

Convention Proceedings

74th LCMS Kansas District Convention

Proclaim, Teach, Share

First Session - Thursday, June 9, 2022

President Rev. Justin Panzer announced the theme of the Kansas District Convention as Proclaim, Teach, and Share, based upon the Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9-10. He welcomed all in attendance and encouraged delegates and guests to live out our daily calling in Christ as His royal priesthood.

Opening devotions were led by Vice-President Rev. Alan Stahlecker.

Guests were introduced: Synod officials, the keynote speaker, and guests. Key groups were identified: District staff and assistants, the convention planning committee, technology aides, Kansas District Board of Directors, District archivist, convention organist, and church workers who are new to the District since 2018.

Rev. John Werner, as chair of the Credentials Committee introduced the credentials Committee, which also included Harmon Butler and Bret Hauser. He reported 96 lay delegates, and 95 pastoral delegates, were present for voting, so there is a quorum.

Rev. Sean Kilgo, chair of the Excuse committee introduced Cynthia Lavrenz and Stan Koster as the other committee members. He reported that there are 94 excused absences.

The 74th Convention of the Kansas District was called to order by President Rev. Justin Panzer.

The orders of the day were adopted.

The Elections Committee was introduced: Rev. Joshua Woelmer; Kathy Bartels; LaMont Shirk. The keypad voting process was described and practiced by the delegates.

It was moved, seconded, and adopted to use the standings rules as printed in Convention Business.

Convention Special Standing Rules

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 chair and the chair of the floor committees on nominations and elections.
3. It shall be the discretion of the chair 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 voting delegate or an advisory delegate, and the congregation or ministry they represent.

7. Voting delegates may speak and vote. All nonvoting advisory delegates may participate in debate, but may not nominate candidates, make motions, or vote. The chair may acknowledge others to speak.

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. Any voting delegate may move to close debate (call the question) when recognized 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 34 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. Materials should be provided in digital format. (Materials should be sent by e-mail to KSDconvention@kslcms.org when possible.)

13. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter will be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for offering it, and a member of the floor committee shall be offered two minutes to present rationale for why the committee believes the original motion is to be preferred. The convention shall decide by majority vote without further 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. 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 be sent to the Nominations Committee at KSDconvention@kslcms.org for review of proper credentials.)

15. During the Convention, the order of elections will be: (1) President, (2) Vice-Presidents, and (3) All 55 other elective positions.

16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. Electronic 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.
23. No distribution of literature will be allowed in the Manor Conference Center without pre-convention approval by the office of the District President.

Action: Adopted [Yes – 170; No – 2]

Rev. Justin Panzer presented the District President's report to the convention. (Convention Workbook pp. 30-32)

David Bergmeier, chair of the nominations committee, introduced his committee: Brent Ostgren, Marvin Schulteis, Jeremy Pera, Rev. Stan Palmer, Rev. Alan Stahlecker, Rev. Joshua Woelmer, and Rev. Robert Grimm, Secretary of the Kansas District.

The assembly voted for District President. [* denotes incumbents. Bold indicates election.]

Rev. Justin Panzer*	174
Rev. Alan Stahlecker	16

Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss and Mr. David Bergmeier asked for their names to be stricken from the ballot, due to changed circumstances.

The assembly voted for District Vice-Presidents.

Region 1	Rev. Dr. J.S. Bruss, St. John's, Topeka	0
	Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz, Trinity, Mission*	169
Region 2	Rev. Joshua Hayes, St. John, Palmer	28
	Rev. Alan Stahlecker, St. John, Lincolnville*	152
Region 3	Rev. Tom Harmon, Risen Savior, Wichita	72
	Rev. Mike Schotte, St. Paul, Preston	105
Region 4	Rev. Michael Brockman, Immanuel, Oakley and Immanuel, Hoxie	64
	Rev. Michael Hageman, Trinity, Garden City	63
	Rev. Michael Schmidt, Peace, Natoma and First, Plainview	52
2 nd ballot -	Rev. Michael Brockman, Immanuel, Oakley and Immanuel, Hoxie	88
	Rev. Michael Hageman, Trinity, Garden City	91
Secretary	Rev. Rodney Fritz, Trinity, Hanover	71
	Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Zion, Vassar	108

Delegates ranked Vice Presidents. The First Vice-President is Rev. Alan Stahlecker. The Second Vice-President is Rev. Mark Schulz, The Third Vice-President is Rev. Mike Schotte, The Fourth Vice-President is Michael Hageman. Ballots are as follows:

1st Vice President:

Rev. Michael Hageman 16

Rev. Mike Schotte 22

Rev. Mark Schulz 58

Rev. Alan Stahlecker 79

2nd ballot: Rev. Mike Schotte 19

Rev. Mark Schulz 61

Rev. Alan Stahlecker* 99

2nd Vice President

Rev. Michael Hageman 23

Rev. Mike Schotte 73

Rev. Mark Schultz 82

2nd ballot Rev. Mike Schotte 84

Rev. Mark Schulz* 92

3rd Vice President

Rev. Michael Hageman 60

Rev. Mike Schotte* 116

The elections committee concluded its morning work.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) President Rev. Bart Day offered greetings to our convention.

LCMS Foundation chief financial officer Mark Cannon addressed the convention, and shared the purpose of the Foundation to invest funds for the church through planned giving.

Rev. Roy Askins, the current editor of the Lutheran Witness, addressed the convention using the theme, proclaim, teach, and share. He shared themes from 1 Peter 2:9-10. He concluded by sharing the themes set forth in the Lutheran Witness, an LCMS publication that is six years older than the National Geographic. It began by sharing the theology of the predestinarian controversy of the 1870's, and continued with ideas and thoughts about Lutheran doctrine, and continued through World War II. There was a shift in the magazine to personal interest stories of missions and mission work in the 1960's.

The Lutheran Witness has been published for 140 years. During this time, tremendous change has occurred. And yet, in the midst of such change, the church continues to proclaim, teach, and share God's message of forgiveness, won by Christ on the cross and delivered in Word and Sacrament. Despite great differences, the message has not changed. The Lutheran Witness has participated in the work of proclaiming, teaching, and sharing this message.

We recessed for lunch.

We reconvened for the afternoon's business as we sang the anniversary hymn.

The *Proclaim* video demonstrated examples of proclamation in the Kansas District.

Floor committee # 1 was invited to the podium to bring the committee's work to the convention. Rev. Joshua Hayes, as chairman of the Proclaim Floor Committee introduced other committee members: Rev. Richard Lally; Amy Schultz; Joyce Duitsman; James Bauck; Tom Maurer; Dave Bruns; Rev. Dan Galchutt. They brought forward six resolutions.

Resolution 22-01-01 (from Overture 22-01-01)

To Prioritize Living as the Baptized as a Mission and Ministry Focus for the 2022-2025 Triennium

Whereas, Holy Baptism is a treasured gift through which God claims us as His own, forgives our sins, and grants us life and salvation (Rom. 6:3-11; 1 Peter 3:21); and

Whereas, We, as baptized children of God, are members of the royal priesthood, living stones "rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious ... being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:4-5); and

Whereas, Our citizenship as the baptized is in heaven (Phil. 3:20), and as such, we are called to live according to the Word, not the world; and

Whereas, Living according to our baptismal identity is becoming more challenging, as norms and values of our post-Christian culture, many of which are rooted in ideas antithetical to God's Word, exert ever stronger pressure on Christians to think, act, and believe in ways contrary to their God-given identity in Christ; and

Whereas, Church membership in the U.S. has continued to decline while the percentage of those claiming no religious affiliation ("nones") has increased (Gallup Poll, March 2021), pointing to a general weakening of Christian identity; and

Whereas, Lutherans confirmed in the faith acknowledge in the Rite of Confirmation their intention "to remain steadfast in this confession and church, and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it," yet a recent study of millennials and the church (LCMS, 2017) found that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is retaining only 33% of its young people into adulthood, reflecting general societal trends; and

Whereas, Lack of a strong baptismal identity, especially in the context of an increasingly secular culture, is a serious obstacle in our calling to proclaim, teach, and share the Gospel, leaving the baptized ill-equipped to engage in mission and ministry activities; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the District and its members prioritize strengthening baptismal identity in the coming triennium, equipping and encouraging the baptized to stand firm in the faith and resist being conformed to the world (Rom. 12:2) and to move forward boldly as the baptized people of God to expand the Kingdom; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the District promote the use of resources by congregations and schools designed to strengthen habits central to a strong sense of baptismal identity, including faithful worship, reception of the Lord's Supper, prayer, Bible study, home devotions, mutual upbuilding, and living out one's vocation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That congregations and schools be encouraged to equip the saints in their midst to boldly "proclaim, teach, and share" by providing training and opportunities in evangelism, apologetics, and lifelong discipleship, with the help of Synod and District resources (e.g., *Every One His Witness*; "Shepherding the Strays" re:*Vitality* module; *Mission Field: USA*); and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Kansas District memorialize the Synod as it gathers at the 2023 LCMS convention recommending adoption of a mission and ministry emphasis consistent with helping Lutheran Christians hold fast to their baptismal identity, as is the case with the Synod's current emphasis of *Making Disciples for Life* (2019 LCMS Res. 4-03).

Action: Adopted [Yes: 171; No: 2]

Resolution 22-01-02 (from Overtures 22-01-06 and 22-01-07)

To Encourage LCMS Kansans to Vote “Yes” for the Value Them Both Amendment

Mr. David Langford spoke to the issue, at the request of the president. Every law passed in Kansas concerning protection of pregnant mothers or unborn children has been jeopardized by the April 2019 ruling of the State Supreme Court.

Whereas, The Holy Scriptures clearly teach that human beings are created in the image of God, formed and knit together by God Himself in the womb, and therefore prohibit every sort of murder, including abortion (Gen. 1:26-27, 9:6; Ex. 20:13; Jer. 1:5; Ps. 139:16; Is. 49:1, 5; Matt. 5:21-22; Luke 1:41, 44; James 3:9-10); and

Whereas, The Fifth Commandment, “You shall not murder,” along with the Small Catechism’s explanation “not to hurt nor harm our neighbor, but help and support him in every physical need,” celebrates God’s gift of life; and

Whereas, Christians are called “to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves” (Prov. 31:8-9); and

Whereas, We are to “speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15) on issues that God’s Word has clearly spoken on in the Holy Scriptures, while being careful to “put not our trust in princes” (Ps. 146:3), meaning that we, as a Church, speak to Biblical issues without aligning ourselves to certain parties or candidates; and

Whereas, On April 26, 2019, the Kansas Supreme Court effectively ruled in the case *Hodes & Nauser vs. Schmidt* that abortion is a “right guaranteed in the Kansas constitution,” thereby removing the legal foundation for all existing laws that permit basic regulations on abortion; and

Whereas, Because of the Kansas Supreme Court’s April 26, 2019, ruling, and subsequent lower court ruling, April 7, 2021, existing bans on late-term and taxpayer-funded abortion are now in danger of being rendered unenforceable. Furthermore, the ruling already allows violent live dismemberment abortions to continue and threatens these lifesaving limits in the future:

- parental consent for minors seeking abortion
- informed consent, alerting women to potential health risks
- a 24-hour waiting period
- and abortion clinic sanitation and safety standards; and

Whereas, In January 2021, the Kansas Legislature passed the “Value Them Both Amendment” by supermajorities, placing it on the August 2, 2022, primary ballot; and

Whereas, The “Value Them Both Amendment” would amend the Bill of Rights in the Kansas Constitution to add a new section that reads as follows:

§ 22. Regulation of abortion. Because Kansans value both women and children, the constitution of the state of Kansas does not require government funding of abortion and does not create or secure a right to abortion. To the extent permitted by the constitution of the United States, the people, through their elected state representatives and state senators, may pass laws regarding abortion, including, but not limited to, laws that account for circumstances of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest, or circumstances of necessity to save the life of the mother.”; and

Whereas, The following statement shall be printed on the August 2, 2022, ballot with the amendment as a whole:

“Explanatory statement. The Value Them Both Amendment would reserve to the people of Kansas, through their elected state legislators, the right to pass laws to regulate abortion because there is no Kansas constitutional right to abortion or to require the government funding of abortion.

“A vote **for** the Value Them Both Amendment would reserve to the people of Kansas, through their elected state legislators, the right to pass laws to regulate abortion because there is no Kansas constitutional right to abortion or to require the government funding of abortion.

“A vote **against** the Value Them Both Amendment would make no changes to the constitution of the state of Kansas and could prevent the people, through their elected state legislators, from regulating abortion in many circumstances. It would leave in place the newly discovered right to abortion first recognized in 2019.”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Kansas District in convention encourage all Christians earnestly to pray for elected and appointed officials, that they may carry out their duties faithfully in a manner consistent with God’s Word and His will, for the general welfare and benefit of all citizens (1 Tim. 2:1-2); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Kansas District in convention call upon all Christians to be loyal citizens, adhering to the laws of government, insofar as such laws of said governments do not contradict or contravene the eternal and everlasting truth set forth in God’s Word (Acts 5:29); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Kansas District in convention reject the *Hodes & Nauser vs. Schmidt* decision as antithetical to the sanctity of life and encourage members of LCMS congregations to seek ways to embrace life and witness faithfully to the confession they hold; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Kansas District congregations be encouraged to use the resources provided by the “Value Them Both” coalition at the website: <https://valuethemboth.com/take-action/>; and be it further

RESOLVED, That LCMS Kansas District congregations observe a month of prayer for life during the five Sundays of July 2022 before the August 2, 2022, vote with specific petitions provided to Kansas District congregations by the District President in a timely manner following the June 2022 Kansas District Convention; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That LCMS Kansans be encouraged to vote “Yes,” according to individual conscience

Action: Adopted [Voice vote: Yes: clear majority; No: none heard]

Resolution 22-01-03 (from Overture 22-01-02)

To Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Seek Opportunities to Collaborate and Partner to Enhance Mission and Ministry in the Kansas District

Whereas, We are baptized children of God, united in Christ and called to work together as one body in mission and ministry (1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 4:16); and

Whereas, God calls us to work together for the good of the Church and of our neighbor (Heb. 10:24-25; Ecc. 4:9; 2 Cor. 8:1-7); and

Whereas, Scripture provides many examples of the faithful working together (Mark 6:7; Eph. 4:11-13; Acts 6:1-7; Phil 4:14-20); and

Whereas, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is itself a large partnership, made up of congregations “walking together” for the sake of the Gospel, united by a common confession; and

Whereas, The LCMS has experienced declines in recent years in baptisms, confirmations, communicant membership, attendance, and offerings, pointing to a need to rethink mission and ministry in many locations, including Kansas; and

Whereas, The number of church work graduates in the years ahead is not projected to keep pace with the number of retirements; and

Whereas, Collaboration opportunities among like-minded Christians will become more critical in the years ahead as the U.S. population becomes increasingly secular; and

Whereas, Resources from The Partnership Project, launched in 2020 to assist congregations that are thinking about, planning, or implementing partnerships, has proven useful in the Kansas District and beyond, helping to facilitate a variety of partnership discussions; and

Whereas, Kansas congregations and circuits are developing creative ideas about how to work together (e.g., the T.I.G. Ministry partnership in western Kansas; Circuit 6's "Maintain the Ministry, Grow the Mission" collaboration); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That LCMS Kansas congregations, schools, and circuits be encouraged to consider ways in which they can be "better together" for the sake of advancing the Gospel in their location; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Kansas District identify, refine, and develop resources as needed to support The Partnership Project and encourage use of these resources; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Kansas District missions executive support congregations, schools, and circuits with partnership exploration through presentations, consulting, and circuit visitor training.

Action: Adopted [Voice vote - Yes: clear majority; No: none heard]

Resolution 22-01-04 (from Overture 22-01-03)

To Support LCMS Mission Work in Francophone West and Central Africa

Whereas, God has commanded His people to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19-20); and

Whereas, The LCMS Kansas District has supported international mission work in French-speaking Africa since 1997, focusing initially on the country of Guinea, where funds have been sent annually to support missionary work, church planting, mercy care, and other needs; and

Whereas, God has blessed the work in Guinea in myriad ways, establishing a foundation for future Gospel outreach through dedicated missionaries and indigenous workers; and

Whereas, In 2016, the District transitioned to "Phase 2" of its mission strategy in West Africa in response to a growing need for theological education in the region, providing support for the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Dapaong, Togo, primarily through tuition funding for Guinean students; and

Whereas, The LCMS Office of International Mission recently helped establish two new local CLET seminaries in Guinea and the Congo, responding to a need for well-trained indigenous Lutheran evangelists, pastors, and professors in this Muslim-majority region; and

Whereas, LCMS personnel have relocated to the Congo (Central Africa) in response to personnel changes, threats of violence, and emerging opportunities but plan to continue serving French-speaking countries to the north, including Guinea; and

Whereas, LCMS mission outreach in West and Central Africa includes important human care efforts through which the love of Christ is shared, including Mercy Medical Teams and Community Health Education; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we give thanks to God for the LCMS missionaries now serving West and Central Africa as well as the seminary students and indigenous church workers, with prayers that God would guard their well-being and bless their work in advancing the Gospel in this region; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Kansas District continue to support theological education and other mission outreach in West and Central Africa, including Guinea, through the Pentecost Offering and regular contributions to missionaries and related projects; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Assistant to the District President for Missions and Stewardship, working with the LCMS Office of International Mission, identify ways to strengthen our collaboration in the region, and be it finally

RESOLVED, That convention delegates and guests rise and sing the common doxology in thanks and praise to God for His many blessings in the areas of evangelism, church planting, seminary training, mercy work, and missionary care as we mark 25 years of partnership with the Synod in Francophone West and Central Africa.

Action: Adopted [Voice vote - Yes: clear majority; No: none heard.]

The convention stood in thanks for the partnership with West Africa and sang the common doxology: "Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow."

Resolution 22-01-05 (from *Overtures 22-01-04 and 22-01-08*)

To Reject Bigotry and Advance the Gospel

Whereas, God has created one human race in His own image (Gen. 1:26), and we are all blood-related going back to our mutual fathers, Adam and Noah, and all are subject to the stain of original sin, but now also have been equally redeemed by the blood of Christ in order to be reconciled to God and to each other; and

Whereas, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ desires that the Gospel be preached to all who live on earth (Rev. 14:6); and

Whereas, God's Word says, "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors" (James 2:8-9); and

Whereas, Bigotry (the sinful notion that some ethnic groups are inherently superior to others), misunderstanding, and strife are present in the world and experienced in congregations due to our sin; and

Whereas, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) abhors bigotry and in convention has passed resolutions repudiating all forms of bigotry, prejudice, and discrimination based on ethnicity (see 1992 Res. 3-03 and 2019 Res. 11-04A); and

Whereas, Nihilism and other similar theories including Critical Race Theory (CRT) have become common and controversial suppositions in today's world; and

Whereas, The Eighth Commandment forbids us to speak falsely of our neighbor and exhorts us to explain everything in the kindest way, and our Lord Jesus teaches us to love our neighbors; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Kansas District and its members reject any doctrine that teaches:

- One's ethnicity, ancestry, or nationality are inherently superior to the ethnicity, ancestry, or nationality of another.
- Any individual is inherently racist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously, because of his or her ethnicity, ancestry, or nationality; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the circuits of the LCMS Kansas District develop an objective mission and ministry action plan for outreach to diverse communities among us; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to conduct conversations on ethnicity and diversity to strengthen unity within the congregation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to engage members of their communities in these conversations in light of Christ's Gospel; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Kansas District in convention commend those within the District who intentionally proclaim and work to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus to those who are different from themselves in the light of the Great Commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Kansas District in convention promote Christ's teaching that we love our neighbors and reject the world view presented by Nihilism, CRT, and similar theories that are contrary to Scripture and counterproductive to true reconciliation of the one human race created in God's image; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Kansas District memorialize the Synod as it gathers at its 2023 convention to do similarly.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 162; No: 11]

Resolution 22-01-06 [from Overture 22-01-05]

To Promote Unity Across the Kansas District Through Visitation

Whereas, the Holy Spirit says through the Apostle Paul, "I appeal to you brothers by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment." I Corinthians 1:10; and

Whereas, Every pastor and congregation has agreed that one of the conditions of membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is: "Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school" (Synod Constitution, Article VI, 4); and

Whereas, to help "members of Synod" fulfill this responsibility the Synod and Kansas District are doing the following:

- the 2013 Synod Convention passed Resolution 7-02A "To Return to the Use of Title "Circuit Visitor" emphasized the importance of visitation for the Church's life together"
- the 2016 Synod Convention passed Resolution 4-04A "To Appeal to the LCMS Congregations, Workers, and Institutions within Christian Freedom and for Love's Sake to Retain a Common Order of Service for the Lord's Supper"

- the Kansas District, in convention, passed resolution 18-03-02 “To Encourage Congregations to Welcome Visits from Their Visitor”
- the Kansas District, in convention, passed resolution 18-03-09 “To Foster Active Participation in the Koinonia Project through the LCMS Kansas District Among Pastors, Laity, and Congregations”
- the Kansas District Visitation Ministry Questionnaire established in 2015 and refined in 2019 by the Circuit Visitors asks the question, “What does your congregation do to ensure doctrinal purity (from the pulpit, in Bible Classes and Sunday School, in parochial school, in church practices)?”; and

Whereas, visitation was interrupted by the pandemic; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Kansas District President encourage visitations to resume by Circuit Visitors to conscientiously promote unity of doctrine and practice in the Kansas District; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the pastors, congregations, and schools of the Kansas District welcome the visitors as we continue to walk together in Christ.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 158; No: 16]

The Proclaim Floor Committee has concluded its work for convention.

Rev. Dr. Russ Sommerfeld addressed the convention and brought greetings from Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska, and its recently elected president, Dr. Bernard Bull. Distinctively Lutheran, eighty degree programs shape lives of students and prepare for godly service to the world. He thanked Kansas, and he encouraged Kansas to reach out to prospective students.

Rev. Dr. James Baneck addressed the convention and shared a video about the Set Apart to Serve initiative within the LCMS. He complimented the Kansas District as a model District for raising up students for church work.

We recessed for an afternoon break.

We reconvened and sang the anniversary hymn.

The “Teach” video highlighted Lutheran schools in Kansas. Eternal life is at stake. It is God’s mission to save, and ours to make disciples.

Floor committee # 2 “Teach” was invited to bring their committee’s work before the convention. Rev. Kevin Peterson, as chairman, introduced other members of the Teach Floor Committee: Rev. Timothy Roth; Sue Kleber; Amanda Adams; Tyler Gier; Randy Noll; Curt Engelbrecht; Jim Bradshaw. The floor committee had seven resolutions for deliberation.

Resolution 22-02-01 (*Overture 22-02-01*)

To Approve Revisions to the LCMS Kansas District Bylaws

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 Synod” (LCMS Handbook 2019 3.9.2.2.3); and

Whereas, The Bylaws of the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have been reviewed, modified and presented to the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors for consideration; and

Whereas, Changes have been made to the bylaws (shown with strikeouts and underlining) requiring convention approval; and

Whereas, The LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters approves the proposal for presentation to the 74th convention of the LCMS Kansas District as consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; therefore be it

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

Action: Adopted [Yes: 170; No: 2]

The summary of changes is appended as Appendix A.

The Bylaws are appended addendums 1 (with strikeouts) and 2 as amended and adopted.

Resolution 22-02-02 (Overture 22-02-07)

To Recommend and Implement a Rigorous Program of Study in Circuit Winkels

Whereas, While it is a blessed fruit of faith of all Christians to “meditate upon [God’s] Law day and night” (Ps. 1), it is especially incumbent upon those who serve in the pastoral office to take up this charge, as those given by God to His Bride, the Church, to proclaim and teach His Word and exercise doctrinal oversight in the congregations committed to them; and

Whereas, All Christians, but especially the pastors of Christ’s Church, should “be always ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason of the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15); and

Whereas, Christ’s promise of the Holy Spirit’s work to “teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance” (John 14:26) is fulfilled in no other way than through His Word; and

Whereas, Paul, providing an example for all called servants of the Word, averred to the Ephesian elders, “I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27); and

Whereas, “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead,” Paul charged Timothy—and all pastors—“preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction” (2 Tim. 4:2); and

Whereas, St. Gregory the Great in the foundational pastoral theology of the Western Church asserts: “It is certainly necessary that those who execute the office of preaching do not regress in their study of sacred writ;” and “when a pastor is asked about a spiritual matter by a layperson, it would be disgraceful for him to have to learn the answer, when he should have been prepared to solve the question” (Gregory the Great, *The Book of Pastoral Rule* (Crestwood; St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2007), pp. 84-85); and

Whereas, At the 67th National Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod on Wednesday, 24 July 2019, the Synod in convention passed Resolution 6-04 nearly unanimously and by voice vote, “To Support, Encourage, and Expect Continuing Education for all Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Pastors” (*Proceedings of the 2019 (67th) LCMS Convention*, p. 45); and

Whereas, 2019 Res. 6-04 recognizes that the Synod’s desire for enhancing continuing education amongst our pastors has been expressed continuously, though without real fruit, since 1998; and

Whereas, 2019 Res. 6-04 resolves that “the Synod fully support, encourage and expect all LCMS pastors to be engaged in continuing education throughout their pastoral ministry from the time of their first call”; and

Whereas, 2019 Res. 6-04 furthermore resolves that “district presidents encourage, prompt, and expect all their pastors to be engaged in continuing education”; and

Whereas, 2019 Res. 6-04 furthermore resolves that “congregations be encouraged to support their pastors’ continuing education financially and provide the time needed for continuing education”; and

Whereas, In the press of pastoral life pastors often find it difficult to maintain a robust study of God’s Word and the teachings of Scripture, along with the necessary tools for that study, the use of the biblical languages; and

Whereas, In the heyday of the Synodical Conference the pastoral winkels (“Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model”) provided for:

- the regular, formal study of the Scriptures, led by pastors for pastors;
 - the regular, formal study of the Confessions and the Lutheran dogmatic tradition, led by pastors for pastors;
 - the regular, formal study of illuminating historical issues and contemporary threats to the teaching of God’s Word and our blessed Confession, led by pastors for pastors;
 - the regular, formal critique of the teaching and proclamation of the pastors in the winkel;
- and

Whereas, Although the demise of the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model may be attributed to many factors, it has inevitably led to the backgrounding of sound doctrine in the pastoral mind and to a dearth of regularized and formal continuing education; and

Whereas, The contemporary, largely unstructured “9 to 12” model of the circuit winkel provides, anecdotally, little professional gain and is often bereft of serious study of God’s Word and our blessed Confession; and

Whereas, *The Circuit Visitors Manual* of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (2020) notes that the two primary goals and purposes of the circuit winkel are “Spiritual Development and Enrichment” and “Continuing Education Experiences” (pp. 200-201); and

Whereas, Many circuit winkels have become increasingly irrelevant and ineffective in achieving those goals and purposes; and

Whereas, The observation in *The Circuit Visitors Manual* of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (2020) that “the brethren respond with a higher sense of responsibility when a program is structured rather than casual” (p. 202) is borne out by experience; and

Whereas, *The Circuit Visitors Manual* of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (2020) recommends a 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. schedule to provide time for pastors to “present theological papers, do exegesis on a text, prepare sermon studies, and the like” (p. 202); and

Whereas, Over against many other forms of continuing education, the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model proves cost-effective by not only involving pastors in the passive reception of the teaching of God’s Word and our blessed Confession on a monthly basis, but also in regularly providing pastors with the opportunity actively to mine the sources and in turn teach what they have

learned, along with the ability to lay their gleanings before the brothers to verify whether “these things be so” (Acts 17:11); and

Whereas, LCMS Kansas District Circuit 6 pastors gathered in winkel have profitably and approvingly used the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model since September of 2019; and

Whereas, The LCMS Kansas District pastors of Circuit 6 have been edified by the use of the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model, both in their personal study and in participating in and receiving the teaching and brotherly critique of their peers; and

Whereas, The Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model generates *koinonia* around the only thing that in Christ’s Church can create it—His holy Word and our blessed Confession—but the absence of serious study of that Word and our Confession leads to the rupture of *koinonia*; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the District President provide to all circuit visitors and pastors of the LCMS Kansas District a template for the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model which provides, on a monthly basis, for significant and adequate time devoted to: (a) the regular, formal study of God’s Word in the original languages led by a circuit pastor; (b) the regular, formal study of our blessed Confession and/or the Lutheran dogmatic tradition led by a circuit pastor; (c) the regular, formal study of an historical, pastoral-theological, or polemical topic led by a circuit pastor; and (d) regular, formal pastor-led critique of the winkel preacher’s sermon; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this convention and the District President provide strong encouragement to circuit visitors and pastors to adopt the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model described above as the regular practice in all circuits; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the pastors of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to embrace the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model and readily, gladly, and energetically to participate in it, for their own theological growth, to maintain the tools of theology in their midst, and to foster *koinonia* in their midst; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the congregations of the LCMS Kansas District encourage their pastors’ robust participation in the study of God’s Word and our blessed Confession in their circuit winkels using the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model by providing them with adequate time (for, e.g., personal study and preparation and additional time spent with the circuit pastors in winkel) and sufficient resources (for, e.g., book purchases, travel to winkel); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the District President report back to this convention in 2025 on the implementation of the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model in the circuits of our district and its reception by and benefit to pastors and congregations alike; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this convention memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at the 2023 convention to urge and encourage:

- the district presidents, the executive director of Pastoral Education, the circuit visitors and pastors to adopt the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model in all circuits of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
- the pastors to embrace and readily, gladly, and energetically to use the Model; and
- the congregations to encourage their pastors’ use of the Model by providing them with adequate time and sufficient resources to do the same.

A motion to amend, adding a “RESOLVED” at line 120 to the resolution was seconded:

RESOLVED that pastors be strongly encouraged to attend and actively participate in their
winkels; and

Vote for Amendment

Action: None. Motion Failed [Yes: 70; No: 103]

The original resolution came before the delegates.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 124; No: 47]

Resolution 22-02-03 (from *Overture 22-02-06*)

To Develop Biblically Faithful Textbooks/Curricula for Our Day Schools, High Schools, and Home Schools

Whereas, Education in all subject areas is first and foremost about what is taught, namely that
which is good, true, and beautiful; and

Whereas, Secular education in all subject areas is increasingly subject to forces from anti-God, anti-
Christ, anti-family, pro-death, amoral, anti-truth, and even anti-beauty perspectives; and

Whereas, The Holy Scriptures provide the norm and framework for knowledge in all subject areas,
all being interwoven in significant ways with right theology, ethics, history, and human nature as revealed
by God therein; and

Whereas, The LCMS has the second-largest system of parochial schools in America, but too often
they are using secular textbooks/curricula or publications from non-Lutheran traditions; and

Whereas, Many Lutheran parents who homeschool their children find good, biblically faithful
textbook/curricula options to be sorely lacking; and

Whereas, Christian schools and home schools in general would benefit greatly from having more
biblically faithful Christian textbook/curricula options; and

Whereas, The natural sciences, especially biology and earth sciences, are prone to the grievous
errors of Darwinism and Deep Time, which directly undermine the integrity of the Scriptures and the
Gospel itself by putting death before the Fall; and

Whereas, The Discovery Works science textbooks available from Concordia Publishing House, the
only day school curricula available from CPH besides religion curriculum and some lesson plans, are
outdated (© 1999) and rather limited (grades 1-6); and

Whereas, It was resolved by the Synod in convention in 2019 (Res. 5-09A) “that pastors and other
church workers be encouraged to confess, witness to, and uphold in their teaching the Synod’s publicly
stated positions as set forth in A Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod, Article 5
(adopted 1932):

We teach that God has created heaven and earth, and that in the manner and in the space of time
recorded in the Holy Scriptures, especially Gen. 1 and 2, namely, by His almighty creative word, and
in six days. We reject every doctrine which denies or limits the work of creation as taught in
Scripture. In our days it is denied or limited by those who assert, ostensibly in deference to science,
that the world came into existence through a process of evolution; that is, that it has, in immense
periods of time, developed more or less of itself. Since no man was present when it pleased God to
create the world, we must look for a reliable account of creation to God’s own record, found in

God's own book, the Bible. We accept God's own record with full confidence and confess with Luther's Catechism: "I believe that God has made me and all creatures."

which certainly should include writings as presented to students by their teachers via textbooks/curricula; and

Whereas, The need is urgent, as common experience shows many young adults rejecting their baptismal vows, their doubts arising in middle school and high school when Darwinism and its many related false "-isms" are proclaimed by secular textbooks, while either no counter arguments for biblical truth are available or those presented are inadequate; and

Whereas, The LCMS has a university system and two seminaries housing expertise across all subject areas, for producing excellent curricula and textbooks for grades K-12 as well as providing theologically sound editorial oversight to ensure that content is biblically faithful in its Christian apologetic (such as Gen. 1-11); and

Whereas, The LCMS has its own publishing house; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Kansas District in conjunction with the LCMS Wyoming District (**Res. 1-03-2021**) memorialize the Synod in convention to direct and coordinate the systematic preparation and production of biblically faithful curricula and textbooks across all subject areas, prioritizing biological and earth sciences, for grades K-12 day schools, high schools, and home schools; and

RESOLVED, That as much as is practical of this curricula be ready for market by 2026, be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Kansas District request that Concordia Publishing House cooperate with districts in providing training in their curricula.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 147; No: 26]

Resolution 22-02-04 (from *Overture 22-02-02*)

To Encourage Daily Family Prayer and Promote the Use of District Resources Provided by the Kansas District Adult Education Committee

Whereas, Our Lord blesses those who hear His Word and keep it (Luke 11:28), instructing us: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them [His words] diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" (Deut. 6:5-7); and

Whereas, The faith that comes as a gift (Eph. 2:8) through the hearing of the word (Rom. 10:17) is entrusted to fathers and mothers for the salvation of their children (Is. 38:19); and

Whereas, Families today are bombarded with numerous demands on their time and find their attention pulled from the regular rhythm of morning and evening prayer and instruction in the Word of God (Ps. 42:8); and

Whereas, Due to our sinful nature, habits and rhythms of prayer sometimes tend toward atrophy and loss of direction; and

Whereas, A recent survey by the Adult Education Committee of the LCMS Kansas District showed that the main impediments to regular home prayer and Scripture reading are 1) a lack of sufficient time; 2) a lack of direction or guidance; and 3) an absence of habitual prayer; and

Whereas, The Adult Education Committee provides resources to address these three impediments on the Kansas District website; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to promote and/or distribute devotional and prayer resources (including those online) among its members, school families, and others; and be it further

RESOLVED, That circuit visitors publicize these resources to the pastors in their circuits; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That these resources be updated regularly by the Adult Education Committee making use of suggestions that they solicit from pastors, educators, and congregations of the LCMS Kansas District.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 162; No: 12]

Rev. John Werner gave the credentials report. At this session there are 93 voting lay delegates, 91 voting pastoral delegates, 62 advisory delegates, 21 special guests.

Elections were held for Board of Directors. [* denotes incumbents. Bold indicates election.]

Region 1

David Bruns, Christ, Overland Park*	97
Marvin Schulteis, Redeemer, Lawrence (at-large incumbent)	40
Marvin Weber, Zion, Vassar	36

Region 2

Phil Friedrichs, Bethlehem, Bremen	44
Bruce Schultz, St. John, Alma (at-large incumbent)	85
Dan Thalmann, St. John, Palmer*	45

2 nd Ballot	Bruce Schultz, St. John, Alma (at-large incumbent)	108
	Dan Thalmann, St. John, Palmer*	66

Region 3

Randy Allenbach, Holy Cross, Wichita	62
Curt Engelbrecht, Trinity, Wichita*	108

Region 4

Dave Bergmeier, Holy Cross, Dodge City	
Mark Wolters, Redeemer, Atwood*	160

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Elect 3)	
Rick Hanebutt (1), Hope, Shawnee*	142
Sue Kleber (3), Holy Cross, Wichita*	133
Gregg Wolgast (3), Holy Cross, Wichita	90
Ben Venteicher (4), Messiah, Hays	109

It was moved to ratify the slate of Circuit Visitors for the 16 Circuits of the Kansas District.

Region 1

- Circuit 1 Rev. Michael Dunaway
- Circuit 2 Rev. Ed Mease
- Circuit 3N Rev. Joel Schultz
- Circuit 3S Rev. James (Andy) Keltner
- Circuit 4 Rev. Don Haselhuhn
- Circuit 6 Rev. Sean Kilgo

Region 2

- Circuit 7 Rev. Philip Miller
- Circuit 8 Rev. Larry Boye
- Circuit 9 Rev. Kurt Letcher
- Circuit 12 Rev. Dale Dumperth

Region 3

- Circuit 5 Rev. Ted Cook
- Circuit 10 Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer
- Circuit 11 Rev. Mark Lovett

Region 4

- Circuit 13 Rev. Jason Toombs
- Circuit 15 Rev. Michael Schmidt
- Circuit 16 Rev. Randall Jahnke

Action: Ratified [Yes: 174; No: 4]

[Secretary's Note: At a caucus of the Circuit Visitors, Rev. James (Andy) Keltner was elected as chair of the Circuit Visitors, and he will represent them on the Kansas District Board of Directors.]

President Harrison, LCMS president, addressed the convention. He highlighted an \$1,000,000 increase in monies received by Synod from District during the time of COVID. The synod is in better financial shape than it has ever been. He thanked teachers and pastors for their labors. 11 people keep track of over 300 missionaries. Most missionaries serve in theological missions at seminaries. Missions are funded over a year in advance. Church planting works best when mother churches grow daughter congregations. Small matching grants support this work. \$2,000,000 have been given to Synod to plant churches. He offered a time of questions and answers. He encouraged us to affirm God's good creation as male and female. Less than one half of all the counties in the U.S.A. have an LCMS congregation. Official visits to Concordia Mequon and Concordia Texas have been part of the current work. Anti-racist

ideologies confront our schools, and are ungodly. The church is not an expert on guns, but is an expert at calling out the moral rot in America. Our forte is to note sin: transgender demands, video-game violence, lesbianism. Mental health is a concern we address in the church. We have a fabulous message. We are created in the image of God. We are worth the blood of Jesus. That is the best anti-racist message in the universe.

After announcements we recessed for the convention worship service.

Worship using the Divine Service was held at the convention center, with St. Paul's Clay Center as host congregation. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison preached on Scripture of the convention theme.

Friday June 10, 2022

President Justin Panzer called the convention to order.

Opening devotions were led by Vice-President Rev. Scott Snow.

Greetings came from Tom Stanton on behalf of the LLL in Kansas. He challenged congregations to raise up godly men to serve Christ's church.

Brenda Piester extended greetings from the Kansas District LWML. She relayed greetings from Kim Burdett, the District LWML president, and encouraged women to be faithful in growth and service to Christ.

The Share Video was presented to the convention. Then Floor Committee # 3, the Share Committee, was invited to the podium for convention business.

The Floor Committee "Share" was introduced to the convention. Rev. Phil Hoppe, as chairman of the Share Floor Committee introduced other members: Rev. Michael Hageman; Heather Croucher; Rebecca Hillman; Steve Mariano; Adam Goodpasture; Dan Thalmann; Jeff Maltz. They presented four resolutions to the convention for deliberation.

Rev. Andrew Wehling was invited to share thoughts as the chair of the church worker care committee. He reported a troubling percentage are struggling financially, mentally, spiritually, and physically, and invited all to watch a video about the needs of church workers, and how to help.

Resolution 22-03-01 (from *Overtures 22-03-01, 22-03-04, and 22-03-05*)

To Encourage the Implementation of the Church Worker Care Manual in LCMS Kansas District Congregations

Whereas, The Lord of the Church "gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11–12); and

Whereas, one of the seven mission priorities of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is to "*Promote and nurture the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of pastors and professional church workers*"; and

Whereas, The LCMS Kansas District Church Worker Care Committee, appointed by the LCMS Kansas District President in 2018, produced a Church Worker Care Manual to help congregations address this mission priority; and

Whereas, Six LCMS Kansas District congregations, including St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clay Center; T.I.G Partnership (Trinity Lutheran Church, Garden City; Grace Lutheran Church, Ulysses; and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lakin); Christ Lutheran Church, Overland Park; and St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Topeka have been piloting this project since 2020, and it has been well-received by lay leadership, church workers, and care teams and has been regarded as beneficial for the well-being of the congregation; and

Whereas, The LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors affirmed the use of the Church Worker Care Manual in Kansas District congregations in 2021; and

Whereas, LCMS Kansas District pastors and professional church workers were introduced to the Church Worker Care Manual in the fall of 2021; and

Whereas, All 2021 LCMS Kansas District congregation presidents were mailed a copy of the Church Worker Care Manual in October 2021 with encouragement from the LCMS Kansas District President to begin implementing its use with their pastor(s) and other professional church workers on staff (if applicable); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That lay leaders of LCMS Kansas District congregations be encouraged to implement the Church Worker Care Manual with their pastor(s) and other professional church workers (if applicable) within the 2022-2025 triennium; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That church worker care teams or other appropriate boards or individuals within the congregation would focus their efforts on praying for, encouraging, and offering respite opportunities (sabbaticals, retreats like Doxology and Grace Place, etc.) for church workers, promoting and supporting financially the continuing education of their called workers, and providing compensation for church workers that meets or exceeds established guidelines in the LCMS Kansas District.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 149; No: 8]

Resolution 22-03-02 (from *Overture 22-03-02*)

To Offer a Districtwide Model for Christ-Centered Community Service

Whereas, God has commanded us to help one another (2 Cor. 9:12, Matt. 5:16); and

Whereas, This command can be facilitated by local churches of the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

Whereas, The LCMS Kansas District can be a resource for the local churches by initiating districtwide service projects; and

Whereas, The Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has recently implemented a statewide “Shine!” servant event (<https://mo.lcms.org/shine>) and has offered to assist the Kansas District in developing a similar program; and

Whereas, There are LCMS Kansas District board-designated unrestricted funds available to develop and implement the program; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Office of the District President of the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod give a high priority to create a task force to develop and implement districtwide, congregation-based service projects for the triennium 2022-2025.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 134; No: 12]

Resolution 22-03-03 (from Overture 22-03-02)

To Thank God for the LCMS Foundation and Encourage LCMS Congregations to Educate People about Planned Giving Opportunities

Whereas, God abundantly blesses us with His gifts out of His grace (Ps. 24:1; Deut. 8:18); and

Whereas, God calls us to good stewardship of not just our income but our assets (Ex. 35:5); and

Whereas, The LCMS Kansas District has entered into a partnership with the LCMS Foundation in response to a 2018 district convention resolution (18-01-06) to provide a free resource to LCMS Kansans for gift planning education and opportunities; and

Whereas, Working with the LCMS Foundation for planned giving expands the ability of LCMS Kansans to support and bless LCMS ministries like local churches and schools, various mission efforts of the Kansas District and the Synod including church and school planting, the seminaries and Concordia University System, as well as other Lutheran agencies and Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs); and

Whereas, Our world is in the midst of a significant wealth transfer, and it would be wise for the Church to encourage people to use a share of those resources for the benefit of the Church now and in the years to come; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to provide gift planning education by scheduling a gift planning presentation with a trained advocate in the upcoming triennium; and be it further

RESOLVED, That LCMS Kansans be encouraged to give generously to support the work of the Church, potentially through writing a Lifetime Plan for Giving with LCMS Foundation staff; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we thank God for the LCMS Foundation and the newly established partnership with the LCMS Kansas District.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 129; No: 8]

Resolution 22-03-04 (from Overture 22-03-06)

To Encourage Communication Regarding Relocating Members

Whereas, Congregation members, including college students, often relocate to new communities and need encouragement to connect with LCMS congregations in their new location; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That all congregations, pastors, church workers, and church members be encouraged to prioritize prompt communication with one another so that both congregations may make contacts with relocating families or college students to encourage prompt connection with LCMS congregations in their new locations.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 161; No: 7]

The Share Floor Committee concluded its work.

OMNIBUS RESOLUTION A To Refer the Memorial to an Existing Board/Committee

The Omnibus A resolution was brought to convention.

Whereas, The District has numerous boards, offices, 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 memorial be referred to the listed administrative unit:

<u>Memorial</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Board, Office, or Committee</u>
Ov. 22-03-07	To Decrease the Term Limit of the Office of District President from 4 Terms (12 years) to 3 Terms (9 years)	Office of the District President

Action: Adopted [Yes: 139; No: 28]

The convention recessed for 30 minutes.

Rev. Benjamin Ball, Regional Vice President of the LCMS, presented the synod report.

Rev. John Werner reported for the credentials committee there were 155 voting delegates, 43 advisory delegates at this session.

The elections committee returned to complete elections. [* denotes incumbents. Bold indicates election.]

Board of Directors: Laity-At-Large

Marvin Schulteis, Redeemer, Lawrence *	88
Marvin Weber, Zion, Vassar	40
Kevin Fredrickson, Redeemer, Lawrence	54
Phil Friedrichs, Bethlehem, Bremen	44
Scott Schneider, Trinity, Wichita	41
Dan Thalmann, St. John, Palmer*	90
Randy Allenbach, Holy Cross, Wichita	45
2 nd Ballot	
Marvin Weber, Zion, Vassar	24
Kevin Fredrickson, Redeemer, Lawrence	42
Phil Friedrichs, Bethlehem, Bremen	24
Scott Schneider, Trinity, Wichita	32
Randy Allenbach, Holy Cross, Wichita	20

3 rd Ballot	Marvin Weber, Zion, Vassar	23
	Kevin Fredrickson, Redeemer, Lawrence	54
	Phil Friedrichs, Bethlehem, Bremen	32
	Scott Schneider, Trinity, Wichita	33
4 th Ballot	Kevin Fredrickson, Redeemer, Lawrence	65
	Phil Friedrichs, Bethlehem, Bremen	37
	Scott Schneider, Trinity, Wichita	42
5 th Ballot	Kevin Fredrickson, Redeemer, Lawrence	84
	Scott Schneider, Trinity, Wichita	61

CLERGY (elect 3; no two from same region -region numbers are listed)

Rev. Sean Kilgo (1), Redeemer, Lawrence	123
Rev Jonathan Scheck (3), St. Paul, Oswego and Trinity, Parsons	113
Rev. Michael Hageman (4), Trinity, Garden City	87
Rev. Daniel Harders (4), St. Peter, Holyrood and Zion, Claflin	74

COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Betty Amey (3), Holy Cross, Wichita	32
Ben Venteicher (4), Messiah, Hays	79
Cynthia Lavrenz (4), Trinity, Garden City	30

REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS (4; one from each region)

Kevin Fredrickson (1), Redeemer, Lawrence	136
Phil Friedrichs (2), Bethlehem, Bremen	140
Ken Wabel (3), Immanuel, Wichita	136
Brad Persinger (4), Immanuel, Norton	141

The elections committee concluded their worked and were thanked for their efforts.

Rev. Kevin Peterson and the “Teach” committee was called forward to present remaining resolutions to the convention.

Resolution 22-02-05 (Overture 22-02-03)

To Exhort the Congregations of the LCMS to Actively Encourage Future Lutheran School Teachers

Whereas, Only 26 percent of teachers serving in Lutheran schools are on the active commissioned minister roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) (2020–2021 Early Childhood and School Statistical Report; www.luthed.org); and

Whereas, The LCMS in the 2016 Synod convention adopted Resolution 8-01A, “To Encourage and Strengthen the Lutheran Ethos of Our LCMS Early Childhood Centers, Elementary Schools, and High Schools”; and

Whereas, Res. 8-01A specifically identified that a characteristic of a Lutheran school with a strong Lutheran ethos is having “LCMS-trained Lutheran teachers ... who know and are committed to the truths of the Scriptures as declared in our Lutheran Confessions”; and

Whereas, The number of new commissioned teachers has declined steadily since 2005 (Concordia University System [CUS] Board for University Education [BUE] statistics); and

Whereas, The fulfillment rate of requests for first-year Synod-trained candidates to LCMS calling entities has declined from 63 percent in 2010 to 30 percent in 2018 because of the lack of available Synod-trained candidates (CUS BUE statistics); and

Whereas, “The Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Lutheran Schools” (2019 Synod convention *Workbook*, 343–48) recommended that congregations equip and encourage young Lutherans to become strong Lutheran teachers in academics and in the Christian faith; and

Whereas, One of the top factors tied to likelihood to recommend teaching to a young person is support from school administration and Synod (“What’s Happening in our Schools?”, Concordia Plan Services research); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to aggressively, financially, and publicly support Lutheran administrators and teachers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That congregations of the LCMS Kansas District and their pastors and teachers, being led by the Holy Spirit, actively encourage future Lutheran school teachers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all LCMS Kansas District congregations strongly consider providing financial support through the district scholarship programs as well as direct support for students who are being trained at CUS schools to be Synod-rostered teachers, including at the early education, elementary and secondary levels; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Kansas District increase the Lutheran identity of our schools by continuing to provide scholarships to enable non-rostered teachers to complete teacher colloquy through the CUEnet program.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 147; No: 6]

Resolution 22-02-06 (Overture 22-02-05)

To Recruit and Equip Lutheran Administrators for Service in Early Childhood Centers and Schools

Whereas, God commands parents, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6); and

Whereas, Martin Luther said that “for the sake of the Church, we must have and maintain Christian schools” (“To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany That They Establish and Maintain Christian Schools,” 1524) and that “the schools will prove the very gates of hell, unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures and engraving them on the hearts of the youth”; and

Whereas, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has always supported Christian parents in their God-given vocation, including the education of children; and

Whereas, The LCMS has a distinguished history of over 175 years of assisting parents in this task through Lutheran schools; and

Whereas, Competent and faithful administrators are necessary to continue this task; and

Whereas, 40 percent of the current Lutheran school administrators are anticipated to retire within the next five years; and

Whereas, LCMS School Ministry has a School Leadership Development (SLED) program that recruits and equips administrators for LCMS schools; and

Whereas, It is essential to recruit and equip a new generation of faithful Lutheran administrators; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Kansas District, its circuits, and congregations be encouraged to identify and recruit future Synod-trained and/or colloquized administrators; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Kansas District, its circuits, and congregations pray for the current administrators of schools and early childhood centers.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 146; No: 7]

Resolution 22-02-07 (Overture 22-02-04)

To Promote, Support, and Give Thanks for Our Lutheran Early Childhood Centers and Elementary Schools

Whereas, The establishment of Lutheran schools has been a priority of faithful Lutherans since even before they joined to form the Synod; and

Whereas, In The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in 2020–2021 there were 1,741 early childhood centers, 828 elementary schools, and 97 high schools (2020–2021 *The Early Childhood and School Statistical Report*; www.luthed.org); and

Whereas, As of September 2021, members of the Kansas District are operating 43 early childhood centers with a 2021-22 enrollment of 2,212, and District congregations and associations are operating 14 K-8 schools with a total enrollment of 1,170; and

Whereas, The Office of National Mission (ONM) has identified planting schools as a priority for this triennium (2019 Resolution 4-03A); and

Whereas, The 2017 *LCMS Study of Young Adults* found that a typical congregation with higher retention rates operated or was associated with a Lutheran school (*Retention of Lutheran Millennials: LCMS Study of Young Adults*, 2017); and

Whereas, Early childhood centers, elementary schools, and high schools across the Synod shared the Gospel with over 200,000 students in 2020–2021 (*ibid.*); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That all congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to support and uplift Lutheran schools in prayer and encourage these schools to continue to be faithful to God’s Word and strive for excellence in catechizing and educating the students in their care; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Kansas District staff be directed to distribute materials associated with National Lutherans School Week to all congregations for use in worship; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Kansas District, its circuits, and congregations investigate the possibility of planting schools and early childhood centers; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the LCMS Kansas District in convention rise and give thanks to God for our Lutheran early childhood centers and elementary schools by singing the doxology.

Action: Adopted [Voice vote. Yes: clear majority; No: none heard]. The convention sang the doxology.

Rev. Roy Askins concluded his presentation paper for the convention.

We recessed for 30 minutes.

We reconvened for the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, led by Vice-President Mark Schulz.

Convention evaluations are on line at the convention website. Delegates are encouraged to spend five minutes to complete the evaluation.

President Panzer gave concluding remarks to the convention, reminding attendees of 1 Peter 2:9-10, and our theme of “Proclaim, Teach, and Share.” How excited are you to share simple news in your life? Can you, with the same vigor and fervor, proclaim the excellencies of Christ? Faith gives us a good conscience in Christ. He joins us to His body, and makes us a royal priesthood, to sacrifice and to pray for the Kingdom of God. It is impossible to ignore those in need around us. We are in worship and Bible Class to prepare to give a reason for the hope that is within us. Pass on what He first shared with us.

Credentials committee chair Rev. John Werner shared his final report. There are 155 voting delegates, 43 advisory, and 14 guests present at this session.

President Panzer concluded the convention at 3:50pm.

Soli Deo Gloria

Rev. Robert W. Grimm

Secretary, Kansas District LCMS