

# Convention Overtures



The 42<sup>nd</sup> Convention  
of

***Iowa District West***

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Camp Okoboji

Milford, IA

June 8-10, 2025

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1 OVERTURE #2-01: To Promote Wellness Among Church Workers

2  
3 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
4 JUNE 8-10, 2025  
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6 WHEREAS, The spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of church workers is paramount  
7 to the health and effectiveness of the Church’s mission; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has identified the promotion and  
10 nurturing of church worker wellness as a top priority, recognizing the direct correlation between the  
11 health of the ministry and the care of its workers; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, Church workers and their spouses have expressed the need for encouragement,  
14 spiritual care, and reminders of their identity in Christ, as well as support in creating a culture of  
15 mutual care and encouragement; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, Barriers such as perceived weakness, lack of services, concerns about cost, and  
18 isolation can impede the mental wellness of church workers; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, It is essential to address these needs through accessible resources, advocacy, and a  
21 supportive community; Therefore be it  
22

23 *Resolved*, that Iowa District West and its congregations are encouraged to:  
24

25 **Develop** and implement comprehensive wellness programs that address the nine common themes  
26 (ADD) identified by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to help church workers and their spouses.  
27

28 **Encourage** local congregations to create supportive environments that foster open dialogue and  
29 mutual care among church workers.  
30

31 **Provide** resources and training to help church workers manage financial, relational, and vocational  
32 challenges.  
33

34 **Promote** awareness and understanding of mental health issues within church communities.  
35

36 **Facilitate** access to Christian-based counseling and support services for church workers and their  
37 families; be it finally  
38

39 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West and its congregations are encouraged to commit to ongoing  
40 research and dialogue to continually improve the wellness of its workers, ensuring that they are  
41 equipped to serve joyfully and effectively in their sacred callings.  
42

43 Respectfully submitted,  
44 Iowa District West Board of Directors

1 OVERTURE #2-02: To Advance the Reach of Word and Sacrament Ministry in Our Local Community  
2  
3 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
4 JUNE 8-10, 2025  
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7 WHEREAS, The Great Commission calls us to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and  
8 teaching them to observe all that Christ has commanded (Matthew 28:19-20); and  
9

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

13 WHEREAS, Our local community is diverse and ever-changing, with many yet to hear the  
14 Gospel or partake in the sacraments; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, There exists a growing need to adapt our ministry approaches to meet the spiritual  
17 needs of our neighbors in relevant and accessible ways; Therefore be it  
18

19 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West and its congregations be encouraged to commit to a  
20 strategic initiative to expand the Word and Sacrament Ministry into the local community; and be it  
21 further  
22

23 *Resolved*, That this initiative will include the development of new mission plants and  
24 community outreach programs designed to engage with those not currently reached by our churches;  
25 and be it finally  
26

27 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West and its congregations be encouraged to provide resources  
28 and training for pastors and lay leaders to equip them for effective evangelism and ministry in a  
29 variety of cultural contexts.  
30

31 Respectfully submitted,  
32 Iowa District West Board of Directors  
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1 OVERTURE #2-03: To Build a Culture of Church Work Formation and Recruitment

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

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6  
7 WHEREAS, Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray  
8 earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest (Matt. 9:37–38); and

9  
10 WHEREAS, Since 1847 to the present day, the LCMS adopted resolutions in nearly every  
11 convention to form and recruit pastors, teachers and other commissioned church workers to preach,  
12 teach and share the Gospel of Jesus for eternal salvation in these full-time vocations; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, These convention resolutions urged that church worker formation and recruitment  
15 intentionally take place in every LCMS congregation and school by pastors, teachers, commissioned  
16 church workers and laity; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, These convention resolutions urged *districts and congregations* to have an active  
19 committee focused on forming and recruiting our youth and adults to consider full-time church work;  
20 and

21  
22 WHEREAS, The pastoral office is the one divinely mandated office by our Lord (John 20:19–23;  
23 Rom. 10:14–15; Eph. 4:11–16) and the seven LCMS commissioned church work vocations have been  
24 established in love to support the Office of the Holy Ministry (Lutheran school teachers, directors of  
25 Christian education, directors of family life ministry, deaconesses, directors of parish music, directors  
26 of church ministries, directors of Christian outreach) (*Lutheran Service Book: Agenda*, p. 210 and 218);  
27 and

28  
29 WHEREAS, In the last five years, approximately twice as many LCMS pastors are exiting the  
30 pastoral office (retirement or death) as there are newly called and ordained pastors; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, In April 2024, there were 51 unfilled calls of congregations calling a seminary  
33 candidate, 406 congregations calling a sole pastor, 56 congregations calling a senior pastor, 67  
34 congregations calling an associate pastor, and 529 non-calling congregations for various reasons; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, In 2023, our LCMS schools requested 455 new teachers from our Concordia  
37 universities, but only 84 students were graduating with teaching degrees; furthermore, LCMS  
38 congregations, schools and entities requested 79 other LCMS commissioned workers for placements,  
39 but only 64 church work students were graduating from the Concordia universities; and

40  
41 WHEREAS, *Set Apart to Serve* began with the 2019 LCMS Convention (Resolution 6-01) with  
42 the overarching goal of developing a culture of church work formation and recruitment in every LCMS  
43 congregation, school and entity; and

44  
45 WHEREAS, *Set Apart to Serve* is in full partnership and collaboration across all Synod entities;  
46 Therefore be it



1 OVERTURE #2-04: To Commission a Study to Support Ethnic Ministry Pastors and Commissioned  
2 Workers

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

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

10 WHEREAS, The LCMS recognizes the importance of ethnic diversity in ministry and the unique  
11 challenges faced by ethnic ministry pastors and commissioned workers; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, There is a need for a deeper understanding of the specific support required by  
14 ethnic ministry leaders to serve their congregations and communities effectively; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, The LCMS has previously engaged in discussions and webinars to address the  
17 challenges and opportunities of ethnic and intercultural ministry; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, Supporting ethnic ministry leaders is essential for the growth and health of the  
20 church, especially in urban and rural contexts where cultural diversity is most pronounced; Therefore  
21 be it  
22

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

27 *Resolved*, That this study will involve a wide range of stakeholders, including ethnic ministry  
28 leaders, congregations, and district representatives; and be it further  
29

30 *Resolved*, That the study will examine best practices, resources, and training opportunities  
31 that can be implemented to enhance the ministry of ethnic leaders; and be it further  
32

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

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

41 Respectfully submitted,  
42 Iowa District West Board of Directors  
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1 OVERTURE #2-05: To Encourage Every Congregation to Enact Sexual Abuse Prevention Strategies  
2  
3 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
4 JUNE 8-10, 2025  
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6 WHEREAS, The psalmist writes, "Children are a reward from the Lord," (Psalm 127:3); and  
7

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

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

14 WHEREAS, MinistrySafe [<https://ministrysafes.com/lcms>] reports statistics such as:  
15 + 90% of sexual abuse victims are abused by someone they know and trust.  
16 + Protective barriers in the church tend to be critically low, creating a target for predators.  
17 + Most molesters appear helpful, trustworthy and responsible.  
18 + Additional statistics available on aforementioned website; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, While background checks are one deterrent in ensuring protection for our youth  
21 and also some legal protection, it is important to provide additional safeguards; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, MinistrySafe provides training towards the protection of our children, and also  
24 background checks at reduced rates; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, IDW pays for a subscription to MinistrySafe services and so is available at no cost  
27 to our congregations; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, Brotherhood Mutual and other Church insurance companies have example sexual  
30 abuse prevention policies; and  
31

32 WHEREAS, MinistrySafe services are easily accessible on our IDW website  
33 ([www.iowadistrictwest.org](http://www.iowadistrictwest.org)); and  
34

35 WHEREAS, District Executive Rhonda Mohr is available as liaison to assist congregations  
36 concerning Ministry Safe and other youth safety concerns; Therefore be it  
37

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

43 Respectfully submitted,  
44 Iowa District West Board of Directors  
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1 OVERTURE #2-06: To Support and Encourage Adoption  
2  
3 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
4 JUNE 8-10, 2025  
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7 WHEREAS, Adoption figures prominently in both the Old and New Testament Scriptural  
8 narratives and the baptismal theology of salvation by grace in the evangelical Lutheran church; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, Christians have a historical legacy of enacting this Gospel by undertaking and  
11 coordinating care for “widows and orphans in their affliction” (James 1:27, Deuteronomy 14:29,  
12 Deuteronomy 24:19, Psalm 82:3); and  
13

14 WHEREAS, In the United States, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, her congregations,  
15 and affiliated parachurch organizations have especially exemplified these concerns and embodied  
16 this mercy; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, Some 115,000 children nationwide are awaiting families and homes through  
19 adoption this year; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, In many jurisdictions, state involvement in adoption imposes restrictions that  
22 result in a significant proportion of these children receiving placements in situations contrary to the  
23 Heavenly Father’s design and intention for sexuality and marriage and without regard for their  
24 eternal welfare; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, The 2022 *Dobbs* verdict of the U. S. Supreme Court overturned the *Roe v. Wade*  
27 abortion access framework and directed renewed public attention to childbearing; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention has not yet spoken in these  
30 times about the connection of adoption to our doctrine and our vocation to serve these neighbors in  
31 need; and  
32

33 WHEREAS, It is our duty to speak up for those unable to speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8-  
34 9);  
35 Therefore be it  
36

37 *Resolved*, That the Iowa District West, in grateful response to our own baptismal adoption as  
38 children of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, affirm our Christian privilege and responsibility to  
39 advocate and undertake protecting and providing for children awaiting adoption and fostering,  
40 particularly that they might enter His kingdom by baptism and belief in His saving name; and be it  
41 further  
42

43 *Resolved*, That we encourage our District’s leaders and congregations to promote awareness  
44 of Christian adoption and fostering needs, agencies, and opportunities; and be it further  
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*Resolved*, That we recognize and commend the Recognized Service Organizations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod engaged in these services with our prayers, our advocacy, and our contributions to further their labors among us and on our behalf; and be it finally

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Boone Circuit

1 OVERTURE #2-07: To Give Thanks for the One True Faith as Confessed in the Nicene Creed

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3 OVERTURE TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA

4 JUNE 8-10, 2025

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6

7 WHEREAS, In the year of our Lord 2025, the One Holy Christian and Apostolic Church  
8 celebrates the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicea and the adoption of the Nicene Creed;  
9 and

10

11 WHEREAS, In the year of our Lord 325 Emperor Constantine convened the First Ecumenical  
12 Council at Nicaea, in Bithynia, present day Iznik, Turkey, for the purpose of settling the controversy  
13 precipitated by the teaching of Arius, who denied the true divinity of Christ, denying that Jesus is true  
14 God, begotten of the Father; and

15

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

19

20 WHEREAS, The council at Nicea, faithfully defended and confessed the one true faith of the  
21 Homoousians, that the Father and the Son are of the same essence, as the Nicene Creed which was  
22 adopted at this time, confesses: *And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten*  
23 *of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made,*  
24 *being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; and*

25

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

31

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

36

37 *Resolved*, That upon passage of this resolution, the assembly stand and confess the Nicene  
38 Creed, followed by the singing of the common doxology.

39

40

41 Respectfully Submitted,  
42 Fort Dodge Circuit

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1 OVERTURE #2-08: To Open Access to the Lutheran Confessions  
2  
3 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
4 JUNE 8-10, 2025  
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6 WHEREAS, The primary objectives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), as stated  
7 in Article III of the Constitution of the LCMS, are: “Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith,  
8 work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide  
9 a united defense against schism, sectarianism, and heresy”; and “Strengthen congregations and their  
10 members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and  
11 Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world”; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, We pray in the collect for the Church that “Thy Word, as becometh it, may not be  
14 bound, but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ’s holy people,” and  
15

16 WHEREAS, The Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Lutheran Confessions),  
17 as listed in Article II of the Constitution of the LCMS, as a true and unadulterated statement and  
18 exposition of the Word of God, are an indispensable resource for achieving the primary objectives of  
19 the LCMS; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House (CPH) is the official publishing house of the Lutheran  
22 Church—Missouri Synod; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, CPH in 2006 published the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church  
25 under the title: Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions-A Reader’s Edition of the Book of Concord – 2nd  
26 edition; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, The said publication, with its historical introductions and other included materials,  
29 presents the Lutheran Confessions most intelligibly and clearly; and is the generally preferred English  
30 translation among native and non-native English speakers alike; and is the preferred source for most  
31 derivative translations into other languages; and  
32

33 WHEREAS, The said publication is currently restricted by Copyright and licensing, so that the  
34 full text is not accessible on the LCMS website nor anywhere else online; nor is the print publication  
35 available in most countries; nor is any derivative translation permitted to be made and published in  
36 print or online without prior permission; and  
37

38 WHEREAS, Removing the current restrictions of the said publication would greatly assist the  
39 LCMS in achieving her primary objectives, by enabling a wider distribution and accessibility of the  
40 Lutheran Confessions; Therefore be it  
41

42 *Resolved*, that we give thanks to CPH for their immense work in bringing the Lutheran  
43 Confessions into contemporary English for the good of the church and the building up of the faith;  
44 and be it further  
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*Resolved*, That the LCMS direct CPH to grant general license to any and all interested parties to publish, with appropriate attribution, the text of Concordia online, in whole or in part; and to grant license to any and all interested parties to publish the text of Concordia in print globally, in whole or in part; and to grant license to any and all interested parties to produce and publish, in print and online, derivative translations of Concordia without restriction; and be it finally

*Resolved*, If Concordia Publishing House should desire payment in compensation for anticipated loss of revenue because of this action, that the LCMS should pay to CPH a sum that is mutually agreeable to the LCMS and CPH.

Respectfully submitted,  
Algona Circuit  
Also submitted by  
Trinity Lutheran Church - Mallard, IA  
Zion Lutheran Church - Ayrshire, IA

1 OVERTURE #3-01: To Recognize and Give Thanks for the Leadership of President Steven Turner  
2  
3 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
4 JUNE 8-10, 2025  
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7 WHEREAS, The apostle Paul encourages us to “give recognition to” those who devote  
8 themselves to the service of the saints and bring refreshment to the soul  
9 (1 Cor. 16:15-18); and  
10

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

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

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

22 *Resolved*, That district in convention stand and give thanks for the blessing of President Rev.  
23 Dr. Steven Turner and express our gratitude to the Lord’s work through him by joining together in the  
24 doxology.  
25

26 Respectfully submitted,  
27 Iowa District West Board of Directors  
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1 OVERTURE #3-02: To Assist Congregations in Developing a Disaster Response Plan

2  
3 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
4 JUNE 8-10, 2025  
5

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

9 WHEREAS, Our faith calls us to be stewards of our communities, to “love thy neighbor,” and to  
10 assist those in need during times of distress; and  
11

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

15 WHEREAS, The lack of a disaster response plan can result in confusion, delayed action, and  
16 increased suffering for both our congregants and our neighbors; Therefore, be it  
17

18 *Resolved*, That we, Iowa District West, do hereby encourage and urge all member  
19 congregations to:  
20

- 21 **Assess Local Risks:** Engage in a thorough assessment of potential disasters specific to their  
22 geographical location and community context;
- 23 **Develop a Comprehensive Plan:** Create a disaster response plan that includes evacuation procedures,  
24 sheltering strategies, and resource allocation;
- 25 **Form a Response Team:** Establish a dedicated team trained in disaster response, first aid, and  
26 emotional and spiritual care;
- 27 **Educate the Congregation:** Conduct regular educational sessions for congregants on disaster  
28 preparedness and response;
- 29 **Collaborate with Local Authorities:** Foster relationships with local emergency management agencies  
30 and other faith-based organizations for coordinated response efforts;
- 31 **Review and Practice:** To ensure readiness, regularly review and update the disaster response plan  
32 and conduct practice drills; and be it finally  
33

34 *Resolved*, That the Iowa District West Human Care Committee will provide resources, support,  
35 and training to assist congregations in developing and implementing their disaster response plans.  
36

37 Respectfully submitted,  
38 Iowa District West Board of Directors  
39

1 OVERTURE #3-03: To Support the Compassionate Mission of Lutheran Family Service

2  
3 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
4 JUNE 8-10, 2025  
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6 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service of Iowa has been a beacon of hope and support for  
7 individuals and families in need for over a century, providing essential services such as adoption,  
8 unplanned pregnancy support, and mental health and marriage counseling; Church worker wellness;  
9 and  
10

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West and its individual congregations pledge 3% of their budget  
34 toward the work of Lutheran Family Service of Iowa; and be it further  
35

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

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

44 Respectfully submitted,  
45 Christ Lutheran Church, Bouton, IA

1 OVERTURE #3-04: To Support the Compassionate Mission of Lutheran Family Service

2  
3 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
4 JUNE 8-10, 2025

5  
6 WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service of Iowa has been a beacon of hope and support for  
7 individuals and families in need for over a century, providing essential services such as adoption,  
8 unplanned pregnancy support, and mental health and marriage counseling; Church worker wellness;  
9 and

10  
11 WHEREAS, The organization upholds the values of grace, life, family, compassion, and  
12 accountability, with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of their ministry; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, The work of Lutheran Family Service of Iowa aligns with the Biblical call to “bear  
15 one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2) and to care for the least of these (Matthew 25:40); and

16  
17 WHEREAS, The need for such services continues to grow, with many in our communities  
18 facing challenges that require the professional and faith-based support that Lutheran Family Service  
19 of Iowa provides; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, The organization is Iowa’s only Recognized Service Organization (RSO) by The  
22 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) for pregnancy support, adoption services, marriage  
23 counseling, & mental health counseling, making it a unique and vital resource for our state; Therefore  
24 be it

25  
26 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West recognizes and commends the work of Lutheran  
27 Family Service of Iowa for their dedication to serving the needs of our communities; and be it further

28  
29 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West encourages its member congregations to actively  
30 support the mission of Lutheran Family Service of Iowa through prayer, volunteerism, and financial  
31 contributions; and be it further

32  
33 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West will partner with Lutheran Family Service of Iowa  
34 to promote awareness of the services they offer and to facilitate access to these services for those in  
35 need within our congregations and communities; and be it finally

36  
37 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West will seek to collaborate with Lutheran Family Service of Iowa  
38 in outreach efforts and initiatives that align with our shared mission of demonstrating Christ’s love  
39 through service.

40  
41 Respectfully submitted,  
42 Iowa District West Board of Directors

43

1 OVERTURE #3-05: To Embrace Biblical Stewardship for the Flourishing of Christ’s Mission  
2  
3 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
4 JUNE 8-10, 2025  
5  
6

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

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

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

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

22 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West encourages its congregations to undertake a year-long  
23 initiative focused on biblical stewardship; and be it further  
24

25 *Resolved*, That this initiative includes a series of educational workshops, sermons, and study  
26 groups centered around biblical examples of stewardship, such as those of Noah, Abraham, Moses,  
27 and the disciples of Jesus, to inspire and instruct our congregational community in faithful  
28 stewardship practices; and be it further  
29

30 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West will continue to make available and distribute resources,  
31 including study guides and practical tools, to assist congregations in implementing stewardship  
32 programs that address the care of God’s creation, financial wisdom and community service; and be it  
33 finally  
34

35 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West will encourage its congregations to establish an annual  
36 stewardship emphasis, dedicated to celebrating and promoting the stewardship of time, talent, and  
37 treasure within our congregations and communities.  
38

39 Respectfully submitted,  
40 Iowa District West Board of Directors  
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42  
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44  
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46

1 OVERTURE #3-06: To Reevaluate the Size of All Iowa District West Boards, Committees, and Staff  
2  
3 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
4 JUNE 8-10, 2025  
5  
6

7 WHEREAS, Iowa District West has experienced significant declines in church attendance, as  
8 well as the unfortunate closure of congregations; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, The current structure and composition of district boards, committees, staff  
11 positions, and executive assistants may no longer be aligned with the realities of our congregational  
12 needs and resources; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, There has been an increased difficulty in finding individuals willing to serve in  
15 various offices, committees, and boards, further underscoring the need for an adaptable and  
16 responsive district structure; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, A comprehensive assessment is essential to ensure that all district operations  
19 reflect and support our mission in a more streamlined, effective, and resource-efficient manner; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors, as stewards of district resources, holds the responsibility to  
22 oversee and recommend adaptations necessary for a vibrant and sustainable future; Therefore be it  
23

24 *Resolved*, That Iowa District West in convention direct the Board of Directors to undertake an  
25 extensive review of all district boards, committees, staff positions, and executive assistants; and be it  
26 further  
27

28 *Resolved*, That the purpose of this review is to reevaluate the size and number of all boards,  
29 committees, elected officers, and staff to better reflect our current congregational needs, with  
30 particular attention to maintaining our mission while reducing inefficiencies; and be it finally  
31

32 *Resolved*, That the Board of Directors present their findings and specific recommended actions  
33 at the next convention of Iowa District West, in order that the delegates may consider and vote on  
34 appropriate adaptations for the health and longevity of the district and its mission.  
35  
36

37 Respectfully submitted,  
38 Boone Circuit  
39  
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1 OVERTURE #3-07: To Realign the Southwest Circuit

2  
3 TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
4 JUNE 8-10, 2025

5  
6 WHEREAS, The Southwest Circuit (Circuit number 16) consists of: Bedford, St. Timothy;  
7 Clarinda, Immanuel; Clarinda, St. John; Clarinda, St. Paul; Corning, Redeemer; Creston/Mt. Ayr,  
8 Trinity; Leon, Our Savior’s; Osceola, Immanuel; Shenandoah, Trinity; and Villisca, Mt. Calvary; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, The Southwest Circuit has fallen below Synodical requirements for communicant  
11 members, as stated in Constitutional Bylaw 3.1.2

12 Electoral circuits shall meet as required by the Bylaws of the Synod to elect circuit voting  
13 delegates to the Synod's national conventions.

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

19  
20 *Resolved*, That the congregations of the Southwest Circuit be realigned as follows:

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

27  
28 Bedford, St. Timothy  
29 Corning, Redeemer  
30 and Creston/Mt. Ayr, Trinity  
31 be aligned with the Adair Circuit (Circuit 1)

32  
33 Leon, Our Savior’s  
34 and Osceola, Immanuel  
35 be aligned with the Des Moines East Circuit (Circuit 8)

36  
37 Respectfully submitted,  
38 Ron Richardson, Congregational Secretary  
39 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clarinda  
40  
41  
42