



2022 PSD Convention Proceedings

Wednesday Afternoon Session

1:00 pm Call to Order

Opening Devotion (Region 3 VP, Rev. Timothy Eaton)

- Ephesians 3: 14-16 – “For Every Family”
- We are one family of God.
- Paul is given responsibility to reach out to all families of the world, for this reason we kneel.
- We know our Father in Heaven is loving and gracious to us.
- His is the Name over every family in the world – they may not know that yet but He Fathered them through creation and desires to Father them through grace.
- We begin each day in Convention to devote ourselves to God’s Word and His will, not our own agendas – so His agenda and our salvation takes center stage in Jesus Christ.
- We pray the Spirit would guide our voting thumbs and our throats at the microphone – His Spirit is in YOU!

Introduction of Guests

- Rev. Scott Murray, Regional Vice President, Synod Praesidium;
- President Matthew Harrison and Rev. Jeff Hemmer are en route;
- Rev. Mike Lange, CNH District President;
- Rev. Paul Linnemann, Northwest District President;
- Rev. Dr. Mike Newman, Texas District President;
- Kathy Gibson

Convention Registration Report

As of 1 p.m. today, those registered for the convention are:

- 116 Pastoral Voting Delegates
- 105 Lay Voting Delegates
- 221 Total Voting Delegates
- 30 Commissioned Minister Representatives
 - 12 Teachers
 - 13 DCEs
 - 1 Deaconess
 - 4 School Admins
 - 1 Professor
 - 4 are from Nevada
 - 5 are from Arizona
 - 22 are from SoCal
 - 17 Women
 - 14 Men



- 19 Pastoral Advisory Delegates
- 8 Commissioned Minister Advisory Delegates
- 39 Guests
- 30 Exhibitors
- 347 Total Attendees

1:25 pm Convention Business

Welcome New Congregations (see also Convention Workbook, Section II, page 11)

Victory Lutheran Church – Chula Vista
CA
(Merged – Church of Joy/Pilgrim Chula
Vista CA)
Chula Vista, CA

SEUM Korean Lutheran Church
Los Angeles, CA

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Corona, CA

Oromo Christian Fellowship
(Worship at Redeemer Lutheran San
Diego)
San Diego, CA

Oromo Lutheran Church
(Worship at Christ Church Lutheran
Phoenix)
Phoenix, AZ

Cross & Crown Lutheran Church
Tucson, AZ

Iglesia Luterana Betel of Orange
Irvine, CA

Hispanic Mission of San Bernardino and
Fontana

Welcome Newly Ordained Pastors and Commissioned Ministers (see also Convention Workbook pages Section 2, pages 14-18; 31-37)

Ordained

Acton, Thomas

Adams, Ricky

Anderson, Timothy

Barlow, Brian

Berg, John

Bronner, Michael

Brouwer, Jack

Chen, Timothy

Chitwood, Kenneth

Choi, Nam Jin (James)

Chrismer, Daniel

Crume, Chris

DeLoye, Gerald

DiLiberto, Anthony

Dueppen, Mike

Duerr, Nick

Duling, Collin

Espinosa, Alfonso (AJ)

Ferguson, Travis

Foss, Richard

Foster, Anthony

Geminn, Scott

Grant, Corey

Gobelch, Mike

Hanna, Nader

Heinlein, Dale

Henze, Gary

Huse, Thomas “Nathan”

Jenks, Kenneth (KC)

Johnson, Ricky

Jones, Joseph

Jones, Robert

Kapels, Calvin

Karolus, John

Kistler, Daniel

Knauss-Behal, Matthew

Koll, Quincy

Kuhnke, Gerald

LeBorious, Joshua



Lee, Martin (Schroeder)
Lopez, Antonio
Lowrey, Bill
Luckemeyer, Joel
Mai, Benjamin
Matthews, Frank
Mau, Gerhard
Mettala, Eric
Miller, Tom
Mossman, Donald
Nadeau, William (Bill)
Nagy, Scott
Ochoa, Gabriel
Palmer, Joshua
Pavich, Michael

Powers, Michael
Pinkerton, Van
Raabe, Paul
Radloff, Alan
Rivkin, Dominic
Ross, Andrew
Rufner, David
Safarik, Andrew
Schroeder, Robert
Schultze, Michael
Scheer, Jeffery
Seidler, Scott
Shin, Dong
Skov, Clare
Smith, Aaron

Stark, Rick
Stevens, Art
Sutherlin, Jeff
Toma, James
Tucker, Jeffrey
Velazquez, Carlos
Walther, John
Wampfler, Jacob
Wellik, Bradley
Wixon, Justin
Yue, James
Zavala, Alex

Commissioned

Amick, Deborah
Anderson, Jasmine
Anderson, Patricia
Armstrong, Debra
Arnold, Kimberly
Babineau, Haley
Bagnara, Alexander
Barcus, Kaylie
Bardeleben, Angela
Beaver, Amanda
Bierbaum, Edward
Bigon, Katherine
(Tucker)
Bowman, JoAnn
Brandenburg, Melissa
Bredehoff, Laura
Bredow, Rachel
Bredow, Ryan
Burkhart, Tammie
Cabrales, Maria
Cahill, Kyle
Cahill, Matthew
Cahill, Sara
Carrillo, Christina
Chaplin, Rebecca
Chapman, Darius
Cherry, Jr., Robert

Chilman, Matthew
Chinchilla, Erin
Chrismer, Emma
Chrzan, Rachelle
Coleman, Lisa
DeHoyos, Rebecca
Dirks, Dennis
Dopp, Sherry
Dougherty, Adam
Dougherty, Isabelle
(Upchurch)
Duggie, Rachel
Dwyer, Michelle
Egger, Caitlin
Egger, Christian
Ellis, Phyllis
Eschmann, Noah
Esswein, Ariana
Fink, Ryan
Ford, Leslie (Chris)
Frantz, Kymberly
Galchutt, Kathryn
Gansberg, Stephanie
Gast, Holly
Gast, Timothy
Gerard, Jacqueline
Gerber, Glenn

Gerber, Joan
Gong, Madeline
Gong, Wesley
Goodwin, James
Gorka, Katherine
Granley, Brenda
Granley, Russell
Grice, Richard
Guebert, Christian
Haase, Madison
Hafer, Marsha
Hansen, Kathryn
Hawkins, Madison
Hines, Rachel
Holle, Kathryn
Holmes, Jennifer
Hood, Matthew
Ivans, Alyssa
Jensen, Heather
Kuker, Gerald
Jobst, Ann
Jobst, Dwayne
Johnsen, Heidi
Jordening, Carol
Jostes, Jordan
Jostes, Steven
Kelso, Nicole



Kelso, Taylor
Kiehl, Karen
Kosberg, Makayla
Kusel, Jill
Kusel, Mark
Lange, Julia (Rivkin)
Larson, Stephanie
Lewis, Ellen
Lindblad, Cathy
Lofink, Karen
Lohman, Tessa
Lohmeyer, Daryl
Lovie, Jennie
Lovie, Maeson
Luckemeyer, Amy
Lyles, Elizabeth
Maqsood, Abigail
Marchese, Ruth
Martin, Lyn
McFall, Kathleen
Meyer, David
Miller, Sarah
Mollak, Krista
Moriarity, Linda
Morton, Christina
Nagel, Marlise

Nagy, Krista
Nelson, Erin
Neumeyer, Amanda
Newcom, Heather
Olson, Eric
Otto, Deanna
Parker, Alexander
Parrish, Madeline
Perna, Megan
Peterson, Keith
Phillips, Sarah
Porter, Shannon
Prann, William
Preston, Emily
Preston, Matthew
Prince, Heather
Pullman, Cameron
Raebel, Micah
Rodarte, Stacy
Rogner, Calisse
Root, Samantha
Ross, Sarah
Schmid, Erna
Schoenleb, Jr., Edwin
Selander, Corinn
Sheets, Corissa

Sheppard, Amy
Sielaff, Ann
Sievert, Kathryn
Sipp, Gabriela
Skrabanek, Janel
Spors, Robert
Steele, Ashley
Stevens, Nathan
Stigge, Judith
Stratton, Kristi
Stroh, Deborah
Stroh, Jr., Lester
Stupy, Erin
Swanson, Victoria
Thiesfeldt, Jackson
Thomas, Michael
Thompson, Michelle
Wahl, Rhoda
Walker, Kelsi
Weinlaeder, Kenneth
Weyer, Edith
Whitcomb, Rhonda
Williamson, June
Wingert, Angela
Wingert, Matthew
Zehnder, Stephen

Pastors: 60 active, 15 Emeritus, 6 Candidates

Commissioned Ministers: 90 active, 23 Emeritus, 37 Candidates

1:47 pm Dr. Steve Buuck – CEO, Faith Lutheran Middle and High School

- Every week 807,000 people come to Las Vegas.
- Special thanks to Gary Danning and Pat Sullivan for Facilities and Operations work to prepare for hosting Convention.
- Largest Protestant school on one property in the United States.
- 2,053 students are accepted for this fall; 522 kids are on a waiting list.
- Mission Statement: “Everyone Prepared! Everyone Saved!”
- Vision Statement: “Faith Lutheran is the standard of excellence in Christian education.”

2:02 pm Nominations Floor Committee – Jonathan Burkee

Explanation of Voting Machines and Microphone Queueing Device



- Representatives from Padgett explained how to use the voting machines and the queueing system.
- 1st Test Question
 - Is this your first time voting at the District Convention?
 - Yes 135
 - No 112
- What are your two favorite flavors of Ice Cream
 - Chocolate 102
 - Vanilla 98
 - Strawberry 58
 - Butter Pecan 68
 - Rocky Road 67
 - Mint Chocolate Chip 95
- Ranking of the seasons:
 - Winter 31
 - Spring 64
 - Summer 56
 - Fall 101

Standing Rules Adopted

The Standing Rules as listed in the convention workbook pages Section 1, pages 14-16 were adopted.

Yes 236 No 11

Election for District President

- 1st Vice President Vince Harman presided over the election for District President.
- One candidate: Mike Gibson
- Elected District President is Rev. Mike Gibson, elected by verbal acclamation.
- Chaplain Michael Hall prayed over President Gibson and Kathy Gibson.

2:24 pm District President's Address w/Q&A

- You are part of something bigger: Pacific Southwest District, LCMS, part of a church body tied to international bodies.
- Our Purpose: To effectively resource congregations and schools for transforming lives and making the Great Commission REAL!
- Illustration to describe where we are now: "A New Place on the Beach." If caught in a rip tide you cannot fight to go back to the same place you left. Instead, the current carries us parallel to shore until we are released and dropped off at a new, unfamiliar place on the beach.



- We, along with the rest of the world cannot go back to where we were at the beginning of March 2020. The new place on the beach is a place God is waiting to greet us and invite us into a new thing that He is doing.
- Cf. John 21:3 – Peter goes back to fishing after Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Despite the disciples catching nothing, breakfast is provided for them because of Jesus.
- There can be a tendency for us to say, “I don’t like this...” hostility, marginalization; temptation to turn inward and protect God’s truth from the unbelieving hoards.
- Most of the history of Christianity has been in a hostile and resisting culture. This is a hard season yet it is into this environment in the past others before us forsook everything for the sake of what we proclaim, teach and confess so it may be proclaimed to the world.
- This is a moment for us! Temptation is to relax; instead, put our foot on the accelerator.
- Three goals for our time together:
 - Opportunities and Challenges
 - We are a diverse place – population, culture, worldview. Over 300 congregations, over 150 schools, 6 major metropolitan areas with 36 million people and everyone in between. PSD is the green, growing edge of the Mission Field.
 - 54 congregations cannot afford full time pastors, others are on the verge.
 - 26 congregations are actively seeking pastors.
 - Thank God for COVID for what it has meant for our schools.
 - Partnerships and Resources
 - “It takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people.”
 - West Coast DPs spend every Monday morning in the Word, praying and connecting with each other.
 - West Coast Districts work together to orient new pastors in MAP for West Coast context of ministry.
 - The Mission Training Center is a way for pastors to have partnerships from well-trained lay people – doing what used to happen with the Licensed Lay Deacons and Parish Ministry Assistants. We have also partnered with Concordia University Irvine as they help us evaluate instructors, look at curriculum, syllabi, etc.
 - 100 in 10 Initiative – between now and the 100th anniversary of the PSD (2030-31) God would use all of us together to begin 100 new ministries in our District.
- A training resource was given to all delegates – “The Great Sending” and commended for use in congregations



- The Lutheran edition of Rooted is commended to the Convention – partnership from outside our church body in the Global South.
- Strategic Partnerships – Circuits, as well as congregations together are joining together motivated by mission instead of fear of closure.
- Our schools are able to build bridges into our communities. When parents trust you with their babies you have an opportunity to reach entire families and establish a legacy of for the Gospel.
- We are looking to build sustainable ministry models. A model for when congregations are struggling:
 - Retain – is this a place we want to retain? Is it a place we don't want to give up a foothold?
 - Remodel – Sometimes a new type of ministry needs to go into an existing place – e.g., LuTEC in local congregations with pastors as the theology teacher for the students.
 - Replant – go into a community, build relationships in the community, replant a ministry in this community that engages the community
- Financial partnerships have been significant since 2018.
 - PSD provided \$200,000 in COVID assistance to congregations and schools.
 - partnered with LCMS to give \$126,000 through Soldiers of the Cross.
 - The PSD Board of Directors established a fund of \$45,000 to assist non-rostered teachers in our Lutheran Schools to complete the Teacher Colloquy Program.
 - Mission India gifts combined through our District, congregations and individuals totaled \$488,000. A video on Mission India was shown.
 - PSD Regional Mission Councils gave Mission Development grants totaling \$1,823,000 to help advance the Gospel
- PSD had a perfect audit with no comments.
- The financial situation is that our giving is more than a million dollars a year less than budgeted. The gap is made up through special gifts and bequests that cannot be counted upon year by year. President Gibson invited the Convention to continue to support the district in order that they can better serve the ministries of the Pacific Southwest District and for to pray that God would do abundantly more among us than we could ever ask or imagine.
- Church worker development is an urgent need as a large number of pastors and church workers are facing retirement and are not being replaced relative to the level of need with new church workers. We are praying for church workers for recruitment and retention.
- Our Work at Convention
 - President Gibson gave thanks to all who are willing to serve by letting their names stand for election. He is also thanking those who are concluding service. Thank you to those who said yes to nominations. Thank you to the Nominating Committee.



- Thank you for Overtures and Floor Committees.
- Let's do our work at Convention in Unity in Mission and Confession. The devil does not need church bodies fighting with each other. Let's do this well!

3:20 pm Break

3:35 pm Election of Regional Vice Presidents

- President Mike Gibson
- There are 227 total voting delegates.
- Floor nominations are available for you to consider to submit on all positions from Vice Presidents through the rest of the slate (except Circuit Visitors). If you know you have someone to nominate from the floor we're asking you to do that today.
- Jonathan Burkee, Trinity, Casa Grande introducing elections.
- Nominations happen by region but all voting delegates vote for Vice President.
- Chaplain Mike Hall prayed over Vice President elections.

- Region 1
 - Rev. Matthew Wait / 30.1%
 - Rev. ST Williams/ 69.9%
- Elected Region 1 Vice-President with 144 votes is Rev. ST Williams.

- Region 2
 - Rev. Dustin Parker
- Elected Region 2 Vice-President by acclamation is Rev. Dustin Parker.

- Region 3
 - Rev. Timothy Eaton/50.94%
 - Rev. Glenn Lucas/ 49.06%
- Elected Region 3 Vice-President with 108 votes is Rev. Tim Eaton.

- Region 4
 - First Ballot
 - Rev. Tim Ahlman/36.87%
 - Rev. Vince Harman/42.86%
 - Rev. Derek Klemm/20.28%
 - No majority was received. Rev. Derek Klemm is dropped from the ballot.
 - Second Ballot
 - Rev. Tim Ahlman/43.84%
 - Rev. Vince Harman/56.16%
- Elected Region 4 Vice-President with 123 votes is Rev. Vince Harman.



- Ranking of Vice Presidents
 - Region 1 – Rev. ST Williams/20.26%
 - Region 2 – Rev. Dustin Parker/6.61%
 - Region 3 – Rev. Tim Eaton/22.91%
 - Region 4 – Rev. Vince Harman/50.22%
- Rev. Vince Harman elected 1st Vice President with 114 votes.
- Rev. Tim Eaton elected 2nd Vice President with 52 votes.
- Rev. ST Williams elected 3rd Vice President with 46 votes.
- Rev. Dustin Parker elected 4th Vice President with 15 votes.

Floor Nominations

- Floor nominations opened for positions other than District President and Vice President.
- No floor nominations received.

3:58 pm Lutheran Church Extension Fund Report - Tyler Fewins, LCEF District VP

- LCEF Ministry Moments Videos:
 - Rev. Tim Lawson, Saving Grace, Queen Creek, AZ; Rev. Derek Klemm, Mountain View, Las Vegas, NV
- In the past triennium LCEF wrote \$41,000,000 in loans to Pacific Southwest District ministries.
- 100% of LCEF's enhanced earnings are being supported by the LuTEC startup.

4:06 pm Mission/Ministry Moment – Rev. Dominic Rivkin, Mission & Ministry Executive

- A video highlighting partnership ministries in southern California was shown: Rev. Kyle Blake, The Gathering, Long Beach and Rev. Kevin Kritzer, Bethany, Long Beach; Rev. Nathan Huse, St. John's Orange, deployed to Peace Tustin.
- Ephesians 3:20-21 – emphasis on “within us.” Partnership of Father, Son & Holy Spirit is the power at work within us.
- Congregations who are candidates for partnership in ministry breakdown into three categories: 2, 20, and 80.
 - Among Protestant congregations, according to “Better Together – Making Church Mergers Work”:
 - 2% of all congregations vote to close each year.
 - 20% are growing and ready to move forward.
 - 80% have plateaued or are declining.
 - 100% of congregations are candidates for partnership in ministry.
- We are one church and God is working through us all.



- Principles of partnership include concentrated prayer, mutual respect, intentional commitment, focused clarity and constant celebration.
- There are many types of partnerships: cooperative planting/replanting, shared ministries and workers, co-located congregations, multi-point networks or parishes, and mergers.

4:22 pm Floor Committee – Resolution/Debate/Vote

RESOLUTION 22.3.1 To Give Thanks to God for the Faithful Ministry of the Ordained and Commissioned Ministers and the Congregations and Schools of PSD in the midst of COVID

Rev. Kevin Kritzer, chair. Mrs. Diana Alexander, presenting.

WHEREAS, The spread of COVID-19 asked the congregations and schools of the Pacific Southwest District to do more than they could have ever imagined; and

WHEREAS, The Lord has enabled them to do immeasurably more (Ephesians 3:20); and

WHEREAS, Congregations and schools adapted to the challenges of ministry, caring for one another, and responding to the requirements to modify the number of worship services, limiting the number of people in attendance, implementing the use of streaming and recording services, and providing the highest quality in person and virtual education for the students of our schools; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Pacific Southwest District in convention give thanks for the faithful service of ordained and commissioned ministers as they seek to faithfully serve God, the saints in their care, and the education and nurture of children, while continuing to proclaim the hope of Christ to the community and world during the challenges of COVID- 19; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Pacific Southwest District in convention give thanks for the multitude of people within our congregations, schools, and other organizations who support, encourage, and assist in various ways the ministry of the church in these difficult days.

Commissioned Minister Representatives
Yes 27/100% No 0/0%

Result: Approved with 97.24%

RESOLUTION 22.2.3 To Strengthen the Nonvoting Advisory Delegate Participation at (District) Conventions



Rev. John Palka, chair. Mr. Jeff Courvoisier, presenting.

Proposed Amendment:

Additional Resolved at Line 69: “Resolved: That each congregation will have the right to send one Commissioned Minister non-voting advisory delegate to the District Convention.”

- Seconded

Amendment vote result: Passes with 63.26%/136 Votes

Final language of the resolution included in Thursday’s business

Orders of the Day called 4:59 pm

5:00 pm Announcements and Closing Prayer

Wednesday Evening featured Convention Worship with Holy Communion in the Theater, LCMS President Rev. Matthew Harrison preaches and the planned Outdoor Reception was moved indoors due to rain.

Thursday Morning Session

8:00 am Call to Order

Devotion (Region 1 VP, Rev. S T Williams)

- Opening Song “Lead Me, Guide Me”
- Responsive Psalm 139
- Opening Prayer
- Recognition of Veterans, Active Duty, all those who serve(d) in the Armed Forces
- Biographical information about where and how Rev. Williams serves St. Paul, LA; Grace, LA; St. Philip, Compton
- The churches continued to remain open through COVID-19 and found different ways to support their community.
- When we trust God, He can do abundantly more than we can imagine – continued list of ways that God used these churches through COVID and in the wake of COVID.
- In the last two years, over 75 baptisms from all races, tribes, and tongues; including those released from jail or prison.
- By meeting social needs, these congregations found ways to bless those less fortunate (including Thanksgiving meals).
- Citing all the things the congregations have done, Rev. Williams points out that God can indeed do abundantly more.



- God never leaves, nor forsakes us. To God be the glory.
- Closing Prayer and Lord's Prayer
- Final encouragement for delegates to check out St. Paul, LA
- Closing Song "I am the Church"

8:28 am Announcements

- Request for floor nominations; if not received, in advance, we have to delay elections
- Offering box at the hospitality table in the lobby

8:30 am LCMS President Report, Q&A – President Rev. Matthew Harrison

- Biographical background of Rev. Matthew Harrison by President Gibson
- Attending the many district conventions allow Pres. Harrison many opportunities to see how the LCMS functions at large.
- 9 min Synodical Video
 - Various responses by St. Louis area congregations and schools to the pandemic
 - \$1 mil life grant for congregations doing life ministry
 - \$1.5 mil soldiers of the cross distributed
 - Doxology – Take Heart Retreat benefit to pastors struggling during after COVID
 - Lutheranism around the world (including Africa) continues to grow – LCMS is resourcing other Lutheran church bodies around the world
 - New project in Europe, Rev. Dr. John Bombaro working to establish a seminary in Eurasia
 - "We preach Christ Crucified" (1 Corinthians 1:23) is the 2023 Synod Convention Theme
 - As the LCMS, we for 175 years have preached "Christ crucified" and will for the next 175
- COVID Blessings and Challenges
 - For the first time in 15 years the dollars to Synod went up by \$1 mil
 - Online Communion discussion was handled relatively peaceably by the COP but will be discussed at the Synod Convention.
 - LCMS is a diverse group of people.
 - Worked with the Alliance Defending Freedom to allow freedoms during COVID.
 - 963 "Soldiers of the Cross" grants were distributed—average \$1k - \$2k.
 - 30 "Take Heart!" Doxology retreats for soul care.
 - 7-03 Task Force "CUS Lutheran Identity and Mission"
 - Probably will be contentious, by Pres. Harrison's own statement.



- Transfers all of the finances, property, etc. to the hands of the individual universities.
- Cited Concordia University Texas' desire to leave the Synod, but remain aligned.
- New Concordia presidents: Dr. Bull (CUNE), Dr. Dawn (CUC), Rev. Dr. Friedrich (CSP), Dr. Thomas (CUI)
 - CSP – free tuition for church workers
 - CUI – best system of governance – everything goes through the theology department
 - Mentioned CUW and the fact that the presidential search brought national news attention.
 - Pres. Harrison believes we have the strongest anti-racial doctrine.
 - Pres. Harrison is currently reading *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi describing many aspects of the world as racist.
 - Pres. Harrison feels that he cannot allow students going through our schools (Concordia System) who believe the school is racist or bigoted.
- Rev. Dr. Tom Egger at Concordia Seminary as president
- Formal conversations with the Malagasy Lutherans – a church body of 4.5 mil members – Africans only count those in church.
- Religious Freedom in Finland–
 - Christian view of marriage, co-published with Lutheran Heritage Foundation
 - LCMS drafted a protest letter
 - Won the case approximately a month ago (May 2022)
- Entering into church fellowship with “Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sudan/South Sudan”
- Ukraine
 - Ongoing support including space in Wittenberg and a Ukrainian church plant is being established
- LWML – gives thanks for all of their work
- Women have superpowers
- Can have children
- Can make their husbands better
- Sudden Onset Gender Dysphoria
 - 5000% increase among young women
 - “we are living in an age of lunacy”
 - Instead of asking young people, “what do you want to be;” he is going to ask “how are you going to serve”
- Office of International Mission
 - Our missionaries are down
 - 12 staff for 300 missionaries and families



- Hope to add 180 more missionaries in five years
- All missionaries are funded on average for at least 1 year
- Gary Tiens in Iowa raises approx. 8-10 mil dollars a year for missionaries around the globe
- Livonia Lutheran Project
 - 4 anonymous men learning about Jesus
 - An explosion of Lutheranism in Pakistan, Romania, Italy
 - 1500 converts from Islam to Lutheranism
- New Spanish Lutheran Hymnal – five Divine Services, 250 new songs and hymns, more hymns than LSB, available on an app within a year
- Dominican Seminary – from 2 pastors to about 30
- Taiwan Seminary
 - We will be breaking ties, because of the ordination of women
 - We will be supporting a separate seminary
- Africa 15 Seminaries
- Rebuilt seminary in India
 - Better than it was in the past
- Making disciples and Life network are both “rocking and rolling”
- Lutheran Emergency Response Team (LERT)
 - 5,000 in database
 - 20,000 trained
 - Only “chainsaw manual” that has passed doctrinal review
- Disaster Relief
 - Almost 400,000 meals provided to Haitians after an earthquake in 2021
 - Mental health resources are the pastors of the LCMS
- 1 John 3 Million Dollar Life Match
 - Will match any congregational life effort
 - Community efforts
 - Training people
- Every One His Witness
 - 19000 workbooks sold
 - Not door-to-door materials
- Best financial shape in the history of the LCMS
- \$4.2 mil distributed to the seminaries
- *Set Apart to Serve* - Church worker recruitment program from Synod
- *Relationships Count* – 2017 LCMS Youth ministry study commended to our study
- Large Catechism annotated edition will be released soon
- Church planting grant for \$2 mil
 - Strongest survival for a church plant is a mother-daughter plant
 - Second strongest is a district-daughter plant
- We are celebrating 175 years

1



Question and Answer

Q: Reference to three resolutions considering enlarging the routes to ordination and reconsidering the licensed lay deacon program; how should we vote on these resolutions?

A: Licensing of Lay deacons for Word and Sacrament ministry would be in opposition to the Augsburg Confession;
The sainted Herb Mueller worked hard to ordain licensed lay deacons through SMP
Not sending guys under 40 for a full seminary education is problematic.
Shortage of seminary trained pastors.
The culture of moving to online program is the cause of the declining residential seminary.
Ref. Wichita decision of '89, rejected by 74% - lay man could take part in worship and even lead a prepared sermon.

Q: My understanding is that the Concordia Seminary incoming class is about 20; ref. to Pres. Gibson's report and decline of pastors; what is Synod's answer to the decline of pastors?

A: Retention. Investing in pastors through programs such as Doxology. Lay leaders, serving as lay readers will have to fill the gaps by reading pre-written sermons and leading worship. Synodical response is in progress—seriously looking at. Plea at the National Youth Gathering.

Q: A lot of disaster response and crisis discussed; is there an emphasis or effort for everyone's well-being, not just pastors, for general wellness in our communities?

A: Synod website has a list of resources. We could always do more. Let the Synod know what ways they can help.

Q: I love our church and synod, various issues (including internal strife in the Synod), a potential future pastor, "should he enter the ministry with the current realities?" How would you respond?

A: "Suck it up." The Synod is calmer now than 30 years ago. Remedy sexual sin by keeping pants on. The COP is calmer than things have ever been. He does not believe we are a Synod type of synod. Being a pastor is the greatest job in the world and "there ain't no perfect church in the world."

10:13 am Registration Report

- As of 10:13 a.m. today, those registered for the convention are:
 - 121 Pastoral Voting Delegates
 - 109 Lay Voting Delegates
 - 230 Total Voting Delegates
 - 23 Advisory Delegates



- 46 Guests
- 30 Commissioned Minister Reps.
- 8 Commissioned Minister Adv. Delegates
- 337 Total Attendees

Mission/Ministry Moment - Rev. Dominic Rivkin

- “Redeemer Project” video
 - Tim Lawson video – preschool start in Queen Creek
 - Tim Ahlman video – La Mesa Ministries, partnership with Beautiful Savior
 - The Church around the world is not in decline, it is growing
- Ephesians 3:20-21 – ekklesia
 - “the called out ones”
 - Called to be:
 - The sign of God’s Kingdom
 - The foretaste of God’s Kingdom
 - The instrument of God's Kingdom
 - 36 mil in 6 major metropolitan areas
 - 500, 000 students throughout our district
- Gospel centered faith communities
 - VISION: 100 new ministry starts in 10 years
 - Glorify God
 - Make disciples
 - Bless the diverse communities of PSD
- The Church is both gathered and scattered
- Resources:
 - Vision, Mission, and Strategy planning
 - Coaching and partnerships
 - Innovation, incubation, and impact Regional Mission Grants
 - “Shark Tank” Event

10:20 am Floor Committee – Resolution/Debate/Vote

RESOLUTION 22.1.1 To Establish 100 New Faith Communities Within PSD By The Time of The 100th Anniversary Of The District At The 2031 Convention

Rev. Ron Burcham, chair. Mrs. Annie Anderson, presenting.

WHEREAS, God has called His people throughout the Scriptures to engage in His mission, The Missio Dei (The Mission of God), to reconcile the world to himself; and

WHEREAS, He accomplished the act of reconciliation through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, offering His grace and forgiveness to all people; and



WHEREAS, Jesus sent the forgiven children of God to proclaim that message so that all would hear it and be saved (John 20:21; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Peter 2:9); and

WHEREAS, He created the church, the Body of Christ, to be the mission-sending entity through which the people of God and the means of grace (His Word and Sacraments) would be employed to proclaim the Good News of Christ to the world; and

WHEREAS, the Pacific Southwest District celebrates all our congregations and ministries as unique representations of the Body of Christ, working together to bring the hope of Jesus to our communities, the southwestern United States, the nation, and to the world; and

WHEREAS, a **very** effective way to reach unbelievers with the Gospel occurs when new faith communities are formed through the efforts of existing congregations and partnerships within circuits; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Pacific Southwest District, while ensuring we don't negatively impact existing ministries, but support and encourage them, establish the goal of beginning 100 new faith communities (traditional congregations and schools, micro-churches, micro-schools and other innovative Lutheran education delivery models, intentional Gospel-proclaiming mission societies, etc.) by the time of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Pacific Southwest District at the triennial convention in 2031; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations prayerfully consider equipping themselves for this effort by making use of the book (a collection of Bible studies), *The Great Sending – God's Heart for the World Beating Through You* (edited by Will Sohns, 2021, Tenth Power Publishing, Elgin, Illinois), a resource provided to each delegate at the 2022 PSD Convention; and be it further

RESOLVED that the above resource be used in the context of our 7 marks of the Church: 1. The Word of God; 2. Baptism; 3. The Lord's Supper; 4. Repentance and Forgiveness; 5. Offices of the Church; 6. Worship; 7. Suffering; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations are encouraged to work together in their geographical regions and circuits to identify locations for new faith communities in their context, understanding that many of these new ministries will reflect the great cultural diversity and need within our district; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the members of congregations are encouraged to commit themselves to the mission-sending efforts of their circuits and congregations by volunteering their time, activity, prayers, and resources in support of this effort; and be it further



RESOLVED, that congregations are encouraged to set aside a portion of their annual budget to contribute to the financial support for new faith communities in their area, the support and training of lay missionaries from within their own congregations, and the development of professional church workers for the expansion of the Kingdom of God; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the staff of the Pacific Southwest District regularly tell the stories of how congregations and circuits are working to fulfill this mission commitment and to provide a formal report at each triennial convention, leading up to the 100th Anniversary celebration in 2031, so that the people of the district can track, pray, celebrate, and give in support of this effort.

Amendment line 40 strike the words "most effective" and replace it with "very effective" committee accepts without discussion

Amendment at line 70 add resolve

Resolved that the above resource be used in the context of our 7 marks of the Church:

1. The Word of God;
2. Baptism;
3. The Lord's Supper;
4. Repentance and Forgiveness;
5. Offices of the Church;
6. Worship;
7. Suffering; and be it further

Amendment Results: Approved with 76.92%

Commissioned Minister Representatives

Yes 26/92.86% No 2/7.14%

Result: Approved with 92.59% (200)

10:45 am Keynote: "Gospel DNA" – Rev. Dr. Michael Newman, Texas District President

- Biographical information for Rev. Dr. Newman given by Pres. Gibson
- Do you know the LCMS?
- Will you be the LCMS?
- *Gospel DNA: Five Markers of Flourishing Churches*
- The Lutheran Churches in the global south are flourishing – what can we learn from these churches?
- As Newman studied these churches, he recognized parallels with the origin of the LCMS
- Isaiah 51: Remember the rock from which you've been cut—remember who we are—remember our identity in Jesus Christ
- It is in our DNA, because God has implanted it into us
- "In 1852, the LCMS voted to send workers to 'give attention and spiritual care not only to the German emigrants in California but also to the great number of



Chinese who were immigrating there.” - what was the motivation for the LCMS to care about these immigrants?

- In 1856, Pastor H. Fick appealed: “If we are to preach the Gospel in all the world according to the apostolic commission, ...”
- In 1859, Mrs. Elizabeth Schreiber, wrote to Walther: “I regret to note that so many of the sects are dominant here while my dear mother church must take a backseat...”
- This stirred the conscience of Walther, such that he posted it in the *Der Lutheraner*
- Where did this passion come from?

Five DNA Strands

- People
 - A love for people
 - Passion for the welfare of people’s souls
 - Predates the formation of our Synod
 - CFW Walther - “Bringing Souls to Christ: Every Christian’s Desire and Duty” (1842)
 - “The Christian looks upon his neighbor with sadness... if he does not know the gospel...”
 - Love for others is inseparable
 - “no one should say I am not a pastor, preacher, or teacher... Christian you are baptized... you are called to be a priest of God”
 - “the Christian church is a great mission house...”
 - Walther had a passionate desire for all to be saved
 - People matter!
 - The challenge: How is your heart doing? Are you more afraid of people than you love them? Are you too task oriented to love them?
 - As a Church, we lift up the narrative of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we love the people for whom Jesus died
- Multiplication
 - A commitment to sharing the Good News
 - Rev. Dr. Friedrich Pfotenhauer – missionary, president of the MN district, and later president of the LCMS (1911-35)
 - These were “self-sacrificing men their hearts throbbing with the love of Christ and his people.”
 - 1917 address to the Milwaukee convention – although we are living in such troubled times... we Christians may not become slothful or discouraged and be active...the signs of the times should urge us to labor incessantly and with all our powers.
 - Extension of the Kingdom is what Pfotenhauer emphasized
 - 14 congregations and 4000 people in 1847 to 4000 churches and 1 million members in its first 70 years (1847-1917)



- The LCMS planted one new church every week for its first 100 years
- In 1847-1916 for every 2 LCMS churches in existence, one new LCMS church was started
- In 1917-1965 for every 9 LCMS churches in existence, one new LCMS church was started
- In 1966-2015 for every 4000 LCMS churches in existence, one new LCMS church was started
 - We forgot who we were, we forgot what we did at first
- When the Word is proclaimed, God equips His people
- Matthew 25 – what does it mean to be faithful – the parable of the talents
- Not just protecting and preserving, but promoting and proclaiming
- Truth
 - Unwavering commitment to our Scripture and Confessions
 - We are an Article IV church (AC and Ap)
 - The atoning sacrifice of Christ is for everyone, that is what we confess
 - The Word will not return empty
 - Will we be a Church of Augsburg IV and V?
 - Are we paying attention to the missionary possibility God has given us?
- Adaptability
 - Innovating in the context
 - Responding in responsible ways
 - In 1958, Lutheranism was featured in Time Magazine – highlighting the LCMS and their evangelistic efforts
 - “traditionally aggressive” as described by Time
 - Adaptable, but not compromising
 - Adapting to new needs and contexts
 - Seminary training
 - Media
 - Language
 - Mission methods
 - Offices for ministry
 - We will become all things to all people that some may be saved
- Self-sacrifice
 - We love because Christ loved us
 - The end goal of our lives is not to be happy and successful; the end goal is that we give of ourselves as Christ has given of Himself for us
 - A hallmark of who we are as God’s people

Time for questions and discussion at the tables

1. What one course correction for your church and ministry has the Spirit stirred in you during this conversation?
2. What new outreach action might God be showing you that could lead you and your congregation to reach new people with the Gospel?
3. What one step can you take in the next 30 days?



The first step that we take is repentance
Closing Prayer

11:45 am Concordia University Irvine Report – Dr. Steve Mueller, Chief Mission Officer

- Concordia is our university
- Firmly committed to our Lutheran identity
- To the LCMS
- More than 60 academic programs
- 4000 students
- Every faculty member is Christian
- New Programs
 - Computer science
 - Engineering
 - Healthcare programs
 - Counseling
 - Each of these programs are infused with our Lutheran identity
- LCMS Church Workers
 - 27k dollars financial aid and free housing for church work students
- Campus Ministry
 - Six services each week
 - Bible Studies
 - Mission and service
 - Mentoring and leadership
 - Pastoral Care
- COVID-19
 - Proud of the response, nearly overnight transformation
 - Following protocols for churches, schools, hotels, and restaurants
 - Used as a model for other schools
 - An enrollment dip during this time
 - Has remained in the black
 - Fiscally strong
 - Successful “Forward in Faith” campaign (Borland Manske Center)
 - Coming campus developments
 - Several renovations are underway
- LEST – Lutheran Elementary School Tournament (02/2023)
 - Competition of athletics and academics previously hosted at Portland, but now at CUI
- PBS Specials: A Concordia Christmas
 - Award winning specials in both 2020 and 2021
 - December 2022, “A Thrill of Hope”



- *Video: A tour of the current CUI campus*

12:02 pm - Prayer for lunch and closing of our morning session

12:05 pm Lunch

Thursday Afternoon

1:00 pm Call to Order

Registration Report

- As of 1:00 p.m. today, those registered for the convention are:
 - 121 Pastoral Voting Delegates
 - 109 Lay Voting Delegates
 - 230 Total Voting Delegates
 - 30 Commissioned Minister Representatives
 - 23 Pastoral Advisory Delegates
 - 8 Commissioned Minister Advisory Delegates
 - 46 Guests
 - 32 Exhibitors
 - 369 Total Attendees

Nominations/Elections

- Secretary on the District Board of Directors, presented by Rev. Phill Robbins
 - Rev. Jonathan Burkee
 - Rev. Derek Klemm
 - Elected District Secretary on the Board of Directors with 102 votes (57.95%) is Rev. Jonathan Burkee.
- Treasurer on the District Board of Directors
 - Ms. Leona Tschopp
 - Elected District Treasurer on the Board of Directors by acclamation is Ms. Leona Tschopp.
- Commissioned Ministers on the District Board of Directors, presented by Mrs. Noel Fairchild
 - Region 1: Bonnie Hicks
 - Elected Commissioned Minister Region 1 on the Board of Directors by acclamation is Ms. Bonnie Hicks.
 - Region 2: Ms. Stefanie Hinrichs, Ms. Kayleigh Lopez, Mr. Deryl Maxwell
 - Elected Commissioned Minister Region 2 on the Board of Directors with 100 votes (54.05%) is Ms. Kayleigh Lopez.
 - Region 3: Ms. Michelle Pavasars, Mrs. Conni Schramm



- Elected Commissioned Minister Region 3 on the Board of Directors with 149 votes (77.60%) is Mrs. Conni Schramm.
 - Region 4: Ms. Diana Bartholomew, Mrs. Lori Doyle, Ms. Patricia Hoffman
 - Elected Commissioned Minister Region 4 on the Board of Directors with 105 votes (55.56%) is Mrs. Lori Doyle.
- Lay Ministers on the District Board of Directors, presented by Ms. Fifi Locke
 - Region 1: Mrs. Laura Rusch
 - Elected Lay Minister Region 1 on the Board of Directors by acclamation is Mrs. Laura Rusch.
 - Region 2: Mr. Michael Benzow, Ms. Joyce Cabrera
 - Elected Lay Minister Region 2 on the Board of Directors with 100 votes (53.48%) is Ms. Joyce Cabrera.
 - Region 3: Mr. John T. Egley, Mr. Joel Held, Mr. Michael Stroube
 - Elected Lay Minister Region 3 on the Board of Directors with 130 votes (69.15%) is Mr. Joel Held.
 - Region 4: Mr. John Faulis, Ms. Keri Self Sparks
 - Elected Lay Minister Region 4 on the Board of Directors with 98 votes (50.78%) is Ms. Keri Self Sparks.
- LCEF Committee Chair, presented by Ms. Heidi Schmidt
 - Mr. James Clark
 - Ms. Val Murphy
 - Elected LCEF Committee Chair on the Board of Directors with 161 votes (85.19%) is Mr. James Clark.
- Constitution Committee – Ordained (Choose Two), presented by Rev. Mason Okubo
 - Rev. Kerwin Duerr
 - Rev. Paul Wenz
 - Elected Constitution Committee ordained by acclamation are Rev. Kerwin Duerr and Rev. Paul Wenz.
- Constitution Committee – Lay
 - Mr. John T. Egley
 - Mr. Dick Holk
 - Elected Constitution Committee lay by 115 votes (58.08%) is Mr. John T. Egley.
- Ratification of Circuit Visitors, presented by Rev. Mason Okubo

2022 – 2025 CIRCUIT VISITORS

Circuit 1	Keith Jones	Good Shepherd, Goleta, CA
Circuit 2	Paul Koch	Grace, Ventura CA
Circuit 3	Tim Jenks	Canoga Park, CA
Circuit 4	Mike Harnack	First, Burbank, CA
Circuit 5	Ed Killian	Good Shepherd, Inglewood, CA



Circuit 6	John Palka	First, Venice, CA
Circuit 7	Albert Chai	Our Savior, Arcadia, CA
Circuit 8	Kevin Kritzer	Bethany, Long Beach, CA
Circuit 9	Paul Terhune	Hope, Glendora, CA
Circuit 10	Richard Paul	Faith, Huntington Beach, CA
Circuit 11	Arthur Andrews	Hephatha, Anaheim, CA
Circuit 12	Mark Manning	Searchlight, Fullerton, CA
Circuit 13	Glenn Lucas	Abiding Savior, Lake Forest, CA
Circuit 14	Randy Buecheler	Mt Calvary, Lake Arrowhead, CA
Circuit 15	Jonathan Brandenburg	Shepherd of the Hills, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
Circuit 16	Stephen Borst	Immanuel, Riverside, CA
Circuit 17	Luke Kastner	St. John's Hemet, CA
Circuit 18	James Harris	Ascension. Apple Valley, CA
Circuit 19	Joel Beyer	St. Mark, Encinitas, CA
Circuit 20	Matt Knauss	Community, Escondido
Circuit 21	Doug Jones	St. James, Imperial Beach, CA
Circuit 22	Travis Ferguson	Christ, La Mesa, CA
Circuit 23	Michael Kessler	Calvary, Yuma, AZ
Circuit 24	Nate Schaus	Summit, Buckeye, AZ
Circuit 25	Alan Rosnau	Shepherd of the Desert, Scottsdale, AZ
Circuit 26	Greg Werdin	Epiphany, Congress, AZ
Circuit 27 N	Mark Rossington	Epiphany, Chandler, AZ
Circuit 27 S	David Hook	Christ, Vail, AZ
Circuit 28	Paul Frank	Hosanna, Mesa, AZ
Circuit 29	Derek Klemm	Mountain View, Las Vegas, NV
Circuit 30	Adam Stetson	Christ, Boulder City, NV
Korean Circuit	Ted Kim	Jesus Love Church, Irvine, CA

- The full slate of Circuit Visitors is ratified by acclamation.
- Board of Regents – CUI – Ordained, presented by Mrs. Susan Jennings
 - Rev. Luke Hennings
 - Rev. Timothy M. Klinkenberg



- Rev. Glenn A. Lucas
- Rev. Nathan Schaus
 - Elected to the Board of Regents – CUI – Ordained on the third ballot with 125 votes (58.69%) is Rev. Glenn A. Lucas.
- Board of Regents – CUI – Commissioned
 - Mrs. Xavria Schwarz
 - Mr. Jonathan Orr
 - Elected to the Board of Regents – CUI – Commissioned with 142 votes (69.27%) is Mrs. Xavria Schwarz.
- Board of Regents – CUI – Lay (Choose two)
 - Mr. Neil Cowen
 - Mr. Matthew Flandermeyer
 - Mr. Kevin McCafferty
 - Mr. Jeff McCombs
 - Elected to the Board of Regents – CUI – Lay with 109 votes (55.61%) and 108 votes (55.10%) respectively are Mr. Neil Cowen and Mr. Matthew Flandermeyer.

1:46 pm Floor Committee – Resolution/Debate/Vote

RESOLUTION 22.2.2 To Realign the Las Vegas and River Circuits,

Rev. John Palka, chair - presented by Ms. Linda Koch

WHEREAS, The Pacific Southwest District Circuits 29, 30, and “River Circuit” have determined that it is beneficial for their shared ministry and geographical proximity to realign the congregations into two circuits, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Pacific Southwest District in convention approve the Circuit Realignment

FROM:

Circuit 29 – Region 4

Kingman – Good Shepherd
Lake Havasu City – Lamb of God
Las Vegas - Faith Community
Las Vegas – Lamb of God
Las Vegas – Mountain View
Needles – Grace
Las Vegas - Oromo Evangelical Church of Las Vegas

Circuit 29 River Circuit – Region 4

Bullhead City – St. John Evangelical



Circuit 30 – Region 4

Boulder City – Christ
Henderson – Grace
Henderson – Our Savior’s
Las Vegas – First Good Shepherd
Las Vegas – Redeemer
Mesquite – Mesquite
Pahrump – Shepherd of the Valley

TO:

Circuit 29 – Region 4

Henderson – Grace
Las Vegas – First Good Shepherd
Las Vegas – Lamb of God
Las Vegas – Mountain View
Mesquite – Mesquite
Pahrump – Shepherd of the Valley
Redeemer – Las Vegas

Circuit 30 – Region 4

Boulder City – Christ
Bullhead City – St. John
Henderson – Our Savior
Las Vegas – Faith Community
Las Vegas – Oromo Evangelical Church of Las Vegas
Kingman – Good Shepherd
Lake Havasu City – Lamb of God
Needles - Grace

Edit: Name correction in lines 26 and 62 from Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church to Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church of Las Vegas.

Commissioned Minister Reps

Yes 28/100% No 0/0%

Result: Vote on Resolution 22.2.2 APPROVED with 211 votes/98.60% majority.

RESOLUTION 22.2.5 To Apply Term Limits to the President, First VP, Secretary and Treasurer of the PSD

Rev. Dr. John Palka, chair - presented by Rev. Brian Barlow



WHEREAS, the saints of the Pacific Southwest District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod give thanks for persons willing to use their gifts and abilities to serve as president, the first vice president, the secretary, and the treasurer; and

WHEREAS, term limits provide an opportunity to utilize the gifts and abilities of a greater number of qualified persons; and

WHEREAS, there is an optimal balance between experience in an office and healthy turnover in that office; and

WHEREAS, the Synod has already seen wisdom in limiting the tenure of those who serve in office by Synodical Bylaw 3.2.4.2, which limits board and commission members of Synod to two consecutive six- year terms; and

WHEREAS, there are districts of Synod that already term limit their district president and/or Praesidium; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Pacific Southwest District Bylaw 1.3.5 be amended as follows: PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING 1.3.5 The offices of the president, the first vice president, the secretary, and the treasurer of the district shall be ~~without limitation~~ limited to four 3-year terms as to reelection.

Proposed AMENDMENT of an additional Resolved at the very end: “Resolved: This takes effect following the tenure of current officeholders.

Motion to call the question PASSED

Vote on the AMENDMENT is defeated with 80.45% of the vote.

Discussion continued on the original resolution.

Commissioned Minister Advisory Reps

Yes 8/27.59% No 21/72.41%

Result: Vote on Resolution 22.2.5 DEFEATED with 164 votes/73.87% majority.

RESOLUTION 22.2.1 To Update the Pacific Southwest District Bylaws

Rev. Dr. John Palka, chair - presented by Don Klabunde

WHEREAS, the constitution of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is also the constitution of each district of Synod; each district is at liberty to adopt such bylaws and pass such resolution as it deems expedient for its conditions, provided



that such bylaws and resolutions do not conflict with the Constitution and bylaws of Synod (LCMS Constitution Article XII.2.), and

WHEREAS, the Pacific Southwest District Bylaws needs updating to reflect current language and practice of the district, changes in wording and practice required by Synod in convention, and removal of redundant sections of the bylaws already covered by Synod's bylaws, and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes have been approved by the Pacific Southwest District Board of Directors on February 9, 2022 and approved by Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters on April 8 – 9, 2022, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pacific Southwest District Bylaws be amended as follows (following 16 pages):



Pacific Southwest District

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

BYLAWS

Amended by Convention: June 29 to July 1, 2003
Revised March 24, 2006

Revised June 8, 2006

Amended by Convention: June 25-27, 2006

Amended by Convention June 28-30, 2009

Amended by Convention June 27-29, 2012

Amended by Convention June 24-26, 2015



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BYLAWS

1.0 DISTRICT OFFICERS

- 1.1 The district shall elect a president; first, second, third and fourth vice presidents; a secretary; a treasurer; and a circuit counselor from each authorized district circuit.
- 1.2 The district shall also elect:
 - AA board of directors
 - A Church Extension committee chairperson
 - A committee on constitutions
- 1.3 Elected Officers
 - 1.3.1 No one in the district, or between the Synod and District, shall hold more than one elective office; or hold more than two offices, although one or both be appointive; or ever hold two office of which one is directly responsible for the work done by the other.
 - 1.3.2 No one shall be elected to more than one district office.
 - 1.3.3 No more than two executive officers shall be elected from any one congregation. The executive offices shall be understood to include the president, the vice-presidents, the secretary, the treasurer, and members of the Board of Directors.
 - 1.3.4 The term of the office for all elected to district offices shall be three years.
 - 1.3.5 The offices of the president, the first vice president, the secretary, and the treasurer of the district shall be without limitation as to reelection.
 - 1.3.6 All other elected officers, members of the board, and elected committee members may serve a total of no more than three successive terms in the same positions.
 - 1.3.7 Any officer, member of the board, or elected committee member may be elected to his previous position after an interval of three or more years.
 - 1.3.8 Any officer or member of a board, ineligible for reelection, may be elected or appointed to any other position.
 - 1.3.9 All new officers, the board, and committees will assume their duties in the second month following the convention elections, and the current officers and the board shall continue to serve until that time, except that members elected to the board of regents of Concordia University Irvine take office at the close of the district convention at which they are elected. (Synod Bylaw 3.2.4.)
- 1.4 Vacancies



- 1.4.1 A vacancy in the office of the presidency shall be filled by the first vice president.
- 1.4.2 A vacancy in any vice presidency shall be filled by advancing the lower-ranking vice presidents. The remaining vacancy shall then be filled by the president from the nominees left after the previous election, according to the number of votes received.
- 1.4.3 A vacancy in the office of secretary or treasurer shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors.
- 1.4.4 A vacancy in the office of circuit counselor shall be filled by appointment by the district president.
- 1.4.5 A vacancy in any other office shall be filled by appointment by the district president in consultation with the appropriate body.

1.4 Procedures for Nominating and Electing

1.4.1 All officers shall be elected at each convention.

1.4.1.1 President

1.4.1.1.1 Nominations

1.4.1.1.1.1 Six months prior to the District Convention, the secretary of the district will request from all congregations of the district the nomination of up to two ordained ministers from the clergy roster of the Synod for the office of District President.

1.4.1.1.1.2 The candidates receiving the three highest total number of nominations who are willing to serve if elected shall be on the ballot for District President.

1.4.1.1.1.3 The biographical information of the three nominees as well as mission and vision statements from the candidates will be printed in the convention workbook for prayer and study by the delegates.

1.4.1.1.1.4 The election of District President will occur during the first session of the District Convention.

1.4.1.2 Vice Presidents



1.4.1.1.1 Candidates for these offices shall be listed on the Clergy Roster of The District and shall hold membership in a congregation of the region represented.

1.4.1.2.1 Vice presidents shall be elected to serve the following

Region 1	Circuits 1-6
Region 2	Circuits 7-11, 17, 20 7-9, 15, 18
Region 3	Circuits 12-16, 18, 19, 21-24 10-14, 16,
17, 19, 20-23	
Region 4	Circuits 25-32 24-30

1.4.1.2.2 Nominations for each of the four regional vice presidents shall be made by the congregations within each region. Six months prior to the District Convention, ~~the district office shall supply to the congregations of each region a list of eligible ordained ministers who are members of member congregations of the region.~~ Each congregation may nominate from this list two ordained ministers. The four nominees for each region, who receive the most nominations and, who with their consent to serve, shall be placed upon the convention ballot and information about each candidate shall be published prior to the convention.

1.4.1.2.3 Following the elections of the four regional vice presidents, another ballot election shall be conducted to determine, by majority vote, the positions of the vice presidents. The names of the four vice presidents shall be listed on the ballot in alphabetical order without reference to their regions

1.4.2 The Circuit ~~counselors~~ Visitors shall be elected ~~in the following manner:~~ according to ~~the procedure outlined in LCMS Bylaw 5.2.1 – 5.2.2.1 (2019 LCMS Handbook)~~

~~1.4.2.1 Nominating~~

~~1.4.2.1.1 Every voting congregation of each circuit shall nominate as candidates for the office of circuit counselor two men from the clergy roster of the Synod. Nominations may also be suggested by the district president." The nominations shall be made at least six months prior to the elections and shall be submitted to the~~
~~current Circuit Counselor.~~

~~1.4.2.1.2 Selection of the circuit counselor shall be done in a Circuit~~



~~Forum convened by the circuit counselor. Each congregation of the circuit sends a pastoral and lay delegate who votes for the circuit counselor.~~

~~1.4.2.2 Ratification~~

~~1.4.2.2.1 The convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment.~~

~~1.4.2.2.2 The convention shall then ratify the slate of circuit counselor, which ratification shall constitute election.~~

1.4.3 The district representative on the Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations shall be elected ~~in the following manner:~~ *according to the schedule and process in LCMS Bylaw 3.12.3 - 3.12.3.3.*

~~1.4.3.1 The District Convention shall elect a representative to serve on Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations.~~

~~1.4.3.2 The district will be informed by Synod whether it is to elect a church worker (ordained or commissioned member of the Synod) or a lay person. The alternate should be in the same category.~~

1.4.4 Board of Regents, Concordia University Irvine shall be elected in the following manner:

1.4.4.1 The district shall elect four members for the Board of Regents, Concordia University Irvine—one ordained minister, one commissioned minister, and two lay persons.

1.4.4.2 Members of the Board of Regents shall serve three-year terms, renewable twice.

1.4.5 The nominating and election procedures shall include the following:

1.4.5.1 Prior to each district convention each regional vice president shall appoint from his region at least two ordained ministers, two lay persons, and two commissioned ministers to stand for election to the District Nominating Committee. The District Convention shall elect from each region one pastor, one lay person, and one commissioned minister who shall serve on the 12-member Nominating Committee for the following District Convention. The committee shall choose its chairperson at its first meeting.

1.4.5.2 The committee shall elicit from all nominees for office, prior to the



convention, an indication of their willingness to serve if elected. The slate of nominees, including the qualifications of each person nominated, shall be included in each convention packet, and these materials shall be ~~mailed~~ distributed to each lay delegate, pastoral delegate, and ~~to each~~ advisory ~~member delegate~~ and ~~to each pastor~~ at least one month before the convention begins.

1.4.5.2.1 Additions to the slate of nominees may be made from the floor by voting delegates, with the consent of the person so nominated.

1.4.5.3 The president shall appoint a committee of nine members—three pastors, two commissioned ministers, and four laypersons—to conduct and supervise all elections.

1.4.5.4 This committee shall have the privilege of the floor at the discretion of the convention chairman.

1.4.5.5 A majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect. The result of each ballot shall be announced to the convention.

2.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2.1 Shall consist of sixteen members: the president, the four vice-presidents, the secretary, the treasurer, one layperson and one commissioned minister from each region and the chairperson of the LCEF Board.

2.2 Nomination

Six months prior to the District Convention, the secretary of the district will request nominations for all board positions with regional representation being achieved as follows: Each congregation in a region will be invited to nominate up to two people for commissioned minister and up to two lay people from their region. All who are nominated must be a member of a parish in their region. The individuals receiving the four highest numbers of nominations from each region will be placed on the ballot for election by the entire convention.

2.2.1 If an elected member of the board ~~would move out of their region~~ changes their membership to a congregation outside their region during their term of office, ~~the position would be vacated~~ and a new candidate from the region would be appointed as outlined in the District By-laws. (this change is necessitated due to Synod Constitution change)

2.3 The Board of Directors shall:



- 2.3.1 Develop policies to facilitate the efficient functioning of the district as it carries out its mission.
- 2.3.2 Be the legal representative of the district and the custodians of all property of the district, and it shall be responsible for the general management of the district, acting on its behalf, between conventions.
- 2.3.3 Employ ~~an Executive Team Leader~~ *a Chief Operating Officer* to carry out the administration functions of the district according to the policies established by the Board of Directors and under the direction of the district president.
- 2.3.4 Elect, immediately following each convention, a chairperson from the elected Board members, and meet regularly according to its needs.
- 2.3.5 Approve or disapprove of all appeals for money of a general nature to be made to congregations or individuals, not previously authorized by the district.
- 2.3.6 Keep on file an accurate inventory of all properties, legacies, and other valuable documents of the district.
- 2.3.7 Be authorized to draw upon the district treasury for its expenses.
- 2.3.8 Be accountable to the District Convention for all its transactions. Any decisions of the board may be appealed to the District Convention.
- 2.4 Fidelity bonds shall be provided for the Treasurer, the ~~assistant to the treasurer~~ Chief Financial Officer, and other district personnel as determined by the Board of Directors.
- 2.5 The president and the secretary of the district shall be empowered and instructed to sign all legal documents in the name of the district. The treasurer shall be empowered to sign legal documents in the absence of the secretary, and the first vice president in the absence of the president. *Other District personnel can be designated by the Board of Directors.*

3.0 DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

- 3.1 The district president shall be responsible for the organization of the District Convention.
- 3.2 The convention shall meet during the calendar year preceding the year in which there is a national synodical convention.
- 3.3 Convention Expenses
 - 3.3.1 All congregations of the district shall be urged to include in their budgets the



convention expenses of their respective pastors, commissioned ministers, and laydelegates.

3.3.2 All congregations of the district *are asked to include* in their budgets the assessment for convention general expenses as determined by the Board of Directors.

3.4 Reports and Overtures

3.4.1 Reports to the convention by district committees as well as overtures shall **be sent** to the district president.

3.4.2 The district president shall assign overtures to convention committees.

3.4.3 The Convention Proceedings shall be maintained as part of the permanent records of the district.

3.5 Convention Committees

Prior to the convention, the district president shall appoint floor committees. The district president shall name the chairperson. Each committee shall select its own secretary from itsmembers.

3.5.1 The chairperson of each committee shall arrange for meetings to consider thereports and overtures assigned to it by the district president.

3.5.2 Each committee shall consult with the chairperson of appropriate committees, taskforces, and staff concerning ministry related to the committee's subject area.

3.5.3 Each committee shall submit its report and recommendations to the convention.

3.5.4 Additional convention committees shall be appointed by the district president asrequired.

4.0 DISTRICT CONFERENCES

4.1 All professional workers on the Synodical roster shall attend official conferences in accordwith ~~synodical regulations~~ *Synod bylaw 4.8.2*.

4.2 All congregations of the district *are encouraged to include* in their annual budgets the conference expenses of their professional workers.

4.3 Conference for All Ordained Ministers



- 4.3.1 The Conference for All Ordained Ministers shall meet annually ~~in the fall~~ and be governed by its own procedures and bylaws.
- 4.4 Conference for All Commissioned Ministers
 - 4.4.1 The Conference for All Commissioned Ministers shall meet annually ~~in the fall~~ and be governed by its own procedures and bylaws.
- 4.5 Joint Conference for All Ordained and Commissioned Ministers
 - 4.5.1 A joint Conference for all ordained and commissioned ministers may be called at the discretion of the Conference for All Ordained Ministers and the Conference for all Commissioned Ministers.
- 4.6 Circuit Visitors' Conference
 - 4.6.1 The Circuit Visitors' Conference shall meet twice a year.

5.0 ~~PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, CIRCUIT COUNSELORS, SECRETARY, TREASURER, EXECUTIVE TEAM LEADER, AND REGIONAL MISSION FACILITATORS~~

5.0 **DISTRICT OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE STAFF MEMBERS**

- 5.1 The duties of the President, Vice Presidents, Circuit ~~counselors~~ *Visitors*, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be as outlined in the Synodical Handbook except as supplemented in these Bylaws.
- 5.2 The Vice Presidents shall fulfill their responsibilities as directed by the President.
- 5.3 The ~~executive team leader~~ *Chief Operating Officer* is responsible for the overall administration of the Pacific Southwest District office, ~~the support, and coordination of the regional mission facilitators~~. The ~~executive team leader~~ *Chief Operating Officer* shall work under the direction of the District President. The general duties of the ~~executive team leader~~ *the Chief Operating Officer* are listed in the job description for the position.
- 5.4 ~~Regional mission facilitators~~ *The Executive Director of School Ministries, Mission and Ministry Executive and Chief Financial Officer* will serve ~~groups of the congregations and schools of the District, by~~ effectively resourcing ~~them~~ *congregations and schools* to carry out their mission and ministry. These ~~facilitators~~ *Executive Staff members* are accountable to the District President for the administration of their positions.



5.5 The ~~regional mission facilitators~~ *The Chief Operating Officer, Executive Director of School Ministries, Mission and Ministry Executive, and Chief Financial Officer*, shall be given calls or contracts with a limited tenure of four years, *renewable* by the Board of Directors upon recommendation by the District President. *The four-year period begins July 1 in the year following each District Convention.*

5.6 *The Board of Directors, in consultation with the District President, may establish, hire, and call other Executive and Support Staff Positions as needed.*

~~5.5.1 The positions of regional mission facilitators and executive team leader shall be filled from lists of candidates submitted by district congregations, and members of the Board of Directors and others in the LCMS.~~

5.6.1 The *job descriptions and* remuneration package for ~~these all~~ positions shall be established by the *District President in consultation with the* Board of Directors.

~~5.5.2 The general duties of the regional mission facilitators these positions shall be as outlined in their separate job descriptions by the District President in consultation with the Board of Directors. for these positions.~~

~~5.6.2 The job descriptions for these all positions shall be prepared by the District President in consultation with the Board of Directors.~~

6.0 FISCAL OFFICE

6.1 Accounting for all District funds shall be under the direction of the Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the treasurer *to work in direct partnership with the Chief Financial Officer of the District:*

6.1.1 To maintain all records, which reflect the financial condition of the district at all times.

6.1.2 To receive all monies for budget and non-budget purposes of the district or Synod and issue receipts for the same.

6.1.3 To deposit all monies in the name of the district in the bank(s) designated by the Board of Directors.

6.1.4 To issue and co-sign checks covering district expenses.

6.1.4.1 Each of the following persons shall be authorized to co-sign

checks: ~~Controller~~ *Chief Financial Officer*



President
One of the Vice
Presidents
Secretary
~~Executive Team Leader~~ *Chief Operating Officer*

6.1.4.2 In case of the absence of the treasurer any two of the above shall be authorized to sign.

6.1.4.3 All persons authorized to sign checks shall be bonded at district expense.

6.1.5 To submit all District financial records at least once a year to a licensed and reputable auditing firm as selected by the Board of Directors, or whenever required by the Board of Directors.

6.1.6 To cause the report of the audit(s) to be submitted to the Board of Directors and to the District Convention.

6.1.7 Be the custodian of all the valuable papers, *securely* keeping the same under the name of the district ~~in the fireproof vault~~.

6.1.8 Report regularly to the ~~executive team leader~~ *Chief Operating Officer*, to the Board of Directors, and to the District Convention on matters of the district budget and finances.

~~7.0 CIRCUIT FORUMS~~ *(Remove this section entirely. Covered by Synod Bylaws 5.3 – 5.4)*

~~7.1—Statement of Purpose~~

~~7.1.1—The Circuit Forum shall serve as a setting to review and evaluate programs, plans and long-range directions of the district and the Synod and thus participate in the triennial process of suggesting, developing and attaining the Synod's priorities and goals.~~

~~7.1.2—The Circuit Forums shall examine the needs of the congregations within their circuits, and their general community, and relate these needs in a written format to the district president's office, at least two (2) months prior to the district Goal Setting Conference.~~

~~7.1.3—The Circuit Forum shall invite the district president, or a member of his staff, to attend one Circuit Forum meeting every three years in order to share the hopes and needs of circuit, the district, and the Synod.~~

~~7.2—Organization and Meetings~~



- ~~7.2.1—Each Circuit Forum shall consist of one pastor and one lay member from each congregation of the circuit. The circuit lay delegate to the Synodical Conventions shall function as an advisory member.~~
- ~~7.2.2—Additional officers, as required, shall be elected by the Circuit Forums.~~
- ~~7.2.3—The circuit counselor shall ordinarily serve as the chairman of the circuit forum, providing guidance, direction, coordination to the plans and programs, which the forum intends to implement.~~
- ~~7.2.4—The Circuit Forum membership shall be elected by the congregations in the year following the district convention.~~
- ~~7.2.5—The chairperson of each Circuit Forum shall be the presiding officer of all Circuit Forum meetings.~~
- ~~7.2.6.1 In the absence of the chairperson, the forum shall be empowered to appoint an acting chairperson from its membership.~~
- ~~7.2.6—Each Circuit Forum may appoint Standing Committees as needed.~~
- ~~7.2.6.1—As specific needs arise, additional standing committees may be formed at the discretion of the Circuit Forum.~~
- ~~7.2.6.2 Standing committee chairpersons shall be appointed by the chairperson of each Circuit Forum.~~
- ~~7.2.6.3 These standing committees shall research the needs of congregations in their circuit and implement district programs, or design programs of their own, to meet these needs.~~
- ~~7.2.6.4 The standing committees shall report to their Circuit Forum at each regular meeting.~~
- ~~7.2.7—Each Circuit Forum meets as follows:~~
- ~~7.2.7.1 The Circuit Forum shall meet at least four (4) times per year or as often as necessary to plan and carry out its responsibilities.~~
- ~~7.2.7.2 The chairperson shall be empowered to call special meetings as required.~~
- ~~7.2.7.3 Standing committees shall meet during regular Circuit Forum meetings and as often as necessary to plan and implement programs.~~



8.0 STANDING COMMITTEES

8.1 Committee on Constitutions

- 8.1.1 The district shall elect a Committee on Constitutions composed of two ordained ministers and one layman.
- 8.1.2 All new and revised constitutions of the congregations the district are to be reviewed by this committee, in accordance with the synodical Bylaws.
- 8.1.3 The Committee on Constitutions shall examine the constitution and bylaws of congregations to ascertain that they are in harmony with Holy Scripture, the Confessions and the teachings and practices of the Synod in order that any necessary changes may be made by the congregation before the application is acted upon.
- 8.1.4 If at any time there is a disagreement between the committee and the congregation applying for membership on any scriptural doctrine or Synod policy that cannot be resolved by the district president or Board of Directors, and if the Board of Directors denies the application, the district president shall submit the application to the next convention of the district (Synod Bylaw 2.3.1 [c]).
- 8.1.5 The committee will also suggest such improvements in congregations and organizations constitutions and bylaws as will better serve the administration of their affairs.

~~8.2 Mission Committee~~

- ~~8.2.1 The Mission Committee shall consist of a representative from each region appointed by the district president in consultations with the region's vice president.~~
- ~~8.2.2 The committee shall assist the regional directors and vice presidents in enabling the congregations to carry out the mission activities of each region and the district.~~

8.2 District and Regional Mission Councils

- 8.2.1 The District Mission Council (DMC) shall consist of a representative from each region and each special affinity circuit (Affinity Circuits can be gatherings of specific culture pastors, groups reflecting similar ministry environments - large church or small church pastors, pastors engaged in church planting, etc.) appointed by the district*



president in consultations with the regional vice presidents and the district mission and ministry staff.

8.2.2 The District Mission Council (DMC) shall assist the district president and staff in setting the overall district mission strategy and equipping the Regional Mission Councils, circuits, local congregations, and schools to carry out the mission activities within the district in each region. The DMC will report on the status of all mission activity to the district president and board of directors.

8.2.3 The Regional Mission Councils (RMC) shall consist of a representative from each electoral and affinity circuit operating in the region. The RMC Chair shall be appointed by the district president in consultations with the local RMC members, regional vice presidents and the district mission and ministry staff.

8.2.4 The Regional Mission Councils shall assist the district president and staff in the local distribution of an annual budget allocation from the District Board of Directors. The RMC will provide ongoing encouragement and support to all grantees, connections to coaching and mentoring, as well as accountability for the proper use of funds. The RMC will report on the status of all mission activity to the DMC.

8.3 Church Extension Committee

8.3.1 The District Convention shall elect a chairperson who shall be a layperson. The remainder of the committee, ~~as at~~ a minimum, shall consist of ~~at least one ordained minister who is currently serving a congregation of the district who is a member of the Pacific Southwest District~~ and one representative from each region. Each is appointed by the ~~district president~~ *LCEF District Vice President* in consultation with the ~~region's vice president~~ *district president*. ~~All appointments are to be subject to consultation with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund vice president for the district.~~

8.3.2 The committee shall assist congregations by approving real estate loans in conformity with the policies of Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

~~8.3.3 The committee shall assist congregations by having developed and implemented a program to encourage individuals and congregations to participate and invest in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.~~

8.4 Youth & Family Ministry Committee

8.4.1 The committee shall provide planning and leadership for district youth & family ministry events and training events/conferences.



8.4.2 The committee shall provide an avenue for youth selected for District ~~LYF (Lutheran Youth Fellowship)~~ *Youth leadership* positions to be involved in leadership experiences.

8.4.3 The ~~council~~ *committee* membership:

8.4.3.1 The chairperson shall be nominated by district staff and appointed by the District President.

8.4.3.2 One adult representative each from Arizona, Nevada and California be nominated by the ~~area DCE groups~~ *committee*.

8.4.3.3 Six high school youth, ~~selected recruited to district LYF youth committee positions through district youth ministry events or trainings.~~

8.4.3.4 Project directors and coordinators, selected by the Youth & Family Committee, to serve as committee chair or coordinators for district youth activities.

8.4.4 The committee shall normally meet three times a year.

8.5 Committee on Stewardship

8.5.1 The District President shall appoint a District Committee on Stewardship to work in conjunction with the Synod's Department of Stewardship to assist and advise local congregations with the development and promotion of an adequate stewardship program.

9.0 TASK FORCES

9.1 Task forces may be developed for specific purposes at the discretion of the district president, regional mission facilitators, Board of Directors, or standing committees. Task forces function under the direction of the person or group that appointed them. The task forces may be regional or for the district as a whole.

9.2 Task forces should be chartered with a specific purpose and task and include a specific ending time.

10.0 PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

10.1 The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, the Bylaws of the District, any special rules of order the District may adopt, and the rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the district as parliamentary authorities wherever they are applicable and in decreasing order of precedence as listed.

11.0 SPECIAL RULE OF ORDER



11.1 The following special rule of order shall apply to the proceedings in the district:

11.1.1 If a substitute motion is made and seconded the presenter shall be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for presenting the motion. The convention shall then first decide by majority vote without debate whether or not to consider the substitute motion. 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 convention.

12.0 AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

12.1 These Bylaws may be amended as follows:

12.1.1 At a meeting of the District Convention by a majority vote provided that the amendment has been submitted in the Convention Workbook or in the Unprinted Reports and Overtures for that meeting and the delegates have a minimum of one night to review it. Prior review and approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters will be required. When prior approval is not possible, actions taken will not become effective until and unless such approval has been obtained.

12.1.2 At a meeting of the Board of Directors by a majority vote upon the express direction of the District Convention to amend the Bylaws to implement a specific resolution adopted by the convention. Prior review and approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters will be required. When prior approval is not possible, actions taken will not become effective until and unless such approval has been obtained.

12.1.3 *When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendments may be made by a two-third's majority of the District Board of Directors. Such amendments shall be drafted by the District Secretary in partnership with the District Committee on Constitutions and shall be reviewed in advance by the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters.*
(THIS ITEM ADDED AS SUGGESTED BY LCMS CCM)

Commissioned Minister Advisory Reps

Yes 28/100% No 0/0%

Voting Delegates Result: Vote on Resolution 22.2.1 APPROVED with 200 votes/95.24% majority.



RESOLUTION 22.2.3 To Strengthen the Nonvoting Advisory Delegate Participation at (District) Conventions

WHEREAS; Currently there are 12,010 Ministers of Religion - Commissioned (Church Worker Update System March 2021) who serve the mission and ministry of congregations, schools, child development centers, camps, compassion centers and mission work throughout the national and global mission fields; and

WHEREAS; The current structure of the Synod does not allow for a third category of voting delegates at District and Synod conventions (Synod Handbook: Article IX, Article XIL10b); and

WHEREAS; the Synod highly values commissioned ministers for their eagerness to serve the Lord and His Church (2019 Resolution 19-17 To Study Voting Privilege in the LCMS p. 201 of 2019 LCMS Convention Proceedings); and

WHEREAS; Ministers of Religion – Commissioned are considered Advisory Members with representation, voice, but no vote at conventions of Districts and Synod, “along with those ordained ministers not eligible for election as a voting delegate” under Bylaw 3.1.2.1(d)...(p.101 Handbook 2019) with representation, voice, but no vote at conventions of Districts and Synod; and

WHEREAS; four districts (Northern Illinois, Nebraska, Midsouth, and Pacific Southwest) utilize the voice and guidance of their commissioned worker in district convention through a non-counted advisory member vote; and

WHEREAS; this honors the bylaw and structure of Convention while allowing the Nonvoting Advisory Delegate voice to be heard and their vote recognized; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Pacific Southwest District, LCMS affirm the trial practice of the 2022 PSD Convention (supported by the PSD Board of Directors) to enable Nonvoting Advisory Commissioned Minister Delegates to provide a preliminary advisory vote on all non-election, convention actions, and be it further

Resolved, that a pre-vote-model of commissioned ministers become a regular practice of the Pacific Southwest District starting with the next District Convention in 2025, and be it further

Resolved: That each congregation will have the right to send one Commissioned Minister, non-voting advisory delegate to the District Convention, and be it finally



Resolved, That the Pacific Southwest District, LCMS in convention memorialize the 2023 Synod Convention to pass a like-minded resolution, encouraging other Districts to do the same, and implementing this practice at the Synodical Convention in 2026.

Amendment returned to the floor as amended Wednesday afternoon before Orders of the Day were called.

Action from Wednesday afternoon:

Proposed Amendment:

Additional Resolved at Line 69: “Resolved: That each congregation will have the right to send one Commissioned Minister non-voting advisory delegate to the District Convention.”

Seconded

Amendment vote result: Passes with 63.26%/136 Votes

Rev. John Palka, chair. Mr. Jeff Courvoisier, presenting.

New Discussion

Proposed Amendment to the Amended Motion at Line 69: “Resolved, each RSO and circuit would have the right to elect one Commissioned Minister to be a Non-voting Advisory Commissioned Minister Delegate. If a RSO does not employ a Commissioned Minister, they forfeit the right to send a Nonvoting Advisory Commissioned Minister Delegate. Commissioned Ministers are the only ones to participate in their circuit election.”

Yes 42/20.00% No 168/80.00%

AMENDMENT is defeated.

Motion to consider a replacement motion

To grant voting rights to commissioned ministers at Synodical Conventions

WHEREAS; Currently there are 12,010 Ministers of Religion - Commissioned (Church Worker Update System March 2021) who serve the mission and ministry of congregations, schools, child development centers, camps, compassion centers and mission worked throughout the national and global mission fields; and

WHEREAS; The current structure of the Synod does not allow for a third category of voting delegates at District and Synod conventions (Synod Handbook: Article IX, Article XI L1 Ob); and



WHEREAS; the Synod highly values commissioned ministers for their eagerness to serve the Lord and His Church (2019 Resolution 19-17 To Study Voting Privilege in the LCMS p. 201 of 2019 LCMS Convention Proceedings); and

WHEREAS; Ministers of Religion — Commissioned are considered Advisory Members with representation, voice, but no vote at conventions of Districts and Synod, “along with those ordained ministers not eligible for election as a voting delegate” under Bylaw 3.1.2.1(d)...(p.101 Handbook 2019) with representation, voice, but no vote at conventions of Districts and Synod; be it

Resolved, that the Pacific Southwest District, LCMS in convention memorialize the 2023 Synod Convention to amend the synodical Handbook so that it make provisions for commissioned ministers, one per circuit, to vote in upcoming synodical conventions beginning with the Synodical Convention in 2026.

Yes 43/20.00% No 172/80.00%

Motion to consider a replacement motion is defeated.

Motion to call the question PASSED.

Commissioned Minister Advisory Representatives

Yes 27/93.10% No 2/6.90%

Voting Delegates Result: Vote on Resolution 22.2.3 approved as amended with 150 votes/68.18% majority.

3:00 pm – Nominations and Elections, Rev. Jonathan Burkee presenting

- District Nominations Committee – 2025 PSD Convention, Presented by Rev. Phill Robbins (Ordained) Mr. Dick Holk (Commissioned) and Ms. Fifi Locke (Lay)
- Region 1
 - Ordained
 - Rev. Anthony Foster
 - Rev. Arthur Stevens
 - Elected to the 2025 District Nominations Committee Region 1 – Ordained is Rev. Anthony Foster with 59 votes.
 - Commissioned
 - John Chapman
 - Linda Schleef
 - Elected to the 2025 District Nominations Committee Region 1 – Commissioned Minister is Mr. John Chapman with 88 votes/56.05%



- Lay
 - Susan Shiller
 - Ronald Boyd
 - Elected to the 2025 District Nominations Committee Region 1 – Lay is Ms. Susan Shiller with 83 votes/50.92%.
- Region 2
 - Ordained
 - Rev. James Harris
 - Rev. Jonathan Brandenburg
 - Elected to the 2025 District Nominations Committee Region 2 – Ordained is Rev. Jonathan Brandenburg with 96 votes/58.90%.
 - Commissioned
 - Kit Hittinger
 - Brenda Nguyen
 - Elected to the 2025 District Nominations Committee Region 2 – Commissioned Minister is Ms. Brenda Nguyen with 95 votes/59.75%.
 - Lay
 - Debbie Hirsch
 - Mike Benzow
 - Elected to the 2025 District Nominations Committee Region 2 – Lay is Mr. Mike Benzow with 99 votes/59.28%
- Region 3
 - Ordained
 - Rev. Eric Clausen
 - Rev. Travis Ferguson
 - Elected to the 2025 District Nominations Committee Region 3 – Ordained is Rev. Travis Ferguson with 88 votes/51.46%.
 - Commissioned
 - Amy Blane
 - Elected to the 2025 District Nominations Committee Region 3 – Commissioned Minister by acclamation is Mrs. Amy Blane.
 - Lay
 - Joshua Marsh
 - Elected to the 2025 District Nominations Committee Region 3 – Lay is Mr. Joshua Marsh.
- Region 4
 - Ordained
 - Rev. Jonathan Burkee (removed due to election as Secretary)
 - Position will be filled by appointment through the Board of Directors.



- Commissioned
 - Annie Tiberg Anderson
 - Elected to the 2025 District Nominations Committee Region 4 – Commissioned Minister by acclamation is Ms. Annie Tiberg Anderson.
- Lay
 - Shannon Bagnara
 - Elected to the 2025 District Nominations Committee Region 4 – Lay by acclamation is Mrs. Shannon Bagnara.

3:17 pm Break

3:32 pm Call to Order

3:35 pm Board Of Directors' Report Introduce 1st Vp, Bod Chair, Rev. Vince Harman

- Board role: to support Pres. Gibson in his work of carrying out the mission of the district
- Highlights:
 - Thanks for all that Pres. Gibson and Rachel Klitzing did to support churches and schools of the district during COVID, while meeting over Zoom was effective, meeting in person is preferred
 - Mission Planting – excited about the work of the Mission Training Center
 - Resourcing Leaders for health and effectiveness—began in 2021
 - Support for all workers conferences hosted in 2020
 - Resourcing schools for health
 - Excited about the micro schools LuTEC
 - LuTEC should be getting off the ground this fall
- Forward thinking, prepared for action, each day in service to Jesus

3:41 pm Mission/Ministry Moment – Dominic Rivkin

- *Video highlighting different ministries*
 - Rosa Gonzalez
 - Andrew Edmenson (sp)
- Close your eyes and hear the theme verse from Ephesians 3:20-21
- Far more Abundantly
- Engaging our communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- How does a fruitful tree grow healthy?
 - The tap root – our rich Biblical theology
 - The heart root – our spiritual development
 - Our lives look more like Christ



- The flat root – ministry competency
 - Proclaiming the Gospel in ways that connect to our community
- Fruitful trees will engage their communities in new ways
- Norwalk Mission Development Center
- ReNEW
- Mission Training Center
- LuTEC
 - These ministries are available to be blessings to the entire district
- The Three R's
 - Retain
 - Remodel/Repurpose
 - Replant

3:53 pm School Ministries Report – Rachel Klitzing, Executive Director, PSD School Ministries

- *Photo slideshow playing in the background highlighting different teachers, students, schools, and ministries in the PSD*
- Rachel began in 1988 – 24th year in this position and 30th overall
- Thanksgiving for all those who work to support our schools
- Rachel: “I am always so proud to be your colleague!”
- Statistics:
 - Rachel showed a map representing where our schools are located
 - Diverse areas and geography
 - 91 Preschools
 - 50 Elementary Schools
 - High schools
- LuTEC
 - LA county and Norwalk will host these vocational schools
 - August 18
- Partners: Soaring ... RSO and Orange Lutheran Online
- Saving Grace Preschool
- Enrollment:
 - 2021-22 High school students: 4910
 - K-8 students: 7888
 - Preschool students: 6636
- 2000 student increase
- Highest it has been in 5 years
- 1918 children have been baptized as a direct result of our Lutheran Schools since our last district convention in 2018
- Our schools are diverse, representing students from different backgrounds and ethnicities.
- *Rachel shared a video of how God is doing abundantly more*



- Video included interviews with students, teachers, administrators, and pastors
- Abundant wonderful life in Christ Jesus
- We are connected in Christ, we are called to serve

~~RESOLUTION 22.3.2 To Reject Racism and Recognize the PSD's Successes, Failures, and Opportunities in ministry within Communities of Color~~

To reject racism, rectify past wrongs of commission and omission, and recognize the Pacific District successes, failures, and opportunities in ministry within communities.

Rev. Kevin Kritzer, chair. - Mrs. Victoria Swanson, presenting.

WHEREAS, God has created all people and they are blood related going back to our mutual fathers, Adam and Noah, and all are subject to the stain of original sin, but now also have been equally redeemed by the blood of Christ in order to be reconciled to God and to each other; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) abhors racism, and in convention has passed resolutions repudiating all racism; and

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention (2019 Resolution 11-04A, "To Affirm the Common Humanity of All People and Ethnicities") resolved, "That the members of the congregations of the Synod be encouraged to work toward racial reconciliation and equality within the Church and within society-at large"; and

WHEREAS, We appreciate and recognize the work of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations in their 1994 study, "Racism and the Church: Overcoming the Idolatry", further research and study is necessary; and

WHEREAS, The legacy of racism enacted through prejudice and discrimination has negatively impacted the needs, well-being, income, and property of people based solely on the color of their skin; and

WHEREAS, The people of God are striving to live faithfully, but still participate in sinful thoughts, words, and deeds in what they do and leave undone (1 John 1:8-10), which can and has included the sin of racism; and

WHEREAS, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandments are to love God and love your neighbor (Mark 12:30-31); and

WHEREAS, Jesus illustrates for his disciples that they are to treat all persons as neighbor (Luke 10:29-37); and



WHEREAS, Paul exhorts us to show the love of Christ as we “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2); and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther extolls us to show that love as we care for our neighbors as we support them in their needs, well-being, income, and property in his explanations of the fifth and seventh commandments; and

WHEREAS, In order for the Pacific Southwest District to better engage acts of reconciliation and equality it should be informed of its history within communities ~~of color~~ to understand its successes and its failures; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Pacific Southwest District reject any teaching that:

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

Resolved, That the congregations of the Pacific Southwest District be encouraged to conduct conversations on race and diversity, to strengthen unity within the congregation; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations of the Pacific Southwest District be encouraged to engage members of their communities in these conversations, in light of Christ’s Gospel; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Pacific Southwest District commission a task force to study the Pacific Southwest District’s history of mission, ministry, and education within communities ~~of color~~, to be completed within eighteen months, so that we better recognize and give thanks to God for our successes and make confession of our failures; and be it further

Resolved, That the results of this task force’s study would also provide us with tangible ways to move forward in our present and future outreach efforts in communities ~~of color~~, which could be new ministries or support for existing ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the study will be distributed by mail to all congregations in the district, made available on the district website, and discussed at the 2025 Pacific Southwest District Convention; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Pacific Southwest District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention in 2023 to call on the faculty of our two seminaries to do an in-depth study of our national mission, ministry, and education efforts within communities ~~of color~~ to be completed within twenty-four months after district proceedings and made available on



the Synodical website and emailed to member congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Substitute motion proposed to revert the resolution to the original text of overture 13 found in the workbook Section 5, pages 36-7:

Yes 68/28.65% No 172/71.35%

Amendment strikes the words "of color":

Yes 134/70.16% No 57/29.84%

Amendment the title of the resolution to "To reject racism, rectify past wrongs of commission and omission and recognize the Pacific District successes, failures, and opportunities in ministry within communities." language added [, rectify past wrongs of commission and omission]:

Yes 128/64.97% No 69/35.03%

Call the Question

Yes 183/91.94% No 18/8.06%

Commissioned Minister Representatives

Yes 28/96.55% No 1/3.45%

Result: Approved with 87.62% with 177 votes
12.38% no 25 votes

RESOLUTION 22.1.3 To Increase The Number Of Pacific Southwest District Men And Women Preparing For Church Work Professions

Rev. Ron Burcham, chair. - Bryan Budhholz, presenting

WHEREAS, all Christ-followers are called to engage in the Mission of God, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20);" and

WHEREAS, in Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus tells us "to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest;" and

WHEREAS, the status of need for called workers has been recognized by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, resulting in the formation of the Synod-wide effort, "Set Apart to Serve;" and

WHEREAS, the need for Ordained and Commissioned Ministers who are willing to serve in the congregations and schools of the Pacific Southwest District is increasing,



evidenced by the growing length of time that congregations are engaged in church worker call processes; and

WHEREAS, potential church workers in the congregations and schools of the Pacific Southwest District love their communities, understand the context, are not afraid of the challenges of our context, and desire to serve in the Southwestern United States, to bring the hope of the Gospel to their family, friends, neighbors, classmates, and work associates; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod develop a district wide program for recruiting and retaining both commissioned and ordained ministers, and be it

RESOLVED that this program would equip congregations and schools of the Pacific Southwest District to identify men and women in their local ministries who show interest in and gifts of serving the Lord as a rostered church worker; making use of the “Set Apart to Serve” resources to assist in enlisting future ministers of the Gospel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pacific Southwest District in convention calls upon present and future District Presidents and Staff to do everything possible to bring these PSD church work students back to the congregations and schools of the district when they receive their first calls/assignments, so that they can joyfully serve in the context for which God has prepared them.

Commissioned Minister Representatives
Yes 25/ 89.29% No 3/ 10.71%

Result: Approved with 91.53% with 173 votes
8.47% no 16 votes

RESOLUTION 22.1.5 To Celebrate the work of the Mission Training Center (MTC) and Encourage Congregations to Make Us of this Excellent Resource for their Ministries

Rev. Ron Burcham, chair. - Bryan Budhholz, presenting

WHEREAS, the Mission Training Center (MTC) has, for 37 years, been training men and women in districts of the LCMS to serve in ministry alongside their pastors, and

WHEREAS, MTC has been a resource used by many districts to train Parish Ministry Assistants and Deacons, who served congregations as Licensed Lay Deacons, and

WHEREAS, MTC was effectively connected with the Northwest District-LCMS, and Concordia University, Portland until its closure, and



WHEREAS, the Pacific Southwest, California-Nevada-Hawaii, and Northwest Districts, in partnership with Concordia University Irvine, are now providing leadership and financial support for the continued work of MTC (based in PSD) to benefit congregations and districts across the Synod, and

WHEREAS, districts can no longer license deacons for congregation-based Word and Sacrament ministry because of a decision at the 2016 LCMS Convention, districts continue to support and certify the training of deacons, parish ministry assistants through the work of the Mission Training Center, supporting and equipping lay people to partner with their pastors for ministry and service within local congregations, outreach, church planting, and community service, and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that individuals and congregations within the Pacific Southwest District renew their commitment to the Mission Training Center as a primary resource to prepare men and women for ministry in their congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the members of the Pacific Southwest District be encouraged to promote the use of MTC in their congregations, pray for the translation of MTC courses into other languages, and to become the go-to training platform with expanded offerings to host on-demand seminars and courses for elders, church treasurers, youth leaders, Sunday School teachers, etc. and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Pacific Southwest District give thanks to God for the past, present, and future work of the Mission Training Center by standing in convention and singing the common doxology.

Commissioned Minister Representatives

Yes 27/ 100% No 0/ 0%

Result: Approved with 93.26% with 180 votes
 6.74% no 13 votes

5:19 Closing Prayer - By Rev. Mike Hall

Singing of the Common Doxology followed the closing prayer

5:21 Announcements and Adjournment

Friday Morning Schedule

8:01 am Call to Order



8:00 am Devotion (Region 2 VP, Rev. Dustin Parker)

- Opening Responsive Psalm 22
- Opening Song “Indescribable”
- Reading from Ephesians 3:19-20
- The show *Broken* is used as an opening illustration and throughout the devotion.
- You are loved. Without God, life is empty.
- Despite our brokenness we all receive grace at the altar.
- If we are going to be abundantly more, it begins with being loved. It overflows into the places God sends us.
- Closing Prayer
- Closing Hymn “It is Well”

Registration Report

- As of 8:25 a.m. today, those registered for the convention are:
 - 122 Pastoral Voting Delegates
 - 109 Lay Voting Delegates
 - 231 Total Voting Delegates
 - 23 Pastoral Advisory Delegates
 - Commissioned Minister Advisory Delegates
 - 30 Commissioned Minister Representatives
 - 46 Guests
 - 32 Exhibitors
 - 370 Total Attendees

8:27 Announcements and Updates

- Addition of churches to newly constituted churches: Hispanic Mission of San Bernadino and Fontana, CA – Pastor Mark McKenzie
- Correction to circuit visitor list:
 - Circuit 14 Randy Buecheler, Mt Calvary, Lake Arrowhead
 - Circuit 23 Michael Kessler, Calvary, Yuma
- Presentation to Trinity Central Lutheran Church to Pastor James Choi for 140 years of ministry in the city of Los Angeles, CA

8:34 am Youth and Family Ministry - Steve Schedler, DCE Liaison

- Steve has seen many changes in the last 38 years of his service in this district.
- District Youth Committee
 - Seeking new opportunities of how to serve post COVID.
 - Give thanks to the Lord for Pastor Seth Moorman who will be stepping down.



- 1000 handwritten notes sent out to church workers and included a gift card to show support and love for all church workers.
- September 2021
 - Explored the process of establishing ministry ambassadors throughout the district to partner with churches. This has not yet been finalized, but it is in process.
- 4 youth and 2 adults attended LCMS YouthLead in St. Louis, MO, March 2022
- July 9-13, 2022 National Youth Gathering, gathering in Houston
 - 757 youth and adults and 50 congregations will be attending
 - Partnering with the other West Coast districts for a post gathering rodeo
- Partners with Kindle and the encouragement and training of DCEs.
- DCE Ministry
 - 52 active, rostered DCEs serving in various capacities
 - 86 total DCEs (including those who are emeritus or not in a current call)

8:41 am Mission/Ministry Moment

- Opening Prayer
- Mission Training Center Video
 - Matches an online delivery system with excellent instructors with people in their immediate contexts.
 - Encouragement for the laity be equipped and not just the pastoral ministry.
 - Learn more about. Spread the word about it.
 - Not enough people are familiar with it.

8:47 am CUI Church Worker Formation Opportunities

- Every year they cannot fill a number of calls.
- Programs across the boards are down. CUI is starting to recovery, but there has been a dip.
- We need your help
- We are partners together
- The strongest influences are parents, church workers, members of congregations
- Many start in different majors and later enter into church work vocations
- ASK: Have you encouraged specific people to consider ministry?
- Ministry Programs Feature
- Largest CUS theological faculty
- Team ministry taught and modeled
- Residential education

Director of Christian Education – Director Rebecca Duport

- Only DCE program in theology
- Traditional 4 years plus internship
- BA online with certification



- MA theology online with certification
- Certification in place – commission the workers in the congregation where they serve

Director of Parish Music – Jon Jordening

- Serving the broad musical needs of the church
- Traditional BA
- Colloquy for music majors—can be combined with an MA in theology
- Practical experience and mentoring
- Center for worship leadership

Lutheran Teaching – Cari Chittick

- Elementary and secondary education
- Practicum in Lutheran Teaching
- Special education and educational specialist options
- High school theology certification
- Graduate degrees in education
- Colloquy

Pre-Seminary/Deaconess - David Loy, Dean of Christ College

- Faithful formation and deep learning
- Learning with other ministers
- Students choose any major
- Pre-Sem is a minor, they can choose any major they wish
- Complete seminary prerequisites
- Including Greek/Hebrew with excellent professors

Cross-cultural Ministry Center – Glenn Fluegge

- Faithful missionary pastors for culture crossing ministries
- 27-year partnership – MDiv equivalent
- CUI: MA in theology
- CSL: General pastor certification
- Four-year vicarage concurrent and contextual while in class
- Live distance education during the year
- Three week in-person summer session

Partnering Together

- Pray for workers to the harvest
- Be part of the answer to those prayers
- Encourage all ages
- Send your students, even if they have a different major
- Keep encouraging and supporting

9:09 am Floor Committees



RESOLUTION 22.1.4 To increase the number of students preparing for General Ordination by expanding the work of the Cross-cultural Ministry Center – CUI (CMC)

Rev. Ron Burcham, chair. - Delcia Harber, presenting.

WHEREAS, God has greatly blessed the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and our global partner church bodies since 1839 with pastors educated and shaped by our wonderful Seminaries; and

WHEREAS, the congregations of the Pacific Southwest District – LCMS acknowledge that there is a growing need for well trained, general ordination pastors who are able to receive divine calls from congregations without restriction, provide supervision for other rostered church workers, supervise vicars, hold elected or appointed office on the district or national Synod level such as a Circuit Visitor, and vote as delegates at the Synodical conventions of the church; and

WHEREAS, pastors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are retiring in larger numbers than ever before (estimated 1/3 of our Congregations will be without a Pastor by 2035) and the number of men entering our seminaries is less than what is needed to replace these faithful servants and expand further mission and ministry; and

WHEREAS, most students in today's world of education expect that they will be afforded the opportunity to learn in a variety of educational methods which include both online as well as in-person instruction; and

WHEREAS, it has become increasingly difficult and prohibitive for prospective LCMS seminary students to leave homes, family, employment, and ministry context to move cross-country to enroll in a four-year residential Master of Divinity program; and

WHEREAS, the Cross-cultural Ministry Center at Concordia University Irvine has, for 27 years, faithfully offered the only Master's-level degree in the LCMS with a hybrid model of online and in- person education leading to general ordination with certification through Concordia Seminary St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, enrollment in the Cross- cultural Ministry Center is currently limited by: 1) A total enrollment of 29 students in the program; 2) where those students are geographically located (LCMS Region 5 – Western US); and 3) A seemingly narrow definition of “culture crossing” that is required for enrollment, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Pacific Southwest District memorialize the 2023 LCMS Convention to direct Concordia Seminary St. Louis to remove the current limitations for the Cross-cultural Ministry Center (number of students, geographical locations of students, and criteria for culture-crossing ministries) to enable more men to prepare for the pastoral ministry.



Discussion from Rev. Dr. Steve Mueller in explanation of why this resolution is necessary.

Commissioned Minister Representatives

Yes 28/96.55% No 1/3.45%

Result: Approved with 93.48% and 172 votes/6.52% no 12 votes

RESOLUTION 22.1.2 To create a third pathway for general pastoral colloquy for members of LCMS congregations who have graduated with an accredited Masters of Divinity Degree from a non-LCMS Seminary

Rev. Ron Burcham, chair. Rev. Dan Chrismer, presenting.

WHEREAS, God's Word call us to pray for additional workers in the harvest, "When he (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "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 9:36-37, ESV); and

WHEREAS, pastors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are retiring in larger numbers than ever before (estimated 1/3 of our Congregations will be without a Pastor by 2035) and the number of men entering our seminaries is less than what is needed to replace these faithful servants and expand further mission and ministry; and

WHEREAS, the congregations of the Pacific Southwest District – LCMS give thanks to God and celebrate the various alternate routes to ordination and pastoral ministry available in the LCMS, such as Specific Ministry Pastors (SMP), there is a growing need for general ordination pastors who are able to receive divine calls from congregations without restriction, provide supervision for other rostered church workers, supervise vicars, hold elected or appointed office on the district or national Synod level such as a Circuit Visitor, and vote as delegates at the Synodical conventions of the church; and

WHEREAS, there are pathways by which pastors, from church bodies outside the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, who meet specific criteria may secure admission to the ministerium of LCMS as general ordination pastors through Colloquy. This admission may be provided through a "colloquy" (discussion, interview) with the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry; and

WHEREAS, The Policy Manual for Admission to the Pastoral Ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by Colloquy: Bylaws and Policies states:
To be eligible to apply for colloquy, applicants must fit into one of the categories listed below (the applicant will indicate under which category he is applying, but the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry is responsible for the final determination of the category in each individual situation):



1. **Active Pastors from Other Christian Church Bodies:**
Men who, at the time of application are in good standing and in active service as pastors in another Christian Church body/denomination may apply for colloquy. Such applicants must be graduates of a program of study that leads to ordination, from an accredited institution, with no fewer than 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of required academic credit. Such applicants must also have served at least three years in a recognized ministry of their church body. Applicants must supply suitable documentation of their active status and good standing in their current church body/denomination. Pastors of congregations that are not affiliated with a church body/denomination (are “non-denominational” or “independent”) also may apply, but they must supply suitable references and documentation of their authorization to perform pastoral ministry. In all cases the academic requirements will apply.

2. **Men Who Have Prepared for Pastoral Ministry but, at the Time of Application, Are Not in Active Service as Pastors:**
Such applicants must be graduates of a program of study that leads to ordination, from an accredited institution, with no fewer than 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of required academic credit. Applicants with prior pastoral service must provide the date (month and year) and the reason (e.g. retirement, resignation, dismissal) their active service ended. References and suitable documentation will be required. Such an applicant also must have been a communicant member in good standing in a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for at least two years* immediately prior to the time of application.

WHEREAS, Men who have been long-time members in good standing in a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, but are graduates of programs of study leading to ordination from an accredited institution outside the Lutheran Church-Missouri (meeting all the necessary academic credit requirements), are not afforded the same opportunity to apply for Colloquy as are pastors from church bodies outside the LCMS, but must enroll in the Residential Alternative Route Program (requiring a two year residential academic program at one of our two seminaries and a one year vicarage) before becoming a general ordination pastor in the LCMS;

WHEREAS, requiring a residential program for individuals who have completed an accredited degree is cumbersome and burdensome to many, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Pacific Southwest District memorialize the 2023 LCMS Convention to create a third pathway for general pastoral colloquy that provides the opportunity for members of LCMS congregations who have graduated from programs of study leading to ordination from outside the seminaries of the LCMS (satisfying all the necessary academic credit requirements) to become general ordination pastors in the



LCMS by way of the Colloquy process, without enrolling in the Residential Alternative Route Program.

Call the previous question

Result: Approved with 87.15% and 156 votes/12.85% no 23 votes

Commissioned Minister Representatives

Yes 28/96.55% No 1/3.45%

Result: Approved with 89.89% and 169 votes/10.11% no 19 votes

9:59 am Reception honoring Barbara Farley, Exec Asst to the DP

- Accolades from President Emeritus Larry Stoterau
- Award presented for her many years of faithful service - “well done thou good and faithful servant”
- 15 years of faithful service

10:00 am Break

10:26 am Floor Committee - Resolution/Debate/Vote

RESOLUTION 22.1.6 To Reconsider the Use of the Licensed Lay Deacons in Word and Sacrament Ministry

Rev. Ron Burcham, chair. - Mrs. Annie Anderson, presenting.

WHEREAS, there is an increasing number of congregations who are unable to support a pastor and his family on a full time basis, and,

WHEREAS, Licensed Lay Deacons served effectively in the Synod from 1989-2016 (with a short pause), and

WHEREAS, the Synod has changed its position on the use of Licensed Lay Deacons in Word and Sacrament ministry a number of times during these years: 1989, ministry of LLDs established at Synod convention (res. 3-05b); 1995, ministry of LLDs taken back (res. 3-07a) by requiring LLDs to apply for colloquy; 2001 - ministry of LLDs resurrected (res. 3-08b) and calls for DELTO oversight committee; 2007, SMP put into play; 2016, LLDs severely limited (res. 13-02a), and

WHEREAS, the number of congregations facing shared ministry or potential closure continues to increase, and



WHEREAS, the present technological resources available to congregations make supervision of Licensed Lay Deacons by Ordained Ministers more accessible and effective, and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod affirms the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit calls people to faith in Jesus Christ and sustains them in that faith, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pacific Southwest District would memorialize the 2023 LCMS Convention to establish a Task Force to reconsider the use of Licensed Lay Deacons in Word and Sacrament ministry within its congregations, and be it further

RESOLVED, that members of the Task Force specifically include Districts that have historically made extensive use of Licensed Lay Deacons in Word and Sacrament ministry, and be it further

RESOLVED, any use of Licensed Lay Deacons in Word and Sacrament ministry must occur under the direct supervision of an Ordained Minister, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the appointed Task Force study the document, Workers for His Harvest, submitted by the Northwest District Board of Directors following the 2016 Synod Convention.

Call the previous question

Result: Approved with 87.79% and 151 votes/ 12.21% no 21 votes

Commissioned Minister Representatives

Yes 28/96.55% No 1/3.45%

Result: Approved with 82.12% and 147 votes/17.88% no 32 votes

RESOLUTION 22.1.7 To Encourage and Expand Support for Immigrant and Non-Anglo Pastoral Formation through Learning-in-Ministry, Non-Residential, Distance Programs that lead to Ordination

Rev. Ron Burcham, chair. - Rev. Dan Chrismer, presenting.

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, Jesus set an example of what a robust theological education looks like by teaching his disciples theology while they were, at the exact same time, engaged in real-world, real- time, hands-on ministry with him; and



WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul educated and raised up new pastors and leaders by inviting them to join him and assist him and work alongside him in real- world, real-time, hands-on ministry; and

WHEREAS, God is bringing thousands of new immigrants to our communities and thereby providing our congregations with new and vast harvest fields; and

WHEREAS, our Pacific Southwest District pastors and congregations are identifying new potential pastoral leaders in and among these immigrant, non-Anglo communities; and

WHEREAS, the pool of men who are interested in and gifted for pastoral ministry and who are, at the same time, able to give up jobs, sell homes, and relocate their spouse and children to either St. Louis, Missouri or Ft. Wayne, Indiana continues to get smaller; and

WHEREAS, an unintended consequence of synod promoting residential seminary education as the preferred option for the preparation of men for pastoral ministry (2019 LCMS Resolution 6-02) is that non-residential, immigrant students receive, proportionally, a lower percentage of tuition aid from the seminary to cover the costs of their academic programs than do residential students; and

WHEREAS, pastors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are retiring in larger numbers than ever before (estimated 1/3 of our Congregations will be without a Pastor by 2035) and the number of men entering our seminaries is less than what is needed to replace these faithful servants and expand further mission and ministry; be it therefore

Resolved, That the District in convention encourage its pastors, leaders, and congregations to continue to cultivate, from our immigrant, non-Anglo communities, new leaders who are intentionally engaged in the mission of God, and be it finally

Resolved, That the Pacific Southwest District in convention memorialize the 2023 LCMS Convention to encourage the seminaries to maintain and strengthen their non-residential, learning-in-ministry, distance programs, and to award financial aid more equitably toward the students in these programs.

Call the previous question

Result: Approved with 93.98% and 156 votes/6.02% no 10 votes

Commissioned Minister Representatives

Yes 29/100% No 0/0%

Result: Approved with 95.21% and 159 votes/4.79% no 8 votes



RESOLUTION 22.3.4 To Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of PSD

Rev. Kevin Kritzer, chair. - Diana Alexander, presenting.

WHEREAS, The Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod was formed on July 2, 1930 as the Southern California District; and

WHEREAS, The Southern California District, now known as the Pacific Southwest District, has for 92 years effectively resourced congregations and schools to transform lives and make the Great Commission real; and

WHEREAS, The book, *The Romance of Lutheranism in California*, tells the story of the growth of LCMS congregations and schools in California from August 18 24, 1860 through 1959; and

WHEREAS, The Pacific Southwest District will celebrate its 100th anniversary on July 2, 2030; therefore be it

Resolved, That the congregations of the Pacific Southwest District – Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod declare the twelve months from July 1, 2030–June 30, 2031 as a Year of Jubilee to be set aside to give thanks to God for His faithfulness through the ministries of our congregations and schools; and be it further

Resolved, That the triennial District Convention, to be held in the summer of 2031, be identified as the official occasion for the 100th Anniversary Celebration; and be it further

Resolved, That the Pacific Southwest District raise funds to cover the cost of researching and writing, under the leadership of the district archivist, a new book to be made available to the church that tells the “rest of the story” of mission, congregation, and school development in Nevada, Arizona, and Southern California since 1959; and be it further

Resolved, That over the next eight years, congregations and schools accept the task of telling their own story of God’s faithfulness in their context by writing their history, gathering photos, film, videos, etc. and contributing the content to the district archives for inclusion in the new district history book; and be it finally

Resolved, That the District Presidium appoint an Anniversary Committee to provide resources for congregations and schools to use throughout the Year of Jubilee and specifically for the triennial district convention of 2031.

Commissioned Minister Representatives

Yes 29/100% No 0/0%

Result: Approved with 93.94% and 155 vote/6.06% no 10 votes



RESOLUTION 22.3.3 To Incorporate Prison Ministry into the PSD as a Recognized Mission Field

Rev. Kevin Kritzer, chair. - Victoria Swanson, presenting.

WHEREAS, Jesus commends those who visit the incarcerated (Matthew 25:36) and the apostles commend us to remember those who are in chains (Hebrews 13:3); and

WHEREAS, Resolution 6-10 was approved at convention in 1995 to Emphasize Importance of Prison Ministry; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 6-04A was approved at convention in 1998 to Encourage Ministry to the Imprisoned, Ex-offenders, Their Families, and to Victims of Crime; and

WHEREAS, The Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod, empowered by the Holy Spirit in Word and Sacrament, is in a vital position to offer comfort and hope to people affected by crime so that they may share in reconciliation and abundant life; and

WHEREAS, The goal of prison ministry program is to include and motivate the church to seize Gospel opportunities and responsibilities to the imprisoned, formerly incarcerated, their families, and train persons for ministry with the above; therefore be it

Resolved, That the District will make a thorough search of all ministries currently ongoing in order to increase awareness and encourage congregations to participate in prison ministry, **ministry to the formerly incarcerated, and their families** as a mission outreach of the Synod-approved ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the District will designate prison ministry as a mission objective; and be it finally

Resolved, That the District will include prison ministry on their website and social media platforms.

Amendment lines 33 and 34 to read “participate in prison ministry, ministry to the formerly incarcerated, and their families as a mission outreach.”

Result: Approved with 93.37% and 155 votes/6.63% no 11 votes

Call the previous question

Result: Approved with 87.80% and 144 votes/12.20% no 20 votes

Commissioned Minister Representatives

Yes 28/96.55% No 1/3.45%



Result: Approved with 96.97% and 160 votes/3.03% no 5 votes

11:27 am Convention Registration Committee Report

- Final Delegate Report
- As of 11:27 a.m. today, those registered for the convention are:
 - 122 Pastoral Voting Delegates
 - 109 Lay Voting Delegates
 - 231 Total Voting Delegates
 - 23 Advisory Delegates
 - 30 Commissioned Minister Reps.
 - Commissioned Minister Adv. Delegates
 - 46 Guests
 - 32 Exhibitors
 - 370 Total Attendees

11:28 am Closing Worship (Rev. Mike Hall, chaplain), Installation of Officers (Rev. Dr. Scott Murray, Region 5 Vice President of the LCMS)

- Invocation
- We go with the gifts of God.
- We go with the gift of prayer in our own lives and the lives of other people.
- Acts 4:23-30 – great example of God’s people praying together and for one another
 - Recount who our God is (recalled what our God is all about)
 - Prayed the Scripture – sometimes God’s Word “fills the gaps”
 - They let the Lord shape their request – His Will is accomplished
 - They prayed together – with, not just for
- Corporate Prayer led by Pastor Hall
- Installation of Pres. Gibson led by Vice President Murray
- Installation of all officers
- Closing Hymn “The Church is One Foundation”

11:56 am Announcements – Adjournment



Election Result Summary

DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Rev. Dr. Michael Gibson of Christ Lutheran Church, Costa Mesa, CA

1ST VICE PRESIDENT - REGION 4

Rev. Vince Harman of Christ Lutheran Church, Yuma, AZ

2ND VICE PRESIDENT - REGION 2

Rev. Tim Eaton of Zion Lutheran Church, Anaheim, CA

3RD VICE PRESIDENT - REGION 1

Rev. Dr. ST Williams of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA

4TH VICE PRESIDENT - REGION 3

Rev. Dustin Parker of Concordia Lutheran Church, Cerritos, CA

SECRETARY

Rev. Jonathan Burkee of Trinity Lutheran Church, Casa Grande, AZ

TREASURER

Ms. Leona Tschopp of St. John's Lutheran Church, Orange, CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMISSIONED MEMBER – REGION 1

Ms. Bonnie Hicks of Christ the King, Newbury Park, CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMISSIONED MEMBER – REGION 2

Mrs. Kayleigh Lopez of Bethany Lutheran Church, Long Beach, CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMISSIONED MEMBER – REGION 3

Mrs. Conni Schramm of Faith Lutheran Church, Capistrano Beach, CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMISSIONED MEMBER – REGION 4

Mrs. Lori Doyle of Christ Church Lutheran, Phoenix, AZ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS LAY MEMBER – REGION 1

Mrs. Laura Rusch of First Lutheran Church, Venice, CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS LAY MEMBER – REGION 2

Ms. Joyce Cabrera of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Rancho Cucamonga, CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS LAY MEMBER – REGION 3

Mr. Joel Held of Edgewater Lutheran Church, Eastvale, CA



BOARD OF DIRECTORS LAY MEMBER – REGION 4

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Rev. Kerry Duerr of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Anaheim, CA

Rev. Dr. Paul G. Wenz of Immanuel, Santa Barbara, CA

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – LAY (elect 1)

Mr. John T. Egly of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Lake Forest, CA

CONCORDIA BOARD OF REGENTS – ORDAINED (elect 1)

Rev. Glenn A. Lucas of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church and School, Lake Forest, CA

CONCORDIA BOARD OF REGENTS – COMMISSIONED (elect 1)

Mrs. Xavria Schwarz of Christ Lutheran Church and School, La Mesa, CA

CONCORDIA BOARD OF REGENTS – LAY (elect 2)

Mr. Neil Cowen of St. Paul Lutheran Church, San Diego, CA

Mr. Matthew Flandermeyer of Faith Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE – ORDAINED

Region 1: Rev. Anthony Foster

Region 2: Rev. Jonathan Brandenburg

Region 3: Rev. Travis Ferguson

Region 4: *Vacant*

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE – COMMISSIONED

Region 1: Mr. John Chapman

Region 2: Ms. Brenda Nguyen

Region 3: Mrs. Amy Blane

Region 4: Mrs. Annie Tiberg Anderson

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE – LAY

Region 1: Ms. Susan Shiller

Region 2: Mr. Mike Benzow

Region 3: Mr. Joshua Marsh

Region 4: Mrs. Shannon Bagnara



District Resolution Results

AMENDED RESOLUTION 22.1.1 To Establish 100 New Faith Communities Within PSD By The Time of The 100th Anniversary Of The District At The 2031 Convention
-approved

RESOLUTION 22.1.2 To create a third pathway for general pastoral colloquy for members of LCMS congregations who have graduated with an accredited Masters of Divinity Degree from a non-LCMS Seminary
-approved

RESOLUTION 22.1.3 To Increase The Number Of Pacific Southwest District Men And Women Preparing For Church Work Professions
-approved

RESOLUTION 22.1.4 To increase the number of students preparing for General Ordination by expanding the work of the Cross-cultural Ministry Center – CUI (CMC)
-approved

RESOLUTION 22.1.5 To Celebrate the work of the Mission Training Center (MTC) and Encourage Congregations to Make Us of this Excellent Resource for their Ministries
-approved

RESOLUTION 22.1.6 To Reconsider the Use of the Licensed Lay Deacons in Word and Sacrament Ministry
-approved

RESOLUTION 22.1.7 To Encourage and Expand Support for Immigrant and Non-Anglo Pastoral Formation through Learning in Ministry, Non-Residential, Distance Programs that lead to Ordination
-approved

RESOLUTION 22.2.1 To Update the Pacific Southwest District Bylaws
-approved

RESOLUTION 22.2.2 To Realign the Las Vegas and River Circuits
-approved

AMENDED RESOLUTION 22.2.3 To Strengthen the Nonvoting Advisory Delegate Participation at (District) Conventions
-approved



RESOLUTION 22.2.5 To Apply Term Limits to the President, First VP, Secretary and Treasurer of the PSD
-defeated

RESOLUTION 22.3.1 To Give Thanks to God for the Faithful Ministry of the Ordained and Commissioned Ministers and the Congregations and Schools of PSD in the midst of COVID
-approved

AMENDED RESOLUTION 22.3.2 To reject racism, rectify past wrongs of commission and omission, and recognize the Pacific District successes, failures, and opportunities in ministry within communities.
-approved

AMENDED RESOLUTION 22.3.3 To Incorporate Prison Ministry into the PSD as a Recognized Mission Field
-approved

RESOLUTION 22.3.4 To Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of PSD
-approved