

Convention Proceedings

75th LCMS Kansas District Convention

“Abiding in the Word”

First Session - Thursday, June 5, 2025

President Rev. Justin Panzer announced the theme of the Kansas District Convention as “Abiding in the Word,” based upon John 8:31–32, “[Jesus said,] ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” He welcomed all in attendance and encouraged delegates and guests to live out our daily calling in Christ as His royal priesthood. He further encouraged the delegates to be liaisons between their congregation and the District so that the District can support local ministries with information and resources.

Opening devotions were led by First Vice-President Rev. Alan Stahlecker. His devotion centered on John 15:5, “[Jesus said,] ‘I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.’” He reminded us that the reason for our growth in faith is found in Christ and His Word and Sacraments; our good works flow from Jesus Christ, our Vine. His life flows in and through us to accomplish God’s purpose and will.

Guests were introduced: Synod officials Rev. Benjamin Ball, Rev. Dr. Steven Hokana, Mr. Sean Kowal, and Mr. Casey Carlson; Rev. William Weedon, the keynote speaker; and former Kansas District President Keith Kohlmeier. Former President Rev. Peter Lange sent his greetings in absentia. Rev. Panzer identified and thanked key groups who helped plan the convention: District staff, the convention planning committee, technology aides, Kansas District Board of Directors, District archivist, convention organist, and Tami Lierz. He also thanked his wife and family for supporting him during this busy schedule.

Rev. Panzer then introduced the church workers who are new to the District since 2022, and the convention welcomed them. He provided orientation on the seating and tables at the convention, as well as the Convention Workbook and Convention Business. He highlighted the Divine Service later this evening, with the offering going to “Supporting Theological Education”—not only Lutheran schools but also the West Africa seminary. He invited the delegates to share prayer requests for devotions during the convention. He pointed the delegates to the vendors found throughout the convention site.

Rev. Jason Toombs, chair of the Elections, Credentials, and Excuse Committee, introduced the committee, which also included Deac. Claire Gerrard and Ron Albrecht. He reported 97 voting lay delegates and 92 voting pastoral delegates, so there is a quorum. There are also 38 Advisory Ordained and Commissioned Ministers and 13 guests. He also reported that there are 38 excused absences.

Call to Order

The 75th Convention of the Kansas District was called to order by President Rev. Justin Panzer.

The orders of the day were adopted.

Rev. Jason Toombs from the Elections, Credentials, and Excuse Committee provided a tutorial for the electronic voting keypads. The 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. When speaking to this action, delegates may only discuss whether to adopt this resolution or remove the overture(s) from the resolution to the floor committee for action. Amendments and discussion on the subject matter of the overture(s) in question shall be saved for convention business, should the overture(s) be removed from the omnibus resolution. **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 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 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. The convention is not responsible for WIFI connections or a power source.**

23. No distribution of literature will be allowed in the Tony’s Event Pizza Center without pre-convention approval by the office of the District President.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 179; No: 1]

Convention Business

Rev. Justin Panzer presented the District President’s report to the convention (Convention Workbook pp. 32–34). He shared the mission of the Kansas District to assist its members in their mission work. He highlighted the work of church planting that has been ongoing through the last triennium in Concordia, De Soto, and Lake Wabaunsee. He also emphasized the work of church revitalization that is ongoing, especially at Christ Lutheran, Manhattan. He shared events that happened relating to Marriage Enrichment Seminars, Set Apart to Serve, and District Visits.

Floor Committee #4, “Structure and Administration,” was invited to the podium to bring the committee’s work to the convention. Rev. Christian Schultz, as chairman of the Committee, introduced other committee members: Rev. Troy Slater, DCE Brent Howard, DCE William Prann, Barry Montgomery, Matthew List, Curt Engelbrecht, and President Justin Panzer. They brought forward three resolutions.

Resolution 25-04-01 (from *Overture 25-04-06*)

To Approve Revisions to the LCMS Kansas District Bylaws Regarding Ranking the Vice-Presidents

WHEREAS, Bylaw 4.3.5 provides clarity for the election of Vice-Presidents in the case that no majority is reached on any particular ballot; and

WHEREAS, A further series of elections rank the Vice-Presidents (Bylaw 4.3.6) but do not provide a solution if no one receives majority on any particular ballot; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters approves the proposal for presentation to the 75th 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 Bylaw, as modified.

4.3.6 Upon the election of the regional Vice-Presidents, a final election shall 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. 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.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 176; No: 2]

Resolution 25-04-02 (from *Overture 25-04-01*)

To Approve Revisions to the LCMS Kansas District Bylaws Regarding Term Limits

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 2023 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, The Kansas District Board of Directors passed Resolution 23D-01-04, “To Establish Uniform Term Limits” by a unanimous vote on November 3, 2023:

Resolution 23D-01-04 – To Establish Uniform Term Limits

Whereas, in 1985 the Kansas District first established term limits for the Office of the District President to three (3), 3-year terms; and

Whereas, the 2009 Kansas District Convention passed Resolution 09-01-02 to increase the term limits for the Office of the District President by one term to four (4); and

Whereas, the 2022 Kansas District Convention passed Omnibus Resolution A: “To Decrease the Term Limit of the Office of the District President from 4 Terms (12 years) to 3 Terms (9 Years)” (Overture 22-03-07); and

Whereas, the conversation of the open floor committee hearings focused on making uniform terms of elected offices in the Kansas District and were not focused on reducing the term limit of the Office of the District President; and

Whereas, conversations with pastors at Circuit Winkel gatherings has provided near unanimous support of the same; and

Whereas, the Kansas District Board of Directors is in unanimous agreement of establishing uniform term limits; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Bylaws be changed to allow 4, 3-year term limits for the following positions: Region Vice-President, District Secretary, Board of Directors members, and Circuit Visitors; and be it finally

Resolved, that these changes be put into place immediately at the 2025 Kansas District Convention for the purpose of elections.

And;

WHEREAS, The Kansas District has received ample feedback from Ordained and Commissioned Ministers and Lay Members about the changes to the term limits; 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 75th 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.

3.3.2 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~~ four (4) consecutive terms.

3.3.6 Members of District boards and commissions shall be ineligible for reelection or reappointment to the same board or commission after serving ~~three~~ four (3) (4) 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.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 128; No: 54]

Resolution 25-04-03 (from *Overture 25-04-02*)

To Approve Revisions to the LCMS Kansas District Bylaws Regarding Ministers Conferences

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 2023 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, There are other regional conferences for Commissioned Ministers to participate, including the “Great Plains Lutheran Educators Conference” and “Lutheran Education Association Convocation”; and

WHEREAS, It is still the strong desire to retain the collegial and fraternal bonds between the Ordained and Commissioned Ministers of the Kansas District by holding a joint workers conference; and

WHEREAS, There are challenges of keeping a strict conference schedule and determining a conference keynote speaker that “fits the needs” of both groups of workers, especially when it comes to points needed for teacher licensure; 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 75th 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 Bylaw, as modified.

5.2.1.3 ~~In the odd-numbered years~~ **At least once a triennium**, the ordained ministers conference and the 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.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 131; No: 52]

Election of District President

Rev. Sean Kilgo, chair of the Nominations Committee, introduced his committee: Rev. Troy Slater, Rev. Michael Hageman, Kantor Bethany Johnson, Kevin Fredrickson, Phillip Friedrichs, Kenneth Wabel, Brad Persinger, and Rev. Joshua Woelmer (advisory). Rev. Kilgo introduced the slate for District President.

Rev. Toombs thanked the Nominations Committee for their work and conducted the election for District President.

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

***Rev. Justin Panzer** 173

Rev. Panzer greeting the Convention and expressed his thanks for continued trust in this office.

Floor Nominations

Rev. Panzer opened the floor to the floor nominations. None were submitted to the Nominations Committee. Rev. Panzer declared nominations closed.

Election of Vice-Presidents and Secretary

The assembly voted for District Vice-Presidents.

Region 1	Rev. David Kahle, Redeemer, Olathe	84
	Rev. Andrew Wehling, Immanuel, Lawrence	87
Region 2	*Rev. Alan Stahlecker, St. John, Lincolnville	177
Region 3	Rev. Scott Goltl, Ascension, Wichita	61
	*Rev. Michael Schotte, St. Paul, Preston	117

Region 4	*Rev. Michael Hageman, Trinity, Garden City	172
Secretary	Rev. Christian Schultz, First, Paola	42
	*Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Trinity, Paola	138

Election: Ranking the Vice-Presidents

Delegates ranked the Vice-Presidents. Ballots are as follows:

1st Vice-President

Rev. Michael Hageman	31 (17.22%)
Rev. Michael Schotte	18 (10.00%)
Rev. Alan Stahlecker	94 (52.22%)
Rev. Andrew Wehling	37 (20.56%)

2nd Vice-President

Rev. Michael Hageman	85 (46.70%)
Rev. Michael Schotte	40 (21.98%)
Rev. Andrew Wehling	57 (31.32%)

2 nd ballot	Rev. Michael Hageman	119
	Rev. Andrew Wehling	60

3rd Vice-President

Rev. Michael Schotte	97
Rev. Andrew Wehling	81

The First Vice-President is Rev. Alan Stahlecker, the Second Vice-President is Rev. Michael Hageman, the Third Vice-President is Rev. Michael Schotte, and the Fourth Vice-President is Rev. Andrew Wehling.

The Elections, Credentials, and Excuse Committee concluded its morning work.

Greetings

Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, greeted the convention. He emphasized the purpose of both seminaries in “preparing men to be pastors for faithful, life-long ministry according to the Scriptures and according to the Book of Concord; and women for life-long faithful *diaconia* for the people of God.” He challenged congregations to send men to one of our seminaries—at least one for every ten congregations would serve our Synod well. He shared a video for us produced by both seminaries, thanking congregations for sending young men to be pastors and highlighting the need for more church workers—not only pastors, but teachers, DCEs, deaconesses, and many others. He pointed out Ms. Christine Hoemann, Manager for Gift Planning and Donor Services of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, who is a guest at the convention.

We recessed for lunch. Rev. Stahlecker led us in prayer.

We reconvened for the afternoon's business as we sang two stanzas of "Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide."

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Panzer introduced Rev. William Weedon, assistant pastor at St. Paul Lutheran in Hamel, Illinois, and host of the podcast *The Word of the Lord Endures Forever*. (Further biographical information can be found on the Convention Workbook, page 5.) He presented on "The Word as Our Home—Abiding in the Father's House." In the darkest days of the Israelite people, when Babylon had taken everything they saw as valuable, the Jews were allowed to keep and bring the scrolls with them into exile. By doing this they were not left alone, for they brought with them the Word of God, that it would abide among them. We constantly live by breathing and eating. Faith lives by bringing into the soul the Word and Spirit of God. Faith is not merely an attribute we have, but it is received as life: a gift of God that feeds and breathes and lives in us. Rev. Weedon encouraged daily reading or listening to the Word of God, noting the unique benefits of reading and listening, so that our hearts would study and be refreshed by the Word. He noted that abiding is not a human achievement—it is an act of the True Vine to feed life to its branches. God uses the Word to work in our life through law and gospel. The law convicts us of our sin, and the gospel refreshes us and causes us not to despair, by proclaiming Christ and his sacrifice for us.

Convention Business

The *Proclaim* video highlighted the proclamation of the gospel of Christ in the Kansas District, explained the Herren Grant funds and projects that support this proclamation, and offered resources on Christian Estate Planning through the LCMS Foundation.

Floor Committee #1, "Proclaim," was invited to the podium to bring the committee's work to the convention. Rev. Robert Grimm, as chairman, introduced other committee members: Rev. Matthew Jennings, David Birnbaum, Kathy Bartels, Scott Bokelman, Joe Chretien, Sue Kleber, and Jeffrey Maltz. They brought forward four resolutions.

Resolution 25-01-01 (from Overture 25-01-01)

To Prioritize "Abiding in the Word" as a Mission and Ministry Focus for the 2025-2028 Triennium

WHEREAS, Christian believers in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod believe, teach, and confess that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17); and

WHEREAS, "We believe, teach and confess that the Gospel of the gracious justification of the sinner through faith in Jesus Christ is not only the chief doctrine of Holy Scripture and a basic presupposition for the interpretation of Scripture, but is the heart and center of our Christian faith and theology (material principle). We also believe, teach, and confess that only "the Word of God shall establish articles of faith" (Smalcald Articles, II, ii, 15), and that "the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments are the only rule and norm according to which all doctrines and teachers alike must be appraised and judged" (Formula of Concord (FC), Epitome, Rule and Norm, 1.) (formal principle). The Gospel, which is the center of our theology, is the Gospel to which the Scriptures bear witness, while the Scriptures from which we derive our theology direct us steadfastly to the Gospel of Jesus Christ." (A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles. 1973 Synod Convention Resolution 3-01. www.lcms.org/scriptural-and-confessional-principles); and

WHEREAS, "We believe, teach and confess that because the Scriptures have God as their author, they possess both the divine power to make men wise unto salvation through faith in Jesus Christ

(causative authority), as well as the divine authority to serve as the church's sole standard of doctrine and life (normative authority). We recognize that the authority of Scripture can be accepted only through faith and not merely by rational demonstration. As men of faith, we affirm not only that Holy Scripture is powerful and efficacious, but also that it is "the only judge, rule, and norm according to which, as the only touchstone, all doctrines should and must be understood, and judged as good or evil, right or wrong." (FC, Epitome, Rule and Norm, 7) (A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles. 1973 Synod Convention Resolution 3-01. www.lcms.org/scriptural-and-confessional-principles); and

WHEREAS, Jesus says in John 15:1-8, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."; and

WHEREAS, Jesus says in John 8:31-32, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther earnestly encouraged diligence in learning Scripture and the catechism:

"You are daily under the dominion of the devil, and he does not rest day or night in seeking to take you unawares and to kindle in your heart unbelief and wicked thoughts against...the commandments. Therefore, you must constantly keep God's Word in your heart, on your lips, and in your ears. For where the heart stands idle and the Word is not heard, the devil breaks in and does his damage before we realize it. On the other hand, when we seriously ponder the Word, hear it, and put it to use, such is its power that it never departs without fruit. It always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devotion, and it constantly creates clean hearts and minds. For this Word is not idle or dead, but effective and living." (Kolb-Wengert, Large Catechism I 100-101); and

WHEREAS, In baptism, Christian believers are connected to Christ as branches to the vine, which gives us our identity. "Living as the baptized" (1 Peter 2:9-10) is who we are connected to Christ. In this relationship that He has established with us through His Spirit, we will bear fruit in our lives: good fruit. The fruit of faith which consists in all the good works that Christians do, are the works done according to the Ten Commandments for the glory of God and the good of our neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Christ supplies all we need to bear abundant fruit through receiving the Word and Sacrament in church. The preaching one hears, the teaching one receives in Bible class, and receiving Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith; and

WHEREAS, The Word of God also comes to His people at home through personal and family Bible study, Bible reading, and devotion; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Mech observes that what is needed for addressing root problems of the Church today has been available to us all along:

"The answer to the challenge for the Church in this self-absorbed culture is found where it has always been found, in the Word of God. Interesting, isn't it? That almost all of the problems we face in the church and everyday life have to do with our being disconnected from the Word of God in one way or another? We need more of the Word of God in our lives, not less." (*Built on the Rock: The Healthy Congregation. CPH 2017, p. 28*); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ted Kober also notes in his book, “Built on the Rock: The Healthy Congregation,” the following:

“Healthy churches possess two main characteristics that distinguish them from the unhealthy:

1. Their members, especially the leadership, are regularly engaged in God’s Word, and as demonstrated by their familiarity with it and their desire to apply it to conflict.
2. Their members, beginning with the leaders, model reconciliation, through confession and forgiveness (p. 56)”; and,

“The more spiritually mature the members of a church are, especially the leaders, the healthier the church (p. 57)”; and,

“(Kober’s) observation, based on reconciliation experience, has led (him) to develop a rule-of-thumb measurement—a healthy church has at least 20 percent of its average worship attendance participating in adult Bible study (p. 58)”; and

“The Bible asserts that our spiritual growth and health depends on our connection to Christ through His Word. Those who dwell richly in that Word demonstrate spiritual maturity and health, individually and corporately. The Bible is our final authority on what makes a church healthy (p. 71)”; and

WHEREAS, Lack of a strong baptismal identity that is not regularly fed with the Word and Sacrament of Christ, 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 immature in God’s Word (Ephesians 4:13-14) and ill-equipped to “make a defense” (1 Peter 3:15) and engage in mission and ministry activities; and

WHEREAS, That as the members of the LCMS Kansas District faithfully and consistently “Abide in the Word,” the idols of vice are continually loosened on their hearts, and the new man is freed more and more to embrace those virtues the Holy Spirit is laboring to grow within God’s people, so that we are fit for service to our neighbor, equipping us for the tasks God has prepared for us; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas 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 (Romans 12:2) and to move forward boldly as the baptized people of God to expand the Kingdom by being regularly in the Word of God at church and at home (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 10:25); and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District and its members commit themselves to weekly worship and the study of God’s Word so that faith in Christ is nurtured and strengthened by the Holy Spirit. Parents, then, take what the pastor taught, and teach their children at home, as Luther states in his Small Catechism, “As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household.”; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District congregations and schools be encouraged to promote and use weekly *The Congregation at Prayer* resources developed by the District Parish Education Committee (<https://kslcms.org/education-youth/parish-education/cap/>). *The Congregation at Prayer* suggests daily readings, learn-by-heart Scripture and Catechism verses, a hymn to sing, along with a psalm and prayer to pray. *The Congregation at Prayer* also coordinates with the Church calendar; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District congregations and schools implement Lutheran-based curriculum in parish, school, and home settings that foster faith and growth in God’s Word across the lifespan from early learning through adult education; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District congregations be encouraged to bring their youth groups (e.g. KDYG, etc.) together at least once a year to study the Word of God and that Circuits provide ways (e.g. Theology on Tap, etc.) for adults to come together to study the Word of God; and be it further

Resolved, That the professional church workers of the LCMS Kansas District make every effort to attend the required yearly conferences, and be encouraged to attend other gatherings (i.e. Circuit Winkels, DCE Clusters, Pre-Lent, summer continuing education opportunities, Lutheran Teacher Conferences, etc.) where they can receive and grow in the Word of God with other church workers; and be it further

Resolved, That the lay people of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to immerse themselves in the Word of God through such things as congregational Bible studies, podcasts (e.g., *The Word of the Lord Endures Forever*) and other continuing education opportunities (e.g., *The Lay Bible Institute*) where they can continue to spiritually grow (Ephesians 4:13-15); and be it finally

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District memorialize the Synod as it gathers at the 2026 LCMS convention recommending adoption of a mission and ministry emphasis consistent with helping Lutheran Christians hold fast to their baptismal identity, based solely in the Word of God, as is the case with the Synod's current emphasis of *Making Disciples for Life* (2023 LCMS Res. 4-02).

Action: Adopted [Yes: 176; No: 9]

Resolution 25-01-02 (from *Overture 25-01-02*)

To Cultivate a Culture of Life in the Congregations and Schools of the LCMS Kansas District

WHEREAS, All life is valuable to God especially the most vulnerable (John 3:16–17; Psalm 139:13–16; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41–44; Psalm 31:14–15; Job 10:9–12; Matthew 6:26; 18:10; Psalm 82:3–4; Small Catechism [SC] III, First Article); and

WHEREAS, God created us to care about other people and to help them in their times of need (SC I, Fifth Commandment); and

WHEREAS, Mothers, fathers, and children are a gift from God entrusted to each other's care to form a family and serve Him through their love for each other (Genesis 1:27–28; Ephesians 5:22–6:4; Psalm 127:3); and

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

WHEREAS, The “Value Them Both Amendment” was defeated in the State of Kansas on August 2, 2022, thereby preserving a constitutional right to personal autonomy which includes determining whether to continue a pregnancy thus making the State of Kansas a safe-haven and destination place of abortion for many women in Kansas and surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has long worked to promote a culture of life; and

WHEREAS, There are many pro-life organizations in the State of Kansas which work to build a culture of life; and

WHEREAS, Establishing a culture of life begins in our churches, schools, and communities; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District in convention give thanks to God for His unending mercies, especially in overturning *Roe v. Wade*, thus preserving the lives of many unborn children; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District congregations and schools be encouraged to use Synod Life Ministry support and training materials, including but not limited to resources for policy manuals, guidance to Life Ministry agencies, and encouragement to access grants from allied institutions; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District leadership encourage congregational and school involvement with life ministry in ways such as education, advocacy, and human care efforts such as forming a Life Team through Lutherans for Life of Kansas, participating in sidewalk counseling, contacting legislators, etc.; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District congregations and schools be encouraged to work to provide care for those suffering from the effects of abortion and encourage God's people to show mercy by providing options to abortion such as adoption, pre- and postnatal care, housing support, offerings to support the purchase of an ultrasound machine for local pregnancy service centers, etc.; and be it finally

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District encourage all pastors, teachers, congregations, and schools to teach and proclaim human life as sacred and, in word and deed, live out mercy, life, and forgiveness in Jesus Christ our Savior (John 10:10).

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

Resolution 25-01-03 (from *Overture 25-01-03*)

To Increase Faithful Stewardship in the LCMS Kansas District

WHEREAS, Christian Stewardship is 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

WHEREAS, God's stewards are stewards by virtue of creation and their re-creation in Holy Baptism; therefore, they belong to the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:16-17, "From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" and

WHEREAS, God's stewards have been entrusted with life and life's resources and given the privilege of responsibly and joyfully managing them for Him. 1 Chronicles 29:14, "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you."; and

WHEREAS, God's stewards recognize that their lives are not solo performances but are personal responses to God, lived out within the community of faith to benefit the whole world. 1 Peter 4:10, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."; and

WHEREAS, God's stewards recognize that the Lord sets them apart from the world and by the transforming power of the Gospel sends them into the world to live out the Gospel. Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."; and

WHEREAS, God's stewards recognize that their stewardship flows out of God's act of love for them in Christ which empowers them, in turn, to love others in acts of Christ-like love. 1 John 4:19, "We love because he first loved us."; and

WHEREAS, God's stewards live intentionally in the light of the Lord's eternal purpose while being firmly committed to the here and now. Matthew 6:19-21, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."; and

WHEREAS, God's stewards are blessed with resources to aid in faithfully utilizing all that God has entrusted to their care, including presentations of stewardship principles through Bible studies and teaching (i.e., Philippians Conferences) and planned giving presentations by advocates trained through the partnership of the LCMS Kansas District and the LCMS Foundation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the people of the LCMS Kansas District, as God's stewards of His gifts, are to be thanked for their continued giving of support to their local congregations, ministries and missions, and to the LCMS Kansas District and to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations, or groups of congregations, of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to utilize the available resources for education and growth by providing opportunities for stewardship seminars and gift planning presentations by our trained advocates; and be it finally

Resolved, That the people of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to remain steadfast under trial; to recognize that everything they have is from God; and to continue to give generously and not grudgingly as Christ, our dear Lord, first gave of Himself to us. 1 Timothy 6:17-19, "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."

Action: Adopted [Yes: 185; No: 2]

Resolution 25-01-04 (from *Overture 25-01-04*)

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" (Matthew 28); 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 a myriad of ways, including 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 encompasses 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 LCMS 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 President for Congregation and Schools Services, 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 28 years of partnership with the Synod in Francophone West and Central Africa.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 172; No: 10]

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

The "Proclaim" Floor Committee has concluded its current work for convention.

Greetings

Rev. Dr. Paul Philp, executive director of the Concordia University Education Network, addressed the convention. He brought greetings from Pres. Hardy and all the campuses across our education system. He highlighted the results of the previous Synod Convention and the "Lutheran Identity and Mission Outcome Standards" that resulted. There has been excellent conversation and processes between Synod and the universities to strengthen both the bond between the two and the unified proclamation of the word that goes out to the students of our education system.

Dr. Bernard Bull, president of Concordia University Nebraska (CUNE), addressed the convention. He noted that CUNE exists to prepare church workers. Education there builds on faith formation that began at the baptismal font and continued through teaching in the home. It exists as a Lutheran education entity that points to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He highlighted the Lutheran identity of the students, faculty, and staff. He asked the delegates for continued prayers for Lutheran education in general and for our youth in an increasingly hostile culture, to encourage graduating seniors to look into the Concordia System, and to create a list of young people who may be interested in studying for church work.

We recessed for an afternoon break.

We reconvened and sang two stanzas of "Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide."

Mr. Jeffrey Maltz, District Vice President of LCEF for Kansas and Oklahoma, addressed the convention. He spoke regarding loan opportunities. There are a variety of loans available to congregations, especially

for small remodeling needs. There are also investment opportunities available, with LCEF offering 4% interest rates across the board.

The LCEF video highlighted the work of using investment funds to serve the congregations and church workers of our Synod. It highlighted the Church Worker Loan Pool, by which investors can take a slight reduction in earnings in order to help church workers afford housing, refinancing student loans or take out home equity loans.

Mr. Jason Jones, Gift Planning Counselor with the LCMS Foundation, shared with us the purpose of the Foundation to provide long-term investment management services to organizations of the church. It also provides gift-planning services for Lutheran congregations.

Convention Business

Rev. Daniel Grams, Assistant to the President for Congregational and School Services, informed the convention about the newly-formed Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation. Its mission is to provide scholarship to eligible students, empowering families to access Lutheran education. It can receive donations for scholarships and grant scholarships to students who apply. There are tax credit provisions that the State of Kansas has made available. He invited the delegates to help spread the word about this scholarship foundation. There are digital and printed materials available to share with congregational members.

Floor Committee #2, "Teach," was invited to bring their committee's work before the convention. Rev. Anthony Masinelli, as chairman, introduced the other members: Rev. Michael Schmidt, Deac. Ashley Nelson, Rachel Goodpasture, Linda Reed, Derek Smith, Dr. Bruce Schultz, and Rev. Daniel Grams. The floor committee had four resolutions for deliberation.

Resolution 25-02-01 (from *Overture 25-02-01*)

To Support the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation

WHEREAS, In 2014, the State of Kansas enacted the "Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program," the purpose of which is to provide scholarships for low-income children to attend the school of their parents' choice; and

WHEREAS, Scholarships are funded by donations made by individuals and businesses to an authorized scholarship granting organization; and

WHEREAS, Under the provisions of the program, the state has budgeted \$10 million to be made available to donors in the form of a 75% credit against their state tax liability on donations up to a maximum of \$500,000; and

WHEREAS, All children in grades K-8 with family incomes at or beneath 250% of the federal poverty level are eligible to receive scholarships of up to \$8,000 to attend and continue in qualified schools of the LCMS Kansas District; and

WHEREAS, The requirements for a school to participate include:

1. The school is accredited by the Kansas State Board of Education or an accrediting agency recognized by the state board (including National Lutheran School Accreditation),
2. The school officially notifies the state board of its intention to participate in the program, and
3. That the school complies with the requirements of the program, none of which restrict the school in any way from fulfilling its Christ-centered mission or require it to compromise its Lutheran identity; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors urged the formation of a scholarship granting organization for the benefit of Lutheran schools in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, In June 2024, the Kansas Lutheran Schools (KLS) Scholarship Foundation was incorporated with the Kansas Secretary of State as a new nonprofit entity, with the approval of its newly organized Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, The KLS Scholarship Foundation was officially designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and therefore can receive tax-deductible contributions; and

WHEREAS, In November 2024, the KLS Scholarship Foundation was recognized by the Kansas State Board of Education and could begin operating under the provisions of the scholarship program; and

WHEREAS, “The mission of the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation is to support Lutheran Schools in sustaining and expanding Christ-centered education for all children”; and

WHEREAS, Under the provisions of the “Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program,” the sole purpose of the KLS Scholarship Foundation is to provide scholarships for eligible children attending qualified K-8 schools of the LCMS Kansas District; and

WHEREAS, Donations to the KLS Scholarship Foundation:

1. help children and families receive a Christ-centered education who otherwise could not afford one;
 2. sustain Lutheran schools in Kansas as they expand their mission and impact;
 3. ensure that more people come to know wisdom, knowledge, and salvation in Jesus Christ;
- therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to disseminate information about the KLS Scholarship Foundation; and be it further

Resolved, That individuals and businessowners throughout the Kansas District prayerfully consider becoming donors to the KLS Scholarship Foundation (after consulting with their tax professional), even if their congregation does not presently have a Lutheran school ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, That any donations to the KLS Scholarship Foundation be in addition to the regular, proportionate, and first fruits giving of faithful Christian stewards to their congregations.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 183; No: 3]

Resolution 25-02-02 (from *Overture 25-02-02*)

To Encourage National Lutheran School Accreditation

WHEREAS, National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) has been accrediting schools and early childhood centers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod since 1987; and

WHEREAS, NLSA encourages, assists and recognizes schools and early childhood centers that provide quality Lutheran education and engage in continuous improvement; and

WHEREAS, NLSA is completely voluntary and is available for every school and early childhood center of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The goal of the NLSA process is to help centers and schools evaluate themselves based upon their unique purposes and national standards; and

WHEREAS, NLSA is a process of self-evaluation followed by a visit of objective observers designed to help Lutheran schools and centers improve the quality of their programs; and

WHEREAS, NLSA is the highest form of accreditation a Lutheran school can achieve because it evaluates the school's true mission and purpose; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran schools are an opportunity for outreach to the unchurched and others who are unaware of the saving grace of Christ, while at the same time supporting the catechesis and faith formation of children from families that are members of LCMS congregations; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran schools exist in a competitive market place, competing with public schools, a growing number of independent and/or Christian schools, exclusive private schools and parents who are considering homeschooling; and

WHEREAS, Parents exploring educational options for their children will be influenced whenever a school can demonstrate its quality such as that provided by NLSA, and

WHEREAS, For purposes of teacher licensure, professional development, and additional services, the State of Kansas requires non-public schools to be state-board accredited and fails to recognize the rigor, value, and standards embraced by NLSA; and

WHEREAS, There is concern among schools and/or stakeholders that the demands of state board accreditation may interfere with the unique mission of our Lutheran schools; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Kansas District in convention passed resolution 2006-03-02, "To Commend and Encourage National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) for Free Standing Early Childhood Centers & Lutheran & Lutheran Day Schools," and, to date, less than 20% in the LCMS Kansas District participate in NLSA; therefore be it

Resolved, That the schools and early childhood centers of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to participate in NLSA; and be it further

Resolved, That Board of Education and Youth along with the Executive Assistant for Congregational and Schools Services work with schools and early childhood ministries to identify barriers to participation in NLSA and develop strategies for overcoming those barriers; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Executive Assistant for Congregational and Schools Services work with LCMS School Ministry, and the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) to petition the Kansas State Board of Education to recognize NLSA as a valid accreditation model for Lutheran schools in Kansas.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 179; No: 6]

The convention watched a video on *Set Apart to Serve*. Rev. James Baneck encouraged church workers to have conversations with young people about entering church work. He encourages long-term commitment to raise children in the Christian faith, to instill in people a desire to serve as God has given them service, and to continue to talk with youth about service in God's church.

Resolution 25-02-03 (from *Overture 25-02-03*)

To Embrace the *Set Apart to Serve* Church Worker Recruitment Initiative

WHEREAS, Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38); and

WHEREAS, Since 1847 to the present day, a key objective of the LCMS has been the recruitment and preparation of pastors, teachers, and other commissioned church workers to preach, teach and share the Gospel of Jesus for eternal salvation; and

WHEREAS, The 2019 Synod Convention adopted Resolution 6-01 “To Support and Participate in the Comprehensive Church Worker Recruitment Initiative,” which requested LCMS districts and congregation of the Synod to:

... commend, financially support, and directly participate in this comprehensive, multi-year church worker recruitment initiative with (but not limited to) the following objectives:

- identifying, catechizing, encouraging, and supporting young boys and girls for church worker vocations;
- instilling church worker vocations as sacred and joyful, a “calling from God,” vocations of integrity and fulfillment, grounded in Christ and baptismal salvation;
- developing the “whole person” throughout this formation process: spiritually, in character, confessionally, physically, emotionally, synodically, and intellectually;
- supporting, encouraging, and caring for existing church workers for the welfare of the workers, for the proclamation and witness of the Gospel, and for workers to be healthy advocates of next generation church workers (*Proceedings*, 158); and

WHEREAS, The 2023 Synod Convention adopted Resolution 6-01 “To Affirm and Strengthen *Set Apart to Serve* in Word and Action”; and

WHEREAS, *Set Apart to Serve* (SAS) encompasses both the initial youth phase (infant baptism–12th grade) and a second phase focusing on individuals who may be considering professional church work vocations as a second career; and

WHEREAS, SAS was piloted in all 35 LCMS districts testing SAS church work recruitment strategies and resources. These resources were made freely available Synod wide by the end of calendar year 2023; and

WHEREAS, The pastoral office is the one divinely mandated office by our Lord (John 20:19-23; Romans 10:14-15; Ephesians 4:11-16) and the seven LCMS commissioned church work vocations have been established in love to support the Office of the Holy Ministry (Lutheran school teachers, directors of Christian Education, directors of Family Life Ministry, deaconesses, directors of Parish Music, directors of Church Ministries, directors of Christian Outreach) (*Lutheran Service Book: Agenda*, pp. 210 and 218); and

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

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

WHEREAS, In 2023 our LCMS schools requested 455 new teachers from our Concordia universities, but only 84 students were graduating with teaching degrees and Lutheran Teacher Diplomas; furthermore, LCMS congregations, schools and entities requested 79 other LCMS commissioned workers for placements, but only 64 church work students were graduating from the Concordia universities; therefore be it

Resolved, That LCMS Kansas District congregations be encouraged intentionally to pray for more ordained and commissioned workers in the church, for the continued and increased proclamation of the Gospel of Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That everyone in the LCMS Kansas District, including key influential adults (parents, family members, pastors, church workers, and congregation members) encourage youth and adults to consider a full-time church work vocation; and be it further

Resolved, That both district and congregations enhance institutional financial support of individuals who are enrolled in LCMS church work programs; and be it further

Resolved, That both district and congregation leaders intentionally address the compensation of church workers, promote church worker wellness, and encourage appreciation for all ordained and commissioned church workers in the LCMS Kansas District; and be it finally

Resolved, That all LCMS Kansas District congregations, schools, and entities be strongly encouraged to use SAS strategies, resources, and curriculum (found at lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve), as we strive together to accomplish one of the Synod's crucial official objectives, to "Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth" (Constitution Article III 3) in our life together.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 174; No: 8]

Resolution 25-02-04 (from *Overture 25-02-04*)

To Plant Schools and Lutheran Early Childhood Centers in the LCMS Kansas District

WHEREAS, The natural family, with parents directing the educational, cultural, and spiritual formation of their children, is the fundamental social unit that maintains and underpins society; and

WHEREAS, Schools have been developed and employed to assist parents in teaching letters, the liberating arts, and technical skills that equip children in areas outside of the parents' expertise; and

WHEREAS, School teachers, who spend much time with children and typically are held in high esteem, can greatly affect the social and spiritual development of the children in their classrooms; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of Lutheran schools to teach and catechize has been a priority of faithful Lutherans in North America since the first Lutheran school was opened by Swedish Lutherans in Delaware in 1640; and

WHEREAS, Modern public schools are devoid of references to a creative and redemptive God; and

WHEREAS, In The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in 2023–2024 there were 1,641 early childhood centers, 732 elementary schools, 623 middle schools, and 109 high schools (2023–2024 *Lutheran School Statistics*, www.luthed.org); and

WHEREAS, As of September 2024, members of the LCMS Kansas District are operating 40 early childhood centers with an enrollment of 1,941, and district congregations and associations are operating 14 elementary schools and one high school with a total enrollment of 1,141; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Kansas District Assistant to the President for Congregational and School Services, with associated boards and committees, provides administrative support of early childhood centers and schools as they interface with the Kansas Department of Education and with other accrediting agencies (e.g., National Lutheran School Accreditation); and

WHEREAS, Six LCMS Kansas District congregations are studying the feasibility of forming a Lutheran school, some with the assistance of an LCMS School Ministry Genesis Consultant; and

WHEREAS, There are many different models for a school ministry including classical, microschool, homeschool cooperatives and others, in addition to the traditional Lutheran school model; and

WHEREAS, Development and implementation of the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation provides a leveraged mechanism to support Lutheran schools in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Early childhood centers, elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools have a unique opportunity to share the Gospel of the crucified and risen Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Office of National Mission (ONM) has identified planting schools as a priority for this triennium (2023 Resolution 4-03); 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); 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, its circuits, and congregations investigate the possibility of planting schools and early childhood centers to support parents and families in the cultural and spiritual formation of our children; and be it further

Resolved, That individual members of LCMS Kansas District congregations be encouraged to prayerfully and financially support, especially through leveraged mechanisms such as the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation, elementary and secondary education in a distinctly Lutheran setting that includes catechesis of children from Lutheran families and non-Lutheran members of their communities; and be it further

Resolved, That such places identified for school planting work in partnership with the LCMS Kansas District and LCMS School Ministry to provide training, support, and, as available, funding for locally identified new school starts; 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 schools by singing the doxology.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 178; No: 5]

The convention stood in thanks for Lutheran early childhood centers and schools and sang the common doxology, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow."

The "Teach" Floor Committee has concluded its current work for convention.

Greetings

Rev. Dr. Jacob Corzine, Vice President of Publishing at Concordia Publishing House (CPH), greeted the convention. He highlighted the strengths of CPH as being centered in Scripture and the Confessions. CPH answers the challenges that the culture has for the church by equipping believers with the Word of God that is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. CPH is proud to equip pastors to preach and teach

God's Word by publishing commentaries and Bible studies. He shared the initiatives by CPH to improve the flow of CPH books into congregations. He touched on CPH's commitment to children's books, digital apps, and curriculum for schools.

Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, the new Executive Director of Lutherans for Life, addressed the convention. He encouraged pastors to preach and teach on life issues. He encouraged lay delegates to likewise speak up for life issues in the home and in society. He noted that the political sphere is only a small part of the pro-life movement; education towards godly decisions on the personal scale is equally important for the people in our pews. He noted that life issues touch on a broad range of topics, from abortion to end-of-life issues to the discussion of sexual identity.

Credentials Report

Rev. Jason Toombs gave the credentials report. Including those who arrived after convention was called to order, at this session there are 191 voting delegates. The committee oversaw the following elections.

Election: Members of the Board of Directors

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

COMMISSIONED MINISTER (Elect 3)

Christopher Dehning, Trinity, Winfield	114 (66.67%)
*Rachel Goodpasture, Trinity, Atchison	140 (81.87%)
Whitney Howard, St. John, Alma	33 (19.30%)
*Sue Kleber, Holy Cross, Wichita	60 (35.09%)
Deac. Bethany Stoever, Immanuel, Hepler	96 (56.14%)
Paul White, Mt. Calvary, Wamego	49 (28.65%)

Christopher Dehning, Rachel Goodpasture, and Bethany Stoever were declared elected by majority vote.

REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS (1 per region)

Region 1

*David Bruns, Christ, Overland Park	113 (63.84%)
Michael (Duke) Koerperich, First, Sabetha	19 (10.73%)
Marvin Schulteis, Redeemer, Lawrence	45 (25.42%)

Region 2

Scott Bokelman, Zion, Linn	48 (27.12%)
David Meisinger, Grace, McPherson	21 (11.86%)
*Bruce Schultz, St. John, Alma	108 (61.02%)

Region 3

*Curt Engelbrecht, Trinity, Wichita	167
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Region 4

Jay Meyer, Trinity, Garden City	49
*Mark Wolters, Redeemer, Atwood	124

Circuit Visitor Ratification

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

Region 1

Circuit 1 Rev. Ian Kinney
Circuit 2 Rev. Jason Boetcher
Circuit 3N Rev. Joel Schultz
Circuit 3S Rev. James (Andy) Keltner
Circuit 4 Rev. Timothy Booth
Circuit 6 Rev. Sean Kilgo

Region 2

Circuit 7 Rev. William Wingfield
Circuit 8 Rev. James Woelmer
Circuit 9 Rev. Kurt Letcher
Circuit 12 Rev. Troy Slater

Region 3

Circuit 5 Rev. Matthew Jennings
Circuit 10 Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer
Circuit 11 Rev. Michael Brockman

Region 4

Circuit 13 Rev. Christopher Craig
Circuit 15 Rev. Michael Schmidt
Circuit 16 Rev. Jason Toombs

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

[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.]

Announcements

After announcements we recessed for dinner and then the convention worship service later that evening.

Worship using the Divine Service was held at the convention center with Trinity, Salina as the host congregation. Rev. Benjamin Ball preached on the convention theme of Abiding in the Truth of God's Word.

Second Session – Friday, June 6, 2025

President Justin Panzer called the convention to order.

Opening devotions were led by Vice-President Rev. Michael Schotte. His devotion centered on Matthew 7:24, "[Jesus said:] 'Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.'" We all recognize how important a foundation is to a building. A faulty foundation can destroy a house, but foundations are also the last parts of a building to last after all else has gone. Those who neglect the foundation will lose the house. Those who neglect the foundation of

Jesus and the Word will lose their faith. We hear the Word and do it. We confess our sin, repent, and receive forgiveness. Jesus is God who buys us back from our sin by his precious blood. He satisfies our thirst. So we treasure, believe, and live out His Word, standing firm on this foundation.

Keynote Speaker

Rev. William Weedon presented his second keynote presentation. The title was “The Devil’s Schemes and the Counterfeit Stores.” The devil can’t stand up to the Word. He knows this, so his goal is to disconnect you from the Word of God. He tempts us to live in another story—it doesn’t matter which story in particular, as long as it isn’t the biblical story. As we see, when people disconnect from the biblical story, they are willing to believe in anything and everything. Our weapon is the Word of God. The devil is, as Jesus says, the father of lies. Rev. Weedon led us through Genesis 3 and the fall into sin. The devil tempted Eve (and tempts us) to believe that God is holding out on us. He mixed falsehood into truth to sow doubt in her mind. After they fell and lost their shining, righteous raiment, fig leaves couldn’t cover their sin; they needed the blood of a lamb. In Matthew 4, Rev. Weedon noted how Jesus combatted the lies of the devil by relying on God’s narrative and Word. Jesus did not budge from his baptismal narrative, matching every lie with truth from God’s Word. Finally, he taught from 2 Corinthians 10:3–5 that the Word has the power to destroy the devil’s strongholds (fortresses), which are arguments and opinions raised against God. Temptation therefore isn’t about the strength of our will but rather about the battle for narratives and beliefs. We should use the Bible to counteract the devil’s lies and narrative. Satan’s attacks are in fact hidden gifts to drive you back to God.

Greetings

Greetings came from Joe Chretien on behalf of the LLL/LHM in Kansas. He described the ways that the LLL supports ministries and church workers in Kansas. He described their booth at the State Fair and the nation-wide LLL’s work on the New Year’s Parade float, the only religious-themed float in the parade.

Elaine Engelman, president of the Kansas District LWML, greeted the convention. She first highlighted the mites that churches collect and send into the LWML. They disburse these funds through generous mission grants. She then said that it is the goal of LWML ladies to gather for study of God’s word, for fellowship, and for caring for the needy in the congregation and community. She expressed thanks to the congregations of the district and delegates of the convention, as the LWML serves them as sister servants in the Kingdom of God.

Convention Business

The Share Video was presented to the convention. It highlighted the Faith at Work service project that the district started in 2024 and plans to continue. Then Floor Committee #3, the Share Committee, was invited to the podium for convention business.

The Floor Committee #3, “Share,” was introduced to the convention. Rev. Troy Slater, as chairman of the “Share” Floor Committee, introduced other members: Rev. Christian Schultz, Brent Howard, William Prann, Barry Montgomery, Matthew List, Curt Engelbrecht, and Pres. Justin Panzer. He presented a video produced by LCEF on the mission work and church planting that is ongoing in De Soto, as a daughter mission congregation of Beautiful Savior, Olathe. They presented three resolutions to the convention for deliberation.

Resolution 25-03-01 (from *Overture 25-03-01*)

To Plant Churches in the LCMS Kansas District

WHEREAS, Church planting is the establishment of a new gathering of believers around Word and Sacrament with the intent of forming a sustainable congregation in communities that are experiencing or are expected to experience population growth or are without an LCMS presence; and

WHEREAS, As demographics continually shift, the work of church planting is vital in carrying out the work Christ has called the Church to do in reaching the lost and gathering the scattered (Luke 15; John 10); and

WHEREAS, Following our Lord's resurrection, He opened the minds of the disciples to understand the Scriptures and said, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem" (Luke 24:44-47); and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Office of National Mission (ONM) has developed a systematic approach to planting new churches through a church planting initiative called "Church Planting Simplified"; and

WHEREAS, The Bolick Foundation has granted \$2 million to the LCMS for the church planting initiative in the LCMS' districts; and

WHEREAS, Effective church planting models that focus on Word and Sacrament ministry include:

- a) the "mother/daughter" model where one congregation plants a new daughter congregation, sharing people and resources;
- b) the "sister congregation" model where a group of congregations in a geographic area work together to plant a congregation; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Kansas District currently has two church plants located in Concordia ("sister congregation model") and De Soto ("mother/daughter" model); and

WHEREAS, Opportunities for new church starts are best identified at a local level with individual congregations or circuits making the identifications in partnership with district and Synod; and

WHEREAS, Successful plants involve a group of committed laity as the sustaining core, sustained with the help of a neighboring pastor; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District encourage pastors and lay people to identify and initiate local opportunities for planting new congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That, by the grace of God, the LCMS Kansas District set a goal to plant at least one new congregation every triennium and ask for the prayers and the financial support of the entire Kansas District in this process; and be it finally

Resolved, That such places identified for church planting work in partnership with the LCMS Kansas District and LCMS Church Planting provide training, support, and, as available, funding for locally identified new church starts.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 166; No: 7]

Resolution 25-03-02 (from Overture 25-03-02)

To Promote Partnership in the Gospel in the LCMS Kansas District

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 LCMS Kansas District currently includes 155 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, The Lord has charged His Church to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name to all nations (Luke 24:47) and to make disciples by baptizing and teaching (Matthew 28:18-20); and

WHEREAS, Many congregations in the LCMS and the Kansas District are facing declining membership to the point that they are no longer financially able to support the cost of compensating a full-time pastor, especially considering healthcare costs and the rising cost of living; and

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); 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 convention encourages the LCMS Kansas District congregations to use the *Every One His Witness* and *re:Vitality* resources as they work to set congregation goals and missions, and to reach the unchurched and those who have drifted away; and be it further

Resolved, That resources be used that already exist to aid not only small congregations and multi-congregation parishes, but congregations of all sizes, and their pastors, such as The Partnership Project (Kansas District, www.kslcms.org), *re:Vitality* guided self-assessment (LCMS), MissionInsite reports (Lutheran Church Extension Fund), Rural and Small Town Mission resources (LCMS), and LCMS Stewardship Ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That circuit congregations, pastors, and lay people be encouraged to discuss best practice options and resources for their congregations with the District President and the Assistant to the President for Congregational and School Services; and be it further

Resolved, That larger congregations in the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to discuss options for how they might aid congregations in the District with the District President and the Assistant to the President for Congregational and School Services (Acts 11:27-30); 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 (Isaiah 55:11, "My Word . . . shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose").

Action: Adopted [Yes: 172; No: 9]

Resolution 25-03-03 (from *Overture 25-03-03*)

To Engage in Training for Witness and Outreach

WHEREAS, Christians as God's people are to "proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9b) and to always be prepared "to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15); and

WHEREAS, As Martin Luther observed, it might seem "best for God to take away our breath and let us die as soon as we are baptized and have begun to believe. But He lets us live here in order that we may lead other people to believe, doing for them what He has done for us" (*What Luther Says*, [CPH, 1959] § 3021; WA 12:267); and

WHEREAS, Christians know and interact with many non-Christians and unchurched people through their vocations and daily lives (e.g., family, coworkers, classmates); and

WHEREAS, Most people who attend church for the first time, or for the first time in a long time, do so at the invitation of a member who has a relationship with them; and

WHEREAS, In this sinful world, Christians are often hesitant to speak of Christ with others; and

WHEREAS, Such hesitancy can be addressed through both the continual hearing of the biblical message of the Gospel and also learning practical ways to become conversant in bearing witness to it; and

WHEREAS, There are many resources for teaching Christians how to become more comfortable bearing witness to Christ within the context of their vocations, including (but not limited to) *Every One His Witness* and *Connect to Disciple*, published by the LCMS Office of National Mission and Concordia Publishing House; and

WHEREAS, In the LCMS Kansas District many congregations have focused on neighborhood visitation through programs like *Jesus Door-2-Door (JD2D)*; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District remind all the baptized members of its congregations to recognize they are Christ's witnesses wherever they are; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District remind its pastors and other church workers to model for people a desire to reach the lost, whether they be unchurched or dechurched, following Paul's admonishment in 2 Timothy 4:5 to "do the work of an evangelist"; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District encourage its congregations to make the equipping of Christians for witness and outreach a priority over the coming triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District encourage its congregations, their pastors, and other church workers to teach church members in Bible studies and congregational workshops key witnessing skills, together with the opportunity to practice such skills; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District encourage and assist congregations as they train their members to tell the Good News about Jesus, Christ crucified for sinners, by providing resources and training witness and outreach facilitators; and be it finally

Resolved, That throughout the coming triennium each circuit be encouraged to sponsor a convocation focused on equipping Christians for witness and outreach.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 173; No: 9]

The “Share” Floor Committee concluded its work. The convention recessed for 30 minutes.

The convention reconvened by singing two stanzas of “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide.”

Synod President’s Report

Rev. Benjamin Ball, 2nd Vice-President of the LCMS and Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church & School in Hamel, Illinois, gave the Synod President’s Report to the convention. We first watched a video from Rev. Matthew Harrison, Synod President, introducing the theme for the next Synod Convention: “Christ Is Risen Indeed.” The video highlighted the national and international programs by which the LCMS is supporting missions, ministries, and church workers. Rev. Ball spoke about confession in the face of conflict. He highlighted the thoughts of Gregory of Nazianzus and the story of Rev. Georg Schieferdecker, who taught false doctrine on chiliasm, was expelled from the LCMS, repented, and was brought back. The Synod relied on the Word of God in responding to false doctrine and subsequent repentance. We need to seize this anew in every generation.

Rev. Ball presented on the Scriptural purposes for convening together as Synod and districts, especially as laid out in the LCMS Constitution’s articles. Acts 15 gives a biblical example of the apostles and elders gathering together to discuss the matter of circumcision for the Gentiles who had converted to faith in Christ. It was a matter of false doctrine that bound consciences to connect circumcision with salvation. This first council relied on the Bible to address the errors and make godly judgments. It then sent a letter and accompanying men to strengthen and encourage the Gentile church at Antioch. 1 Corinthians 12:4–31 also demonstrates the unity the church has around the body of Christ as we “drink of one Spirit.”

He spoke to the living out of the church’s confession in Article II that is also included in all our congregations’ constitutions. It points us back to living in God’s Word, confessing the truth in the Lutheran Confessions, and living out God’s Word in our lives and communities. God’s Word is not stagnant. We ought to be eager to create and maintain unity in the Spirit by the Word of God, avoiding division caused by error and false doctrine (Eph 4:3–6; 1 Cor 1:10; Rom 16:17). He led the convention through Article III of the LCMS Constitution (“Objectives”) to demonstrate how our education and mission activity flows from our faith and confession.

Finally, Rev. Ball updated the convention on new Synod programs. He hinted at a newly-designed LCMS website that will be made public soon. He closed by encouraging us to abide in the Word and hold to our Confessions. Another video from President Harrison encouraged us to hold fast to our shared faith and confession.

Questions and Answers followed his report. He responded to questions involving Luther Classical College in Casper, Wyoming; classical education; the Concordia University System; the Prior Approval Process, and the growing interest in producing and listening to podcasts.

The convention recessed for lunch. Rev. Schotte led us in a mealtime prayer.

The convention reconvened by singing the first stanza of “Let Me Be Thine Forever.”

Credentials Report

Deac. Claire Gerrard, from Trinity Lutheran, Garden City, gave the credentials report. At this session there are 181 voting delegates. The committee oversaw the following elections.

Election: Board of Directors Members

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

LAY-AT-LARGE MEMBERS (Elect 3)

1st Ballot

Scott Bokelman, Zion, Linn	104 (65.00%)
Duke Koerperich, First, Sabetha	27 (16.88%)
David Meisinger, Grace, McPherson	47 (29.38%)
Jay Meyer, Trinity, Garden City	46 (28.75%)
*Marvin Schulteis, Redeemer, Lawrence	73 (45.62%)
Brian Smith, Immanuel, Canton	65 (40.62%)
Kara Titus, Christ, Manhattan	99 (61.88%)

Scott Bokelman and Kara Titus were elected to the Board of Directors. The 2nd ballot continues with the remaining names.

2nd Ballot

Duke Koerperich, First, Sabetha	11 (7.01%)
David Meisinger, Grace, McPherson	18 (11.46%)
Jay Meyer, Trinity, Garden City	22 (14.01%)
*Marvin Schulteis, Redeemer, Lawrence	56 (35.67%)
Brian Smith, Immanuel, Canton	50 (31.85%)

There was not an election. Three names were removed from the ballot for having received less than 15% of the votes.

3rd Ballot

*Marvin Schulteis, Redeemer, Lawrence	89
Brian Smith, Immanuel, Canton	73

Marvin Schulteis was reelected to serve on the Board of Directors in a lay at-large position.

Election: District Nominations Committee

CLERGY (elect 3; no two from same region—region numbers are listed in parentheses)

Rev. Ed Mease (3), Emeritus	162
Rev. Michael Schmidt (4), Peace, Natoma and First, Plainville	165

Rev. Andrew Wehling (1), Immanuel, Lawrence

160

COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Kathy Bartels, St. John's, Topeka 69

Sue Kleber, Holy Cross, Wichita 91

REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS (4; one from each region)

Michael Bachelor (1), First, Sabetha 158

Jay Meyer (4), Trinity, Garden City 160

Daniel Snyder (3), Immanuel, Wichita 159

Stephen Weller (2), Grace, McPherson 158

Election: Synod Convention Nominations Committee

CHURCH WORKER, ORDAINED OR COMMISSIONED (DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE)

Rev. Daniel Grams, Beautiful Savior, Olathe 78 (46.15%)

Rev. Ed Mease, Emeritus 28 (16.57%)

Rev. Michael Schmidt, Peace, Natoma and First, Plainville 27 (15.98%)

Rev. Alan Stahlecker, St. John, Lincolnville 36 (21.30%)

There was not an election. The name receiving the least number of votes was removed from the next ballot.

2nd Ballot

Rev. Daniel Grams, Beautiful Savior, Olathe 99 (57.89%)

Rev. Ed Mease, Emeritus 27 (15.79%)

Rev. Alan Stahlecker, St. John, Lincolnville 45 (26.32%)

There was an election. Rev. Daniel Grams will represent Kansas on the Synod Nominating Committee. Another ballot without his name was brought before the body to elect an alternate.

ALTERNATE

Rev. Ed Mease, Emeritus 43 (25.29%)

Rev. Michael Schmidt, Peace, Natoma and First, Plainville 33 (19.41%)

Rev. Alan Stahlecker, St. John, Lincolnville 94 (55.29%)

Rev. Alan Stahlecker will serve as the alternate delegate to the Synod Nominating Committee.

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

Convention Business

Rev. Panzer invited Floor Committee #4, "Structure and Administration," to present resolutions to the body.

Resolution 25-04-04 (from *Overture 25-04-03*)

To Approve Revisions to the LCMS Kansas District Bylaws Regarding Quarterly Board Meetings

WHEREAS, LCMS Handbook 1.5.3 says “Every agency of the Synod shall meet at least quarterly unless otherwise stipulated in the Bylaws”; and

WHEREAS, “A minimum of four (4) times” is not as precise of a time designation as “quarterly”; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters approves the proposal for presentation to the 75th 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 Bylaw, as modified.

3.2.1.3(a) The Board of Directors shall meet ~~a minimum of four (4) times~~ at least quarterly 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.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 165; No: 4]

Resolution 25-04-05 (from *Overture 25-04-04*)

To Approve Revisions to the LCMS Kansas District Bylaws Regarding Term of Office of Appointive Boards

WHEREAS, Appointive boards, committees, and commissions do not receive their appointment at the District Convention but rather later; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters approves the proposal for presentation to the 75th 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 Bylaw, as modified.

3.3.5 The term of office of appointive boards, committees, and commissions shall run from the moment of their appointment until the next concurrent with District Convention. Due to their responsibilities, the District Youth Ministry Team and the Church Worker Conference Planning Committee are exempt from ~~this, running concurrent with District convention.~~

Action: Adopted [Yes: 165; No: 4]

Resolution 25-04-06 (from *Overture 25-04-05*)

To Approve Revisions to the LCMS Kansas District Bylaws Regarding Filling Vacancies in Standing Committees

WHEREAS, The members of standing committees “are appointed by the District President and approved by the Board of Directors” (Bylaw 3.2.6.1) and must be “members in good standing of a voting congregation of the Kansas District” (Bylaw 3.2.6.2); and

WHEREAS, The language for filling vacancies of these standing committees is vague; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters approves the proposal for presentation to the 75th 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 Bylaw, as modified.

3.7.3 Vacancies in standing committees shall be filled by the District President upon approval by the Board of Directors with a member who is in good standing of a voting congregation of the Kansas District.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 168; No: 3]

Resolution 25-04-07 (from *Overture 25-04-07*)

To Approve Revisions to the LCMS Kansas District Bylaws Regarding Credentials for Voting Delegates

WHEREAS, According to Synod Handbook 4.2.2.(a), the District must allow voting delegates to provide proper credentials to the District Secretary up to the opening day of convention; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters approves the proposal for presentation to the 75th 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 Bylaw, as modified.

5.1.2 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. Delegates may also provide such credentials to the District Secretary at the opening of the convention. Congregations of a multi-congregation parish not contributing a lay voter may send an advisory lay delegate, with voice but no vote, according to the Synod Bylaws.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 161; No: 9]

Resolution 25-04-08 (from *Overture 25-04-08*)

To Approve Revisions to the LCMS Kansas District Bylaws Regarding Expenses for Conferences

WHEREAS, Congregations cannot be compelled to bear the expense of sending their ordained or commissioned ministers to Synod or District conferences (LCMS Constitution, Article VII); and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters approves the proposal for presentation to the 75th 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 Bylaw, as modified.

5.2.2.1 It is requested that tTravel, 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.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 150; No: 16]

Resolution 25-04-09 (from *Overture 25-04-09*)

To Approve Revisions to the LCMS Kansas District Bylaws Regarding Determination of Electoral Circuits

WHEREAS, According to the LCMS Handbook 3.1.2(a), an electoral circuit “shall be determined by the district board of directors”; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters approves the proposal for presentation to the 75th 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 Bylaw, as modified.

5.4 Electoral Circuit Meetings: The congregations of a visitation circuit or two adjacent visitation circuits, as determined by the Board of Directors, 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, according to the Synod Bylaws.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 167; No: 1]

Resolution 25-04-10 (from *Overture 25-04-10*)

To Approve Revisions to the LCMS Kansas District Bylaws Regarding Cleaning Up Formatting

WHEREAS, There are minor formatting and numbers errors that were included in the final approved copy of the 2022 District Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters approves the proposal for presentation to the 75th 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.

Bylaw 2.6: changing the subsections (a), (b), etc. to numbers 2.6.1, 2.6.2, etc.

Bylaw 3.3.6: remove underlining of the final sentence

Bylaw 5.1.12 ...

Bylaw 5.1.23 ...

Bylaw 5.1.34 ... (note that the four is crossed out, but this is at the same level as the crossbar for the number 4)

Bylaw 5.3: remove the underlining of the word “lay”

Action: Adopted [Yes: 159; No: 11]

The Bylaws are appended (Appendix A) as amended and adopted.

It was moved, seconded, and adopted to destroy the ballots at the conclusion of the convention.

Keynote Presenter

Rev. William Weedon was invited back to present his third keynote for the convention. The title of this keynote was “The Word that Endures—A Home We Cannot Lose.” He began with the description of the Word of God in Hebrews 4 as living and active. What is active in the Word is Jesus—He through the Word exposes the thoughts of our souls. Everything on Sunday is there precisely to let the Word of God do its work in our lives. The task of evangelism is therefore to invite people to “come and see” where

the Word is doing its thing: in the Word and Sacrament. We don't need to know all the answers—but we know the one who has all the answers. They—and we—die to sin and are raised again to new life. Even Paul learned that the cross is the center of our faith and proclamation as we are joined to Christ's death and resurrection. The Word is not always pleasant to sinful human ears. Both law and gospel can be painful. The law hurts as it convicts us of our sin. Jesus sometimes proclaimed a hard gospel (John 6:60). But Peter's response to these hard sayings was a focus on the Word: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God" (John 6:68–69). The Word then endures forever and does not fail, for it brings us to Jesus.

Greetings

Rev. Panzer invited Eden Keefe, current president of the National LWML and member of Beautiful Savior, Olathe, to share her greetings with the convention. She thanked LCMS Lutherans for their many donations to the LWML. Mite boxes in particular have brought in \$100,000,000 since 1942 for mission grants. She noted that the LWML has shifted to a new slogan, talking about "Lutheran Women in Mission" as they serve their local congregations. Their 41st Biennial Convention will soon take place at the end of June in Omaha, Nebraska. She thanked the delegates for their ongoing support of the LWML.

Rev. Dan Galchutt, Executive Director of the Office of National Missions in the LCMS, was invited to share his greetings. He highlighted the *national* aspect of his mission work. He noted that Jesus cast out demons from a man and then sent them into pigs that then rushed into a lake and drowned. When the man asked to follow him, Jesus replied, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you" (Luke 8:39). He encouraged the delegates to "go home" and return to the mission field that God has set before each one of us.

Convention Business

Rev. Panzer invited Rev. Robert Grimm, chair of Floor Committee #1, "Proclaim," to present a resolution that the committee chose to bring out of Omnibus C, with amendments.

Resolution 25-01-05 (from *Overture 25-01-06*)

Ecclesiastical Use of the Title "Father"

WHEREAS, The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 4:15, "For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel." (ESV); and

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus' words in Matthew 23:9, "And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven." (ESV); and

WHEREAS, We seek to avoid giving offense to the Gospel (2 Corinthians 6:3) while also understanding that there is the "weaker brother" (1 Corinthians 8:11); and

WHEREAS, The floor committee and the District President fully understand that this is causing some dissension among some pastors and confusion among some members of congregations in the Kansas District; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District refer this question to the exegetical faculties of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne to seek their opinions on

the proper ecclesiastical use of the title “Father” within six (6) months of the June 2025 Kansas District Convention and report those opinions back to the District President who will then disseminate the information to the 2025 Kansas District Convention delegates.

After discussion, there was a motion and second to call the question; it passed 135-33.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 111; No: 55]

OMNIBUS RESOLUTION B

To Direct the Petitioner to Previous Convention Action

The Omnibus B resolution was brought to convention.

WHEREAS, The District/Synod in convention has already spoken to certain proposals addressed to this convention; and

WHEREAS, There is no compelling reason to amplify or revise previous convention action(s) relating to these proposals; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That in the following instances the petitioners be referred to previous convention action(s) as indicated:

<u>Overture #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference (Conv and Res. #)</u>
Ov. 25-01-05	To Conduct Weekday Services and Offer the Lord’s Supper More Than Only Every Sunday Morning	2013 Synod Conv. Res. 3-12A 1995 Synod Conv. Res. 2-08A 1959 Synod Conv. Res. 4-23

Action: Adopted [Yes: 130; No: 18]

OMNIBUS RESOLUTION C

To Decline Certain Memorials

The Omnibus C resolution was brought to convention.

WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all memorials assigned to it and has 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:

<u>Overture #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Ov. 25-02-05	Use of the Historic One-Year Lectionary	This matter is covered under Article 6.4 of the LCMS Constitution that includes various lectionaries in Synod hymnbooks.

Action: Adopted [Yes: 143; No: 16]

The convention recessed for an afternoon break.

The convention reconvened by singing two stanzas of “Let Me Be Thine Forever.”

Commemoration of the Faithfully Departed

Vice-President Rev. Michael Hageman led us in a devotion for the Commemoration of the Faithfully Departed. His devotion centered on 1 Corinthians 15:55. He noted that J. S. Bach wrote a cantata titled “Come Sweet Death.” Can death be sweet? When we are abiding in the Word and believe that God is preparing for us a greater future and that the sting of death (sin) has been removed, we can recognize death as a defeated enemy that itself will pass away when we live with God forever.

The convention watched a short video from the “Church Worker Care Committee.” There is a Care Team Manual on the district website for lay delegates to consider as they support the church workers in their congregation.

Concluding Remarks, Installation of New Officers

Convention evaluations are online 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 John 8:31–32 and our theme of “Abiding in the Word.” All of this is centered on the work of Christ. His Word is living and active. Because we are dead in our trespasses and sins, God made us alive by the Holy Spirit by the Word, which continues to work in us to bless us. Jesus wants his preachers to preach the Word to all nations, because this is how faith is created and nurtured. Just as the body needs food and water, our souls need the bread of life and living water, which is Jesus, the Word of God. As we are gathered at the font, pulpit, and altar, we receive these gifts that give us a clean conscience before God. Dedicate yourself to regular study of God’s Word. Commit yourself to a daily Bible-reading plan. Further nurture that faith by coming to worship every Sunday morning. Watch out for the devil and his temptations. Be prepared to make a defense for the faith. God then uses us to be his witnesses to the nations, his holy priests who are called to “proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Pet 2:9). We must actively identify and reach out and invite those who need Christ’s life.

The vice-presidents, circuit visitors, and Board of Directors members who were present and elected were installed in a brief service.

Credentials Report

The Elections, Credentials, and Excuse Committee member Mr. Ron Albrecht shared their final report. At this session there were 191 voting delegates, 40 advisory delegates, and 21 special guests.

Adjournment

President Panzer adjourned the convention at 4:30 p.m.

Soli Deo Gloria

Rev. Joshua J. Woelmer

Secretary, Kansas District LCMS