stewardship and Human Care, for the second part of his report to the convention.

5
6 Rev. Haney gave his report on Stewardship. He stated that teaching people about the
7 value of stewardship is a very important thing. The District has a new Stewardship Handbook
8 available on the District website. There is also a 12-month stewardship calendar available. Rev.
9 Haney talked about other resources available to congregations. Many are free on the District
10 website.

11
12 Rev. Haney gave his report on Human Care. Church Worker Wellness has been an
13 ongoing emphasis. Workshops are planned. The Lutherans for Life National Conference will be
14 held September 24-26, 2025, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

15
16 Rev. Haney called on Mrs. Julie Mann, IOWAY Director (Individual Outreach with
17 Adults and Youth) and Disaster Relief Coordinator, for her report.

18
19 Mrs. Mann stated that her work has three areas of focus. The first is community
20 outreach. Projects have included swaddling clothes ministries (6 in Iowa District West);
21 collecting for Global Health Ministries, Moulton and Findley Elementary Schools, distributing
22 quilts, and others. The second area of focus is the deployment of LERT and Disaster Response
23 teams in Iowa District West and other districts. The third is coordinating mission trips, which
24 have included the Southern California Petal Pushers (Rose Bowl Float) and LOT 318 trip, as
25 well as trips for small groups and youth.

26
27 *Gift Planning Counselor/LCMS Foundation*

28
29 President Turner invited Mr. Jim Schroeder, Gift Planning Counselor for Iowa District
30 West, to give his report. He also invited Rev. Phil Krupski from the LCMS Foundation to the
31 stage.

32
33 Mr. Schroeder said that he has been Gift Planning Counselor for Iowa District West for
34 36 years. The LCMS Foundation was established in 1958 as a way of helping people give gifts
35 to the church other than cash. Thirty years later, Iowa District West had a Gift Planning
36 Counselor. With Mr. Schroeder's retirement, the District will have a new Gift Planning
37 Counselor. The work of the new person will include hosting gift planning seminars, helping
38 people with drafting a will, helping churches establish endowment funds, and helping with
39 investments.

40
41 Rev. Krupski stated that the LCMS Foundation has identified two candidates for
42 replacement of Mr. Schroeder. The Foundation will be deciding on his replacement soon. Rev.
43 Krupski noted that giving assets for the kingdom of God is a way of making sure the Gospel is
44 proclaimed from generation to generation.

1 *Mission Central Report*

2
3 President Turner welcomed Mr. Gary Thies and Rev. Steven Schulz to the stage for the
4 Mission Central Report.

5
6 Mr. Thies spoke of his calling to the Lord's work at Mission Central in 1994. Thirty-one
7 years later, he is blessed to still be active at Mission Central. Last year was the best year
8 financially at Mission Central. Mr. Thies thanked the delegates for the privilege of serving the
9 District. He encouraged pastors to love their people, and all the delegates to share their love for
10 others. He shared pictures and stories of the missionaries who have recently been to Mission
11 Central or who will be visiting in the coming months.

12
13 Rev. Schulz gave a report on events at Mission Central, including volunteer recognition
14 and new missionary orientation. He said the best time to come to Mission Central is when a
15 missionary is there. He reported that nine LCMS missionaries currently in the field have Iowa
16 District West connections. He shared pictures and stories of the new missionaries coming for
17 orientation.

18
19 *Prayer Before Lunch*

20
21 Chaplain Merle Mahnken led the convention in prayer for special needs and offered the
22 table prayer for lunch.

23
24 *Recess and Lunch*

25
26 President Turner declared the convention to be in recess at 12:15 p.m.

27
28 Lunch was held in the Dining Hall.

29
30
31
32 **Session 5**
33 **Afternoon Session, Tuesday, June 10, 2025**

34
35 *Call to Order*

36
37 The assembly gathered with the singing of hymn #497 "Come, Holy Ghost, God and
38 Lord."

39
40 President Turner called the convention back to order. He showed a video put together by
41 his wife Darlene commemorating his 40 years in the pastoral ministry.

42
43 *Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)*

44
45 President Turner invited Mr. Joe Willman, LCEF Vice-President for The Northern
46 Illinois District, for the LCEF Report. He brought greetings from Northern Illinois District
47 President, Rev. Allan Buss, and congratulated Rev. Paul Egger on his election as District

1 President. LCEF has partnered with many congregations in Iowa District West. Mr. Willman
2 recognized Mrs. Carole White for her service to LCEF, and thanked Rev. Max Phillips for
3 serving on the LCEF Board of directors.

4
5 Mr. Willman introduced Mr. Josh Remington, the new LCEF representative for Iowa
6 District West. Mr. Remington said that he is excited to begin working with the congregations of
7 the District.

8
9 *Greetings from Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL)*

10
11 Mr. Mark Astleford brought greetings from the Lutheran Laymen's League, filling in for
12 Mr. John Tews, who was not available. The LLL was born with the mission of serving the
13 LCMS in word and deed. Some of its early work was done in providing pensions for pastors and
14 in supporting the LWML. *The Lutheran Hour*, which is in its 95th season, is the longest-running
15 Christian radio program ever. Mr. Astleford showed a video highlighting the work of the LLL
16 (Lutheran Hour Ministries) today.

17
18 *Greetings from Concordia Publishing House (CPH)*

19
20 The Rev. Josh Cook, Academic Editor at Concordia Publishing House, brought greetings
21 to the convention. CPH provides Scripture-based resources for the pastors and congregations of
22 the LCMS. Rev. Cook encouraged pastors and delegates to reach out to him if they need
23 resources to help with ministry. CPH is currently developing Bible studies tied to the Concordia
24 Commentary series.

25
26 *Greetings from LCMS Armed Forces Ministry*

27
28 President Turner called the Rev. Mick Wolfram to the podium. Rev. Wolfram introduced
29 Rev. Dr. Steve Hokana from The LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, who told of the work our
30 Lutheran chaplains are doing in providing Word and Sacrament ministry to members of the
31 armed forces. He spoke of the need for chaplains and of the need for congregations to
32 reintegrate our service men and women into the life of the congregation and community.

33
34 *Election of Circuit Visitors*

35
36 Rev. Wolfram presented the slate of circuit visitors chosen by the circuits. President
37 Turner called for a motion to approve the slate.

38
39 The nominees for Circuit Visitor were as follows.

40
41 Adair Circuit (1) - The Rev. Kyle McBee

42 Algona Circuit (2) - The Rev. Paul Schulz

43 Boone Circuit (3) - The Rev. Dennis Martens

44 Carroll Circuit (4) - The Rev. Jonathan Conner

45 Cherokee Circuit (5) - The Rev. Don Meyer

46 Council Bluffs Circuit (6) - The Rev. Nathan Sherrill

-
- 1 Denison Circuit (7) - The Rev. Chad Trunkhill
 - 2 Des Moines East Circuit (8) - The Rev. Kevin Johnson
 - 3 Des Moines West Circuit (9) - The Rev. James Stogdill
 - 4 Fort Dodge Circuit (10) - The Rev. Joe Pierson
 - 5 Le Mars Circuit (11) - The Rev. Michael Boothby
 - 6 Mapleton Circuit (12) - The Rev. Neil Wehmas
 - 7 Spencer Circuit (13) - The Rev. Michael McGinley
 - 8 Sac City Circuit (14) - The Rev. David Lyons
 - 9 Sioux City Circuit (15) - The Rev. James Travis
 - 10 Storm Lake Circuit (16) - The Rev. Bradley Ketcham

11
 12 The slate of candidates was ratified by the Convention, and this ratification constitutes
 13 election. This concluded the work of the Nominating Committee, Committee #5. Rev. Wolfram
 14 introduced the members of his committee. President Turner dismissed the committee with the
 15 thanks of the convention.

16
 17 *Floor Committee 2: Mission and Ministry*

18
 19 Floor Committee 2 had already completed its work on Monday. President Turner
 20 dismissed the committee with the thanks of the convention.

21
 22 *Floor Committee 3: Administration and Finances*

23
 24 Floor Committee 3 had already completed its work on Monday. President Turner
 25 dismissed the committee with the thanks of the convention.

26
 27 *Committee 1: Registration and Credentials*

28
 29 President Turner called on the Rev. Ben Perkins for the final report from Committee 1:
 30 Registration and Credentials. The final report was as follows:

31

Voting Pastoral Delegates	97
Voting Lay Delegates	104
Total Voting Delegates	201
Advisory Pastors	6
Commissioned Ministers	1
Advisory Lay Delegates	5
Emeritus Pastors	4
Exhibitors	15
Visitors/Guests	33
District Staff	7
Total Registered	272

43

44 A motion was made to approve the registration report. The motion was seconded and
 45 approved by voice vote.

1
2 Rev. Perkins introduced the members of his committee. The committee was dismissed
3 with the thanks of the convention.

4
5 *Committee 4: Convention Minutes Review*
6

7 President Turner called on the Rev. Edward Durand, Chairman of Committee 4,
8 Convention Minutes Review. Rev. Durand introduced the members of his committee. The
9 committee will be meeting at a later date to review the minutes of the convention.
10

11 *Recognition and Thanks*
12

13 President Turner thanked the District Staff for their work at the convention.
14

15 Mr. Roger Curtis, District Business Manager and Convention Business Manager
16 Mrs. Sue Light, Administrative Assistant
17 Mrs. Jill Davis, Administrative Assistant
18 Ms. Rhonda Mohr, Convention Manager and Assistant to the President
19 Rev. Keith Haney, Convention Technology and Assistant to the President
20 Sarah and Josh Wudtke, Technical Assistants
21 The Rev. Robert Zellmer, Sound
22

23 President Turner asked the following individuals to be recognized and thanked them for
24 their service to the convention:
25

26 Mrs. Stacy Travis, Public Relations and Communications
27 The Rev. John David Mull, Morning Devotions at the Point
28 The Rev. Merle Mahnken, Convention Chaplain
29 The Rev. Richard Merrill, District Secretary
30 The Rev. Dr. Joshua Lowe, Assistant Secretary
31 The Rev. Dr. Scott Sailer, Parliamentarian
32 The Rev. Alex Slotter, Judge of Elections
33 The Rev. Timothy Frank, Convention Organist
34 The Rev. Nathan Sherrill, Convention Choir Director
35

36 The outgoing members of the Board of Directors were recognized and thanked for their
37 service to the District:
38

39 Mr. Terry Allers, Chairman of the Board of Directors
40 The Rev. Benjamin Dose, Education Committee Chairman
41 The Rev. Thomas Vanderbilt, Human Care Committee Chairman
42 The Rev. Merle Mahnken, Ordained Minister Member-at-Large
43 Ms. Merrilee Sump, Commissioned Minister Member-at-Large
44 Mr. Mark Kramer, Lay Member-at-Large
45 Mrs. Tracy Stetzel, Lay Member-at-Large
46

1 President Turner thanked Mr. Adam Hengeveld, Director of Camp Okoboji, and the
2 camp staff for their hospitality in hosting the convention. He thanked the two Vice-Presidents,
3 Rev. Paul Egger and Rev. Jonathan Riggert, for their devotions.

4
5 *Installation of District President*
6

7 President Turner called on the Rev. Nabil Nour, Fourth Vice-President of The Lutheran
8 Church—Missouri Synod, to conduct the installation of the Rev. Paul Egger as President of Iowa
9 District West. Rev. Nour installed Rev. Egger as President of Iowa District West for the 2025-
10 2028 triennium.

11
12 *Installation of Officers*
13

14 Newly installed President Egger installed the Rev. Jonathan Riggert as First Vice-
15 President of Iowa District West, and the Rev. Benjamin Dose as Second Vice-President of Iowa
16 District West.

17
18 President Egger installed the Circuit Visitors into their respective offices.
19

20 Finally, President Egger conducted the installation service for the elected members of the
21 Board of Directors. All were present except for Mrs. Bethany Kuhlmann, Rev. Russell Senstad,
22 and Mrs. Carole White Mandernach. They will be installed at the Board of Directors meeting
23 August 13-14.
24

25 *Advisory Delegate to the 2026 Synod Convention*
26

27 President Turner returned to the podium and announced that the Rev. Jeffery Siegel will
28 be the District's advisory delegate to the Synod Convention in Phoenix, Arizona in 2026. The
29 alternate is the Rev. David Matthews.
30

31 *Closing of the Convention*
32

33 President Turner asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made and seconded. The
34 motion was approved by voice vote. President Turner declared the convention to be closed "in
35 the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" at 2:13 p.m.
36

37 President Egger led the Sending Service. The convention sang hymn # 597 "Water,
38 Blood and Spirit Crying." Readings were from Revelation 19:9-16 and 22:20-21. The service
39 concluded with prayers, including the Lord's Prayer.
40

41 The delegates were dismissed at 2:19 p.m.
42

43 Respectfully submitted,
44

45 The Rev. Richard Merrill
46 District Secretary
47

1
2 RESOLUTION #2-01: To Promote Wellness Among Church Workers
3 OVERTURE #2-01 (Overtures, p. 3)

4
5 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
6 JUNE 8-10, 2025

7
8 WHEREAS, The spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of church workers is
9 paramount to the health and effectiveness of the Church's mission (1 Tim. 5:17-18, 1 Thes. 5:12-
10 13, Rom. 12:10-12); and

11
12 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the 2016 Synodical
13 Convention (Res 18-02A, 18-03A, 18-04, and 18-05) identified the promotion and nurturing of
14 church worker wellness as a top priority and recognized the direct correlation between the health
15 of the ministry and the care of its workers; and

16
17 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) identified that church
18 workers and their spouses have expressed the need for encouragement, spiritual care, and
19 reminders of their identity in Christ, as well as support in creating a culture of mutual care and
20 encouragement (<https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/church-worker-wellness>); and

21
22 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) identified that barriers
23 such as perceived weakness, lack of services, concerns about cost, and isolation can impede the
24 mental wellness of church workers (<https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/church-worker-wellness>); and

25
26
27 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) identified it is essential to
28 address these needs through accessible resources, advocacy, and a supportive community
29 (<https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/church-worker-wellness>); Therefore be it

30
31 *Resolved*, that Iowa District West and its congregations are encouraged through the
32 leadership and stewardship of the Human Care Committee of Iowa District West to:

33
34 **Develop** and implement comprehensive wellness programs that address the nine common themes
35 (Identity in Christ; Supportive and encouraging culture; healthy churches, schools, and
36 ministries; finances; relationships; caregivers; recognition and connection; awareness, resources,
37 advocacy; care provided locally) identified by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to help
38 church workers and their spouses.

39
40 **Encourage** local congregations to create supportive environments that foster open dialogue and
41 mutual care among church workers.

42
43 **Provide** resources and training to help church workers manage financial, relational, and
44 vocational challenges.

45
46 **Promote** awareness and understanding of mental health issues within church communities.
47

1 **Facilitate** access to Christian-based counseling and support services for church workers and their
2 families; be it finally

3
4 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West and its congregations are encouraged to continually
5 improve the wellness of its workers, ensuring that they are equipped to serve joyfully and
6 effectively in their sacred callings.

7
8 Respectfully submitted,
9 Floor Committee 2 Missions and Ministry

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12 **Action: Adopted (1)**
13 (Res. 2-01 [*Convention Resolutions* pp. 3-4] was adopted by voice vote, without discussion.)

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1 RESOLUTION #2-02: To Build a Culture of Church Work Formation and Recruitment
2 OVERTURE #2-03 (Overtures, p. 5-6)

3
4 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
5 JUNE 8-10, 2025
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7

8 WHEREAS, Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray
9 earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Matt. 9:37–38); and
10

11 WHEREAS, Since 1847 to the present day, the LCMS adopted resolutions in nearly
12 every convention to form and recruit pastors, teachers and other commissioned church workers
13 to preach, teach and share the Gospel of Jesus for eternal salvation in these full-time vocations;
14 and
15

16 WHEREAS, These convention resolutions urged that church worker formation and
17 recruitment intentionally take place in every LCMS congregation and school by pastors,
18 teachers, commissioned church workers and laity; and
19

20 WHEREAS, These convention resolutions urged districts and congregations to have
21 active committees focused on forming and recruiting our youth and adults to consider full-time
22 church work; and
23

24 WHEREAS, The pastoral office is the one divinely mandated office by our Lord (John
25 20:19–23; Rom. 10:14–15; Eph. 4:11–16) and the seven LCMS commissioned church work
26 vocations have been established in love to support the Office of the Holy Ministry (Lutheran
27 school teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of family life ministry, deaconesses,
28 directors of parish music, directors of church ministries, directors of Christian outreach)
29 (Lutheran Service Book: Agenda, p. 210 and 218); and
30

31 WHEREAS, In the last five years, approximately twice as many LCMS pastors are
32 exiting the pastoral office (retirement or death) as there are newly called and ordained pastors;
33 and
34

35 WHEREAS, In April 2024, there were 51 unfilled calls of congregations calling a
36 seminary candidate, 406 congregations calling a sole pastor, 56 congregations calling a senior
37 pastor, 67 congregations calling an associate pastor, and 529 non-calling congregations for
38 various reasons (as per Set Apart to Serve Initiative); and
39

40 WHEREAS, In 2023, our LCMS schools requested 455 new teachers from our Concordia
41 universities, but only 84 students were graduating with teaching degrees; furthermore, LCMS
42 congregations, schools and entities requested 79 other LCMS commissioned workers for
43 placements, but only 64 church work students were graduating from the Concordia universities
44 (Concordia Placement Directors); and
45

1 RESOLUTION #2-03: To Encourage Every Congregation to Enact Sexual Abuse Prevention
2 Strategies

3 OVERTURE #2-05 (Overtures, p. 8)

4
5 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
6 JUNE 8-10, 2025

7
8 WHEREAS, The psalmist writes, "Children are a reward from the Lord," (Psalm 127:3);
9 and

10
11 WHEREAS, The psalmist calls us to "Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the
12 hand of the wicked," (Psalm 82:4); and

13
14 WHEREAS, God's Apostle Paul directs us to "look not only to your own interests, but
15 also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4); and

16
17 WHEREAS, MinistrySafe [<https://ministrysafes.com/lcms>] reports statistics such as:
18 + 90% of sexual abuse victims are abused by someone they know and trust.
19 + Protective barriers in the church tend to be critically low, creating a target for predators.
20 + Most molesters appear helpful, trustworthy and responsible.
21 + Additional statistics available on aforementioned website; and

22
23 WHEREAS, Background checks are one deterrent in ensuring protection for our youth
24 and also provide some legal protection and it is important to provide additional safeguards; and

25
26 WHEREAS, There are many vendors that provide sexual abuse prevention training,
27 background checks, and policies for the protection of our children; and

28
29 WHEREAS, IDW has budgeted funds for the use of congregations to have access to
30 provide sexual abuse prevention training; and

31
32 WHEREAS, Church insurance companies have example sexual abuse prevention
33 policies; and

34
35 WHEREAS, The District Executive for Education, Youth and Family Life is available to
36 assist congregations concerning best practices, training, and other youth safety concerns;
37 Therefore be it

38
39 *Resolved*, That each congregation of IDW be encouraged to develop and implement
40 safety policies to protect those under 18 years of age as well as other vulnerable adults in our
41 congregations through the use of background checks, sexual abuse prevention training and
42 policies.

43
44 Respectfully submitted,
45 Floor Committee 2 Missions and Ministry
46
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- 1 **Action: Adopted (2)**
 - 2 (Res. 2-03 [*Convention Resolutions* p. 7] was adopted unanimously by voice vote, without
 - 3 discussion.)
 - 4

1 RESOLUTION #2-04: To Give Thanks for the One True Faith as Confessed in the Nicene Creed
2 on its 1700th Anniversary
3 OVERTURE #2-07 (Overtures, p. 11)

4
5 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
6 JUNE 8-10, 2025
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9 WHEREAS, In the year of our Lord 2025, the One Holy Christian and Apostolic Church
10 celebrates the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicea and the adoption of the Nicene
11 Creed; and
12

13 WHEREAS, In the year of our Lord 325 Emperor Constantine
14 (<https://blog.cph.org/read/church-year/commemoration/constantine-helena>) convened the First
15 Ecumenical Council at Nicaea, ([https://blog.cph.org/read/church-year/commemoration/
16 ecumenical-council-of-nicaea](https://blog.cph.org/read/church-year/commemoration/ecumenical-council-of-nicaea)) in Bithynia, present day Iznik, Turkey, for the purpose of settling
17 the controversy precipitated by the teaching of Arius, who denied the true divinity of Christ,
18 denying that Jesus is true God, begotten of the Father; and
19

20 WHEREAS, The council, attended by 318 bishops, ruled against the Arians, who taught
21 that Jesus was not the eternal Son of God but was created by the Father and was called Son of
22 God because of His righteousness; and
23

24 WHEREAS, The council at Nicea faithfully defended and confessed the one true faith of
25 the Homousians, that the Father and the Son are of the same essence, as the Nicene Creed
26 confesses; and
27

28 WHEREAS, The Nicene Creed, as confessed at Nicea and fully adopted at the Council of
29 Constantinople in the year of our Lord 381, is a symbol of our faith, which we believe, teach and
30 confess, as pastors and congregations of Iowa District West and The Lutheran Church—Missouri
31 Synod, to be a confession of the unanimous, universal Christian faith, pledging ourselves to this
32 symbol, as was done by those at Nicea; Therefore be it
33

34 *Resolved*, That the congregations and pastors of Iowa District West, at their forty-second
35 convention, as PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL and as ONE GENERATION COMMENDING
36 GOD’S WORKS TO ANOTHER, be encouraged to study and give thanks for the one true faith
37 as was confessed and handed down by those at Nicea; and be it finally
38

39 *Resolved*, That upon passage of this resolution, the assembly stand and confess the
40 Nicene Creed, followed by the singing of the common doxology.
41
42

43 Respectfully submitted,
44 Floor Committee 2 Missions and Ministry
45
46
47

1 **Action: Adopted (2)**
2 (Res. 2-04 [*Convention Resolutions* p. 4] was adopted unanimously by voice vote, without
3 discussion. The assembly voiced approval of this resolution by confessing the Nicene Creed
4 together, followed by the singing of the common doxology.)

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1 RESOLUTION #2-05: To Support and Encourage Adoption
2 OVERTURE #2-06 (Overtures, p. 9-10)

3
4 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
5 JUNE 8-10, 2025

6
7 WHEREAS, Christians have a legacy of caring for “widows and orphans in their
8 affliction” (James 1:27, Deuteronomy 14:29, Deuteronomy 24:19, Psalm 82:3) through the
9 practice of adoption; and

10
11 WHEREAS, In the United States, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, her
12 congregations, and affiliated parachurch organizations have especially exemplified these
13 concerns and embodied this mercy; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Some 115,000 children nationwide are awaiting families and homes through
16 adoption this year (<https://adoptioncouncil.org/article/foster-care-and-adoption-statistics/>); and

17
18 WHEREAS, In many jurisdictions, state involvement in adoption imposes restrictions
19 that result in a significant proportion of these children receiving placements in situations contrary
20 to the Heavenly Father’s design and intention for sexuality and marriage and without regard for
21 their eternal welfare; and

22
23 WHEREAS, The 2022 Dobbs verdict of the U. S. Supreme Court overturned the Roe v.
24 Wade abortion access framework and directed renewed public attention to childbearing; and

25
26 WHEREAS, It is our duty to speak up for those unable to speak for themselves (Proverbs
27 31:8-9); Therefore be it

28
29 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West, in grateful response to our own baptismal adoption as
30 children of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, affirm our Christian privilege and responsibility
31 to advocate and undertake protecting and providing for children awaiting adoption and fostering,
32 particularly that they might enter His kingdom by baptism and belief in His saving name; and be
33 it further

34
35 *Resolved*, That we encourage our District’s leaders and congregations to promote
36 awareness of Christian adoption and fostering needs, agencies, and opportunities; and be it
37 further

38
39 *Resolved*, That we recognize and commend the Recognized Service Organizations of The
40 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod engaged in these services with our prayers, our advocacy,
41 and our contributions to further their labors among us and on our behalf; and be it finally

42
43 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West memorialize in convention and refer this important
44 work to the Synod’s Convention for their concurrence and support of these efforts to love and
45 support orphans with leadership and necessary actions.

Respectfully submitted,
Floor Committee 2 Missions and Ministry

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4 **Action: Adopted (2)**

5 (Res. 2-05 [*Convention Resolutions* pp. 9-10] was adopted by voice vote, without discussion.)
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1 RESOLUTION #2-06: To Commission a Study to Support Ethnic Ministry Pastors and
2 Commissioned Workers
3 OVERTURE #2-04 (Overtures, p. 7)

4
5 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
6 JUNE 8-10, 2025

7
8 WHEREAS, The mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is to make
9 known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the
10 world(Matthew 28:19); and

11
12 WHEREAS, The LCMS recognizes the importance of ethnic diversity in ministry and the
13 unique challenges faced by ethnic ministry pastors and commissioned workers as demonstrated
14 by the formation of the All Nations Council; and

15
16 WHEREAS, There is a need, as demonstrated by the formation of the All Nations
17 Council, for a deeper understanding of the specific support required by ethnic ministry leaders to
18 serve their congregations and communities effectively; and

19
20 WHEREAS, The LCMS has previously engaged in discussions to address the challenges
21 and opportunities of ethnic and intercultural ministry (All Nations Council); and

22
23 WHEREAS, Supporting ethnic ministry leaders is essential for the health of the church;
24 Therefore be it

25
26 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
27 in convention to commission a comprehensive study to identify effective ways to support ethnic
28 ministry pastors and commissioned workers; and be it further

29
30 *Resolved*, That this study will involve a wide range of stakeholders throughout the
31 LCMS; and be it further

32
33 *Resolved*, That the study will examine best practices, resources, and educational support
34 that can be implemented for the sake of the ministry of ethnic leaders; and be it further

35
36 *Resolved*, That the findings of the study will be used to develop a strategic plan to
37 provide ongoing support, mentorship, and resources for congregations, ethnic ministry pastors,
38 and commissioned workers; and be it finally

39
40 *Resolved*, That the LCMS will allocate the necessary funds and resources to conduct this
41 study and implement its recommendations, reaffirming its commitment to an ethnically diverse
42 church body.

43
44 Respectfully submitted,
45 Floor Committee 2 Missions and Ministry
46
47

1 **Action: Adopted (2)**
2 (Res. 2-06 [*Convention Resolutions* pp. 11-12] was amended by the committee to strike the
3 words "the necessary" from the final *Resolved*. The amended resolution was adopted by voice
4 vote, without discussion.)
5

1 RESOLUTION #2-07: To Advance the Reach of Word and Sacrament Ministry in Our Local
2 Community

3 OVERTURE #2-02 (Overtures, p. 4)

4
5 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
6 JUNE 8-10, 2025

7
8
9 WHEREAS, The Great Commission calls us to make disciples of all nations, baptizing
10 them and teaching them to observe all that Christ has commanded (Matthew 28:19-20); and

11
12 WHEREAS, Word and Sacrament Ministry is central to our Lutheran faith, providing the
13 means through which God gives His grace, forgiveness, and eternal life; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Our local communities are diverse and ever-changing, with many yet to hear
16 the Gospel or partake in the Sacraments; Therefore be it

17
18 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West and its congregations be encouraged to commit to a
19 strategic initiative to meet the spiritual needs of our neighbors by expanding Word and
20 Sacrament Ministry into the local community; and be it further

21
22 *Resolved*, That this initiative will include the development of new mission plants and
23 community outreach programs designed to engage with the unreached and unchurched; and be it
24 finally

25
26 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West through the Missions Committee be encouraged to
27 provide resources and training for pastors and lay leaders to equip them for effective evangelism
28 and ministry in a variety of cultural contexts.

29
30 Respectfully submitted,
31 Floor Committee 2 Missions and Ministry

32
33 **Action: Adopted (2)**

34 (Res. 2-07 [*Convention Resolutions* p. 13] received some discussion. A delegate noted that the
35 standing rules of the convention state that resolutions involving a financial commitment must
36 specify the source of the funding, and asked where the money for the new initiative would come
37 from. The committee responded that the funds are already within the budget; the resolution
38 specifies where the funds should be allocated. The resolution was subsequently adopted by voice
39 vote.)

1 RESOLUTION #2-08: To Allow Greater Access to the Lutheran Confessions
2 OVERTURE #2-08 (Overtures, p. 12-13)

3
4 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
5 JUNE 8-10, 2025

6
7 WHEREAS, The primary objectives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS),
8 as stated in Article III of the Constitution of the LCMS, are: “Conserve and promote the unity of
9 the true faith, work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church
10 bodies, and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism, and heresy”; and “Strengthen
11 congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work
12 of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world”; and
13

14 WHEREAS, The Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Lutheran
15 Confessions), as listed in Article II of the Constitution of the LCMS, as a true and unadulterated
16 statement and exposition of the Word of God, are an indispensable resource for achieving the
17 primary objectives of the LCMS; and
18

19 WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House (CPH) is the official publishing house of the
20 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and
21

22 WHEREAS, CPH in 2006 published the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran
23 Church under the title: Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions-A Reader’s Edition of the Book of
24 Concord – 2nd edition; and
25

26 WHEREAS, The said publication, with its historical introductions and other included
27 materials, presents the Lutheran Confessions most intelligibly and clearly; and is the generally
28 preferred English translation among native and non-native English speakers alike; and is the
29 preferred source for most derivative translations into other languages; and
30

31 WHEREAS, The said publication is currently restricted by Copyright and licensing, so
32 that the full text is not accessible on the LCMS website nor anywhere else online; nor is the print
33 publication available in most countries; nor is any derivative translation permitted to be made
34 and published in print or online without prior permission; and
35

36 WHEREAS, Removing the current restrictions of the said publication would greatly
37 assist the LCMS in achieving her primary objectives, by enabling a wider distribution and
38 accessibility of the Lutheran Confessions; Therefore be it
39

40 *Resolved*, that we give thanks to CPH for their immense work in bringing the Lutheran
41 Confessions into contemporary English for the good of the church and the building up of the
42 faith; and be it finally
43

44 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention direct CPH to grant license to any and all
45 interested parties to publish, with appropriate attribution, the text of Concordia: The Lutheran
46 Confessions-A Reader’s Edition of the Book of Concord – 2nd edition in print and online.
47

Respectfully submitted,
Floor Committee 2 Missions and Ministry

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2
3
4 **Action: Declined (2)**

5 (Res. 2-08 [*Convention Resolutions* pp. 14-15] received considerable discussion. A concern was
6 raised that granting any and all parties license to publish the text without charge would be costly
7 to CPH. Concern was also expressed about difficulties with allowing anyone and everyone to
8 have access to the text; for example, the possibility that mistranslations of the text might be
9 circulated. It was suggested that we wait to consider the resolution until CPH has been
10 contacted. The resolution was subsequently declined [Yes: 55; No: 129].)

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1 RESOLUTION #3-01: To Recognize and Give Thanks for the Leadership of President Steven
2 Turner
3 OVERTURE #3-01 (Overtures, p. 14)
4
5 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
6 JUNE 8-10, 2025
7
8

9 WHEREAS, The apostle Paul encourages us to “give recognition to” those who devote
10 themselves to the service of the saints and bring refreshment to the soul
11 (1 Cor. 16:15-18); and
12

13 WHEREAS, faithful district leadership has been vital for the mission and vision of Iowa
14 District West being “On a Mission to Support Christ’s Mission”; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Iowa District West has been blessed through district presidency leadership
17 with an encouragement of “Joy in Salvation” (Luke 15), “Bound Together in Christ’s Love”
18 (Colossians 3:12-17), “Partners in the Gospel” (Philippians 1:3-5), and as “One Generation
19 Commends Your Works to Another” (Psalm 145:4); Therefore be it
20

21 *Resolved*, That President Rev. Dr. Steven Turner be commended for his 39 years of
22 service in Iowa District West, as parish pastor for 29 years and district president for 10 years;
23 and be it finally
24

25 *Resolved*, That district in convention stand and give thanks for the blessing of President
26 Rev. Dr. Steven Turner, henceforth recognized as President Emeritus, and express our gratitude
27 to the Lord’s work through him by joining together in the doxology.
28

29 Respectfully submitted,
30 Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances
31

32 **Action: Adopted (1)**

33 (Res. 3-01 [*Convention Resolutions* p. 16] was adopted unanimously, without discussion. Upon
34 approval, the assembly joined in the singing of the common doxology.)
35
36

1 RESOLUTION #3-02: To Strengthen Through Realignment Congregations of Circuits 1, 6, 8, 16
2 OVERTURE #3-07 (Overtures, p. 20)

3
4 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
5 JUNE 8-10, 2025
6

7 WHEREAS, The Southwest Circuit (Circuit number 16) consists of: Bedford, St. Timothy;
8 Clarinda, Immanuel; Clarinda, St. John; Clarinda, St. Paul; Corning, Redeemer; Creston/Mt. Ayr,
9 Trinity; Leon, Our Savior's; Osceola, Immanuel; Shenandoah, Trinity; and Villisca, Mt. Calvary;
10 and

11
12 WHEREAS, The Southwest Circuit has fallen below Synodical requirements for
13 communicant members, as stated in Constitutional Bylaw 3.1.2
14 "Electoral circuits shall meet as required by the Bylaws of the Synod to elect circuit voting
15 delegates to the Synod's national conventions.

16(a) An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be
17 determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following requirements: each pair
18 of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate
19 confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000"; Therefore be it
20

21 *Resolved*, That the Southwest Circuit be dissolved and the congregations be realigned as
22 follows:

23 Clarinda, Immanuel
24 Clarinda, St. John
25 Clarinda, St. Paul
26 Shenandoah, Trinity
27 and Villisca, Mt. Calvary
28 be aligned with the Council Bluffs Circuit (Circuit 6)

29
30 Bedford, St. Timothy
31 Corning, Redeemer
32 and Creston/Mt. Ayr, Trinity
33 be aligned with the Adair Circuit (Circuit 1)

34
35 Leon, Our Savior's
36 and Osceola, Immanuel
37 be aligned with the Des Moines East Circuit (Circuit 8)

38
39 Respectfully submitted,
40 Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances
41

42 **Action: Adopted (2)**

43 (Res. 3-02 [*Convention Resolutions* p. 17] was adopted unanimously by voice vote, without
44 discussion.)
45

1 RESOLUTION #3-03: To Bring Awareness to Congregations by Encouraging Them to Develop
2 a Disaster and Risk Response Plan
3 OVERTURE #3-02 (Overtures, p. 15)

4
5 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
6 JUNE 8-10, 2025

7
8 WHEREAS, The world we live in is increasingly subject to various natural and human-
9 caused disasters, which can cause significant harm to communities and disrupt the lives of the
10 faithful; and

11
12 WHEREAS, God calls us to be stewards of our communities, to “love thy neighbor,” and
13 to assist those in need during times of distress; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Preparedness is a virtue that reflects wisdom and foresight, enabling us to
16 act swiftly and effectively in the face of calamity; and

17
18 WHEREAS, The lack of a disaster response plan can result in confusion, delayed action,
19 and increased suffering for both our congregants and our neighbors; and

20
21 WHEREAS, The Iowa District West Human Care Committee in conjunction with the
22 director of Iowa Outreach With Adults and Youth (I.O.W.A.Y.) and Lutheran Early Response
23 Team (L.E.R.T.) provides resources, support, and training to assist congregations in developing
24 and implementing their disaster response plans; Therefore be it

25
26 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West do hereby encourage and urge all member
27 congregations to:

28
29 **Assess Community and Congregational Risks:** Engage in a thorough assessment of potential
30 disasters specific to their geographical location and community context; and congregational risk
31 including appropriate risk coverage (including insurance and other procedural policies).

32 **Develop a Comprehensive Plan:** Create a disaster response plan that includes evacuation
33 procedures, sheltering strategies, and resource allocation;

34 **Form a Response Team:** Establish a dedicated team trained in disaster response, first aid, and
35 emotional and spiritual care;

36 **Educate the Congregation:** Conduct regular educational sessions for congregants on disaster
37 preparedness and response;

38 **Collaborate with Local Authorities:** Foster relationships with local emergency management
39 agencies and other faith-based organizations for coordinated response efforts;

40 **Review and Practice:** To ensure readiness, regularly review and update the disaster response
41 plan and conduct practice drills.

42
43 Respectfully submitted,
44 Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances
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46
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1 **Action: Adopted (2)**
2 (Res. 3-03 [*Convention Resolutions* p. 18] was amended by the committee to replace the words
3 "our faith" in the second WHEREAS with the word "God." The amendment was discussed and a
4 "friendly amendment" was suggested to reword line 25 to strike the word "do" and insert the
5 words "in convention does." The committee accepted the amendment. The amended resolution
6 was adopted unanimously by voice vote.)
7

1 RESOLUTION #3-04: To Support the Compassionate Mission of Lutheran Family Service
2 OVERTURES #3-03 & #3-04 (Overtures, p. 16-17)

3
4 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
5 JUNE 8-10, 2025
6

7 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service of Iowa has been a beacon of hope and support for
8 individuals and families in need for over a century, providing essential services such as adoption,
9 unplanned pregnancy support, and mental health and marriage counseling; Church worker
10 wellness; and

11
12 WHEREAS, The organization upholds the values of grace, life, family, compassion, and
13 accountability, with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of their ministry; and

14
15 WHEREAS, The work of Lutheran Family Service of Iowa aligns with the Biblical call
16 to “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2) and to care for the least of these (Matthew
17 25:40); and

18
19 WHEREAS, The need for such services continues to grow, with many in our
20 communities facing challenges that require the professional and faith-based support that
21 Lutheran Family Service of Iowa provides; and

22
23 WHEREAS, The organization is Iowa’s only Recognized Service Organization (RSO) by
24 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) for pregnancy support, adoption services,
25 marriage counseling, mental health counseling, & church worker wellness, making it a unique
26 and vital resource for our state; Therefore be it

27
28 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West recognizes and commends the work of Lutheran
29 Family Service of Iowa for their dedication to serving the needs of our communities; and be it
30 further

31
32 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West encourages its member congregations to actively
33 support the mission of Lutheran Family Service of Iowa through prayer, volunteerism, and
34 financial contributions; and be it further

35
36 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West encourages the Board of Directors to continue support
37 of the mission of Lutheran Family Service of Iowa; with a contribution of 3% of the annual
38 budget and be it further

39
40 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West will partner with Lutheran Family Service of Iowa to
41 promote awareness of the services they offer and to facilitate access to these services for those in
42 need within our congregations and communities; and be it finally

43
44 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West will seek to collaborate with Lutheran Family Service
45 of Iowa in outreach efforts and initiatives that align with our shared mission of demonstrating
46 Christ’s love through service.
47

Respectfully submitted,
Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances

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Action: Adopted (2)

(Res. 3-04 [*Convention Resolutions* pp. 19-20] was discussed. Clarification was requested concerning the third "Resolved," whether the Board of Directors' contribution of 3% is a one-time requirement or whether it would be permanent. The committee responded that the Board is encouraged to continue support while not making it a requirement. The resolution was adopted unanimously by voice vote.)

1 RESOLUTION #3-05: To Embrace Biblical Stewardship for the Flourishing of Christ’s Mission
2 OVERTURE #3-05 (Overtures, p. 18)

3
4 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
5 JUNE 8-10, 2025
6
7

8 WHEREAS, The Holy Scriptures provide numerous examples of faithful stewardship,
9 from Joseph’s wise administration in Egypt (Genesis 41-47) to the Parable of the Talents
10 (Matthew 25:14-30); and
11

12 WHEREAS, Stewardship is a calling to manage God’s creation responsibly, reflecting
13 our accountability to Him as outlined in Genesis 2:15; and
14

15 WHEREAS, The current state of God’s creation, financial and relational stewardship
16 within our communities and congregations often falls short of the biblical mandate to “tend and
17 keep” the earth (Genesis 2:15); and
18

19 WHEREAS, There is a pressing need to educate and empower members of our
20 congregations in the principles of biblical stewardship, ensuring that all resources are used for
21 the glory of God and the good of His people; Therefore be it
22

23 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West encourages its congregations to undertake initiatives
24 focused on biblical stewardship; and be it further
25

26 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West will continue to make available and distribute
27 resources through its website, including sermon series, Bible study, devotions and practical tools,
28 to assist congregations in implementing stewardship initiatives that address the care of God’s
29 creation, financial wisdom and community service; and be it finally
30

31 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West will encourage its congregations to establish an annual
32 stewardship emphasis, dedicated to celebrating and promoting the stewardship of time, talent,
33 and treasure within our congregations and communities.
34

35 Respectfully submitted,
36 Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances
37

38 **Action: Adopted (2)**

39 (Res. 3-05 [*Convention Resolutions* p. 21] was adopted unanimously by voice vote, without
40 discussion.)
41

1 RESOLUTION #3-06: To Review the Handbook of Iowa District West
2 OVERTURE #3-06 (Overtures, p. 19)

3
4 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
5 JUNE 8-10, 2025

6
7
8 WHEREAS, God has blessed Iowa District West with competent and forward-looking
9 district leadership; and

10
11 WHEREAS, Iowa District West desires to transition this leadership to future generations
12 of leaders; and

13
14 WHEREAS, Iowa District West will have new leadership and it has been ten years since
15 leadership has done an extensive review of the Handbook of Iowa District West; and

16
17 WHEREAS, Iowa District West wants to continue to support its mission in an effective
18 and resource-efficient manner; and

19
20 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors, as stewards of district resources, holds the
21 responsibility to oversee and recommend adaptations necessary for a vibrant and sustainable
22 future; Therefore be it

23
24 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West in convention encourage the Board of Directors to
25 appoint a district Handbook committee to undertake an extensive review of all district boards,
26 committees, staff positions, and executive assistants; and be it finally

27
28 *Resolved*, That the Board of Directors bring forth any recommended actions at the next
29 convention of Iowa District West.

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31
32 Respectfully submitted,
33 Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances

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35 **Action: Adopted (2)**

36 (Res. 3-06 [*Convention Resolutions* p. 22] was adopted by voice vote, without discussion.)
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