



73rd Kansas District Convention
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Topeka, Kansas
June 7 - 9, 2018
“Life Together in Mission” | *Phil. 1:3-5*

PRE-CONVENTION

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Floor Committee orientation and meetings
Kansas District Office

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Registration
Floor Committee hearings and meetings

FIRST MEETING

Thursday, June 4, 2018, 1:30 p.m.

Convention Opening and Greetings from President Peter K. Lange.

Rev. David Schemm, Fourth Vice-President, Region 1, led the opening worship based on Romans 1:16-17.

Introductions

President Lange introduced special guests:

- Rev. Dr. Daniel Preus, Fourth Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Keynote speaker for the convention, the Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa, senior pastor of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Irvine, California and vice-chair of the LCMS Board for National Mission
- Past Presidents Howard Patten and his wife Marilyn and Keith Kohlmeier and his wife Marlene

President Lange then introduced several key groups:

The Kansas District Staff, all of whom also served on the Convention Planning Committee

- Rev. Dan Galchutt, Assistant to the President for Missions & Stewardship
- Jim Bradshaw, Assistant to the President for Education & Youth
- Jeff Maltz, LCEF District Vice President for Kansas & Oklahoma
- Debbie Crites, Business Manager (retiring after the convention)

- Tami Lierz, Administrative Assistant for the President's Office & Educational Services
- Shannon Oldham, Administrative Assistant for the Business Office
- Janet Powell, Administrative Assistant for Missions & Stewardship
- Kris Bruss, Communications Specialist
- Heather Williams, new Business Manager

Other members of the Convention Planning Committee:

- District Secretary, Rev David Meier
- Mark Brewer, current convention manager
- Yvonne Berry, 2021 convention manager

Technology group members, who manage all the convention technology: Marc Jones, Rev. Henry Blickhahn, and Rev. Timothy Roth.

The directors of our three convention videos: Jenn Eickman, Rev. Daniel Ross, and Rev. Tony Fields.

Dr. Bruce Schultz, Convention Parliamentarian

Board of Directors:

- **Lay Members:** Judge David Bruns, Ruth Holste, Larry Junker, David Meisinger, Tim Ohlde, Richard Schotte, Dr. Bruce Schultz, and Lee Thaete, treasurer
- **Commissioned Workers:** Principal Rick Hanebutt, Teacher Sue Kleber, and DCE Jeremy Pera
- **Ordained Members:** Rev. Lee Hovel and Revs. David Meier, Justin Panzer, Rick Rostek, David Schemm, and Scott Snow.

Mr. Dean Landman, who served as Kansas District Archivist for more than a decade and is now being succeeded by Mike Grau

New workers were recognized and welcomed to their first Kansas District convention.

Orientation

President Lange provided information about name badges and other convention procedures.

Credentials and Excuse Committees

The Credentials Committee was introduced by the chairman, Rev. Andy Keltner. He reported that the attendance and registration figures showed 127 Voting Lay Delegates, 113 Voting Pastoral Delegates, 43 Advisory Commissioned Ministers, 23 Advisory Pastors and 25 Guests. A quorum was present.

The Excuse Committee was introduced by the Chair, Rev. Tom Harmon. He reported 31 excused and 36 unexcused pastors, and 68 excused and 87 unexcused commissioned ministers.

Convention Opening

President Lange called the Convention of the LCMS Kansas District to order at 2:10 p.m., “In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” He explained that the commemorative gavel we use to open and close our conventions is made of wood from the historic Wetzel cabin, where the first Lutheran services were held in Kansas on August 17, 1861.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Orders of the Day as presented in Convention Business. **Adopted by voice vote.**

Electronic voting instructions were given by Rev. Robert Grimm, chairman of the Elections Committee. He also introduced the committee.

Resolution 18-04-01

To Approve Standing Rules for the 2018 Convention of the LCMS Kansas District

The Special Standing Rules for the Convention which follow are being presented to the 2018 Convention for approval. They are included at the front of the workbook for the information and convenience of delegates in the event they are adopted.

1. The chair will see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
2. Resolutions shall be prioritized by floor committees and normally shall be presented to the convention in numerical sequence. However, resolutions that impact nominations or elections may be given earlier consideration at the discretion of the chair, in consultation with the floor committee chairman and the chairman of the floor committees on nominations and elections.
3. It shall be the discretion of the chairman or presenting member of the floor committee to read the preface, preamble, rationale, and whereas sections of resolutions from floor committees that are printed in the Workbook Update. In addition, the chair of the convention is not required to read each resolution as he states the questions and then as he calls for the vote.
4. The delegates will consider omnibus resolutions as part of regular scheduled business. Omnibus A refers to overtures referred to a board, commission, or other group of Synod to consider and take action. Omnibus B refers to overtures that affirm an action previously taken in past conventions. Omnibus C refers to overtures declined by the floor committee. Omnibus D refers to overtures of thanks or recognition. **A majority vote is required to remove an overture from an omnibus resolution and have it referred to the appropriate floor committee for action.**

5. If any resolution is not acted upon by the convention before adjournment, it dies and the subject matter may be reintroduced for possible consideration by an overture to the next convention.
6. When recognized by the chair, members of the convention will state their name, whether they are a delegate or an advisory delegate, and the congregation or ministry they represent.
7. Delegates may speak and vote. All nonvoting advisory delegates and representatives may participate in debate, but may not nominate candidates, make motions, or vote.
8. A delegate who has spoken on an issue may not at the close of their remarks move the previous question.
9. No delegate or representative may speak in debate any longer than two (2) minutes per speech. No delegate or representative may speak more than twice on the same motion on the same day and may not speak a second time until all delegates and representatives desiring to speak the first time have had the opportunity. The chair shall have discretion to make exceptions to this rule.
10. While any voting delegate may move to close debate (call the question) at any time that it is his or her turn to speak, a vote on closing debate (two-thirds vote required) on the pending motion shall be put by the chair after every twenty (20) minutes of debate. The chair may also call for a vote on closing debate (two-thirds vote required) when in his judgment the assembly has heard sufficient speaking from both sides of the issue. (The Pro-Con speakers on a question will be observed at the discretion of the chair.)
11. Personal Privilege will not be abused by using the time to advance the speaker's opinion. It is only to ask a procedure or parliamentary question. Ordinarily, questions of privilege (or point of personal privilege) shall be addressed in writing to the chair or his appointee.
12. All substitute motions and amendments must be presented in written form to the District Secretary. Material should be provided in digital format (and may be sent by e-mail to KSDconvention@gmail.com) when possible.
13. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter will be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for presenting it. The convention will then first decide by majority vote without debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again before the house. (This is the so-called "Behnken rule" for dealing with substitute motions.)
14. No motion to reconsider or rescind shall be made or called up during the last day of the convention.
15. The Convention may alter or add to the nominated slates except for the slate for President. A floor nomination must be accompanied by written acceptance of nomination from the nominee and a brief biographical description of the nominee. Material should be provided in digital format when possible. (These are to (may) be

sent to the Nominations Committee at KSDconvention@gmail.com for review of proper credentials.)

16. During the Convention, the order of elections will be: (1) President, (2) Vice Presidents and (3) All other elective positions.
17. A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and elective board positions. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.
18. The election of the President will take place by ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
19. The election of the Vice Presidents will take place by ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
20. Upon the election of the regional vice-presidents, a final election will take place ranking the vice-presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority determining the first, second, third and fourth vice-presidents in line of succession.
21. Except on the election of the President and the Vice-Presidents, the following regulations will apply: Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot will be declared elected. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15% of the votes cast will be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15% or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates will constitute the ballot.
22. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure will be governed by the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.
23. Use of portable telephones and other electronic communication devices will be permitted in the delegate section. **Please respectfully turn all electronic devices to silent mode. Any phone calls received or made will be outside the convention floor. Not responsible for WIFI connections or power source.**
24. No distribution of literature will be allowed in the Manor Conference Center without pre-convention approval by the office of the District President.

It was moved and seconded to adopt The Special Standing Rules for the Convention.

ADOPTED. Yes-207; No-1

District President's Report

Rev. Peter K. Lange

Election: District President

Mr. Curt Engelbrecht, Chair of the Nominations Committee and Rev. Robert Grimm, Chair of the Elections Committee came forward to begin the elections process. Mr. Engelbrecht introduced the members of the Nominations Committee.

It was moved and seconded to approve the slate for District President. **Adopted by voice vote.**

Our devotional leader of the day, Rev. Robert Schemm, led us in prayer.

Election for **District President**

Rev. Peter K. Lange – 206 (100%) (**election**)

President Lange thanked the convention and asked for our prayers.

Greetings from Rev. Bart Day, LCEF.

A video from LCMS Foundation was shared, followed by greetings from Mr. Craig Stirtz from the Foundation.

A 15-minute recess was taken.

Convention Essay #1 “Life Together as Congregations”

Convention Essayist, the Rev. Alfonso O. Espinosa.

Video: “Your Mission Dollars at Work: Kansas District Mission Grants”

Committee #1: Witness

President Lange called Rev. Andrew Wehling, Chair of Floor Committee #1 on Witness, to come forward. He introduced the other members of the committee.

Resolution 18-01-01

To Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Support Mission Work Through the Eugene Schmidt Memorial Mission Fund

WHEREAS, the Kansas District received a gift in May 2017 from the estate of Rev. Dr. Eugene E. Schmidt, former Executive Secretary for Missions and Stewardship and President of the LCMS Kansas District; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the trust indicate that the gift is “to be used for charitable purposes in its [the Kansas District’s] area of greatest need, not to support the general budget”; and

WHEREAS, mission work has been and continues to be one of the District’s highest priorities, and

WHEREAS, this priority is consistent with the work of Rev. Schmidt, who had a heart for missions; and

WHEREAS, Kansas is a critically important mission field, particularly in the face of demographic and cultural changes affecting many of our congregations and workers; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Board of Directors recently established “The Eugene Schmidt Memorial Mission Fund” for supporting mission outreach in the Kansas District, with priority given to the work of church planting, new outreach initiatives, and revitalization through the Kansas District; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Board of Directors, in conjunction with establishing this fund, launched a new annual Reformation Offering to generate additional support for the fund; therefore be it

RESOLVED, to give thanks for the generous gift from the Rev. Eugene Schmidt Trust, which has enabled the District to increase support for mission outreach; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Kansas District congregations support mission work in Kansas through the Eugene Schmidt Memorial Mission Fund; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to participate in the annual Reformation Offering.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 201 (98.5%); No - 3 (1.5%)**

Resolution 18-01-02

To Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Use Synod Outreach Materials

WHEREAS, “Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations” by witnesses for Christ (Luke 24:47-48); and

WHEREAS, “All nations” includes Kansas, where 20% of the population claims no religious affiliation (Pew Religious Landscape Study, 2014); and

WHEREAS, LCMS Kansas District congregations have experienced a pattern of decline, with 71% experiencing a decrease in baptized membership from 2006 to 2016.

WHEREAS, the key to the vitality of any church is the faithful proclamation of God’s Word and administration of His Sacraments; and believers in Christ are called to reach out with the Gospel message (1 Peter 2:9); and

WHEREAS, the Synod has recognized these challenges and in response developed *Every One His Witness*, an evangelism program rooted in the Lutheran understanding of vocation, and *re:Vitality*, a church revitalization program, and commended the use of these resources by all LCMS congregations in Synod Convention Resolutions (16-01-01 and 16-01-03); and

WHEREAS, the Kansas District has earmarked funds to assist congregations interested in employing *Every One His Witness*, now available as a kit from CPH and to support congregations interested in using *re:Vitality* materials; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the convention encourage Kansas District congregations to use *Every One His Witness* and *re:Vitality* resources as they work to reach the unchurched and those who have drifted away; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District leadership promote *Every One His Witness* and *re:Vitality* and develop ways for congregations to network and share insights about these programs; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District continue to provide funding assistance to LCMS Kansas congregations, schools, and organizations interested in using *Every One His Witness* and *re:Vitality*.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 195 (94.7%); No - 11 (5.3%)**

Resolution 18-01-03

To Support Lutheran Mission and Mercy Work in Guinea and West Africa

WHEREAS, Our Lord gives the command to “go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19-20); and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures encourage collaboration and coordination in the Church for the sake of the Gospel (Philippians 1:5); and

WHEREAS, the LCMS Kansas District has been involved since 1997 in international mission work in Guinea, where God has blessed outreach efforts in diverse ways; and

WHEREAS, the District recently expanded this work to French-speaking West Africa, which the LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM) has identified as an emerging and exciting mission field; and

WHEREAS, we have many brothers and sisters in Christ working in Guinea and West Africa, including missionaries, theological educators, medical personnel, and indigenous workers; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas District Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the LCMS OIM in 2018 and with Mission Central (an arm of LCMS Mission Advancement) in 2017, with the aim of enhancing our efforts in West Africa through collaboration, coordination, and increased visibility; and

WHEREAS, LCMS Mission Development Counselor Rev. Dr. Brent Smith has been deployed to the Kansas District to raise awareness of and support for mission projects in

West Africa and other mission projects of interest to the congregations of the LCMS Kansas District; and

WHEREAS, LCMS work in West Africa includes support for the l'Église évangélique luthérienne de Guinée (CLET) in Dapaong, Togo, which provides seminary education to students in French-speaking West Africa, including Guinea; and

WHEREAS, Medical Mercy Teams (MMTs) provide one important avenue for mercy work, through which medical and non-medical personnel can provide much-needed health care while sharing the Christ-centered message: "We're here to serve our neighbor"; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, to thank God for the collaboration between the Kansas District, OIM, and LCMS Mission Advancement; and Mission Central

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District support the workers and students at the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Togo, indigenous pastors and church workers, and LCMS missionaries through prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts; and

RESOLVED, to thank God for Mercy Medical Teams and ask His blessing on MMT workers and those whom they serve, and that MMTs may be an effective means of caring for both body and soul; and
be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Convention join in prayer for God's continued blessing on mission work in French-speaking West Africa, including Guinea and Togo.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 201 (97.6%); No - 5 (2.4%)**

Resolution 18-01-04

To Prioritize New Models and Resources for Small, Struggling and/or Isolated Congregations

WHEREAS, the LCMS has experienced a steady decline in baptisms, confirmations, communicant membership, church attendance, and offerings since 1972, with the Kansas District (like all other LCMS districts) declining in membership over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas District currently includes 160 congregations, 35% of which have an average weekly attendance of 50 or fewer; and

WHEREAS, population projections for Kansas include continued losses in rural areas, an increase in the aging population, and slower growth, overall, than the nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of people, including Kansans, are not identifying with any religion (“nones”), a change attributed to increasing secularization and changing demographic patterns; and

WHEREAS, rising health insurance costs are putting considerable strain on congregational budgets; and

WHEREAS, attempts have been made to repeal the housing allowance exemption for clergy, which, if successful, would create additional hardships for small and struggling congregations seeking to call and support a pastor; and

WHEREAS, the number of expected seminary graduates in the years ahead will not match the demand created by retiring pastors, which will require rethinking the standard “1 pastor, 1 parish” ministry model; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we pray for the well-being of our workers and parishioners in congregations particularly hard hit by these challenges; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the District give special attention in the next triennium to ministry and funding models aimed at assisting small, struggling, and/or isolated congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that circuits, pastors, and lay people be encouraged to discuss options and resources for their congregations with the Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we recognize God’s hand in everything, trusting that where the Word is preached faithfully, it will accomplish God’s purpose (Is. 55:11, “My Word . . . shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose”).

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 197 (94.7%); No - 11 (5.3%)**

Resolution 18-01-05

To Encourage Congregations to Work Together to Plant Churches

WHEREAS, providing Word and Sacrament ministry throughout the state is a priority in the Kansas District; and

WHEREAS, the field for that ministry is changing, demographically and culturally, with the population in Kansas shifting from rural to urban areas and becoming more diverse; and

WHEREAS, Kansas is a significant mission field, with a growing number of residents among the unchurched, dechurched, and disengaged; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas District is the product of church planting activity, with churches and schools springing up to serve particular populations and locales; and

WHEREAS, 1 Cor. 3:6 points us to the importance of planting and watering while reminding us that God provides growth; and

WHEREAS, church planting, as articulated in the Synod's *Mission Field: USA* resource (Schave, 2016) is "who we are as a church body, and it is what we have been called to do, as faithful stewards of God's Word and Sacraments, to reach the lost"; and

WHEREAS, the Synod affirmed its commitment to church planting at its most recent convention (Res. 1-02, 2016); and

WHEREAS, new models for church planting, including network-supported church plants, are emerging; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the convention affirm church planting as a mission priority of the Kansas District; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the District identify and share resources for church planting with congregations, including new partnership models for church plants; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the District and its congregations make use of Synod resources, including but not limited to *Mission Field: USA*, to support church planting efforts in Kansas; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District Board of Mission make church planting a top priority in the awarding of mission grants.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 187 (89.9%); No - 21 (10.1%)**

Resolution 18-01-06

To Encourage Congregations to Develop Long-Term Funding Strategies

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, like all historic American denominations, has experienced a persistent decline in membership, with significant decreases in child baptisms and adult converts; and

WHEREAS, declines in membership can put a strain on congregational resources; and

WHEREAS, changing demographic and cultural conditions require heartfelt prayer, along with acknowledgement of the decisive role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church; and

WHEREAS, congregations and their members are also called upon to use their God-given resources for the good of the Church, which, in these challenging times, requires creative thinking about ways to promote the Church's long-term well-being and financial viability; and

WHEREAS, strategies have been and continue to be developed in the interests of maintaining faithful Word and Sacrament ministry for future generations; and

WHEREAS, congregations and their members, while shrinking in number, continue to support the work of the Church through Sunday offerings as well as designated gifts and bequests; and

WHEREAS, the next three decades will see a significant ~~the biggest~~ wealth transfer ~~in history~~, with trillions of dollars expected to pass from one generation to the next; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that congregations develop long-term funding strategies in the interests of future generations of believers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such strategies include consideration of estate planning (for all adult members), LCMS Foundation and LCMS Advancement resources, and congregational partnerships; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors be encouraged to explore the option of employing a planned giving counselor for the Kansas District.

Amended by unanimous consent to strike "the biggest" and "in history".

Moved by committee as amended. **Adopted. Yes - 160 (78.8%); No - 43 (21.2%)**

The convention adjourned for the evening at 5 p.m.

Convention Worship Service, 7 p.m.
Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, preacher

SECOND MEETING
Friday, June 8, 2018, 8:30 a.m.

Rev. Justin Panzer, Second Vice-President of the District, led us in devotions based on Hebrews 10:19-25.

Greeting from Tim Voelker, President of the Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Greeting from Brenda Piester, President of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League here in Kansas.

The Credentials Committee chairman, Rev. Andy Keltner, reported that the attendance and registration figures showed 127 Voting Lay Delegates, 113 Voting Pastoral Delegates, 43 Advisory Commissioned Ministers, 23 Advisory Pastors and 25 Guests. A quorum was present.

Convention Video: The Koinonia Project

Floor Committee #3: Life Together

President Lange called the Chair of Floor Committee #3 on Life Together, Rev. Alan Stahlecker, to the podium to introduce the members of the committee and get us started on resolutions from the committee.

Resolution 18-03-09

To Foster Active Participation in the Koinonia Project Through the LCMS Kansas District Among Pastors, Laity and Congregations

WHEREAS, the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church unites all believers in Christ in an invisible fellowship through holy Baptism and justifying faith in Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer from sin, death, and the devil's power (Ephesians 4); and

WHEREAS, in spite of this oneness in the holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, the outward church militant remains divided and is "by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed" (*LSB* 644.4); and

WHEREAS, even our own Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has in her history fallen prey to schism and false teaching; and

WHEREAS, disunifying debate persists within our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod over many matters of doctrine and practice; and

WHEREAS, disunity in the church is diametrically opposed to the explicit desire of the Lord Jesus for His believers, John 17:21 "that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in Me, and I in you;" and

WHEREAS, our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has nevertheless been blessed with the very basis of God-pleasing unity in doctrine and practice, the verbally-inspired, inerrant Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, "the pure, clear fountain of Israel" (FC SD Rule and Norm 3); and the Book of Concord of 1580, "a true exposition of Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran

Church” (*LSB Agenda*, p. 179), which all members of Synod “make their own” as a true exposition of the Scriptures; and

WHEREAS, in addressing matters of doctrine and practice in the Evangelical Lutheran Church the Holy Scriptures are a “lamp for my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105) and “the only standard and rule of doctrine” (FC SD Rule and Norm 9); and

WHEREAS, as a true exposition and exhibition of the doctrine of the Scriptures the Book of Concord is and remains “the common, unanimously accepted meaning of our churches” (FC SD Rule and Norm 11) to be “cheerfully accepted and tolerated as witness of the truth” (FC SD Rule and Norm 12) and “quoted...as a witness of the truth and as the unanimously received, correct understanding of our predecessors who have steadfastly held to the pure doctrine” (FC SD Rule and Norm 13); and

WHEREAS, the unity of the church in doctrine and practice is the only external mark of the inner unity of the church (AC 7.2 and FC SD 10.31, “According to this teaching concerning adiaphora no church shall condemn another because of dissimilarity in the ceremonies that some, by reason of Christian liberty, observe fewer of, and others more of, *if only they be of one mind in doctrine and in all its parts and in the right use of the Sacraments*”); and

WHEREAS, the Lord calls upon His church to live in love and harmony (1 Corinthians 13) and connects love with the church’s witness to the world (John 13:35); and

WHEREAS, the Office of the President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, to foster greater cohesiveness within our Synod, has advanced the *Koinonia Project* to gather pastors, laity, and congregations around the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS, the *Koinonia Project* has been formally, successfully, and gainfully employed by gatherings of circuit pastors within our District, with one project running for 5 years and another for 2; and

WHEREAS, whether pastors, laity, and congregations are united or disunited in doctrine and practice, the *Koinonia Project* remains a useful tool both for preserving existing unity and seeking to repair disunity; and

WHEREAS, many pastors, laity, and congregations within our district have not yet adopted or employed the *Koinonia Project*; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the LCMS Kansas District, rejoicing in our unity in Christ through Baptism into His death and resurrection and faith in the Same, embrace the *Koinonia Project* as an outward manifestation of our invisible unity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Office of the District President give a high priority to the implementation of the *Koinonia Project* throughout the LCMS Kansas District among pastors, laity, and congregations with an end-goal of not only studying Scripture and the

Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, but to fostering unity in doctrine and practice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that each circuit be encouraged by the Office of the District President with implementing the Koinonia Project not only among pastors, but also among laity and congregations; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Education offer consultation and support to groups within our District who wish to implement the *Koinonia Project*.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 193 (92.8%); No - 15 (7.2%)**

Resolution 18-03-01

To Strengthen Church Worker Marriages and Households

WHEREAS, Christ's gifts to His Church include workers with various roles— "apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, to build up the body of Christ..." (Ephesians 4:11-12); and,

WHEREAS, Scripture also lifts up the importance of the well-being of church worker households (1 Timothy 3); and,

WHEREAS, Scripture in Ephesians 5:22-32 compares the mystery of the relationship of marriage to the mystery of the relationship of Christ and the church; and,

WHEREAS, the 2016 LCMS Church Worker Family Needs Assessment (CW-FNA) and over 650 interviews with worker wives at Doxology events indicate that Church worker households and marriages are often subjected to stress unique to their vocations which can erode marital quality and family life; and,

WHEREAS, various Synod entities such as: the LCMS Council of Presidents, Concordia Plan Services, Concordia Center for the Family at Concordia University-Ann Arbor, and the LCMS Kansas District Strategic Ministry Plan, have noted the importance of strengthening worker marriages and households for the sake of healthier congregational ministry; and,

WHEREAS, the CW-FNA revealed that although at least 1/3 of Kansas District church workers expressed a desire and need to attend workshops, retreats, couple Bible studies, workers are often reluctant to request either time and/or funds to attend events that would contribute to strengthening their marriages; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District in Convention encourage every congregation of the District to provide at least one week-end per year, or the equivalent thereof, for the purpose of strengthening church worker marriages and households; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that for this time of renewal, congregations encourage their workers to choose from a variety of options such as marriage enrichment event, couples' retreat,

District sponsored marriage events or others, and provide the financial support necessary for participation therein; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations encourage their workers to use their annual vacation and days off for rejuvenation and rest; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that every congregation of the Kansas District be encouraged to pray for their workers and families' well-being, that they may more effectively serve their Lord and His church.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 200 (96.6%); No - 7 (3.4%)**

Resolution 18-03-02

To Encourage Congregations to Welcome Visits from Their Visitor

WHEREAS, visitation in the Church has its roots already in the Old Testament where the Lord frequently visited His people (e.g. Gen. 50:24-25; Ruth 1:6; 1 Sam. 2:21); and

WHEREAS, in the fullness of time our Lord Himself visited and redeemed His people in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ (Luke 1:67-68); and

WHEREAS, during His earthly ministry Jesus visited many such as Zacchaeus and the people of Jerusalem (Luke 19:1-10; Luke 19:44); and

WHEREAS, the apostle Paul and Barnabus, on their second missionary journey, visited the congregations that they had established on their first missionary journey (Acts 15:36); and

WHEREAS, the visitation of congregations was prominent in the history and practice of the Church from the New Testament up to the time of Martin Luther; and

WHEREAS, Luther himself advocated, planned, organized, and participated in the visitation of churches in Saxony beginning in 1528; and

WHEREAS, after the time of Luther, visitation continued to be an important custom in the Lutheran Church which was advocated, more recently, by the likes of President C.F.W. Walther, Bishop Bo Giertz, Werner Elert, and others; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopted by an 83% vote Resolution 7-01A, "To Set Forth Clear Mutual Expectations in Carrying Out the Office of Visitation" which is summarized in LCMS Bylaw 4.4.4.; and

WHEREAS, LCMS Bylaw 4.4.4 describes visitation in the following way:

The district president shall, in accordance with the Constitution of the Synod, in his ministry of ecclesiastical supervision visit the congregations of the district.

(a) He shall arrange in advance for an official visit to each congregation of his district at least once every three years and otherwise as he deems it necessary. He may call upon the

circuit visitors and vice-presidents to assist him with the triennial visitation of congregations.

(b) In his official visits he shall seek to bring about to the greatest possible degree the achievement of the Synod's objectives as expressed in Article III of its Constitution.

(c) He shall conduct his official visits in an evangelical manner.

(d) He shall come to the pastor and the congregation as a brotherly advisor, reminding them of the joy of serving in the mission and ministry of the church.

(e) In his visits he shall include fraternal discussion in regard to worship and communion attendance; participation by the congregation in missions and the work of the church at large; the congregation's evangelism and education endeavors; its cultivation of sound stewardship principles; all aspects of compensation for professional church workers; the need for maintenance of purity of doctrine; the strengthening of the bond of Christian fellowship; and the provision of resources, opportunities, and assistance so God's people can grow in their faith, hope, and love; and

WHEREAS, since the fall of 2014 the leadership of the Kansas District has been striving diligently to increase congregational visitation as defined in LCMS Bylaw 4.4.4.; and

WHEREAS, the frequency of visitations by circuit visitors and the district president with assistance from the district vice presidents has been increasing with several dozen visits completed during the past triennium and many more currently being planned; and

WHEREAS, many congregations and individuals have expressed great appreciation for the many benefits to congregations, church workers, and the district as a whole that result from visitation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District in convention express appreciation for the tremendous volunteer service of circuit visitors and others who conduct such visitations on behalf of the Office of District President; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Kansas District encourage their circuit visitors in this work, invite them for regular (triennial) visits, and welcome them as partners in the Gospel when they do visit so that our life together may be mutually benefitted.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 206 (98.1%); No - 4 (1.9%)**

Prayer by Chaplain, Rev. Justin Panzer.

Resolution 18-03-03

The Placement of Seminary Candidates

WHEREAS, the number of calling congregations now exceeds the number of available seminary candidates; and

WHEREAS, due to retirements and demographics, there is no immediate change to these numbers for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the Word and sacraments are already being delivered by a called and ordained servant of the Word in those congregations calling an assistant/associate pastor; and

WHEREAS, the Word and sacraments are not being delivered to the same degree in a strictly vacant congregation (AC V & AC XIV); and

WHEREAS, the filling of vacancies (Romans 10) puts undue hardships on the families and congregations of those vacancy pastors filling said vacancies; and

~~**WHEREAS**, serving in a congregation as a sole pastor will better prepare a man for future service to the Church as opposed to specialized ministry in a larger congregation; and~~

WHEREAS, having vacancies in a Circuit causes stress and fear in other congregations, as Circuits continue to walk together for the mission of Christ; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District encourage congregations who are considering calling an additional pastor(s) prayerfully to consider the needs of vacant congregations; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District President, encourage the Council of Presidents, acting as the Board of Assignments, to give preference to those congregations calling sole pastors from the Seminary.

Moved by committee.

It was moved and seconded to strike lines 16 and 17 (Sixth “Whereas” statement).

Adopted. Yes - 132 (65.3%); No 70 (34.7%)

It was moved and seconded to call the question. **Adopted. Yes - 199 (93.9%); No - 13 (6.1%)**

Vote on amended resolution. **Resolution failed. Yes - 95 (45.9%); No - 112 (54.1%)**

Resolution 18-03-04

To Support Catechesis in the Home and Through the Family

WHEREAS, catechesis is the teaching and passing along of the Faith of Christ so that every believer may be formed and transformed in heart, mind, and life, and in thought, word, and deed (Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:20-32; Colossians 3:16-17; 1 John 3:16-24); and,

WHEREAS, God has called upon parents to catechize their children in the Faith (Deuteronomy 4:9; Psalm 34:11; Psalm 78:1-7); and,

WHEREAS, the church is called upon to assist parents in this responsibility of passing the faith from one generation to the next (Isaiah 54:13; Joel 2:15-16; Matthew 18:1-6; 19:13-15; Acts 2:37-38); and,

WHEREAS, after Holy Scripture itself, the text of Luther's Small Catechism is a primary teaching tool of the Lutheran Church; and,

WHEREAS, the text is intended to be used in the home and church, and spread abroad as freely as possible; and,

WHEREAS, wherever the teachings of Luther's catechisms are read, studied, printed, sung, written, posted, repeated and learned, the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of faith and love; and,

WHEREAS, a new edition of Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation (2017) has been published by Concordia Publishing House to aid parents and other catechists in addressing new and current issues faithfully in accordance with Scripture; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Kansas District be encouraged to train, equip, and encourage families and individuals in the use of home-based catechesis methodologies utilizing God's Word and Luther's Small Catechism.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 199 (94.8%); No - 11 (5.2%)**

Video: "Teaching the Faith in the Home" (Adult Education Committee)

Convention recessed at 10 a.m.

At 10:15 a.m., President Lange reconvened the convention. He invited Mr. Curt Engelbrecht and Rev. Bob Grimm to the podium to continue the election process.

Elections: Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Board of Directors (Lay and Commissioned), Nominating Committee

Mr. Engelbrecht presented the ballot for **Region 1 Vice-President**.

Rev. Jon Bruss

Rev. Robert Leiste

Rev. Mark Schulz

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 186 (99.5%); No - 1 (.5%)**

Election for Region 1 Vice-President

Rev. Mark Schulz – 88 (46.3%)

Rev. Jon Bruss – 83 (43.7%)

Rev. Robert Leiste – 19 (10%)

No Election

Second ballot for Region 1

Rev. Mark Schulz – 101 (53.4%) **(elected)**

Rev. Jon Bruss – 88 (46.6%)

The ballot for **Region 2 Vice-President** was presented.

Rev. Justin Panzer

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 201 (97.6%); No - 5 (2.4%)**

Election for Region 2

Rev. Justin Panzer – 201 (100%) **(elected)**

The ballot for **Region 3 Vice-President** was presented.

Rev. Geoffrey Boyle

Rev. Scott Snow

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 205 (99%); No - 2 (1%)**

Election for Region 3

Rev. Scott Snow – 121 (57.9%) **(elected)**

Rev. Geoffrey Boyle – 88 (42.1%)

The ballot for **Region 4 Vice-President** was presented.

Rev. Rick Rostek

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes-203 (98.5%); No - 3 (1.5%)**

Election for Region 4

Rev. Rick Rostek – 197 (100%) **(elected)**

The ballot for **Secretary** was presented.

Rev. David Meier

Rev. Robert Weinkauf

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 202 (99.5%); No - 1 (.5%)**

Election for Secretary

Rev. David Meier – 163 (79.1%) **(elected)**

Rev. Robert Weinkauf – 43 (20.9%)

The ballot for **Board of Directors – Lay Region 1**

David Bruns

Marvin Schulteis

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 198 (99.5%); No - 1 (.5%)**

Election for Board of Directors – Lay Region 1

David Bruns – 151 (77%) **(elected)**

Marvin Schulteis – 45 (23%)

The ballot for **Board of Directors – Lay Region 2**

David Meisinger

Richard Schotte

Dan Thalman

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 193 (97%); No - 6 (3%)**

Election for Board of Directors - Lay Region 2

Richard Schotte – 78 (39.6%)

David Meisinger – 77 (39.1%)

Dan Thalman – 42 (21.3%)

No election

Second Election for Board of Directors – Lay Region 2

Richard Schotte – 108 (54.3%) **(elected)**

David Meisinger – 91 (45.7%)

The ballot for **Board of Directors – Lay Region 3**

Chris Anderson

Curt Engelbrecht

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 199 (98%); No - 4 (2%)**

Election for Board of Directors – Lay Region 3

Curt Engelbrecht – 115 (59.9%) **(elected)**

Chris Anderson – 77 (40.1%)

The ballot for **Board of Directors – Lay Region 4**

Mark Wolters

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 192 (96.5%); No - 7 (3.5%)**

Election for Board of Directors – Lay Region 4

Mark Wolters – 193 (100%) **(elected)**

The ballot for **Board of Directors – Commissioned Ministers (3)**

Rick Hanebutt

Sue Kleber

Jeremy Pera

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 197 (99.5%); No - 1 (.5%)**

Election for Board of Directors – Commissioned Ministers (3)

Jeremy Pera – 184 (92.9%) **(elected)**

Rick Hanebutt – 182 (91.9%) **(elected)**

Sue Kleber – 179 (90.4%) **(elected)**

The ballot for **Nominating Committee – Clergy (3, no two from same region)**

Rev. Jacob Sherry Reg. 2

Rev. Alan Stahlecker Reg. 2

Rev. Stan Palmer Reg. 4

Rev. Joshua Woelmer Reg. 1

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 195 (96.1%); No - 8 (3.9%)**

Election for Nominating Committee – Clergy (3, no two from same region)

Rev. Stan Palmer Reg. 4 – 189 (93.1%) **(elected)**

Rev. Joshua Woelmer Reg. 1 – 188 (92.6%) (**elected**)
Rev. Alan Stahlecker Reg. 2 – 126 (62.1%) (**elected**)
Rev. Jacob Sherry Reg. 2 – 72 (35.5%)

The ballot for **Nominating Committee – Commissioned Minister**

Kelly Dressler
Sue Kleber
Jeremy Pera

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 197 (97%); No - 6 (3%)**
Election for Nominating Committee – Commissioned Minister

Jeremy Pera – 82 (41%)
Kelly Dressler – 67 (33.5%)
Sue Kleber – 51 (25.5%)

No election

Second Election for Nominating Committee – Commissioned Minister

Jeremy Pera – 103 (53.4%) (**elected**)
Kelly Dressler – 90 (46.6%)

The ballot for **Nominating Committee – Lay Member Region 1**

Keith Gloe
Marvin Schulteis

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 184 (97.4%); No - 5 (2.6%)**

Election for Nominating Committee – Lay Member Region 1

Marvin Schulteis – 117 (62.2%) (**elected**)
Keith Gloe – 71 (37.8%)

The ballot for **Nominating Committee – Lay Member Region 2**

CJ Cross
Richard Schotte
Stephen Weller

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 184 (97.4%); No - 5 (2.6%)**

Election for Nominating Committee – Lay Member Region 2

Richard Schotte – 72 (36.2%)
CJ Cross – 66 (33.2%)
Stephen Weller – 61 (30.7%)

No election

Second Election for Nominating Committee – Lay Member Region 2

Richard Schotte – 112 (57.1%) (**elected**)
CJ Cross – 84 (42.9%)

The ballot for **Nominating Committee – Lay Member Region 3**

Brent Ostgren

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 185 (98.4%); No - 3 (1.6%)**

Election for Nominating Committee – Lay Member Region 3

Brent Ostgren – 186 (100%) (**elected**)

The ballot for **Nominating Committee – Lay Member Region 4**

Dave Bergmeier

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 192 (98.5%); No - 3 (1.5%)**

Election for Nominating Committee – Lay Member Region 4

Dave Bergmeier – 192 (100%) (**elected**)

Synod President's Report

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, Synod President

The convention recessed for the lunch hour.

President Lange reconvened the convention at 1:00 p.m.

He called President Harrison to the podium for a Q&A until 1:30 p.m.

Convention Essay #2 “Life Together for Districts”

Convention essayist, the Rev. Alfonso O. Espinosa

Greetings

The Rev. Dr. Larry Rast, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and the Rev. Dr. Rick Marrs, Professor of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (representing President Dale Meyer)

Video Greeting: Mission Central

Ratification of Circuit Visitors

Circuit	Elected	Church, Town
Circuit # 1	Rev. Michael Dunaway	NE Kansas Partnership, Hiawatha
Circuit # 2	Rev. Jason Boetcher	Trinity Family of Faith, Basehor
Circuit # 3N	Rev. Joel Schultz	Beautiful Savior, Olathe
Circuit # 3S	Rev. James (Andy) Keltner	Christ Our Savior, Louisburg
Circuit # 4	Rev. Don Haselhuhn	Trinity, Burlington
Circuit # 5	Rev. Dan Ramsey	Zion, Chanute
Circuit # 6	Rev. Jon Bruss	St. John's, Topeka
Circuit # 7	Rev. Paul Tessaro	St. Paul, Clay Center
Circuit # 8	Rev. Larry Boye	Emeritus
Circuit # 9	Rev. Clark Davis	St. John, Tampa
Circuit # 10	Rev. Tom Harmon	Risen Savior, Wichita
Circuit # 11	Rev. Thomas Johnson	Faith, Derby

Circuit # 12	Rev. Dale Dumperth	Grace, McPherson
Circuit # 13	Rev. Luke Brown	Immanuel, Ellsworth
Circuit # 15	Rev. Michael Schmidt	Peace, Natoma/First, Plainville
Circuit # 16	Rev. Warren Prochnow	Holy Cross, Scott City

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted (constitutes election) by voice vote.**

Floor Committee #2: Mercy

President Lange called the Chair of Floor Committee #2 on Mercy, Rev. Clark Davis, to the podium to introduce the members of the committee and present resolutions from the committee.

Resolution 18-02-01

To Affirm the Sanctity of Life

WHEREAS, God has “created man in His own image” (Gen. 1:27); and

WHEREAS, humans receive value and worth because God has made them and not from the quality of their life, socioeconomic status, race, or gender (Gen 9:6, James 2:1-10); and

WHEREAS, because of man’s fall into sin, suffering, disease, famine, poverty, and death entered into the world (Gen. 3); and

WHEREAS, death is to be regarded not as part of the natural course of life but rather as a curse and judgment due to sin, for as God says, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years” (Gen. 6:3, Ps. 90:10); and

WHEREAS, despite our sin the Lord is merciful and gracious (Ps. 103:6-8), sustaining and caring for the people of His creation (Ex. 22:26-27 and Matt. 5:42-45), watching over them and holding them in His hands throughout their earthly life (Ps. 31:14-15 and Ps. 145:15-16); and

WHEREAS, God so loved the world that He sent His Son into our flesh to redeem all by His death and resurrection (Mark 10:45 and 1 Pet. 1:18-19); and

WHEREAS, by Christ Jesus’ vicarious atonement, death has been conquered for those who believe and are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:16, Romans 6:4-6); and

WHEREAS, the body of the believer is not his or her own, having been “bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19-20); and

WHEREAS, God calls us to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves (Prov. 31:8-9); and

WHEREAS, God calls us to serve our neighbor for their good (Matt. 25:42-43, 1 John 4:19-21, Luke 10:33-35); and

WHEREAS, any practice or behavior intended to harm, shorten, or end the life of someone God has created, including racism, prejudice (Acts 17:26, James 2:1, 1 John 3:15, Rev. 5:9), abortion, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide is contrary to God's Will; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, to thank God for the precious gift of life and all that He does to sustain it; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we proclaim the Lord's forgiveness of our Gracious God to all who are repentant and in need of our Lord's tender love; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we strive to carry out the responsibility that the Lord has given to all, as seen in the Table of Duties, to love and pray for all (Romans 13:9 and 1 Timothy 2:1); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Office of the President of the LCMS Kansas District work with the Life Coordinator of the district to raise awareness of life issues and provide support and resources to congregations to assist us all in speaking the truth in love on life issues; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that Kansas District congregations be encouraged to celebrate Life Sunday on either the appointed day by the LCMS Life Ministry or Lutherans for Life, or another Sunday as decided by individual congregations.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 195 (99%); No - 2 (1%)**

Resolution 18-02-02

To Support the Well-Being of Professional Church Workers and Their Families

WHEREAS, the overall health and well-being of our church workers is of prime importance in fulfilling the work God, through the Holy Spirit, has called them to do; and

WHEREAS, those who are called to serve the church in various capacities are well advised to care for themselves so that they can carry out their ministries to the best of their ability; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that congregations, schools, and other agencies support church workers in pursuit of their well-being; and

WHEREAS, the LCMS in Convention in 2016 adopted in Resolution 18-04, “That church workers be encouraged to develop an intentional self-care plan as part of their continuing education portfolio,” and

WHEREAS, intentional self-care plans may prevent problems before they develop or resolve them before they become crises; and

WHEREAS, major challenges to the well-being of church workers, along with effective strategies to deal with those challenges, are known and documented; therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District in Convention express its support for all efforts of congregations, schools, and agencies to care and support church workers and their families spiritually, financially, vocationally, intellectually, relationally, emotionally, and physically; and be it further

RESOLVED, that our congregations, schools, and agencies, be encouraged to utilize the Board of Caring Ministry and the Worker Care Team in the support of well-being of church workers and their families; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the church workers of the Kansas District be encouraged to develop an intentional self-care plan, so that they can continue to serve to the best of their ability with the gifts and strength that God supplies.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 189 (95%); No - 10 (5%)**

The convention recessed at 3 p.m.

President Lange reconvened the convention at 3:30 p.m.

He called Rev. Scott Snow, First Vice-President, forward to lead the “Commemoration of the Faithful Departed” service.

Rev. Clark Davis and the Mercy Floor Committee returned to the podium.

Rev. Mark Lovett was invited to the podium to describe the Retreat Center.

Resolution 18-02-03

To Encourage Greater Use of the District Retreat Center in Herington by Congregations, Schools and Workers

WHEREAS, God has graciously blessed the LCMS Kansas District with a Retreat Center in Herington which is intended to provide “a relaxing and peaceful atmosphere where professional church workers can rest and reconnect with God and their family”; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the Retreat Center involves a sustained commitment of financial and human resources; and

WHEREAS, the Retreat Center has been underutilized in recent years, prompting the Board of Directors to reevaluate Retreat Center operations and establish a Retreat Center Committee; and

WHEREAS, the District, following recommendations from the Retreat Center Committee, made several changes to the Retreat Center in the fall of 2017 in an effort to increase occupancy, including new local management, property improvements, and increased attention to marketing, including a dedicated reservation email address (retreathouseherington@gmail.com), website (<https://kslcms.org/caring-ministry/retreat-center/>), and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/KSLCMSRetreatCenter/>); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors will continue to evaluate Retreat Center operations to ensure that District resources are well-utilized; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that congregations, schools, and workers of the Kansas District be encouraged to make greater use of the Retreat Center in Herington.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 199 (97.1%); No - 6 (2.9%)**

Resolution 18-02-04

To Encourage Congregations to Increase Support for Church Worker Scholarship Fund and Educational Loan Repayment

WHEREAS, the congregations and schools of the LCMS depend on a well-educated workforce to carry out its mission of preaching and teaching; and

WHEREAS, the training of professional church workers is costly and as a result many church workers graduate with debt; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas District, to reduce this burden, has for the past 29 years provided scholarships to Kansans pursuing full-time church work through the Concordia system and our two seminaries; and

WHEREAS, since 1998, the Kansas District has provided Educational Loan Repayment Grants to church workers currently serving in the district; and

WHEREAS, the total indebtedness of all 2017 applicants for Educational Loan Repayment Grants was in excess of \$1.7 million; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas District has encouraged congregations to support the Educational Loan Repayment Fund through offerings taken at installations and ordinations of church workers as well as the Ash Wednesday offering; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas District has encouraged workers to take advantage of the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) program in Kansas, and the Ministry FOCUS grants, which provide educational loan repayment assistance to qualified workers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Kansas District prayerfully consider supporting the Kansas District Scholarship and Educational Loan Repayment funds by participating in the Ash Wednesday offering, by making the funds the beneficiary of other special offerings and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to consider adding a line item to their annual budget for support of the Scholarship and Educational Loan Repayment funds; and be it finally,

RESOLVED, that congregations consider other ways to help their workers reduce their debt burden.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 196 (96.6%); No - 7 (3.4%)**

Resolution 18-02-05

To Encourage Pastors and Congregations to Provide Christ-Centered, Compassionate Care to Those with Mental Illnesses and Disorders

WHEREAS, Our Lord commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31); and

WHEREAS, Paul, the Apostle, reminds us: “If one part [of the Body of Christ] suffers, every part with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it” (I Corinthians 12:26); and

WHEREAS, the Psalmist declared: “Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good. Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! For those who fear Him have no lack” (Psalm 34:8,9b); and

WHEREAS, Jesus, in fulfilling the Scripture quoted Isaiah saying: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering the sight of the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:14-21); and

WHEREAS, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), about 1 in 5 adults, and 10% of children aged 5-16, suffer from a mental illness or disorder; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses and disorders can have negative effects on individuals and families including behavioral malfunctions, addictions, marital problems leading to divorce, loss of job, incarceration, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses and disorders carry a stigma that makes sufferers reluctant to seek professional help; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses and disorders present challenges for pastors and congregations because of the stigma associated with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, many pastors and congregations are ill-equipped to provide ministry and compassionate care to those suffering from a mental illness or disorder; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that pastors and churches be encouraged to provide Christ-centered, compassionate care to those with a mental illness or disorder; and, *be it further*,

RESOLVED, that the District incorporate some additional training in the Professional Worker Conferences in the next triennium; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that pastors be encouraged to seek additional training to care for those with mental illnesses and disorders.

Moved by committee.

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by adding the following at line 31: “be it further,

RESOLVED, that the District incorporate some additional training in the Professional Worker Conferences in the next triennium; and, be it finally”

Amendment Adopted. Yes - 188 (91.7%); No - 17 (8.3%)

Amended Resolution Adopted. Yes - 178 (86.8%); No - 27 (13.2%)

Elections: Ranking of Vice-Presidents, Board of Directors (Lay Member at Large), Synod Nominating Committee

Mr. Curt Engelbrecht, Chair of the Nominations Committee and Rev. Bob Grimm, Chair of the Elections Committee, were invited to the podium to continue to lead us through the rest of our elections.

Ranking of Vice-Presidents

1st Ballot for First Vice-President

Rev. Justin Panzer – 88 (43.3%)

Rev. Scott Snow – 66 (32.5%)

Rev. Mark Schulz – 26 (12.8%)

Rev. Rick Rostek – 23 (11.3%)

No Election

2nd Ballot for First Vice-President

Rev. Justin Panzer – 98 (49%)

Rev. Scott Snow – 80 (40%)

Rev. Mark Schulz – 22 (11%)

No Election

3rd Ballot for First Vice-President

Rev. Justin Panzer – 109 (52.7%) **Election**

Rev. Scott Snow – 98 (47.3%)

1st Ballot for **Second Vice-President**

Rev. Scott Snow – 103 (50%)

Rev. Rick Rostek – 66 (32%)

Rev. Mark Schulz – 37 (18%)

No Election

2nd Ballot for Second Vice-President

Rev. Scott Snow – 113 (54.9%) **Election**

Rev. Rick Rostek – 93 (45.1%)

Ballot for Third and Fourth Vice-President

Rev. Rick Rostek – 121 (59.6%) **Election (3rd Vice-President)**

Rev. Mark Schulz – 82 (40.4%) **Election (4th Vice-President)**

Ballot for **Lay Member At Large, Board of Directors (3)**

Michael Bachelor

Phillip Friedrichs

Bruce Schultz

Stephen Weller

Marvin Schulteis

David Meisinger

Dan Thalmann

Chris Anderson

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 198 (98.5%): No - 3 (1.5%)**

1st Ballot for Lay Member At Large, Board of Directors (3)

Bruce Schultz – 93 (48.7%)

David Meisinger – 89 (46.6%)

Marvin Schulteis – 88 (46.1%)

Dan Thalmann – 66 (34.6%)

Chris Anderson – 62 (32.5%)

Phillip Friedrichs – 60 (31.4%)

Michael Bachelor – 41 (21.5%)

Stephen Weller – 41 (21.5%)

2nd Ballot for Lay Member At Large, Board of Directors (3)

David Meisinger – 115 (60.2%) **Election**

Bruce Schultz – 112 (58.6%) **Election**
Marvin Schulteis – 99 (51.8%) **Election**
Phillip Friedrichs – 76 (39.8%)
Dan Thalman – 73 (38.2%)
Chris Anderson – 68 (35.6%)

Ballot for **Synod Nominating Committee**

Curtis Engelbrecht
Victor Martin Schimming
Marvin Schulteis

There was a floor nomination for CJ Cross.

It was moved and seconded to ratify the slate. **Adopted. Yes - 193 (97%); No - 6 (3%)**

1st Ballot for Synod Nominating Committee

CJ Cross – 99 (49.5%)
Curtis Engelbrecht – 58 (29%)
Marvin Schulteis – 31 (15.5%)
Victor Martin Schimming – 12 (6%)

No Election

2nd Ballot for Synod Nominating Committee

CJ Cross – 111 (54.4%) **Election**
Curtis Engelbrecht – 66 (32.4%)
Marvin Schulteis – 27 (13.2%)

Ballot for **Synod Nominating Committee Alternate**

Curtis Engelbrecht – 110 (57.3%) **Election**
Marvin Schulteis – 54 (28.1%)
Victor Martin Schimming – 28 (14.6%)

Mr. Curt Engelbrecht announced that the work of the Nominating Committee was complete.

President Lange thanked each of the members of the Nominating Committee.

Rev. Bob Grimm announced that all the elections had been completed.

President Lange thanked all the members of the Elections Committee.

Floor Committee #4: Convention Resolutions

President Lange called Rev. Gene Holtorf and Committee #4 on Convention Resolutions to the podium.

Resolution 18-04-02

Kansas District Bylaws Revisions

WHEREAS, the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters is required to “examine the articles of incorporation, bylaws and policy manuals of every agency of the Synod to

ascertain whether they are in harmony with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws as adopted in 2015 Convention of the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have been reviewed, modified and presented to the Kansas District Board of Directors for consideration; and

WHEREAS, changes have been made to the bylaws, (shown with strikeouts and italics) requiring convention approval; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the convention of the Kansas District adopt the Bylaws as modified.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 167 (84.8%); No - 30 (15.2%)**

The modified Bylaws are attached as an addendum to the proceedings.

Resolution 18-04-04

To Require Recipients of Kansas District Scholarships to Complete Financial Education Prior to Receiving Funds

WHEREAS, the cost of higher education continues to rise, putting a strain on many future church workers and families; and

WHEREAS, students are graduating with considerable educational debt, with Americans owing \$1.4 trillion dollars in 2017; students in Lutheran colleges and seminaries are similarly burdened, graduating with a typical loan balance in the mid-\$20,000 range, while the most recent round of 34 applicants for Kansas District educational loan repayment grants together owe \$1,700,779 (an average of \$50,023 per applicant); and

WHEREAS, the Kansas District has provided financial assistance to undergraduates and seminary students since 1998 to help ease this burden, awarding \$26,625 to 25 students for scholarships in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the District would like to assist future church workers further by encouraging sound financial stewardship and decision making; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship, in consultation with the District Business Manager, the Board of Stewardship, and the Scholarship Committee develop the approved forms of financial education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the approved financial education be manageable in scope and include basic components of financial literacy as well as principles of sound Christian stewardship; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that degree-seeking recipients of Kansas District scholarships complete an approved form of financial education prior to receiving funds.

Moved by committee.

It was moved and seconded to refer this to the floor committee. After a parliamentary question, the motion to refer was **tabled by unanimous consent**.

Resolution 18-04-05

To Encourage Congregational Training of Leaders for Ministry with Children, Youth and Adults

WHEREAS, the LCMS seeks to sustain and revitalize Lutheran congregations through faithful preaching, administration of the sacraments, and the teaching of God's Word through educational opportunities within congregations, so the Body of Christ is built up in faith; and

WHEREAS, in Matthew 19:14 Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven"; and

WHEREAS, Rev. C.F.W. Walther said, "You cannot use your time to better advantage than by serving well the young people of the congregation"; and

WHEREAS, only 47% of children baptized in 2000 did get confirmed as a youth according to LCMS statistics; and

WHEREAS, quality congregational Christian education promotes lifelong discipleship, faithfulness to the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions, love, humility, greater understanding of vocation and the sharing of Jesus Christ with those who do not yet know Him as Lord and Savior; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that pastors, commissioned ministers, parents and active laity be commended for their ongoing work in providing life-span congregational Christian education and encouraged to grow this significant work of the church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District Board of Directors address how best to support congregational Christian education for children, youth, and adults as vital for individual faith growth and for future growth of Christ's church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District Board of Directors address how best to support the training of pastors, commissioned ministers, and lay people in circuits and regions of the District through resources, ongoing educational opportunities, and conferences specific to the areas of children, youth, and family Christian education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Kansas District Board of Directors address how best to provide resources to meet the spiritual needs of children, youth, and adults in their congregations and communities; and be it finally

RESOLVED, the congregations of the Kansas District pray for the children, teens, and parents of our congregations and communities that they may grow to greater depth of knowledge of the Gospel and through the gift of the Holy Spirit, receive faith and salvation.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 174 (89.2%); No - 21 (10.8%)**

The motion to refer Resolution 18-04-04 to the floor committee was taken from the table by unanimous consent. **Adopted. Yes - 165 (83.8%); No - 32 (16.2%)**

Resolution 18-04-06

To Emphasize Cheerful and Generous Giving in Daily Vocations

WHEREAS, all Christians have a calling from God to serve as His hands on earth, accomplishing His purposes through their vocations in life (e.g., parent, employee, citizen, neighbor); and everything in the world belongs to the Lord—the earth and those who dwell therein (Ps. 24:1); and

WHEREAS, operating effectively in one’s vocation requires attention to vocational duties, which are addressed in Scripture and summarized the Table of Duties in the *Small Catechism*; and

WHEREAS, God provides for us richly and daily, entrusting us to manage His resources for the good of our neighbor and the proclamation of the Gospel; (Matt. 6:9-11; Matt. 6:31-33; Matt. 25:14-30; Luke 16:1-13); and

WHEREAS, our Lord, through the Apostle Paul, establishes a key principle for using those resources in 2 Cor. 9:7: “Each one must give as he has decided to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”; and

WHEREAS, Scripture encourages regular proportional first-fruits giving (Deut. 18:4; Prov. 3:9; 1 Cor. 16:2); and

WHEREAS, “Christian Stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing life and all of life’s resources for God’s purposes” (2001 Res. 2-07A), and

WHEREAS, Synod has affirmed the important relationship between vocation and stewardship in Resolution 10-04 of the 2016 Synod Convention. Synod has affirmed the importance of cheerful and voluntary giving in Resolution 10-03 of the 2015 Synod Convention; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship identify, develop, and make available suitable resources for achieving this purpose, be it further

RESOLVED, that ~~LCMS~~ Kansas District congregations emphasize vocation and the Table of Duties as part of their stewardship education in the next triennium; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that ~~LCMS~~ Kansas District congregations emphasize cheerful and generous giving as part of their stewardship education in the next triennium.

Moved by committee.

It was moved and seconded to amend this resolution by changing “2015” to “2016”, and replacing “LCMS” in lines 29 and 32 with “Kansas District.” **Adopted. Yes – 146 (75.3%); No - 48 (24.7%)**

The amended resolution was **adopted by a rising vote majority**.

Resolution 18-04-07

To Encourage Colloquy or Other Educational Tracks for Non-Rostered Teachers to Be Inculcated into Lutheran Theology

WHEREAS, members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod seek to provide a sound learning environment that reflects both quality teaching and sound doctrine for adults and especially for adolescents and young children, and

WHEREAS, there are 45 early childhood development centers and 14 elementary schools in the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and

WHEREAS, a consistent doctrinally sound learning environment is best provided by leadership, faculty and staff that have formal training in Lutheran doctrine, and

WHEREAS, an insufficient number of students pursuing professional church worker roster status are being graduated by the Concordia University System to satisfy current requests for placement, and

WHEREAS, many leadership, instructional and support positions in Kansas early childhood development centers and Kansas Lutheran schools are filled by persons without Lutheran background or Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod roster status, and

WHEREAS, the District Scholarship Committee has approved the use of District funds as they are available for the purposes of continuing education of Lutheran day school teachers, including colloquy, to achieve rostered status, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that all congregations in the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and especially those participating in or supporting early childhood development centers and/or Lutheran day schools be encouraged to provide non-Lutheran workers with information about and training in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and be it further

RESOLVED, that all congregations in the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and especially those participating in or supporting early childhood development centers and/or Lutheran day schools be encouraged to provide non-rostered Lutheran workers with support, including funding, to achieve rostered status of Lutheran early childhood development center directors, Lutheran school teachers and administrators via colloquy or other educational tracks, and therefore finally be

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod provide guidance and/or financial resources to assist congregations in their efforts to promote rostered status for all Lutheran early childhood development center directors, Lutheran school teachers and administrators.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 175 (91.1%); No - 17 (8.9%)**

Resolution 18-04-08

To Encourage Support for the Proposed Startup of Concordia Academy: A Lutheran Liberal Arts Education in Wichita, Kansas

WHEREAS, the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions command and commend education that shapes students morally as well as intellectually, preparing them to love God and serve their neighbors:

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4); and, “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you” (Philippians 4:8-9); and,

WHEREAS, if we desire capable and qualified people for both the civil and spiritual realms we must spare no effort, time, and expense in teaching and educating our children to serve God and the world (*Large Catechism* I 172-173); and,

WHEREAS, the LCMS in Convention demonstrated its continued commitment toward Lutheran schools by resolving to encourage and strengthen the Lutheran ethos of our schools (Res 8-01A), to recruit and equip Lutheran administrators for our schools (8-02), to support the quality and sustainability of Lutheran schools (8-03A), and to preserve the religious freedom we enjoy in our Lutheran schools (8-04); and,

WHEREAS, the need for pastors and church workers in our Church is great, along with the need for strong and courageous lay leaders in the congregations of our Kansas District; and,

WHEREAS, a Lutheran liberal arts education has proven to be effective in this regard, and is a growing trend in our Synod and beyond; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of Concordia Academy is: “To form students in faith, hope, and love, by cultivating wisdom and nourishing their souls in the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty, according to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions”; and,

WHEREAS, the Kansas District Board of Directors has given its blessing to the feasibility study in the proposed startup of Concordia Academy in the city of Wichita; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that pastors and members of our congregations in the Kansas District be encouraged to pray for this new endeavor; and, if so led by the Holy Spirit, to support it financially.

Moved by committee. **Adopted by voice vote majority.**

Resolution 18-04-09

To Study and Recommend Strategies in the Advancement of Congregation-based Older Adult Ministries in the Kansas District LCMS

WHEREAS, the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is blessed by congregational membership of active saints, age 65 and beyond, comprising 25% of its total membership, with that percentage increasing daily; and,

WHEREAS, older adults today are generally healthier and have an increasing amount of time and treasure; and,

WHEREAS, older adults, as God’s children, are seeking opportunities to make a significant impact upon the lives of others in the name of Jesus Christ; and,

WHEREAS, older adults are to be looked upon as a special blessing God gives to the church to be actively used in the mission of the church; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District President be charged to appoint a task force to examine strategies in support of congregation-based ministries with older adults; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the appointed task force offer their report to District congregations, including resources needed to implement enhanced older adult ministry within one year following the appointment of the task force.

Moved by committee. **Adopted by voice vote majority.**

President Lange thanked Floor Committee #4 and called Floor Committee #3 to come to the podium.

Resolution 18-03-05

To Recommend and Encourage the Use of Concordia Publishing House (CPH) Curriculum in Kansas District Preschools and Early Learning Centers

WHEREAS, the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has 3,873 students enrolled in 2017-18 in forty-five Lutheran early childhood centers and fourteen elementary schools; and,

WHEREAS, the church exists in a mission field with great opportunities to reach out to the unchurched students in our schools; and,

WHEREAS, Lutheran schools are privileged with the opportunity to teach the Word of God in its truth and purity, acknowledge the Bible as God’s infallible Word and the Confessions as the true exposition of the Word, emphasize Law and Gospel as the key teachings of Scripture, and equip students to proclaim the Good News to others; and,

WHEREAS, the LCMS has a publishing arm in Concordia Publishing House (CPH) whose mission it is to produce doctrinally sound, educationally excellent resources for the church; and,

WHEREAS, CPH’s One in Christ religion curriculum provides a developmentally appropriate, Christ-centered resource that allows for flexibility in meeting the needs of individual classrooms and teachers, while focusing on each child’s relationship with their Savior in daily Bible story lessons; and,

WHEREAS, only 66% of Kansas District Preschools and Early Learning Centers are currently using CPH religion curriculum; therefore, be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District recommend and encourage the use of Concordia Publishing House (CPH) Religion Curriculum in Kansas District Preschools and Early Learning Centers.

Moved by committee. **Adopted by voice vote majority.**

Resolution 18-03-06

To Encourage Congregations to Use Synod, District and LCEF Stewardship Resources

WHEREAS, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven” (John 3:27); and

WHEREAS, Scripture repeatedly exhorts believers to give generously of their God-given resources (2 Cor. 9:6-15); and

WHEREAS, Scripture provides many vivid examples of generous giving, including the Philippians (Phil. 4:14-20), the widow and her mites (Luke 21:1-4), and the faithful servant (Matt. 14-30); and

WHEREAS, such stewardship is especially important now, as churches everywhere, including the LCMS and every one of its districts, face declining membership and engagement due to population shifts and cultural attitudes; and

WHEREAS, despite clear guidance from Scripture, average church member giving has declined steadily over the past several decades to a rate of 2.16 percent of income in 2014; and

WHEREAS, giving to Synod reflects this downward trend, with Synod now receiving 9/10 of a penny for every dollar that is given in offering plate compared to 6.1 cents per dollar given in the offering plate in 1976, and

WHEREAS, the most powerful way to counteract this trend is through God’s Word, by providing “instruction in sound doctrine” (Titus 1:9; 2:1) with respect to stewardship; and

WHEREAS, LCEF is an entity of the Synod and a valued partner in the stewardship ministry of the District, committed to supporting the Church by ensuring that funds are available now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, LCEF supports the District with an array of services, including loans, funding for capital improvements, Laborers for Christ architect services, VisionPath, the Church Improvement Program, demographic analyses, investment options, Outreach Ministry Grants, and Consecrated Stewards; and

WHEREAS, the Synod, District, and LCEF together have developed resources to aid congregations in this task; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Kansas District congregations be encouraged to prioritize stewardship education in the next triennium; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to use LCEF financial services and their stewardship resources, including Consecrated Stewards; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to avail themselves of stewardship education resources provided by the Synod and District.

Moved by committee. **Adopted by voice vote majority.**

Resolution 18-03-07

To Encourage Congregations to Use Kansas District Salary Recommendations in Their Compensation Planning

WHEREAS, Scripture establishes the importance of compensating church workers, noting that “the laborer deserves his wages” (Luke 10:7; see also 1 Cor. 9:11; 1 Cor. 9:14; Gal. 6:6); and

WHEREAS, the Table of Duties in the *Small Catechism* affirms the importance of compensating workers in “What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors” (1 Cor. 9:14; Gal. 6:6-7; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:17); and

WHEREAS, workers are not always compensated adequately, which can affect their well-being and morale; and

WHEREAS, worker care is a high priority in the Kansas District; and

WHEREAS, market-based compensation planning tools are available from the District and Synod to help ensure that church workers are suitably compensated; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Stewardship, President’s Council, Board of Administration, Salary Review Committee, and Board of Education all strongly advocate employing these tools in compensation planning to ensure that our workers are cared for properly; and

WHEREAS, standardizing decision making from year to year through the use of such tools reduces guesswork and subjective judgments that may not serve the long-term interests of either workers or congregations well; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that congregations ask the Lord’s guidance that His will be done and He may be glorified as they determine compensation for their workers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations employ available market-based compensation resources, including the Kansas District salary recommendations, to establish appropriate compensation for their church workers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that feedback from congregations on the use of these tools during official visitations, pre-call meetings, or annual surveys would be welcomed; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the District Business Manager, Executive for Missions and Stewardship, circuit visitors, or regional vice-presidents of the Kansas District provide support and assistance to congregations in using these tools to create fair and manageable compensation plans.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 176 (93.6%); No – 12 (6.4%)**

Resolution 18-03-08

Encourage Congregational Participation in the Church’s Plan with Concordia Plan Services

WHEREAS, Concordia Plan Services is the preeminent provider of health, retirement and disability benefits for church workers throughout the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, significant detrimental consequences may occur to both employer and employee upon withdrawal from Concordia Plan Services; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Plan Services has continued to improve and update benefits to better serve the needs of the employees and employers of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Plan Services offers in its “The Church’s Plan” the additional retirement benefits of a 403(b) Tax Sheltered Annuity; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations, schools, associations and entities in the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod be encouraged to participate in the Church’s Plan for their employees.

Moved by committee. **Adopted. Yes - 140 (73.7%); No – 50 (26.3%)**

Announcements/Prayer

It was announced that there would be a special breakfast for circuit visitors and vice-presidents in the morning at 7:30 a.m.

Rev. Scott Snow led the convention in prayer.

The convention adjourned for the evening at 6 p.m.

**THIRD MEETING
Saturday, June 9, 2018, 8:30 a.m.**

Rev. Rick Rostek, Third Vice-President of the District, led us in devotions based on Isaiah 49:1-7.

Rev. Paul Tessaro was selected by the Circuit Visitors to be their Chairman.

Video: The Kansas District in West Africa

Convention Essay #3: “Life Together for the World”

The Credentials Committee chairman, Rev. Andy Keltner, reported that the attendance and registration figures showed 127 Voting Lay Delegates, 113 Voting Pastoral Delegates, 43 Advisory Commissioned Ministers, 23 Advisory Pastors and 25 Guests. A quorum was present.

Remaining Business

President Lange called Rev. Gene Holtorf, chair of the Convention Resolutions Committee, to introduce Resolution 18-04-03.

Resolution 18-04-03

To Celebrate and Give Thanks to God for the 125th Anniversary of Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska

WHEREAS, since its founding in 1894, the Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska by empowering it to serve The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as an educational institution equipping students to learn, serve and lead in the Church and world; and

WHEREAS, the Lord of the Church led the founders of the University to provide the funds and land to locate the institution in Seward, Nebraska so that the institution would be a blessing to the local community, the Nebraska and surrounding Districts and the entire LCMS; and

WHEREAS, the Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska to be the leading preparer of fulltime workers in the ministries of the LCMS, as today it places more graduates into the commissioned teaching and Director of Christian Education ministries of the church than any other institution of the Concordia University System; and

WHEREAS, the Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska to equip men for the pastoral ministry through its pre-seminary and other academic programs so that, historically, each year between 40 and 50 are involved in academic and spiritual preparation to study at an LCMS seminary with the result that seven (7) percent of those serving as pastors in the LCMS today are alumni of Concordia University, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the God of all creation has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska with opportunities to equip students with a Lutheran Christian higher education for vocations of service in business, laboratories, hospitals, industry, courtrooms, government, the military, their home and the communities where they reside; and

WHEREAS, the God of all wisdom and knowledge has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska by enabling it to serve the Church and world through 110 undergraduate and graduate academic programs at its campuses in Seward and Lincoln, through its high school partners and online; and

WHEREAS, the God of service has blessed the Church and world through the more than 23,000 alumni, sainted and living, of Concordia University, Nebraska who have walked by faith and not by sight and the hundreds of gifted and faithful faculty and staff who served these men and women during their educational studies; and

WHEREAS, the God of abundance has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska through the tens of thousands of donors who have faithfully supported the University with their prayers, generous gifts and referral of students; and

WHEREAS, the God of grace and mercy continues to bless Concordia University with record numbers of undergraduate and graduate students—2,757 in 2016-17. Therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2018 Convention of the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pause from its regular business to offer special thanksgiving and praise to almighty God for His continued blessings on Concordia University, Nebraska and to commend its students, faculty, staff and administration to His continued providential care. And be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District memorialize the LCMS at its July 2019 Convention to declare Concordia’s Founders Day, November 18, 2019, as a synod wide “Concordia University, Nebraska Sunday,” encouraging and facilitating prayers, thanksgiving, offerings, gifts and student referrals to be given in celebration of the Lord’s abundant blessings to the Church through one of its treasured universities.

Moved by committee. **Adopted by voice vote with the assembly rising to sing the doxology.**

President Lange introduced the President of Concordia University, Nebraska, the Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, and asked him to speak from the podium.

Rev. Gene Holtorf, chair of the Convention Resolutions Committee, noted that the committee moved that Resolution 18-04-04 be referred to the Board of Stewardship with subsequent action by the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors. **Adopted by voice vote.**

Rev. David Meier, Secretary of the LCMS Kansas District, presented Omnibus Resolutions.

OMNIBUS RESOLUTION A

WHEREAS, the District has numerous offices, boards, and committees; and

WHEREAS, proposals related to the responsibilities of such administrative units should ordinarily be directed to them; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the following memorials be referred to the listed administrative unit:

Memorial	Title	Board or Commission
Ov. 18-03-10	To Allow Licensed Lay Deacons (LLDs) to Preach and Do Sacramental Ministry on Emergency and/or Occasional Basis in Congregations Where a Called and Ordained Pastor Is Present	Office of the District President
Ov. 18-03-12a	To Move the Kansas District Convention to April	Kansas District Board of Education

Adopted by Voice Vote

OMNIBUS RESOLUTION C

WHEREAS, the floor committees have considered all memorials assigned to them and have concluded, for various reasons, that certain memorials should be declined; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the following memorials be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

Memorial	Title	Reason
Ov. 18-04-12	To Encourage Healthy Food and Beverage Environments at District Sponsored Events	Insufficient information
Ov. 18-04-13	To Improve the Process of Calling Pastors	Being handled through proper channels
Ov. 18-01-10	To Affirm Local Word and Sacrament Ministry as a Priority in Mission Grant Funding	Action already taken

Adopted by Voice Vote

President Lange asked the convention if they would like to skip the scheduled break. It was moved and seconded to skip the break. **Adopted. Yes - 128 (74%); No - 45 (26%)**

The assembly rose to sing “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.”

All delegates were encouraged to complete the convention evaluations which are online.

President Lange gave his closing remarks.

President Lange installed the Circuit Visitors and the Board of Directors members.

The Credentials Committee chairman, Rev. Andy Keltner, gave the final report that the attendance and registration figures showed 127 Voting Lay Delegates, 113 Voting Pastoral Delegates, 43 Advisory Commissioned Ministers, 23 Advisory Pastors and 25 Guests.

The Credentials Committee was dismissed and thanked for their work.

The 73rd Convention of the Kansas District was adjourned, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Rev. David E. Meier
Secretary, LCMS Kansas District

Addendum
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ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Charter of The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The undersigned, citizens of the State of Kansas, do hereby voluntarily associate ourselves together for the purpose of forming a private corporation under the laws of the State of Kansas, and do hereby certify:

First

(Amended June 8, 1948)

That the name of this corporation shall be The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Second

(Amended June 7, 2018)

That the purposes for which this corporation is formed are to propagate the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, and to aid congregations in securing and maintaining property for public worship, according to the confessions of the Book of Concord of the year 1580. All provisions of the Kansas District Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention.

Third

(Amended June 18, 1976)

That the places where its business is to be transacted are at any and all places in Kansas.

Fourth

(Amended June 7, 2018)

The term of existence of this Corporation shall be perpetual.

In the event of dissolution other than by direction from the Synod in convention, the assets of the Kansas District, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred, consistent with applicable state and federal laws, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Fifth

(Amended June 12, 1974)

That the number of Directors of this Corporation shall be not less than three nor more than twenty.

In testimony whereof, we hereunto subscribed our names, this 31st day of January, A.D. 1890.

F. Pennekamp
C. Vetter

H. C. Senne
F. Droegemueller

Aug. Mangeldorf
C. Hafner

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

*Our **Mission** is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church (Mt 28).*

*Our **Vision** is to partner with and connect the workers, congregations and schools of the District with resources to advance God's mission.*

PREAMBLE TO THE BYLAWS

We, the members of The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as redeemed children of God, acknowledge our part in Christ's mission of proclaiming the freedom and forgiveness of God in Christ to all human beings and of providing aid for them in their spiritual and physical needs. We acknowledge that we have bound ourselves together in a common bond of faith based on the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions as the members of District and Synod because we recognize the need for helping each other carry out this mission. We need the ministry of fellow Christians so that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we may grow in faith and be better prepared to participate in Christ's mission both individually and corporately. In order that we may carry out this mission effectively, we, united in the common bond of faith and love, have established these procedures that shall help to strengthen and guide us. Within the framework of these procedures we pledge ourselves to study the Scriptures diligently, to use the Sacraments faithfully, and to solicit the help of the Holy Spirit boldly.

THE BYLAWS

Article I - Name

The name of this corporation is: "The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod," hereinafter referred to as "The Kansas District" or "The District".

Article II - Organization

1. **Constitution:** The Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is also the Constitution of The Kansas District. The Bylaws of the Synod are also the primary Bylaws of the Kansas District.
2. **Legal Representation:** The President and Secretary of the District shall sign all official documents of the District in the name of the District.
3. **Membership:** Membership in The Kansas District shall be governed by the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Synod.
4. **Relationship of the District to the Synod:** The relationship of The Kansas District to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
5. **District Conventions:** District conventions shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and also by the specific articles governing convention procedure as may be defined in these Bylaws and the District Operations Manual.
6. **District Board of Directors:** The business and financial affairs of The District shall be governed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors oversees the implementation of the strategic mission of The District and is responsible to the District convention to equip, enable and encourage congregations to proclaim the Gospel. The Board of Directors is vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business and legal affairs and shall adopt policies and require procedures which assures said management and supervision are effected. Between conventions the Board of Directors shall provide for implementation within the District of decisions of the Synod and District conventions, approve and review progress of work program plans, adopt annual budgets to support work plans, procure and allocate necessary funds for support of Synod and District budgets, review program performance, call or hire District Executive Staff as deemed appropriate, provide review of Executive Staff positions, and administer the District endowment funds and other District funds.
7. **District Operations Manual:** In addition to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and the Bylaws of the District, a District Operations Manual shall be established and maintained. This Operations Manual shall specify responsibilities of all officers, boards and committees as well as policy statements and operating procedures governing all District functions.
8. **Geographical Regions:** The District shall be divided into geographical regions, each comprised of two (2) or more circuits, by the action of the District Convention. A vice-president and a layperson shall be elected to the Board of Directors from each geographic region and a layperson from each geographic region shall be elected to the District Nominations Committee.

Article III - Administration

1. **Elective and appointive officers shall execute their responsibilities in accordance with Synod By-Laws. These elective and appointive officers shall be:**

- (a) **The District President:** Elected from the clergy roster of Synod and who shall hold membership in a voting congregation. The District President is the Chief Executive of the District. He shall represent the Synod in the District. He is responsible for implementation of the resolutions of the Synod and the District Conventions. The

District President serves the congregations of the District as liaison between the congregations, District and the Synod and provides leadership and vision for the common work of the congregations, District, and District staff. He is responsible as top staff administrator, for oversight of staff carrying out the directives of the Board of Directors. He shall serve as a voting member of the District Board of Directors and is not eligible to be appointed as the presiding officer of the Board meetings. The District President also serves as an ecclesiastical supervisor to congregations and professional workers, makes official visits and investigations, and maintains the official roster of workers in the District.

(b) Vice-Presidents: A District Vice-President shall be elected from each region as provided by Article II, Section 8 of the Bylaws. The Vice-Presidents shall be elected from the clergy roster of the District and have residence within the region from which elected. The Vice-Presidents shall assist the President in administering the overall program of the District, especially in their regions. They shall succeed to the office of President, in the event the President is unable to serve, in the order designated by the Convention.

(c) Secretary: The District Secretary shall be elected from the clergy roster of the District and shall hold membership in a voting congregation of the District. The District Secretary is responsible for conducting the nominations process for the elections of President and Vice-presidents, facilitating the work of the Nominating Committee, organizing the work of the Elections Committee, and maintaining the District Operations Manual and related guidelines. The District Secretary is responsible for recording and preserving the official record of actions of the District Convention and the Board of Directors

(d) Treasurer: The District Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and is the custodian of all money and legal documents of the District. The Treasurer is assisted by the District staff for accounting and preparation of records. The Treasurer shall be a layperson, a member of a voting congregation of the District and demonstrate skills in finance and accounting. The appointment shall run concurrent with district convention after which reappointment may be granted.

(e) Circuit Visitors: A visitor for each circuit of the District shall be nominated and elected from the clergy roster of the District as prescribed by the Bylaws of the Synod.

The Conference of Circuit Visitors shall assist the District President according to the Bylaws of the LCMS and shall serve as liaison to bringing the needs of congregations to the attention of the District President.

(f) Presiding Officer of Board meetings: The Board of Directors shall appoint a member of the Board to be the presiding officer of the meetings of the Board in consultation with and with the concurrence of the District President. The District President will not normally serve as the presiding officer of the Board meetings. In the absence of the presiding officer, the District president shall assume the role of presiding officer, pro tem.

2. Elective Boards and Appointive Boards, Committees and Commissions shall be:

(a) The Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall consist of seventeen (17) voting members elected at the District Convention:

I. Seven (7) ordained ministers:

- a. The District President.
- b. The Regional Vice Presidents.
- c. The District Secretary.
- d. The Chairperson of the Conference of Circuit Visitors.

II. Three (3) Commissioned Ministers.

III. Seven (7) Laypersons, at least one (1) elected from each region. (Regional members shall have residence within their region.)

The advisory members of the Board of Directors shall be the District Treasurer and the District Executive Staff.

The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of four (4) times each year. Additional meetings may be called by the District President. Time and place of these meetings shall be determined by the District President. A majority of members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

To meet the exigencies of District operations, the Board may meet by telephone conference call, or vote by written, mailed or electronic ballot pursuant to written notification. Actions taken at such meetings or by written ballot shall have the same effect as those taken at regular meetings of the Board.

Electronic Meetings

- The board may conduct its meetings electronically using audio, video, or internet-based conferencing technologies.
- In such cases, the technology must allow for each board member to fully participate (hear, speak, have or been given access to documents and other materials as appropriate), including the opportunity to vote.
- Members must be given a reasonable opportunity to access the electronic meeting. If a board member does not have access to the technology to be used, arrangements will be made for the member to participate in person by coming to the District Office or other mutually agreed upon location (prior arrangement necessary).
- As with any board, regular or special meeting, minutes shall be kept that record a summary of the major points of discussion and any action(s) taken.
- Any board member listening or watching shall acknowledge their presence to the meeting. These names along with the attending board members shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Quorum

- A majority of voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any properly called or scheduled meeting.

Actions Using Electronic Ballot

- In situations where board members are not able to meet as described above, the Board may take action by use of electronic ballot (i.e., e-mail, internet-based voting, etc.) provided all voting members of the board cast a vote and the result of the voting is unanimous.

Minutes of previous meetings, including conference calls and the responses to mailed ballots, shall be provided to the members of the Board at least ten (10) days prior to Board meetings.

The agenda for each meeting of the Board shall be prepared by the District President in consultation with the Executive Council.

The District Secretary shall serve as secretary of the Board.

(b) Service Boards: The Board of Directors shall organize the following service boards as described in the District Operations Manual:

I. Board of Missions: The Board of Missions is responsible for planning and implementing evangelism and mission efforts of the District and equipping, encouraging and empowering congregations in their mission and outreach efforts.

II. Board of Education: The Board of Education is to foster and promote Christian education in the congregations of the District, so that children, youth, and adults may grow in their faith, knowledge and understanding of God's Word, thereby equipping, encouraging and empowering them to proclaim the Gospel in their lives.

III. Board of Caring Ministry: The Board of Caring Ministry equips, empowers and encourages congregations in caring ministry which responds to the special needs of people. It also offers care and support where needed for professional workers of the church.

IV. Board of Stewardship: The Board of Stewardship encourages the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes and fulfilling the responsibilities of Synod Bylaw section 4.6.

V. Board of Administration: The Board of Administration provides administrative and support services to the Board of Directors and congregations of the District including accounting, property management, communications, and related services.

VI. Executive Council: The Executive Council shall include the District President, Presiding officer of the Board meetings, the Regional Vice Presidents, the Chairman of the Circuit Visitors, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The District President shall serve as chairman of the Executive Council. The Executive Staff are advisory members of the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall recommend action to the Board on matters which do not fall within the scope of activities of the Boards listed above. The Executive Council is to serve as the coordinating agency of the Board of Directors for meeting -preparation, recommendations for appointments and as a forum for sharing program and budget information with service boards.

VII. Emergency meetings: The Executive Council may act for the Board of Directors in times of emergency between meetings and in all matters delegated to it by specific action or by policy of the Board, including response to legal action. The Executive Council may not perform acts specifically required by statute or by legislation or the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod. All Executive Council actions shall be reported to the Board of Directors. Any member of the Executive Council may request full Board action on any matter. Minutes of the Executive Council shall be sent to the Board within two weeks of the Council action. These meetings may be called by the District President, the Presiding Officer of the Board meetings or three members of the Executive Council.

VIII. Salary Review Committee: The Salary Review Committee is responsible to the Board of Directors for recommending salaries for the staff positions of the District and recommending changes in the base figure used for the annual Guideline for Worker Compensation for use by congregations.

IX. The President's Council shall consist of the District President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Chairperson of the Circuit Visitors. The District President may consult with them on ecclesiastical matters as appropriate.

(c) The District Nominations Committee.

(d) One member of the Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations when required.

(e) The following Service Boards are appointed by the District President in consultation with the Executive Council and approved by the Board of Directors: Board of Caring Ministry, Board of Stewardship, Board of Education, Board of Missions and the Board of Administration.

(f.) The Standing Committees and Commissions of the Kansas District shall be: the Elections Committee, the Congregational Constitution and Bylaw Review Committee, the District Bylaws and Operations Manual Committee and others described in the District Operations Manual.

Members of these Standing Committees are appointed by the District President and approved by the Board of Directors.

Members of these Standing Committees must be members in good standing of a voting congregation of the Kansas District.

(g.) Special Committees shall be such committees as are from time to time necessary for carrying out the duties of the District Service Boards. Members of these committees are appointed by the District President in consultation with the Executive Council and are approved by the Board of Directors.

Members of these committees must be members of a voting congregation of the Kansas District.

3. Term of Office:

(a) The term of office for the President shall be three (3) years. The President shall not serve more than four (4) consecutive terms.

(b) The term of office for the Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Circuit Visitors, and the Board of Directors shall be three (3) years. None of these officers shall serve more than three consecutive terms.

(c) The term of office of the District Nominations Committee shall be three (3) years. Members of the Committee may not succeed themselves.

(d) The term of office of appointive boards, committees and commissions shall run concurrent with district convention. Due to their responsibilities, the District Youth Ministry Team and the Church Worker Conference Planning Committee are exempt from running concurrent with district convention.

(e) Members of District boards and commissions shall be ineligible for reelection or reappointment to the same board or commission after serving three (3) consecutive terms unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws. They may become eligible again for election or appointment to the same office, board or commission after an interval of three (3) or more years. More than one half (1/2) term shall be regarded as a full term.

(f) Any member of a board or commission who is ineligible for reelection or reappointment may be elected or appointed to another position.

(g) Members of the District staff, while eligible for elective office, shall not serve concurrently as staff and elected officers.

4. Accountability of Officers, Boards, Committees and Commissions: All boards, committees and commissions shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for the discharge of their responsibilities. Officers in general are responsible to the convention of the district (Const. XI A 1) and, as regards ecclesiastical supervision, to the President of the Synod.

5. Holding More than One (1) Elective Office: A nominated candidate, if elected, may not hold more than one (1) office to which he/she was elected. The individual may be considered for a second office provided it is by official appointment as referenced in LCMS Bylaws 1.5.1.1-2. Doubtful cases shall be decided by the President of Synod.

6. Succession to the Office of District President. The Vice-Presidents shall, in the order in which they have been designated by the District Convention, succeed to the presidency in the event the President becomes unable to carry out his duties. Whenever the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve in the capacity because of prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of the office of the President shall be assumed by the First Vice-President. The First Vice-President shall remain as the acting President until the Board of Directors determines that the conditions of illness or disability have been removed.

7. Vacancies in Elective or Appointive Office.

(a) In the event of a vacancy in the office of a Vice President, a successor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors from the region not represented. A Vice President so appointed shall be last in the order of succession.

(b) Vacancies that occur in the office of Circuit Visitor between conventions shall be filled by appointment by the District President.

(c) Vacancies in standing committees shall be filled by the District President.

(d) Vacancies in the other elective or appointed offices or any other board, special committee or commission shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors. At least one nominee shall be submitted by the Executive Council. A vacancy in a position of a regionally elected layperson on the Board of Directors shall be filled with an appointee from that region.

8. Appointment of Board Chairpersons: The President shall appoint the chairperson of each service board. in consultation with the Executive Council and with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Article IV – Convention Nominations and Elections

1. **Nominations Committee:** There shall be a District Nominations Committee consisting of three (3) ordained ministers (not more than one [1] from the same region of the District), one (1) commissioned minister, and four (4) laypersons, (one [1] elected from each region of the District). These shall be elected at a regular District Convention from the membership of voting congregations. This committee shall propose at least two (2) candidates for each office to be filled at the next District Convention except the offices of President, Vice President and Circuit Visitor.

2. Nominations for District President, Vice Presidents, Regional Lay Members of the Board of Directors and Circuit Visitors:

(a) District President – Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate one ordained minister as candidate for District President. Candidates for the office of District President shall be on the clergy roster of Synod. Only three individuals receiving nominations, and agreeing to serve if elected, may be listed on the Convention ballot.

(b) Regional Vice-Presidents – Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate from their region one ordained minister from the clergy roster of the District and who shall have residence within the region from which nominated candidates on the ballot for Vice-President from each region, shall be all those having more than a single nomination and who agree to serve if elected. In the event of death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee having the next highest number of votes shall become a candidate. In the event of a tie for the final candidate position, all names involved in the tie shall be included as candidates.

(c) Lay Members of the Board of Directors –All nominees for lay members of the Board of Directors shall hold residency within the respective region from which they are nominated. Candidates shall be at least the two lay members in the region who receive the greatest number of nominations and agree to serve if elected. All candidates not elected shall be on the ballot for the at large lay positions on the Board of Directors.

(d) Circuit Visitor – The selection of Circuit Visitor will follow the process detailed in the Synod Handbook.

2. Elections:

1. The Convention may alter or add to the nominated slates except for the slate for President. A floor nomination must be accompanied by written acceptance of nomination from the nominee and a brief biographical description of the nominee. Material should be provided in digital format when possible.
2. During the Convention, the order of elections will be: (1) President, (2) Vice-Presidents and (3) All other elective positions.
3. A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and elective board positions. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.
4. The election of the President will take place by ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
5. The election of the Vice-Presidents will take place by ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
6. Upon the election of the regional Vice-Presidents, a final election will take place ranking the Vice-Presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority determining the first, second, third and fourth Vice-Presidents in line of succession.
7. Except on the election of the President and the Vice-Presidents, the following regulations will apply: Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot will be declared elected. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15% of the votes cast will be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15% or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates will constitute the ballot.

Article V - Conventions and Conferences

1. District Conventions:

(a) The regular Convention of the District is held in the year immediately preceding the general convention of the Synod. Only the Synod has the right to make an exception to this rule. Each of the parishes/ congregations of the District (a multi-congregation parish being considered as a congregational unit) shall be represented by one (1)

pastor and one (1) lay delegate duly elected by the congregation at least one hundred fifty (150) days prior to the Convention.

(b) The vote at all District Conventions shall be restricted to the duly elected and certified voting pastors and lay delegates of the congregations. Multi-congregation parishes shall determine the voting lay delegate who shall represent all congregations of that parish. If a congregation or parish has more than one called pastor who is eligible to vote, the congregation shall designate which pastor will cast a vote on behalf of the congregation.

(c) The District Convention shall be conducted in accordance with the Synod Handbook. Matters for consideration by the Convention shall be presented by overture submitted by a member congregation of the District, the District Board of Directors, an official District conference of ordained and/or commissioned ministers, a committee established by a prior convention, or a forum of a circuit. Resolutions for consideration by the Convention shall be brought to the floor of the Convention by appointed Floor Committees.

2. District Ordained and Commissioned Minister Conferences:

(a) Official Conferences:

- I. District-wide Ordained Ministers' Conferences shall be held at least once each year.
- II. District-wide Commissioned Ministers' Conferences shall be held at least once each year.
- III. In the odd numbered years the Ordained Ministers' Conference and Commissioned Ministers' Conference shall be held at the same time and in the same city so that both Conferences shall be enabled to meet together in joint session at least part of the time. Exceptions may be made by the District President in consultation with the President's Council.

(b) General Regulations:

- I. Travel, meals, housing and other expenses for professional workers attending official conferences shall be borne by the congregations of the Ordained ministers and Commissioned ministers involved.
- II. All Ordained Ministers' and Commissioned Ministers' Conferences shall be governed by the regulations stated in the Bylaws of the Synod.
- III. All Ordained and Commissioned ministers on the District rosters are expected to attend the meeting of their official conference, or present a valid excuse.

3. Visitation Circuit Forums: The congregations of a visitation circuit, represented by a pastor and one lay member of each congregation (Synod Bylaw 5.3.2), shall meet in circuit forums at least once triennially to select Circuit Visitors (Synod Bylaw 5.2.2), to participate in the triennial process of suggesting mission and ministry emphases to the District Convention (Synod Bylaws 5.3.4, 5.3.1[b], 4.2.1[b]), and to consider submitting other overtures to the District or Synod Convention (Synod Bylaw 3.1.6.2). In addition, the forum is encouraged to meet at least two times a year to carry out other functions as described in Synod Bylaw 5.3.1 and to pursue other interests deemed important such as lay leadership development, teacher training, and participation under existing District policy in future local mission development.

4. Electoral Circuit Meetings: The congregations of a visitation circuit or two adjacent visitation circuits (Synod Bylaw 3.1.2 [a]) shall meet once triennially to carry out the responsibility of electing delegates to the general convention of the Synod and to consider sending overtures to the Synod convention (Synod Bylaw 3.1.6.2).

5. Circuit Convocations: Circuits of The Kansas District may hold Circuit Convocations in the year following the Synodical convention. Joint convocations of Circuits may be held among Circuits. The purpose of the Circuit Convocation is to provide a setting in which congregational members may review and discuss the work of the Circuit Forum, and may receive information on various phases of the work pursued through Districts and the Synod. Its emphasis will be on inspiration, education and motivation.

Article VI – Property

This corporation shall have power to acquire by gift, grants, demise, devise, bequest, purchase, or otherwise, property of every kind and description, real, personal, or mixed; to hold and use such property and deal with, or dispose of, any or all such property by sale, exchange, or gift, when necessary or expedient to carry out the objectives of the

corporation; provided that all such property shall be acquired, dealt with, or disposed of in a manner not in conflict with the laws of the State of Kansas or the laws of any state in which said property is located.

Article VII - Amendments and Changes

Changes in these Bylaws and additions thereto may be made provided they are not contrary to the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, have received prior approval of the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters, are presented to the congregations of the District at least thirty (30) days prior to the time they are presented for vote, are separately considered and acted upon, and are passed by a majority of the voting delegates at a District convention.

The District in convention may vote to amend its bylaws provided the resolution is contingent on approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended bylaws become effective immediately, and only upon approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not approve the adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify amendments to comply with the Commission on Constitutional Matters requirements upon their two-thirds vote.

Article VIII - District Operations Manual

Changes to the District Operations Manual which do not affect the Bylaws of the District shall be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. Changes to the District Operations Manual which require changes to the Bylaws of the District shall require approval of the Board of Directors and adoption by the District Convention.