

Convention Resolutions



Iowa District West

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Camp Okoboji
Milford, IA
June 26-28, 2022

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1 RESOLUTION #2-01: To Receive Faith Lutheran Church of Winterset, Madison County, Iowa,
2 as a Member Congregation of Iowa District West

3 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
4 JUNE 26-29, 2022

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6
7 WHEREAS, Faith Lutheran Church of Winterset, Madison County, Iowa, has submitted
8 a Constitution and Articles of Incorporation that have been approved by the Commission on
9 Constitutions of Iowa District West; and

10
11 WHEREAS, Those individuals affiliated with Faith Lutheran Church of Winterset,
12 Madison County, Iowa, have adopted said Constitution and Articles of Incorporation and
13 submitted them to the Board of Directors of Iowa District West as an application for
14 membership; and

15
16 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of Iowa District West, meeting on May 12, 2022
17 accepted the submitted application; therefore be it

18
19 *Resolved*, That Faith Lutheran Church of Winterset, Madison County, Iowa, be received
20 as a member congregation of Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and
21 be it further

22
23 *Resolved*, That thanks be given to God for the blessing of another partner congregation
24 for the extension of the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District and into all the
25 world; and be it finally

26
27 *Resolved*, That such thanksgiving and approval of this resolution be expressed by the
28 convention delegates rising and singing the common doxology.

29
30 Respectfully submitted,
31 Floor Committee 2 Missions and Ministry
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1 RESOLUTION #2-02: To Affirm and Support the Work of Lutheran Family Service
2 OVERTURE #2-05 (*Overtures, p. 10-11*)
3
4 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
5 JUNE 26-28, 2022
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8 WHEREAS, We recognize that our culture increasingly promotes values and choices that
9 are in direct opposition to God’s design which impacts the individuals, couples and families
10 within our congregations and the communities in which we live; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Evidence of pain and suffering in the lives of children, young adults,
13 married couples, individuals and families is apparent, including the number who live with mental
14 illness, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, divorce, grandparents raising grandchildren, single
15 parent families, co-habitation before or instead of marriage, unplanned pregnancy, abortion, and
16 life-threatening sexually transmitted diseases; and
17

18 WHEREAS, We look to and believe in Scripture as the definitive source for moral
19 decision making and direction for God-pleasing behavior in individual, marital and family life,
20 including affirming the biblical and traditional definition of one man-one woman marriage for
21 life, the value of God’s gift of sexuality to be shared in marriage in a way that honors each
22 partner; and the protection of children from abuse in any form including death by abortion; and
23

24 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service (LFS) is expanding their efforts to combat the
25 destructive influence of our culture, providing outreach to and through our congregations
26 focused on reaching: young people through group presentations, promoting God-pleasing
27 decision making and life-style choices; married couples through retreats and educational events
28 designed to strengthen and enrich marital relationships as well as education and encouragement
29 for their friends and family members, providing resources to support and restore those at risk for
30 divorce; and spouses and family members experiencing the stress of caring for a dependent loved
31 one near life’s end, providing helpful resources and tools for caregivers; and
32

33 WHEREAS, LFS employs Masters-trained, licensed counselors deployed around the
34 state who can diagnose and treat a full range of mental health disorders including depression,
35 anxiety, post-traumatic stress and personality disorders, utilizing a sliding scale allowing anyone
36 to receive service regardless of their ability to pay; and
37

38 WHEREAS, LFS is regularly called upon to provide emergency support for
39 congregations, communities and individuals experiencing the trauma of violence, unexpected
40 death, abuse and/or other calamity; and
41

42 WHEREAS, LFS counselors are also trained and experienced in providing marriage
43 counseling to couples experiencing conflict to restore relationships instead of moving toward
44 divorce, also provided on an ability to pay basis; and
45

46 WHEREAS, LFS employs professionally trained and certified social workers who
47 provide crisis pregnancy counseling throughout the state at no cost for young women, young

1 men and their families experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, working with each toward a life-
2 giving plan for successful parenting or placement with a waiting adopting family; and
3

4 WHEREAS, LFS provides adoption services throughout the state for married male-
5 female couples who desire to build their family through adoption and provide family for a
6 child/children, including adoption of newborn infants and those in frozen embryonic state; and
7

8 WHEREAS, LFS employs staff who work to activate and equip individuals, pastors, and
9 congregations to engage in supporting our LCMS and other elected officials to uphold the value,
10 purpose, and sanctity of all human life from the moment of fertilization to natural death; and
11

12 WHEREAS, The need for the ministry and work of LFS is increasing and they desire to
13 provide more services in closer proximity to all of our LCMS congregations; and
14

15 WHEREAS, LFS provides all these services on behalf of our congregations, in large part
16 through local Iowa support without funding from the Synod, and without the use of state or
17 federal government funding so as not to limit their intentionally Christ-centered message,
18 ministry and witness; and
19

20 WHEREAS, Each LCMS congregation in Iowa shares equal and joint ownership of
21 Lutheran Family Service, a Recognized Service Organization of the Synod, which has
22 historically and currently demonstrated its unwavering commitment to remain faithful to the
23 values, beliefs and teachings of the Holy Scriptures and the church; therefore be it
24

25 *Resolved*, That the pastors and members of our congregations be encouraged to partner
26 with, use and encourage others outside of our church family to use the services provided by
27 Lutheran Family Service; and be it finally
28

29 *Resolved*, That each congregation be encouraged to provide consistent annual financial
30 support (in an amount equal to 3% of its yearly budget) directly to Lutheran Family Service so
31 that they can continue and expand their services in response to the increasing needs of
32 individuals, couples, children, and families throughout the state.
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35 Respectfully submitted,
36 Floor Committee 2 Mission and Ministry
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1 RESOLUTION #2-03: To Encourage Outreach and Sharing among our Congregations
2 OVERTURE # 2-03 (*Overtures, p. 6-7*)
3
4 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
5 JUNE 26-28, 2022
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8 WHEREAS, God’s desire is that all be saved (1 Tim. 2:4) and this is only possible by the
9 name of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12); and
10

11 WHEREAS, Our Lord has given to all who are baptized the opportunity and
12 responsibility “to proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of darkness” as part of the
13 priesthood of all believers (1 Pet. 2:9); and
14

15 WHEREAS, The mission of Iowa District West (IDW) is: “On a mission to support
16 Christ’s mission,” which happens as the District partners with the member congregations for the
17 extension of the Gospel **within our neighborhoods, rural, urban and small-town**
18 **communities**, throughout the District and into all the world; and
19

20 WHEREAS, The mission emphasis in IDW for 2022 and beyond is (as referenced in the
21 2022 mission report from the IDW Assistant to the President for Missions, Stewardship, and
22 Human Care): Through the work of the Holy Spirit, IDW seeks to expand and enhance ministry
23 among our new interethnic mission leaders by partnering with our two seminary programs we
24 have established to equip men for the Office of Holy Ministry; and
25

26 WHEREAS, Population growth necessitates the development of new ministries and
27 increased support for existing ministries. The greater Des Moines area is amid a 16.7% growth
28 rate compared to neighboring cities (Omaha with 10.3%, Minneapolis at 9.7% and Kansas City
29 at 8.2% [Source: dsmpartnership.com - Greater Des Moines (DSM) Is Fastest Growing Major
30 Midwest Metro]); and
31

32 WHEREAS, Rural and small community areas have unique ministry opportunities to
33 focus on their strengths of being communities of care centered on the Gospel of Jesus. Small-
34 town and rural churches have a special interconnectedness with their communities and IDW will
35 partner with our churches to strengthen our rural and small-town churches as they share the
36 Gospel in their communities; therefore, be it
37

38 *Resolved*, That each congregation, school, and ministry within IDW be encouraged—
39 partnering with other congregations, ministries, and the District, to implement (before the next
40 District Convention) at least one new mission outreach objective concentrating on connecting to
41 the unchurched of its own community; and be it further
42

43 *Resolved*, That the District will provide congregations, ministries, and schools with
44 resources, workshops, best practices and other tools to assist them in their ministry that fulfills
45 Acts 1:8; and be it finally
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1 RESOLUTION #2-04: To Recognize and Thank The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and
2 Lutheran Church Extension Fund for the Strengthened and Expanded
3 “Soldiers of the Cross” COVID-19 Response Initiative

4 OVERTURE #2-02 (*Overtures, p. 5*)

5
6 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
7 JUNE 26-28, 2022

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10 WHEREAS, The Pandemic of 2020 shuttered congregations and schools in the middle of
11 the year, furloughed workers and caused others to pivot towards a digital presence for which they
12 were unprepared; and

13
14 WHEREAS, Many of our congregations, schools and workers were without the
15 additional tuition, offering or budget income needed to support the immediate response to the
16 transition and additional regulations that were placed upon them through the Centers for Disease
17 Control and the Executive orders of national, state, and local governments; and

18
19 WHEREAS, The need for compassionate support and financial assistance was great; and

20
21 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and Lutheran Church
22 Extension Fund (LCEF) worked together to identify funds for immediate assistance for all who
23 serve in Lutheran ministries; and

24
25 WHEREAS, Many of our workers who were both rostered and lay benefited from this
26 generous act of compassion; and

27
28 WHEREAS, As of October 1, 2021, more than \$1,585,635.00 was awarded to 943
29 workers, including \$12,000 that helped six Iowa District West workers; therefore be it

30
31 *Resolved*, That on behalf of the workers of our Lutheran congregations, schools, and
32 childcare centers, the Iowa District West in convention publicly thank God for the generosity of
33 His people, The LCMS and LCEF for supporting all who serve in our congregations, schools and
34 childcare centers.

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36 Respectfully submitted,
37 Floor Committee 2 Mission and Ministry
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1 RESOLUTION #2-05: To Promote and Protect Comprehensive Wellness of Church Workers
2 OVERTURE #2-01 (*Overtures, p. 3-4*)
3
4 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
5 JUNE 26-28, 2022
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8 WHEREAS, God has established The Office of the Holy Ministry so that man may obtain
9 faith from God through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments (AC V); and
10

11 WHEREAS, The men who hold this Office, as well as those church workers who serve in
12 other offices which support the Office of the Holy Ministry, face significant stresses
13 including rapidly changing cultural norms, pandemic responses impacting pastoral care protocol,
14 social isolation, financial pressures, and distance from the natural support of the family, all of
15 which negatively impacts their physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual wellness (as
16 outlined in 2012 Resolution 2-04A, see next whereas); and
17

18 WHEREAS, Resolution 2-04A, adopted by the 2012 Convention of Iowa District West,
19 encourages congregations to protect their pastor’s work-life balance, defend opportunities for
20 their pastors to engage in healthy interaction with peers, and allow them the time and resources
21 to take advantage of the Synod’s worker wellness programs; and
22

23 WHEREAS, The Iowa District West Compensation Recommendations encourage
24 congregations to provide healthcare insurance coverage for their commissioned and ordained
25 workers and families; and
26

27 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in its 2016 convention, adopted
28 Resolution 17-01, “To Enhance Clergy Continuing Education” which encourages the use of
29 Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) in all districts in the Synod since it was
30 created to facilitate pastors’ and their wives’ transition from seminary to their first call. PALS
31 was developed with the understanding that the first call in ministry can be a difficult experience,
32 with challenging adjustments; therefore, be it
33

34 *Resolved*, That congregations in Iowa District West be encouraged to promote and
35 contribute to the comprehensive wellness of their church workers by ensuring that their church
36 workers are allowed adequate time off to properly serve their vocations toward their families as
37 outlined in the District Compensation Recommendations (family/relational wellness); and be it
38 further
39

40 *Resolved*, That congregations also promote comprehensive wellness in their workers by
41 providing the financial cost of continuing education, professional church worker conferences,
42 sabbaticals, and other opportunities for professional enrichment and personal growth while
43 recognizing that these opportunities are working events and not vacation time (professional
44 wellness); and be it further
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46 *Resolved*, That leaders of congregations in Iowa District West be encouraged to read
47 through the entirety of the District Compensation Recommendations; and be it further

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Resolved, That congregations also promote comprehensive wellness by allowing appropriate flexibility, when possible, in their workers’ weekly schedule to make necessary provisions for continued physical wellness and mental health; and be it further

Resolved, That the President, Circuit Visitors, and Assistants to the President of Iowa District West faithfully encourage congregations to increase their awareness of the state of wellness of their workers and families, proactively attending to any unmet needs that are identified; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Iowa District West Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support research and distribute information to help congregations and their workers relate to one another in healthy ways, and that the Commission establish an educational program to instruct congregational leaders about providing for the comprehensive wellness of their pastors and other church workers in the ways described in this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,
Floor Committee 2 Mission and Ministry

1 RESOLUTION #2-06: To Support New Efforts of Lutheran Family Service to Serve the Church
2 and its Workers

3 OVERTURE #2-04 (*Overtures, p. 8-9*)

4
5 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
6 JUNE 26-28, 2022

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8
9 WHEREAS, God speaks about the church’s care for those He calls to serve in ministry.
10 As we remain aware of the “times and the seasons,” and as we await, “the day of the Lord,”
11 God’s Word says, “We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over
12 you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their
13 work.” (1 Thessalonians 5: 12-13); and

14
15 WHEREAS, Rostered church workers and their families who serve in parish ministry,
16 Lutheran education, ancillary and Recognized Service Organizations of the LCMS for the sake
17 of the Gospel work under daily pressure as they serve in settings where dramatic changes in
18 culture increasingly and profoundly challenge historic and biblically-based norms for living,
19 resulting in a demonstrably negative impact on their physical, psychological, emotional, and
20 spiritual well-being; and

21
22 WHEREAS, A synod-wide worker-wellness survey conducted in 2017 (contact Lutheran
23 Family Service for a copy) discovered that among its workers, there were many challenges
24 negatively affecting their ministry resulting in serious conditions such as increasing anxiety,
25 depression, isolation and other limiting ailments. These challenges for our workers have only
26 grown through the COVID pandemic as confirmed by an LFS study of Iowa church workers
27 which found that nearly half have concern for their own or their family’s mental health; and

28
29 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service, a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS
30 and a ministry extension of the 282 LCMS congregations in Iowa, is preparing to grow their
31 ministry team of masters level, licensed counselors to meet the greatly expanding need for
32 mental health, marriage and family counseling; and

33
34 WHEREAS, In response to this growing crisis, Lutheran Family Service is launching a
35 special campaign in 2022 to raise \$2.8 million needed to support this expansion effort over the
36 next three years; therefore be it

37
38 *Resolved*, That the congregations in Iowa District West gathered in convention at Camp
39 Okoboji in June 2022 direct IDW to make a lead gift in the amount of \$400,000, paid over 3
40 years, in amounts of \$150,000 in 2022, \$150,000 in 2023, and \$100,000 in 2024, through
41 stewardship of funds entrusted to Iowa District West, as directed by the Board of Directors; and
42 be it finally

1 RESOLUTION #3-01: To Thank and Recognize the Rev. Roger Carlisle
2 OVERTURE #3-06 (*Convention Overtures, p. 23*)

3
4 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
5 JUNE 26-29, 2022
6

7 WHEREAS, The Rev. Roger Carlisle has served faithfully and tirelessly in Iowa District
8 West as a District Vice President, member of the Board of Directors and Synod Commission on
9 Handbook, Circuit Visitor, District Reconciler, principal author of our current District Handbook
10 and chiefly as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Wall Lake, Iowa for 40 years; and
11

12 WHEREAS, The Rev. Roger Carlisle has consistently reached out to the Synod and
13 District as pastor, mentor, teacher, friend, and truly as a “Partner in the Gospel”; therefore be it
14

15 *Resolved*, That the Rev. Roger Carlisle be recognized for his service at this Iowa District
16 West Convention as the assembly stands to sing the common doxology.
17

18 Respectfully submitted,
19 Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances
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1 RESOLUTION #3-02: To Commend the Celebration of the 175th Anniversary of The Lutheran
2 Church—Missouri Synod in District Congregations in 2022

3
4 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
5 JUNE 26-28, 2022

6
7 WHEREAS, April 26, 2022, was the 175th anniversary of the founding of The Lutheran
8 Church—Missouri Synod; and

9
10 WHEREAS, An anniversary is a celebration of God’s blessing in the past, as well as a
11 time of joyful anticipation of what the Lord of the Church has in store for His people in the
12 future; and

13
14 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod exists to conserve and promote the
15 unity of the true faith; strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by
16 word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; to recruit and train
17 professional church workers; to provide opportunities for showing Christian love and
18 compassion by meeting human needs; to aid and develop processes for thorough Christian
19 education for all age levels; and for many other benefits to congregations, professional church
20 workers, and laypeople (Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Article III:
21 Objectives); and

22
23 WHEREAS, The Mission Statement of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod says, “In
24 grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and
25 sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known
26 the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world;” and

27
28 WHEREAS, The congregations and schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
29 joyfully proclaim the Gospel message of salvation by God’s grace through faith in the merits of
30 Jesus Christ our Savior to all the world; and

31
32 WHEREAS, Jesus invites us to “lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white
33 for harvest” (John 4:35); and

34
35 WHEREAS, Our Lord is always able to do far more abundantly than all we can ask or
36 imagine, according to the power at work within us to His glory in the church throughout all
37 generations (Eph. 3:20-21); therefore be it

38
39 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West office assist and aid district congregations in
40 celebrating the 175th anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by promoting the
41 anniversary and by sharing any special materials or projects created and developed by the Synod;

42
43 *Resolved*, That the Iowa District West in Convention commend and encourage the
44 observance of the 175th anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to all our district
45 congregations, professional church workers, and laypeople and that we join in corporate and
46 individual prayer asking that God would continue to bless the Gospel work of our Synod, its
47 congregations and schools, and its people and provide us with new opportunities to share the life-

1 saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ for the extension of His kingdom and to the glory of His
2 holy name; and be it finally

3
4 *Resolved*, That in joyous celebration of this milestone, the assembly stands to sing the
5 common doxology.

6
7 Respectfully submitted,
8 Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances

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1 RESOLUTION #3-03: To Provide an Annual Compensation and Benefit Recommendation for
2 Professional Church Workers of Iowa District West
3 OVERTURE #3-02 (*Convention Overtures, p. 18*)
4

5 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
6 JUNE 26-28, 2022
7

8 WHEREAS, Scripture addresses church worker compensation. Paul writes in 1 Timothy,
9 “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages”
10 (5:18). In 1 Corinthians 9:7-12, Paul teaches that the worker is worthy of his wages; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Iowa District West has, through convention, historically adopted a three-
13 year Compensation and Benefit Recommendation for Professional Church Workers; however
14 due to constant fluctuation of the economy, it has become increasingly difficult to accurately
15 estimate a three-year Compensation and Benefit Recommendation for Professional Church
16 Workers of Iowa District West; therefore be it
17

18 *Resolved*, That the Iowa District West Stewardship Committee prepare an annual
19 Compensation and Benefit Recommendation for Professional Church Workers of Iowa District
20 West; and be it further
21

22 *Resolved*, That the Iowa District West Board of Directors approve an annual
23 Compensation and Benefit Recommendation for Professional Church Workers of Iowa District
24 West; and be it finally
25

26 *Resolved*, That the Iowa District West annual Compensation and Benefit
27 Recommendation for Professional Church Workers of Iowa District West be emailed to all
28 congregations, professional church workers, and posted on the Iowa District West website by
29 August 15.
30

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32 Respectfully submitted,
33 Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances
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1 RESOLUTION #3-04: To Amend Bylaw 2.2.1 to Hold the Convention of Iowa District West in
2 the Second Full Week Following Memorial Day

3 OVERTURE #3-01 (*Convention Overtures, p. 16-17*)
4

5 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
6 JUNE 26-28, 2022
7

8 WHEREAS, Camp Okoboji is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The
9 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and
10

11 WHEREAS, Iowa District West, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is in
12 partnership with Camp Okoboji in making and building up disciples of Jesus Christ; and
13

14 WHEREAS, Camp Okoboji staff is striving to establish an additional week of summer
15 Youth/Household Discipleship (Cub Week #1) to be consistently scheduled; and
16

17 WHEREAS, Camp Okoboji staff is striving to establish consistent scheduling of all
18 programs, conventions, families and groups served throughout the summer while best fulfilling
19 their needs; and
20

21 WHEREAS, Iowa District West, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s current
22 bylaws state the following: “The conventions of Iowa District West shall be held in the fourth
23 week of June in the year preceding the general convention of the Synod” (2.2.1.); and “The
24 district conventions shall be held at Camp Okoboji, Milford, Iowa, or at another site to be
25 selected by the Board of Directors in consultation with the President and the Vice Presidents of
26 the district” (2.2.2.); and
27

28 WHEREAS, The “fourth week of June” prevents establishing consistent scheduling of
29 programs, conventions, families, and groups served throughout the summer while best fulfilling
30 their needs; and
31

32 WHEREAS, The Iowa District West LWML, confirmed through previous
33 communication, supports the desire to establish scheduling that creates consistency for all
34 conventions, including theirs; and
35

36 WHEREAS, Iowa District West, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod desires
37 consistency of its convention schedule (as represented in existing bylaws) and desires to support
38 Camp Okoboji in establishing and sustaining a consistent schedule for the programs,
39 conventions, families and groups that Camp Okoboji serves throughout the summer; therefore be
40 it
41

42 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
43 acknowledges the significant role Camp Okoboji serves in Youth and Household Discipleship;
44 and be it further
45

46 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
47 acknowledges the significance of Camp Okoboji’s consistent scheduling of all programs,
48 conventions, families, and groups; and be it finally

1 RESOLUTION #3-05: To Transfer Property to Memorial Lutheran Church, Ames
2 OVERTURE #3-03 (*Convention Overtures, p. 19*)
3
4 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
5 JUNE 26-29, 2022
6

7 WHEREAS, Memorial Lutheran Church and Student Center has faithfully served the
8 Ames community and the students at Iowa State University for over 80 years; and
9

10 WHEREAS, Initial funding for this ministry came from The National Lutheran Education
11 Association and the congregations of Iowa District West; and
12

13 WHEREAS, Memorial Lutheran Church has maintained and cared for this facility
14 throughout the history of the congregation; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Article VII of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
17 states, “Membership of a congregation in the Synod gives the Synod no equity in the property of
18 the congregation”; and
19

20 WHEREAS, We live in an increasingly litigious society, it is important both for
21 Memorial Lutheran in Ames and Iowa District West to have a clear division of property;
22 therefore be it
23

24 *Resolved* that Memorial Lutheran be advised and encouraged to update Article X of their
25 constitution to express the following conditions,
26

27 10.0 DIVISION

28 If at any time a division of the congregation should take place for any reason, the
29 following principles will govern.

30 10.1 The property of the congregation and all benefits connected therewith shall remain
31 with those communicant members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to
32 the confessional standards set forth in this constitution.

33 10.2 In the event that the congregation dissolves, all property shall be disposed of by the
34 final voters assembly for the payment of debts and all just claims against the
35 congregation, and any and all surplus and all rights connected therewith shall be
36 conveyed to and become the property of Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church—
37 Missouri Synod.”

38 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West, upon approval of Iowa District West Board of
39 Directors, transfer ownership of the building and property located at 2228 West Lincoln Way in
40 Ames, Iowa to Memorial Lutheran Church and Student Center; and be it finally
41

42 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West in Convention thanks Memorial Lutheran Church of
43 Ames for over 80 years of *Partnership in the Gospel* in service to Christ and His Church.
44

45 Respectfully submitted,
46 Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances
47
48

1 RESOLUTION #3-06: To Address the Lutheran Teacher Shortage and Low Teacher Salaries by
2 Initiating a Student Debt Assistance Program for LCMS Commissioned
3 Ministers – Teachers

4 OVERTURE #3-04 (*Convention Overtures, p. 20-21*)

5
6 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
7 JUNE 26-28, 2022

8
9 WHEREAS, Our Lutheran schools struggle to find rostered teachers to serve in the
10 classrooms of our high schools, elementary schools, and child development centers²; and

11
12 WHEREAS, In Spring 2022, according to the placement director of the Concordia
13 University System, the number of teacher candidates graduating from the Concordia University
14 System totaled 88 and the number of requests from calling entities was over 400; and

15
16 WHEREAS, Research has shown that a primary reason for this is the lower salary offered
17 for teachers within the Lutheran school systems^{3 4}; and

² The number of new commissioned teachers has steadily declined since 2005 (Concordia University System [CUS] Board for University Education [BUE] statistics); and the fulfillment rate of requests for first-year Synod-trained candidates to LCMS calling entities has declined from 63 percent in 2010 to 30 percent in 2018 because of the lack of available Synod-trained candidates (CUS BUE statistics); The CUS only graduated 23 early childhood educators, 39 elementary educators, and 32 secondary educators in 2018 (CUS BUE statistics); (2019 Resolution 12:02A, p.222 of 2019 LCMS Convention Proceedings).

³ Theme 8 of Office of National Mission’s “LCMS Church Worker Wellness Insights,”

presentation by Rev. Robert Zagore, Office of National Mission to Gospel 2019

- ✓ Financial wellbeing is unique among worker needs in that the major problems are beyond the worker’s ability to change – most often the problem is that the workers are in a mathematically impossible situation
- ❖ Workers are under-paid for their skill level and workload
- ❖ Costs for health care are being pushed to the workers
- ❖ Young workers are burdened with significant student debt
- ✓ Many calling bodies are unable to pay their workers what is necessary
- ❖ “*The toughest work is being done in the places that can pay the least*” (i.e. dying congregations, inner-city churches, immigrant ministries, etc.)

⁴ Note: Conclusion of Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Lutheran Schools (2019 R.63)
“Lutheran education is a noble calling, yet it is facing significant challenges. Data support a real need for synodical entities to bring resolution to indebtedness for church workers. With the impending retirement of many teachers and administrators coupled with the diminishing numbers of Lutheran Teacher Diploma (LTD) candidates enrolling in the Concordia University System, there is an increased sense of urgency to recruit and retain qualified young people in the Lutheran teaching ministry. The desire to enter the vocation of education is lessening due to several factors including classroom management issues, public perception of the profession and state regulations. Additionally, many students are coming out of college with significant debt and are paid salaries below recommended levels. The trendline on debt and salary must change or the teacher shortage will likely continue. Teachers and administrators are in a great position to influence current and future students about the joys and rewards of church work and need to be intentional in their efforts to help recruit new students for the Concordia University System” (2019 LCMS Convention Workbook, p.344-348.).

1 RESOLUTION #3-07: To Celebrate the Fiscal Transparency and Faithful Stewardship of Iowa
2 District West

3 OVERTURE #3-05 (*Convention Overtures, p. 22*)

4
5 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
6 JUNE 26-28, 2022

7
8 WHEREAS, Scripture commands us to be good stewards of God's manifold grace (1
9 Peter 4:10); and

10
11 WHEREAS, Our earthly treasures are gifts from God (Small Catechism: The Creed:
12 Article 1); and

13
14 WHEREAS, God takes the honesty and transparency of our gifts very seriously (Acts 5:l
15 ff); and

16
17 WHEREAS, Congregations and District desire to faithfully be “Partners in the Gospel”
18 and work together so that Word and Sacrament ministry may continue and be furthered; and

19
20 WHEREAS, Iowa District West financial summaries are available online
21 (<http://idwlcms.org/administrative.php> “Budget Download”); and

22
23 WHEREAS, The District holds at least annually a treasurers’ workshop where questions
24 of District budget are welcomed; and

25
26 WHEREAS, Our district business manager stands ready to answer any fiduciary
27 questions by elected church officials or professional church workers; and

28
29 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors annually reviews and approves the District budget;
30 and

31
32 WHEREAS, A required annual professional audit is conducted by an outside firm; and
33 therefore be it:

34
35 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West continues full transparency in financial details with the
36 Board of Directors; and be it finally

37
38 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West thanks our district treasurer and business manager for
39 their faithful service to the congregations of Iowa District West.

40
41 Respectfully submitted,
42 Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances
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1 RESOLUTION #3-08: To Permit Greater Flexibility in the Ministry for the District President
2 OVERTURE #3-07 (*Convention Overtures, p. 24-25*)

3
4 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
5 JUNE 26-28, 2022

6
7 WHEREAS, Ecclesiastical supervisors and bishops have historically continued to serve
8 congregations in Word and Sacrament ministry; and

9
10 WHEREAS, District presidents have on account of their ordination (as do all ordained
11 pastors) power of the order, that is, the ministry of the Word and Sacraments, and the power of
12 jurisdiction (AP XXVIII:12-13); and

13
14 WHEREAS, District presidents have been ordained into the pastoral office of the holy
15 ministry and are thus equal to every pastor in the essence of this Word and Sacrament ministry;
16 and

17
18 WHEREAS, There are districts in the LCMS today where the district president serves a
19 parish in addition to serving as the chief executive officer of the district; and

20
21 WHEREAS, The LCMS by-laws do not place any restrictions or prohibitions on district
22 presidents serving congregations; and

23
24 WHEREAS, The Scriptures give the charge to all pastors, including those serving as
25 ecclesiastical supervisors by human right, to do the work of a pastor (2 Tim. 4, 1 Pet. 5); and

26
27 WHEREAS, The Scriptures charge pastors, "Do not neglect the gift you have, which was
28 given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you" (1 Tim. 4:14);
29 therefore be it

30
31 *Resolved*, That a pastor who also serves as the district president of Iowa District West not
32 be restricted or prohibited in any way from fulfilling his ordination by serving a congregation in
33 Word and Sacrament ministry; and be it finally

34
35 *Resolved*, that Bylaw 3.9.2 be amended from the IDW Handbook by striking a portion as
36 follows:

37
38 PROPOSED WORDING

39 3.9 Administrative Provisions for the District President
40 Powers and Duties

41 3.9.2 The district president shall be a full-time executive, ~~He shall not be in charge of a~~
42 ~~congregation~~, but may be called as an ~~assistant~~ pastor, provided such services do not interfere
43 with his official duties as president.

44
45 Respectfully submitted,
46 Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances

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OMNIBUS RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, Two overtures request actions that are the responsibility of various boards, commissions, or individuals to study and to implement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overtures be placed in Resolution A and be referred to the designated board, commission, or individual:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Board, Commission, Individual</u>
Ov. #2-06	To prioritize Sundays for Local Congregational Worship	CTCR
Ov. #2-07	To Reject the Practice of Temporary Calls	Peace Lutheran Church West Bend, Iowa

(The resolution addresses the nature of the call. District conventions do not have the authority to speak on behalf of the Synod as a whole. Therefore, we encourage the congregation to study the CTCR document on the Theology and Practice of “the Divine Call,” February 2003. The congregation may wish to present a similar resolution to the 2023 Synod Convention.)