

Celebrate Jesus



The Michigan District, LCMS
2009 Convention

“Celebrate Jesus”
99th Michigan District Convention
Concordia University Ann Arbor
June 28 - July 1, 2009

Proceedings and Bylaws

TABLE OF CONTENTS

An Introductory Word	3
Officers, Boards, and Committees	4
List of Registrants	7
Congregations by Circuit and Region	14
Congregations / Ministers-Ordained / Ministers-Commissioned Officially becoming members of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod By the Signing of the Constitution	19
Advisory Delegates to the 2010 Synodical Convention	20
Treasurer’s Report	21
District President’s Report	23
Philippians - Developing the Joyful Attitude of Fellowship in Christ	27
Minutes	44
Resolutions	
Committee #1	54
Committee #2	58
Bylaws of the Michigan District, LCMS	64
Bylaws of the Church Extension Fund	73



Michigan District
The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” –Philippians 2:9-11

Fortified by this declaration of the exalted Christ, and under the theme “Celebrate Jesus,” 515 voting delegates and 409 advisory participants and further guests assembled for the 99th Convention of The Michigan District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

The Convention commenced by celebrating the Lord’s means of grace in the Divine Service, June 28, 2009, within the Chapel of the Holy Trinity on the campus of Concordia University, Ann Arbor. Then, for three successive days leaders, representatives, and gathered participants addressed matters of Christian theology, church service, and useful polity to reflect the truth and love of Christ in our district.

These Proceedings are a compilation of much consecrated effort and hope for carrying forward faithfully the work of Christ’s church in this portion of His kingdom. Toward such ends, the Holy Spirit continues to bless this District abundantly.

By allegiance to Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, our beloved Michigan District will remain a vibrant arm of the Synod. We thank God for the devoted labors of laity, commissioned ministers, pastors, and district officials integrated into that portion of Christ’ work indicated by these Proceedings.

May the blessed Name extolled in the celebration of Jesus continue to mark the Michigan District and bless all service to and from her people. The enclosed reports, minutes, and articles of these Proceedings outline objectives, plans, and resources to enable that work of Christian ministry under Gospel.

In all things may those who comprise the Michigan District continue to Celebrate Jesus joyfully throughout the coming triennium as blessed recipients of His favor, forgiveness, and concord.

Rev. David H. Reed
Michigan District Secretary

OFFICERS

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President (2010)
1st Vice-President: Rev. Dr. William R. Diekelman (2010)
2nd Vice-President: Rev. Dr. Paul L. Maier (2010)
3rd Vice-President: Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrahe, Jr. (2010)

4th Vice-President: Rev. Dr. Dean W. Nadasdy (2010)
5th Vice-President: Rev. Dr. David D. Buegler (2010)
Secretary: Rev. Dr. Raymond L. Hartwig (2010)
VP Finance-Treasurer: Dr. Thomas W. Kuchta (2010)

THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

Rev. David P. E. Maier, President (2012)

1st Vice-President: Rev. Mark D. Brandt (2012)
2nd Vice-President: Rev. David A. Davis (2012)
Secretary: Rev. David H. Reed (2012)

3rd Vice-President: Rev. Dr. K. Frank Graves (2012)
4th Vice-President: Rev. John M. Duerr (2012)
Treasurer: Mr. William H. Young (2012)

COUNSELORS OF THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

(2012)

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Kevin C. Jones | 16. Eric W. Majeski | 31. Todd J. Brunworth |
| 2. Robert L. Mikkelson | 17. Michael P. Schulz | 32. Lawrence K Matro |
| 3. Dean R. Muhle | 18. Alan P. Eisinger | 33. James E. Schroeder |
| 4. Michael W. Schaedig | 19. John E. Merrill | 34. Robert D. Baerwolf |
| 5. Paul V. Young | 20. Steven J. Essenburg | 35. Timothy W. Olson |
| 6. William H. Allwardt | 21. David F. Burgess | 36. Jeffrey E. Heimsoth |
| 7. Kenneth D. Lueke | 22. Harold A. Avers | 37. Joseph Fremer |
| 8. Michael S. Allen | 23. Randy L. Johnson | 38. Dennis L. Lassanske |
| 9. Robert G. Gadenken | 24. Bruce K. Lucas | 39. John Westra |
| 10. William W. Hessler | 25. Kurt E. Lambert | 40. Mark W. Love |
| 11. Randall P. Schultz | 26. Richaed E. Pape | 41. Thomas F. Meyer |
| 12. Larry M. Eckart | 27. Thomas M. Lubeck | 42. David H. Sidwell |
| 13. John C. Kaiser | 28. Douglas M. Adams | 43. Michael J. Roth |
| 14. Gerhardt A. Doroh | 29. Larry G. Courson | 44. L. Daniel Johnson |
| 15. George S. Bagnall | 30. R. William Roper | |

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES OF THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>Region</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Commissioned</u>	<u>Laypersons</u>
Metro East: (2012)	Robert E. Kasper	Stanley R. Topel	John E. Held
West: (2012)	Dieter E. Haupt	Richard C. Krueger	Ruth E. Martin
Metro West: (2015)	Paul M. Moldenhauer	Harvey M. Schmit	Christine Chauvin
North & East: (2015)	Paul D. Theiss	James C. Anderson	Dale D. Gust
			Margaret O'Reilly
			John C. Raffel
			Stephen R. Boergert
			Larry A. Bauermeister

CHURCH EXTENSION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Commissioned</u>	<u>Laypersons</u>
	Joel F. Hoyer (2012)	Ian K. McDonald (2012)	James R. Saalfeld (2015)
	Robert B. Appold (2015)	Julian H. Petzold (2015)	Ray A. Seppamaki (2012)
	Michael J. Lutz (2012)		David Vallie (2015)
			Joseph R. Carabell (2015)
Staff:	Ronald L. Steinke President & CEO	Paul R. Wills VP for Marketing	John H. Bates VP & CFO

2012 CONVENTION NOMINATING COMMITTEE

<u>Region</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Commissioned</u>	<u>Laypersons</u>
Metro East:	Thomas F. Fischer	Terry M. Davis	Phillip J. Fluegge
Metro West:	Darryl L. Andrzejewski	Daniel W. Ramthun	Philip M. Krauss II
North & East:	Paul R. Hinz	Kevin J. Hendrickson	John W. Nutzmann
West:	Scott G. Sommerfeld	Susan L. Truog	Karla M. Woell

COMMISSION ON MINISTERIAL GROWTH AND SUPPORT

<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Laypersons</u>	<u>Commissioned</u>
Gary L. Beck	Catherine Lick	Ben F. Freudenburg
Mark W. Hetzner, Chairman	Roger Pickering	Beverly J. Koch
Bryan R. Salminen		Kathy A. Krause
Luke F. Stephan		Daniel W. Ramthun
Mark C. Whittaker		

Ex-Officio: Rev. Dr. Richard J. Wolfram, Rev. David P. E. Maier

COMMISSION ON DEACON QUALIFICATIONS

<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Laypersons</u>	<u>Commissioned</u>
Theodore W. Beiderwieden	Christine Brown	H. James Boldt
Warren L. Paulson	W. William Storm	
Robert J. Schultz, Chairman		

DISTRICT RECONCILERS: Rev. Terry E. Hoese, Mr. Duane F. Nagel, Mr. Duane A. Renken

NEW/REVISED CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE: Rev. Arnold H. Brammeier, Mr. James Garber, Mr. A. William Rolf, Rev. Luther A. Werth

DISTRICT LEGAL COUNSEL: Mr. Dana Dever

DISTRICT STANDING COMMITTEES

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: Mr. Ronald Chewning, Rev. John M. Duerr, Mr. Larry H. Rockensuess, Sr., Rev. R. William Roper, Rev. Stephen E. Schilke, Ms. Mary Smith

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Joel M. Bahr, Mr. Ronald L. Dressler, Mr. Kevin J. Hendrikson, Rev. Dr. John A. Herzog, Mr. Robert M. Hoch, Mr. Eric G. Pittman, Mr. Michael P. Rosin, Mr. Dennis M. Schmidt, Mr. Roy D. Siefker, Mr. Charles J. Strohacker, Mr. David J. Truog

DISTRICT COMMITTEES

Endowment Advisory Council: Mr. H. Wayne Franke, Mr. Stephen List, Mr. Barry Olson, Mr. G. Joseph Pasman, Mr. Dennis Tischler, Mr. Martin Zehnder, Mr. John W. Kidwell, Mr. Chad R. Woltemath, Mr. William H. Young, Rev. David P. E. Maier

125th Campaign Steering Committee: Dr. Thomas R. Ahlersmeyer, Dr. K. Frank Graves, Dr. John L. Heins, Mr. Gerald Kluck, Rev. David P. E. Maier, Dr. Paul L. Maier, Mr. Philip Moilanen, Mr. Karl W. Mueller, Mr. Barry Olson, Rev. Michael J. Roth, Dr. Richard L. Schlecht, Mr. Ronald L. Steinke, Dr. Wayne H. Wentzel, Mr. Robert Zeilinger, Mr. Richard Ziebart, Mr. John W. Kidwell, Mr. Raymond J. Zavada, Mr. Chad R. Woltemath

PCW Ethics Task Force: Mr. John E. Brandt, Mr. Thomas Jaffke, Dr. George M. Locke, Mr. Keith A. Minda, Mrs. Susan E. Palka, Rev. Philip G. Quardokus, Rev. Luther A. Werth, Dr. C. William Hoesman

Disaster Response Team: Mr. Joe Anheuser, Mr. Brent Courson, Rev. Larry G. Courson, Ms. Heidi Fowler-Henzi, Mr. Robert D. Schafer, Mr. Mark Schroeder, Ms. Susan Wintermeyer-Pingel

Health Advocates Task Force: Mrs. Caroline L. Klausmeier, Ms. Catherine Lick RN, Mrs. Michell L. Porisch RN

Children & Family Ministry Task Force: Rev. Todd A. Biermann, Mrs. Ann M. Colley, Ms. Caroline C. Gray, Mr. Mark A. Nimtze, Mr. David A. Sheldon, Ms. Christine L. Stodola

- Youth & Family Minsitry Task Force:** Mr. James Heuseman, Ms. Patricia J. Kernstock, Rev. Nicholas W. Koschmann, Ms. Emily M. Norman, Ms. Debora A. Stark, Mr. John A. Welte
- Children's Ministry Committee:** Mrs. Cynthia A. Brown, Mr. John B. Hagge, Ms. Rebekka Koehn, Mrs. Susan Regner, Ms. Christine L. Stodola
- Junior High Gathering Planning Committee:** Mr. James C. Anderson, Mrs. Katherine A. Duvendeck, Mrs. Kristin E. Hardy, Ms. Brenda M. Heissenbuettel, Mr. Joshua B. Kittleman, Mrs. Terri Kober, Mrs. Michelle M. Kranz, Mrs. Kelly Meyer, Ms. Greta L. Bower, Ms. Nancy Rieter, Ms. Rachel Walsh
- Senior High Gathering Planning Committee:** Mr. James C. Anderson, Rev. James R. Bruner, Mr. Andrew Guenther, Mrs. Janette M. Hart, Mrs. Rebecca Martinel, Mr. Keith A. Minda, Mr. Micah Rabe, Mr. Eric D. Steinke
- Lutheran Adult Gathering Planning Committee:** Mr. Richard S. Bearup, Mrs. Judy Bearup, Rev. David A. Davis, Mrs. Sallie Davis, Mr. Peter Grund, Mrs. Kitty Grund, Mr. Allan Hirt, Mrs. Shirley Hirt, Ms. Marilyn Humphrey, Rev. John W. Rauh, Mrs. LaVerne J. Rauh, Mr. O. Dennis Sohn, Mrs. Miriam L. Sohn, Mr. Keith Waller, Mrs. Kim Waller
- Commission on Mental Illness:** Rev. Roland R. Barkow, Rev. Barton C. Gray, Mrs. Laura J. Gray, Rev. Mark J. Hill, Dr. Carolyn Koppenol, Mrs. Carol L. Staudacher, Mrs. Linda LaTulip, Rev. Warren L. Paulson
- Principal's Conference Committee:** Mr. Walter K. Krone, Mrs. Janet M. McLoughlin, Mr. Julian H. Petzold, Mr. Eric G. Pittman, Mr. Thomas W. Wrege
- School Accreditation Committee:** Mrs. Janet M. Allen, Mr. David E. Dembeck, Rev. Dr. John A. Herzog, Mr. David S. Kusch, Dr. George M. Locke, Mr. Mark B. Schallhorn, Mr. Roy D. Siefker, Mr. Charles J. Strohacker, Mr. Dale H. Vorwerk, Mr. Brian A. Young
- Educational Technology Committee:** Mr. Barry E. Blomquist, Mr. David J. Meyer, Mr. Mark B. Schallhorn
- Early Childhood Cabinet:** Mrs. Janice L. Catania, Mrs. Kelley J. Fehn, Mrs. Rhonda D. Fishel, Mrs. Deborah M. McDonald, Mrs. Kathleen A. Prusak, Mrs. Miriam L. Sohn, Mrs. Dawn E. States, Mrs. Shirley W. Wallace, Mrs. Judy E. Williams
- Finance Committee:** Mr. John E. Held, Dr. Robert E. Kasper, Mr. Henry M. Pickelmann, Mr. Chad R. Woltemath, Mr. William H. Young

LIST OF REGISTRANTS

by: Rev. Paul D. Theiss, Chairman of Registration

(This list contains only the names of those who actually registered and attended the convention. The entire list of professional church workers and congregations of the Michigan District appeared in the Convention Workbook and is not repeated here. An asterisk (*) before the name indicates shared voting responsibility.)

MINISTERS – ORDAINED - VOTING

Abatelli, Kirk W. - Cedar Crest, White Lake
Adams, Douglas M. - Emmanuel, Britton
Allen, Michael S. - St. Paul, Unionville
Andrzejewski, Darryl L. - Guardian, Dearborn
Appold, Robert B. - St. Matthew, Grand Rapids
Arndt, Warren B. - Faith, Troy
Astrowski, Leonard A. - Grace, Fairgrove
Avers, Harold A. - Greenfield Peace, Detroit
Azzam, Timothy P. - Trinity, Oscoda
Ball, Joshua T. - St. Andrew, Memphis
Barber, Robert G. - Journey of Faith, Byron Center
Beck, Gary L. - St. Mark, Flint
Beiderwieden, Theodore W. III - Trinity, Arcadia
Bendewald, Jon D. - Immanuel, Bridgman
Benjamin, Scott E. - Resurrection, Detroit
Bennett, Robert H. - Trinity, Reese
Bernthal, Kenneth G. - Christ, Boyne City
Bickel, Craig L. - Immanuel, Grand Rapids
Bira, Clifford F. - Holy Cross, Flushing
Blain, James H. - St. James, Grand Rapids
Bode, Arthur J. - Bethlehem, Engadine
Boehne, Thomas V. - St. John's, Ludington
Bogda, David W. - St. John, Ionia
Bomberger, Kenneth J. - Mount Olive, Grand Rapids
Bookshaw, John A. - St. Peter, Big Rapids
Boyer, Michael D. - Immanuel, Sebewaing
Brazinsky, Thomas R. - Trinity, Buchanan
Brinley, George W. - St. John, St. Johns
Brooks, John W. - St. James, Montague
Brueckner, Peter R. - Bethany, Detroit
Bruner, James R. - St. Paul, Millington
Brunworth, Todd J. - Trinity, Gaylord
Buchhorn, Michael G. - Zion, Auburn
Buckert, Mark P. - Good Shepherd, Saginaw
Buckhahn, Charles F. - Bethlehem, Saginaw
Burgess, David F. - St. Philip, Detroit
Burhop, Charles B. - Saint Barnabas, Sault Ste. Marie
Bush, John L. - St. Paul, Trenton
Carrier, John S. - Trinity, Port Huron
Clark, Paul M. - St. Paul, Fowler
Claus, Terry A. - Faith, Highland
Clemons, Daniel F. - Trinity, Newberry
Cloeter, Erik K. - Messiah, Clio
Conrad, Robert J. - Our Redeemer, Muskegon
Courson, Larry G. - Peace, Ann Arbor
Daniel, David E. - United in Christ, Flint
Davenport, Dean M. - Trinity, Reed City
Davis, David A. - St. Luke, Haslett
Dodge, David A. - Our Savior, Union City
Doerner, Edward F. - Messiah, Midland
Doroh, Gerhardt A. - St. Peter's, Richmond
Draeger, Jeffrey G. - Our Redeemer, Washington
Duerr, John M. - Hope, Warren
Dumbrille, Dean G. - Trinity, Fenton
Duncan, Randall S. - Living Word, Plymouth
Eckart, Lawrence M. - Hope, Linden
Edenfield, Harry N. - Christ The King, Southgate
Eichinger, Kurt W. - Lord Of New Life, Midland
Eilers, Gregory J. - St. John, Port Hope
Eisinger, Alan P. - Holy Cross, Warren

Erickson, James D. - Immanuel, Alpena
Ferguson, Jack D. - Faith, Hawks
Ferry, Charles D. - St. Mark's, West Bloomfield
Filter, Edward W. - St. Andrew, Portland
Fischer, Thomas F. - Gethsemane, Rochester Hills
Fleming, David C. - Our Savior, Grand Rapids
Flory, Mark S. - St. Peter, Petersburg
Flynn, Daniel J. - St. Luke, Ann Arbor
Frechette, Jeffrey D. Sr. - Bethlehem, Roseville
Fremer, Joseph - Good Shepherd, Lowell
Frusti, Todd L. - Trinity, Davison
Gaertner, Evan P. - St. Paul, Hamburg
Galik, Karl E. - St. John, Rochester
Gerke, Robert A. - St. Paul, Caledonia
Gillaspie, Wesley S. - St. Michael's, Richville
Gilson, Mark E. - St. Paul, Lapeer
Goers, Michael M. - St. Matthew, Spring Lake
Gohn, David P. - Community, Flat Rock
Grafe, Stephen D. - Messiah, Holt
Griffith, Greg S. - Immanuel, Macomb
Grimm, Dale A. - Our Savior, Chelsea
Grimm, David A. - St. Paul's, Centreville
Gruenhagen, Andrew D. - St. Michael, Wayne
Grulke, Galen E. - Heart of the Shepherd, Howell
Hagenow, Martin J. - St. Peter, Hemlock
Hales, Henry J. - St. John, Palms
Haller, Mark J. - St. Peter's, Eastpointe
Haupt, Dieter E. - St. John, Grand Haven
Hauser, Paul A. - Zion, Hemlock
Helms, Steven C. - Holy Redeemer, Dryden
Hensler, David H. - St. Timothy, Otisville
Herrod, J. Robert - First Evangelical, Algonac
Herter, Paul W. - Hope, Adrian
Hessler, William W. - Faith, Bridgeport
Hetzner, Mark W. - St. Thomas, Eastpointe
Hillenbrand, Richard P. - Christ, Birch Run
Hoes, Terry E. - Messiah, Grand Rapids
Hoover, Chad E. - St. Paul, Kalkaska
Hopkins, Paul G. - St. Michael, Rogers City
Hoyer, Joel F. - Grace, Coopersville
Huber, David G. - Our Master, Inkster
Hutter, Erwin M. - Our Redeemer, Taylor
James, Asaph A. - East Bethlehem, Detroit
James, Roger B. - Zion, Marshall
Janetzke, Douglas K. - St. John's, Midland
Jansen, Daniel L. - Faith, Prescott
Johnson, Randy L. - Mount Hope, Allen Park
Jones, Kevin C. - Peace, Rogers City
Jung, David A. - St. John, Pinconning
Kaiser, Joel C. - St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
Kasper, Robert E. - St. Peter, Macomb
Kassen, John E. - Living Word, Rochester
Kayser, John W. - Peace, Ludington
Kenny, Douglas G. - Zion, Petoskey
King, Stephen M. - Grace, Baldwin
Kolzow, Calvin J., Jr. - Trinity, Sturgis
Kopper, Glenn P. - Bethel, Grandville
Koy, Norman A. - Trinity, Utica
Krause, Daniel L. - Bethlehem, Glen Arbor
Krengel, Douglas A. - Trinity, Jackson
Kroll, Micheal D. - Faith, Whitehall

Krueger, James F. - Holy Cross, Saginaw
 Kuhlmann, Kurt P. - St. John, Burr Oak
 Lahrman, William C. - St. Luke, Nunica
 Lambart, Kurt E. - St. Matthew, Westland
 Lassanske, Dennis L. - Trinity, Muskegon
 Leidich, Kevin L. - Prince Of Peace, Clare
 Loest, Mark A. - Immanuel, Saginaw
 Loewe, Timothy J. - Christ The King, Lambertville
 Love, Mark W. - St. Peter, Rockford
 Lubeck, Thomas M. - St. Paul, Northville
 Lucas, Bruce K. - Immanuel, Monroe
 Lueke, Kenneth D. - Our Savior, Bad Axe
 Maier, David P. E. - Our Savior, Lansing
 Majeski, Eric W. - Grace Lutheran Fellowship, Romeo
 Mandley, Jason L. - St. John, Hillman
 Maske, Steven R. - St. Paul, Flint
 McCloskey, David A. - Zion, Harbor Beach
 Meckes, Daniel C. - Faith, Bay City
 Menz, Andrew P. - Salem, Coloma
 Merrell, William D. - Peace, Waterford
 Merrill, John E. - St. John, Fraser
 Messer, Thomas C. - Peace, Alma
 Metcalf, James E. - St. John, Jenison
 Meyer, Edward A. - St. Mark, Saginaw
 Meyer, Gerald A. - Good Shepherd, Cass City
 Meyer, John W. - St. Paul's, Farmington Hills
 Meyer, Thomas F. - St. Mark, Kentwood
 Mikkelson, Robert L. - St. Paul, Herron
 Milatz, Mark D. - Shepherd Of The Lakes, Brighton
 Miller, Gary L. - Trinity, Berrien Springs
 *Moldenhauer, Paul M. - St. Matthew, Walled Lake
 Morales, Eddie - Outer Drive Faith, Detroit
 Morrison, Rodney L., Jr. - Hope, St. Helen
 Muecke, Dan W. - Atonement, Dearborn
 Mueller, Barry L. - Christ, New Baltimore
 Muhle, Dean R. - St. Paul, Hale
 Naumann, Paul R. - St. Michael, Portage
 Nehring, Gary L. - St. Paul, Albion
 Neigh, Dennis J. - Good Shepherd, Ossineke
 *Nelson, Robert J. - St. Matthew, Walled Lake
 Nelson, Terry A. - Cross Of Christ, South Lyon
 Neujahr, Troy R. - Our Saviour, Hudson
 Newberg, Steven E. - Lutheran Church Of The Lakes, Addison
 Newton, Steven M. - Grace, Canton
 Nickel, Peter S. - Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods
 Nihiser, James L. - St. Michael's & All Angels, Traverse City
 Olson, Timothy W. - First, Charlotte
 Oswald, Mark A. - Trinity, Conklin
 Pape, Richard E. - Christ, Milford
 Poellet, Dean R. - St. Matthew, Holt
 Prout, David L. - Trinity, Berkley
 Putz, David L. - St. Peter, Kinde
 Rahn, Dennis D. - Trinity, Manistee
 Reed, David H. - Grace, Auburn
 Reese, Ryan D. - Trinity, Warren
 Reith, Samuel B. - Zion, Mount Pleasant
 Richert, Cary M. - Redeemer, Birmingham
 Richter, James F. - Open Arms, Belleville
 Ritter, Donald A. - St. Matthew's, Mancelona
 Roberts, Scott P. - Living Faith, Marine City
 Roemke, James A. - Good Shepherd, Middleville
 Roper, R. William - Redeemer, Jackson
 Roth, Michael J. - Trinity, St. Joseph
 Rufner, David J. - New Hope, Hudsonville
 Salminen, Bryan R. - Emmanuel, Cadillac
 Sarrault, Joel H. - St. John, Adrian
 Schaedig, Michael W. - St. Luke, Harrison
 Schaeffer, Kendall L. - Trinity, Sawyer
 Scherbarth, Ray E. - Our Shepherd, Birmingham
 Schleicher, John C. - Christ Our Savior, Holland
 Schmidt, David P. - St. John, New Boston
 Schneider, Keith A. - St. John, Cheboygan
 Schneider, Paul H. - Chapel Of The Lakes, Mecosta
 Schroeder, James E. - Our Savior, Scottville
 Schroeder, Thomas L. - Christ Our King, Saline
 Schultz, Jeremy J. A. - St. Paul, Royal Oak
 Schultz, Matthew C. - Our Savior, Gladwin
 Schultz, Randall P. - Our Savior, Flint
 Schultz, Roderick D. - Our Redeemer, Dearborn
 Schulz, Charles R. - St. Thomas, Ann Arbor
 Schulz, Michael P. - Holy Cross, Oxford
 Schwartz, John W. - Peace, Warren
 Schwieger, Alan J. - Immanuel, St. Clair
 Seeber, Timothy W. - Zion, Kalamazoo
 Sheldon, Barry C. - St. Matthew, Lexington
 Sherouse, M. Samuel, Jr. - Our Saviour, Armada
 Sherry, David F. - Trinity, Bay City
 Sidwell, David H. - Immanuel, Kalamazoo
 Siefert, Gary L. - St. Paul, Battle Creek
 Sikora, E. Anthony - Hope, DeWitt
 Smith, Kelly D., Sr. - St. Mark, Brooklyn
 Sommerfeld, Scott G. - Holy Cross, Jenison
 Spence, Kenneth M. - Trinity, Wyandotte
 Stadelman, Alan R. - St. Peter, Three Rivers
 Starke, Stephen P. - St. John, Bay City
 Steeh, Edward J. - St. John, Ray Township
 Steele, Cameron K. - St. Paul, Caro
 Stolarczyk, Steven M. - Good Shepherd, Caseville
 Stowe, Douglas J. - St. Stephen, Waterford
 Straub, John A. - Peace, Detroit
 Straub, Roger K. - Good Shepherd, Lansing
 Sundaradhas, Arul John A. - Tamil, Troy
 Teuscher, Michael L. - Bethany, Charlevoix
 Theiss, Paul D. - St. Paul, Bay City
 Thiel, Steven E. - Mount Hope, Grayling
 Thompson, Bert A. - St. Luke, Clinton Township
 Thoms, Leo G. - St. John, Port Sanilac
 Tino, Richard L. - Peace, Sandusky
 Todd, Kelly D. - Christ, Goodrich
 Travis, Howard S. - St. John, West Branch
 Trinklein, Jonathan B. - Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Township
 Trosien, Carl F. - Pilgrim, Essexville
 Ulm, David M. - Good Shepherd, New Baltimore
 Van Dellen, James H. - Good Shepherd, Lake Orion
 Voigt, Eric W. - Immanuel, Rogers City
 Voll, Theodore E. - Trinity-St. James, Munger
 Voltattorni, Anthony R. - Bethlehem, Standish
 Wagner, Ainslie B. - Trinity, Onekama
 Wagner, Robert V. - St. Peter, Fair Haven
 Walsh, Jeffrey B. - Trinity, Monroe
 Warsinski, Larry A. - Immanuel, Wheeler
 Weis, C. William - Peace, Saginaw
 Weiss, David E. - St. Paul, Cassopolis
 Wenskay, Lee C. - St. Paul, Pigeon
 Wentzel, Michael W. - St. Paul, Ann Arbor
 Wentzel, Wayne H. - Faith, Grand Blanc
 Wernecke, John W. - Zion, Bay City
 Werner, Paul G. - Living Hope of the Bay, Chesterfield Twp.
 Westra, John - Zion, Holland
 Whittaker, Mark C. - Trinity, Paw Paw
 Wilhelm, Jeffrey M. - Mount Calvary, Greenville
 Williamson, Kenneth L. - Calvary, Carson City
 Wilson, Richard G. - Trinity, Minden City
 Winningham, David C. - Ascension, East Lansing
 Winter, William C. - St. John, Houghton Lake
 Wise, Kenneth M. - Trinity, Clinton Township

Witte, Mark K. - Grace, Monroe
 Wonderly, Daniel A. - Pilgrim, Burton
 Worcester, Glenn H. - Family of Christ, Alpine Township
 Wurst, Robert W., Jr. - St. Pauls, Cedar
 Yops, Bradley J. - Newlife Community, Swartz Creek
 Young, Paul V. - St. Paul, Sanford
 Zagore, Robert M. - Trinity, Traverse City
 Zeile, Richard A. - St. John's, Taylor
 Zwonitzer, Rodney E. - Emmanuel, Dearborn

MINISTERS – ORDAINED – ADVISORY

Ahlersmeyer, Thomas R. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Baerwolf, Robert D. - Emeritus, Evart
 Bakker, Jonathon J. - Zion, Mount Pleasant
 Bayer, Robert F. - Christ Our Savior, Livonia
 Bender, Gary L. - St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth/Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Biermann, Todd A. - Faith, Grand Blanc
 Brand, Timothy J. - Mayfield, MI
 Brandt, Mark D. - St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
 Brown, Robert E. - Emeritus, New Era
 Creeden, Anthony M. - Christ Our Savior, Livonia
 Davies, Brian K. - St. Peter, Macomb
 Dunseth, Thomas W. - Missionary at Large to the Deaf
 Eickmann, Robert E. - Candidate, Coldwater
 Elowsky, Earl W. - Emeritus, Hillman
 Engel, Brant A. - Hartland
 Essenburg, Steven J. - Lutheran City Ministries, Detroit
 Fairbairn, Christopher D. - St. Paul, Northville
 Fandrey, James E. - Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb
 Fenske, Shawn D. - Trinity, Utica
 Fluegge, Wilton H. - Emeritus, Macomb
 Gadeken, Robert G. - St. Michael's, Richville
 Geary, Duane O. - Emeritus, Redford
 Giger, Scott W. - St. Luke, Ann Arbor
 Graves, K. Frank - Emeritus, Brighton
 Gray, Roosevelt, Jr. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Grimm, Gerald E. - Project Compassion, Detroit
 Gruetzner, James M. - Emeritus, West Bloomfield
 Haenfling, James F. - Emeritus, Mancelona
 Hakes, David E. - Emeritus, Reese
 Headapohl, Gary D. - Emeritus, Garden City
 Heckert, Jakob K. - Emeritus, Ann Arbor
 Heins, John L. - Emeritus, Saline
 Henneman, Harry C. - Emeritus, Algonac
 Herzog, John A. - Lutheran H. S. Association, Rochester Hills
 Hess, Joel A. - Emmanuel, Cadillac
 Hoesman, C. William - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Hollender, David E. - Emeritus, Caro
 Kast, Edward L. - Emeritus, Saginaw
 Keat, James D. - Emeritus, Leslie
 Kirchhoff, Donald G. - Emeritus, Ann Arbor
 Kleimola, Dale M. - Emeritus, Milan
 Koeppen, Robert D. - Emeritus, Midland
 Koschmann, Nicholas W. - St. Paul, Trenton
 Kostizen, Erwin - Emeritus, Highland
 Kromer, John C. - Emeritus, Mullett Lake
 Larsen, Peter E. - Emeritus, Ann Arbor
 Lewis, Bertram B. - Missionary at Large
 Lorenz, Gregory M. - St. Peter, Macomb
 Low, M. Robert - Emeritus, Mesick
 Mackowiak, John E. - Candidate, Brownstown
 Morris, George W. II - Faith, Bay City
 Mueller, John F. - Saginaw Valley Lutheran High, Saginaw
 Mundt, Richard E. - St. Peter, Hemlock
 Olsen, Roy C. - Our Savior, Lansing
 Paulson, Warren L. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Pflug, Mark R. - Emeritus, Greenville
 Pollatz, Paul A. - Emeritus, Garden City

Pool, Charles H. - Emeritus, Cedar
 Prouty, Albert I. - Emeritus, Taylor
 Rahn, Robert L. - Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb
 Richert, Aaron M. - Lutheran High Northwest, Rochester Hills
 Rockrohr, Carl E. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Rynearson, Rodney R. - Emeritus, Frankenmuth
 Sattelmeier, Glenn O. - Emeritus, Rochester Hills
 Schilke, Stephen E. - Emeritus, Bay City
 Schlecht, Richard L. - Emeritus, Rochester Hills
 Schroeder, Roy P. - Emeritus, East Lansing
 Schultz, Robert J. - Emeritus, Freeland
 Sgambelluri, Carlo A. - Candidate, West Branch
 Sherrill, North P., Jr. - Our Savior, Grand Rapids
 Shuta, Richard J. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Snider, Merelyn R. - Emeritus, Gregory
 Stauffer, W. Roger - Chaplain, Sanford
 Sting, Raymond P. - Our Savior, Bad Axe
 Verity, Timothy M. - Emeritus, Grand Rapids
 Vincourt, Bruce E. - Emeritus, Lambertville
 Walther, Galan D. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Wangelin, William R. - Holy Cross, Jenison
 Wargo, Paul E. - Emeritus, Harsens Island
 Werth, Luther A. - Emeritus, Livonia
 Wesenberg, Henry C. - Emeritus, Fostoria
 Witt, Lynn F. - Emeritus, Romeo
 Witto, Lawrence E. - Emeritus, Fenton
 Wolff, Paul A. - Non- Candidate, Southfield
 Wolfram, Richard J. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Yang, Lang - St. Michael's, Richville
 Zabrocki, Lee H. - Emeritus, Norton Shores

LAY DELEGATES - VOTING

Adrian, Hope - Martinal, Rebekah
 Adrian, St. John - Schafer, Melvin
 Albion, St. Paul - Shedd, Brad
 Algonac, First Evangelical - Most, Paul R.
 Allen Park, Mount Hope - Sanker, John V.
 Alma, Peace - Luplow, Terry
 Alpena, Immanuel - Sterns, Fred
 Alpine Township, Family of Christ - Boomershine, Ross
 Ann Arbor, Peace - Schultz, John
 Ann Arbor, St. Luke - Murdock, Linda M
 Ann Arbor, St. Paul - Schroeder, Edward G.
 Ann Arbor, St. Thomas - Manny, Jodi
 Arcadia, Trinity - Panches, George
 Armada, Our Saviour - Clay, Dave
 Auburn, Grace - Bartz, Gilbert
 Auburn, Zion - Burke, John
 Bad Axe, Our Savior - Rumsey, Jon
 Baldwin, Grace - Gibbons, William
 Battle Creek, St. Paul - Wilder, Craig
 Bay City, Faith - Mueller, Gordon
 Bay City, St. John - Rohde, Thomas C.
 Bay City, St. Paul - Schmidt, Roy A.
 Bay City, Trinity - Sendtko, Bill
 Bay City, Zion - Jacobs, Gary
 Belleville, Open Arms - Moore, Eric
 Berkley, Trinity - Drum, Glory D.
 Berrien Springs, Trinity - Stelter, Louis R.
 Big Rapids, St. Peter - Routley, David
 Birch Run, Christ - Noss, Daryl
 Birch Run, St. Martin - Hess, Norman
 Birmingham, Our Savior Deaf - Bachman, Gordon
 Birmingham, Our Shepherd - Curley, Kevin
 Birmingham, Redeemer - Russ, Rick
 Bloomfield Hills, Cross Of Christ - Boergert, Stephen R.
 Bridgeport, Faith - Christiansen, Donald
 Brighton, Shepherd Of The Lakes - Fitzpatrick, Jim

Britton, Emmanuel - Siebarth, Bruce
 Burr Oak, St. John - Milliman, Donald
 Byron Center, Journey of Faith - Schornhorst, Doug
 Cadillac, Emmanuel - Gonder, J. Alden
 Caledonia, St. Paul - Browne, Bill
 Canton, Grace - Houston, Gordon
 Caro, St. Paul - Creutz, Larry
 Carson City, Calvary - Brown, Anthony
 Caseville, Good Shepherd - Nimer, Harold
 Cass City, Good Shepherd - Balzer, Daniel H.
 Cassopolis, St. Paul - Sassaman, Roger L.
 Cedar, St. Pauls - Cole, Edward P.
 Charlotte, First - Carter, Rebeckah
 Cheboygan, St. John - Grahl, Elroy
 Chelsea, Our Savior - Riske, John G.
 Chesterfield Twp., Living Hope of the Bay - Kuehn, Rick
 Clarkston, St. Trinity - Remus, Willis W.
 Clinton Township, St. Luke - Saal, Thomas
 Clio, Messiah - Nutzmann, John W.
 Coldwater, St. Paul - Patch, Ron
 Coloma, Salem - Strunk, Luke
 Conklin, Trinity - Weston, Dan
 Coopersville, Grace - Seppamaki, Ray
 Davison, Trinity - Lipsky, Tony
 Dearborn, Atonement - Radtke, Thomas
 Dearborn, Emmanuel - Heise, Allan A.
 Dearborn, Guardian - Oberly, Dennis G.
 Detroit, Bethany - Muchitsch, Melvin
 Detroit, Greenfield Peace - Siefker, Kevin
 Detroit, Historic Trinity - Goddard, Randall
 Detroit, Peace - Billingsley, Ernie
 Detroit, Resurrection - Schneider, George R.
 Detroit, St. Philip - Moore, Angela
 Detroit, St. Stephen - Pivitt, James
 DeWitt, Hope - Peskey, Dennis N.
 Dryden, Holy Redeemer - Nieman, Ronald
 East Lansing, Ascension - Haubenstricker, John L.
 Eastpointe, St. Peter's - Beck, Ronald G.
 Eastpointe, St. Thomas - Riley, Patricia
 Engadine, Bethlehem - Bode, Jody
 Essexville, Pilgrim - Thompson, Jerry
 Fairgrove, Grace - Weber, David
 Farmington Hills, St. Paul's - Bremer, Ross
 Fenton, Trinity - Taylor, David J.
 Flat Rock, Community - Menth, Harlan
 Flint, Calvary - Osborn, Roger
 Flint, Christ The King - Wollard, Robert L.
 Flint, Our Savior - Bailey, Wayne
 Flint, St. Mark - Gutgesell, George
 Flint, St. Paul - Hubel, Clayton I.
 Flint, United in Christ - Summers, Gordon D.
 Flushing, Holy Cross - Nelson, Valorie
 Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz - Howe, James
 Fraser, St. John - Housley, Ronald
 Gaylord, Trinity - Arego, Douglas A.
 Goodrich, Christ - Todd, Linda
 Grand Blanc, Faith - Koke, John
 Grand Haven, St. John - Scheck, Barbara
 Grand Rapids, Immanuel - Saalfeld, James R.
 Grand Rapids, Messiah - Hula, Dan
 Grand Rapids, Mount Olive - Pellerito, James
 Grand Rapids, Our Savior - Dierking, Keith
 Grand Rapids, St. James - Robart, Dale
 Grand Rapids, St. Matthew - Johnson, Brian
 Grandville, Bethel - Kopper, Karen L.
 Grayling, Mount Hope - Flynn, James C.
 Greenville, Mount Calvary - Childs, Jacqueline
 Hale, St. Paul - Carmichael, James J.
 Hamburg, St. Paul - Richardson, Ted
 Harbor Beach, Zion - Buchholz, Gary
 Harrison, St. Luke - Harris, Dick
 Haslett, St. Luke - Stoskopf, Michael
 Hawks, Faith - Ferguson, Kathryn
 Hemlock, St. Peter - Bluemer, James
 Hemlock, Zion - Armstrong, Jack F.
 Herron, St. Paul - Buchinger, Andrew
 Highland, Faith - Erfourth, William
 Hillman, St. John - Kranzo, Leslie
 Hillsdale, St. Paul's - Klumpp, Marlin
 Holland, Christ Our Savior - Campbell, Bruce
 Holland, Zion - Westra, Nancy
 Holt, Messiah - Lack, Bill
 Holt, St. Matthew - Greiner, Richard A.
 Houghton Lake, St. John - Pedersen, Richard
 Howell, Heart of the Shepherd - Cargo, Don
 Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods - Ducharme, Dewey
 Inlay City, Family of Christ - Mueller, Donald
 Inkster, Our Master - Eminger, Richard
 Interlochen, Redeemer - Baker, Dean
 Jackson, Redeemer - Gamet, Thomas
 Jackson, Trinity - Hans, Harry
 Jenison, Holy Cross - Fisk, Terry
 Kalkaska, St. Paul - Bryson, Barbara
 Kentwood, St. Mark - Rubino, Chris
 Kinde, St. Peter - Brade, Donald E.
 Lake Orion, Good Shepherd - Zoellner, Tom
 Lambertville, Christ The King - Brown, Ernest
 Lansing, Good Shepherd - Parsons, Connie
 Lansing, Our Savior - Sundstrom, James
 Lansing, Trinity - Kamppinen, Thomas
 Lapeer, St. Paul - Krauss, Harold
 Lewiston, Bethlehem - Vasher, Dennis
 Lexington, St. Matthew - Miller, Wayne E.
 Linden, Hope - Awrylo, Alexander L.
 Livonia, Christ Our Savior - Schlosser, Rol
 Ludington, St. John's - Abel, Ken
 Macomb, Immanuel - Haines, Jeff
 Macomb, St. Peter - Weber, Russel C.
 Manistee, Trinity - Lloyd, Harold
 Marlette, Our Savior - Schumacher, Gustav
 Marshall, Zion - Kiessling, William
 Mecosta, Chapel Of The Lakes - Kerwood, Ronald
 Memphis, St. Andrew - Orrell, Dan
 Mesick, Faith - Diefenbach, John C.
 Middleville, Good Shepherd - Roemke, Lesa R.
 Midland, Lord Of New Life - Siebert, Gerald
 Midland, Messiah - Kreil, Dennis
 Midland, St. John's - Glaser, Steve
 Milford, Christ - Drach, George, Jr.
 Millington, St. Paul - Ill, Larry
 Minden City, Trinity - Collick, Gar
 Monroe, Holy Ghost - Pogarch, Dennis
 Monroe, Immanuel - Lucas, Krista M.
 Monroe, Trinity - Cevora, Ronald
 Mount Pleasant, Zion - Gust, Dale D.
 Muskegon, Our Redeemer - Koppel, Alexander J.
 Muskegon, Trinity - Lent, Don
 New Baltimore, Christ - Brady, Richard
 New Boston, St. John - Davis, David A.
 Newberry, Trinity - Brown, John D.
 Northville, St. Paul - Crete, John L.
 Onekama, Trinity - Schalow, Dean
 Oscoda, Trinity - Nester, Patrick T.
 Otisville, St. Timothy - Kircoff, Ken
 Palms, St. John - Klaus, Ronald E.
 Paw Paw, Trinity - Anderson, Linda

Petersburg, St. Peter - Saylor, Bill
 Petoskey, Zion - Roberts, Merton J.
 Pigeon, St. Paul - Sauer, James
 Pinckney, Trinity - Menning, John D.
 Pinconning, St. John - Mueller, Gerald
 Port Hope, St. John - Bush, Ken
 Portage, St. Michael - Batten, Bill
 Portland, St. Andrew - Filter, Nancy
 Prescott, Faith - Chmielewski, Robert
 Quincy, Prince Of Peace - Holloway, Robert
 Ray Township, St. John - Lukacs, Andrew
 Reed City, Trinity - Kordie, Marvin
 Reese, Trinity - Brechtelsbauer, Doug
 Richmond, St. Peter's - Hansen, Andrew
 Richville, St. Michael's - Rodammer, David
 Rochester Hills, Crown Of Life - Frederick, Ralph
 Rochester Hills, Incarnate Word - Herald, Terry
 Rochester, Living Word - Grebe, Jon
 Rochester, St. John - Guetzkow, Roger
 Rockford, St. Peter - Ackerman, Harold
 Rogers City, Immanuel - Grainger, Donald
 Rogers City, Peace - Ruttan, Sandra K.
 Rogers City, St. John - Hein, Stephen
 Rogers City, St. Michael - Hempel, Ann
 Romeo, Grace Lutheran Fellowship - Glidden, James
 Royal Oak, St. Paul - Ainsworth, Larry
 Saginaw, Bethlehem - Sowatsky, Norman W.
 Saginaw, Good Shepherd - Haubenstricker, Harvey A.
 Saginaw, Holy Cross - David, Kenneth
 Saginaw, Immanuel - Janson, Kenneth
 Saginaw, Messiah - Boldt, Robert P.
 Saginaw, Peace - Pape, Cynthia
 Saginaw, Redeemer - Winistorf, William
 Saginaw, St. Mark - Clark, Larry
 Sandusky, Peace - Groth, Gary
 Sanford, St. Paul - Sprenger, Mark
 Sawyer, Trinity - Abele, Harold
 Scottville, Our Savior - Hansen, John G.
 Sebawaing, St. Peter - Deeg, Robert
 Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate - Zauel, Norman
 South Lyon, Cross Of Christ - Albin, Gary
 Southgate, Christ The King - Creutz, William, Jr.
 Spring Lake, Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship - McCulloch, Renee
 Spring Lake, St. Matthew - Boice, William L.
 St. Charles, Nativity - Hoepfner, Lloyd
 St. Clair, Immanuel - Dunker, Steven
 St. Johns, St. John - Thornton, Jill
 St. Joseph, Trinity - Matzke, Mark E.
 Standish, Bethlehem - Steinbauer, Earl
 Sturgis, Trinity - Kolzow, Lynda
 Tawas City, Zion - Chandler, Jane A.
 Taylor, Our Redeemer - Zorn, Tom
 Taylor, St. John's - Valenti, David
 Three Rivers, St. Peter - Barrie, Lois
 Traverse City, St. Michael's & All Angels - Evans, Mark R.
 Trenton, St. Paul - McCormick, Joe
 Troy, Faith - Casiglia, Joseph A.
 Union City, Our Savior - Huxford, Chuck
 Unionville, St. Paul - Balzer, Melvin S.
 Utica, Trinity - King, Tom
 Walled Lake, St. Matthew - Schnelz, Gene
 Warren, Holy Cross - Hecker, Robert A.
 Warren, Hope - Wulff, John C.
 Warren, Trinity - Pouliot, Russell R.
 Washington, Our Redeemer - Rang, George Jr.
 Waterford, Peace - Mausling, Leroy
 Waterford, St. Stephen - Beebe, Clark
 Wayne, St. Michael - Renard, Alfred H.

Wellston, Beautiful Savior - Richardson, Jewel
 West Bloomfield, St. Mark's - LoCascio, Thomas
 West Branch, St. John - Schilke, Ervin E.
 Wheeler, Immanuel - Neitzke, Steven
 White Lake, Cedar Crest - Prueter, Ted
 Whitehall, Faith - Tischler, Dennis
 Whittemore, Good News Ministries - Rohn, Jack L.
 Wyandotte, Trinity - Gerring, Norman
 Ypsilanti, Faith - Mathena, Marvin

MINISTERS – COMMISSIONED - ADVISORY

Adler, Barbara J. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Auger, Robert G., Jr. - Our Savior, Bad Axe
 Aughe, Kent J. - Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods
 Azzopardi, Karie R. - Peace, Waterford
 Barz, Daniel S. - Ongoing Ambassadors, Stevensville
 Bauer, Jason C. - Redeemer, Interlochen
 Baughman, Terry A. - Living Word, Rochester
 Beardsley, Ronald L. - Emeritus, Howell
 Bender, Edgar L. - Emeritus, Manistee
 Bickel, Randall J. - St. Martin, Birch Run
 Bielby, Sara M. - Immanuel, Monroe
 Bode, Timothy A. - Christ The King, Southgate
 Boldt, H. James - Emeritus, Rochester
 Bower, Greta L. - Open Arms, Belleville
 Brandt, John M. - Saginaw Valley Lutheran High, Saginaw
 Braun, Bruce N. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Bruenger, A. Kenneth - Emeritus, Detroit
 Buck, Mary Lynn - St. Paul, Flint
 Bunge, Harold O. - Emeritus, Monroe
 Burroughs, Daniel R. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Busse, Donald R. - St. Paul, Trenton
 Colley, Ann M. - Shepherd Of The Lakes, Brighton
 DeMeyere, Roger - LSEM, Detroit
 Difatta, David C. - Emeritus, Warren
 Dwyer, Garnet P. - Emeritus, Mesick
 Erber, Glenn R. - Emeritus, Jackson
 Ernst, Timothy L. - Trinity, St. Joseph
 Eschmann, Paul D. - Saginaw Valley Lutheran High, Saginaw
 Fish, Dale W. - St. John, Bay City
 Florip, Eunice E. - Emeritus, Grand Rapids
 Forster, Jonathan D. - St. Michael, Portage
 Freudenburg, Benjamin F. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Fritsch, Kregg C. - Peace, Warren
 Garrabrant, Steven A. - Lutheran High South, Newport
 Genig, Dennis K. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Gerds, Fredrick A. - Emeritus, Royal Oak
 Gibson, Lisette L. - Emeritus, Bay City
 Gladstone, James H. - Redeemer, Flint
 Grage, Glenn G. - Faith, Bay City
 Gresens, Walter F. - Faith, Grand Blanc
 Guenther, Vernon C. - Emeritus, Frankenmuth
 Hausch, Michael F. - St. Paul, Hamburg
 Heissenbuettel, Brenda M. - Trinity, Wyandotte
 Hoch, Robert M. - St. Peter, Macomb
 Hoeft, Stacy J. - Living Word, Rochester
 Hueseman, James I. - Our Savior, Gladwin
 Hyslop, Scott M. - St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
 Imlah, Peter R. - First, Charlotte
 Jahnke, Ronald H. - Emeritus, Clinton Township
 Jones, Amanda R. - St. Paul, Flint
 Jones, Karen B. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Jorg, R. Blaine - Faith, Whitehall
 Kalmes, Michael W. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Keller, Connie J. - Lutheran High Northwest, Rochester Hills
 Keller, Katherine J. - Candidate, Bloomfield Hills
 Kempff, Elna M. - Emeritus, Reese
 Kern, Kimberly L. - Our Shepherd, Birmingham

Klamer, Melissa J. - Saginaw Valley Lutheran High, Saginaw
 Kohtz, Roger O. - Emeritus, Dearborn
 Kratz, Dean E. - Lutheran High North, Macomb
 Krone, James R. - LSEM, Detroit
 Krueger, Richard C. - Messiah, Grand Rapids
 Kuebler, Eugene C. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Kurtz, Nancy C. - Candidate, Woodhaven
 Kusch, David S. - St. Paul's, Farmington Hills
 Kwapis, Nicholas A. - Lutheran High Westland, Westland
 Laeder, Leroy D. - Emeritus, Midland
 Locke, George M. - Emeritus, Canton
 Longden, Daniel R. - Zion, Petoskey
 Looker, Mark S. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Looker, Paul J. - Lutheran High Northwest, Rochester Hills
 Loomans, Lowell A. - Emeritus, Portage
 Mazur, Tammy E. - Our Shepherd, Birmingham
 McDonald, Deborah M. - Living Word, Rochester
 McDonald, Ian K. - Lutheran High Northwest, Rochester Hills
 McKinney, Robert D. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 McLoughlin, Janet M. - Our Shepherd, Birmingham
 McLoughlin, Mark E. - Lutheran High Northwest, Rochester Hills
 McNeil, David A. - Christ Our King, Saline
 McPherson, Norman G. - Trinity, St. Joseph
 Merrill, Kenlyn S. - Non-Candidate, Roseville
 Meseke, Steven D. - Lutheran H. S. Association, Rochester Hills
 Moon, Kathryn J. - St. Paul, Flint
 Moro, Martin L. III - Detroit Urban, Detroit
 Moss, Abigail C. - Peace, Ann Arbor
 Neumann, Gary J. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Newman, Joanna N. - Redeemer, Birmingham
 Nieman, Lenore K. - Lutheran High North, Macomb
 Nimtz, Mark A. - Our Shepherd, Birmingham
 Norman, Emily M. - Grace Lutheran Fellowship, Romeo
 Otrhalik, Kevin D. - Trinity, Paw Paw
 Palm, Lori A. - St. Paul, Flint
 Petzold, Julian H. - Trinity, St. Joseph
 Pfeiffer, Ann M. - St. Matthew, Westland
 Pickelmann, Henry M. - Trinity, Bay City
 Porisch, Byron D. - St. Luke, Ann Arbor
 Priskorn, Gary J. - Redeemer, Birmingham
 Ramthun, Daniel W. - Lutheran High Westland, Westland
 Reimann, Kimberly J. - Community, Flat Rock
 Reincke, John M. - Lutheran High North, Macomb
 Rockensuess, Larry H., Sr. - Emeritus, Trenton
 Rockrohr, Deborah L. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Rodriguez, Teresita - Missionary at Large to Hispanic
 Roedel, Martin O. - St. Paul's, Farmington Hills
 Rogers, Randall J. - Saginaw Valley Lutheran High, Saginaw
 Rolf, Elda C. - Emeritus, Saginaw
 Rudick, Barbara A. - Emeritus, Spring Lake
 Schafer, Robert D. - St. John, Rochester
 Scheeres, Maribeth - St. Paul's, Farmington Hills
 Schempf, Richard H. - Emeritus, Clarkston
 Schmidt, Paul M. - Emeritus, Melvindale
 Schmit, Harvey M. - St. Michael, Wayne
 Schroeder, Kenneth W. - Emeritus, Rogers City
 Schultz, Lloyd N. - Emeritus, Livonia
 Schultz, Patricia A. - Emeritus, Livonia
 Schultz, Robert L. - Emeritus, Traverse City
 Schumacher, James L. - Emeritus, Bay City
 Schwecke, Steven A. - Lutheran High Westland, Westland
 Siefker, Roy D. - Detroit Urban, Detroit
 Skov, Neil M. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Sohn, Miriam L. - Our Savior, Lansing
 Spanos, Esther M. - Our Shepherd, Birmingham
 Strang, William J. - Emeritus, Westland
 Strohacker, Charles J. - Christ, Stevensville
 Tedesco, Kimberly J. - St. Paul, Lapeer

Topel, Stanley R. - Emeritus, Sterling Heights
 Troxel, Christopher D. - Faith, Port Huron
 Truog, David J. - St. Peter, Big Rapids
 Truog, Susan L. - St. Peter, Big Rapids
 Von Fange, Erich A. - Emeritus, Adrian
 Welte, John A. - St. Matthew, Walled Lake
 Weston, Amy J. - St. Matthew, Walled Lake
 Wills, Paul R. - Non-Candidate, Tecumseh
 Winter, Elizabeth A. - Saginaw Valley Lutheran High, Saginaw
 Winterstein, Charles A. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Wolf, Matthew T. - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Wondrasch, Ruth M. - Emeritus, Saginaw
 Zill, Steven E. - Saginaw Valley Lutheran High, Saginaw
 Zobel, Suzanne E. - Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb

OTHER REGISTRANTS

Adams, Curtis W. - Vicar - St. Paul, Coldwater
 Ayagri, Georgina - Guest
 Ayagri, Salam - Guest
 Azzam, Edward - Guest
 Balzer, Ruth E. - Good Shepherd, Cass City
 Barcey, Scott - St. Pauls, Cedar
 Bates, John - Church Extension Fund
 Batten, Carol - St. Michael, Portage
 Bauermeister, Larry A. - Board of Directors
 Beethe, Irene E. - Guest
 Belinsky, Michael G., Sr. - Vicar - St. Paul, Albion
 Braeutigam, Harold M. - Board of Directors
 Braunersreuther, Jon - BRTFSSG
 Brown, Regina - Guest
 Bruenger, Angeline - Guest
 Chauvin, Christine - Board of Directors
 Conrad, Donna - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Dwyer, Russell - Guest
 Eason, Wendy - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Ekong, Linda M. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Elowsky, Edna - Guest
 Erber, Lois - Guest
 Essling, Andrea - The Future Is Now
 Fall, Deborah S. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Fluegge, Victoria M. - Guest
 Folkerts, Beth - Guest
 Freeman, Lisa - Guest
 Geary, Clara - Guest
 Gefers, Melissa - Padgett Communications
 Gladstone, Diane - Guest
 Graham, Bo - Vicar - Good Shepherd, Saginaw
 Graves, Beverly - Guest
 Guenther, Lee - Guest
 Haas, Paul - Grace, Leslie
 Haenfiling, P. Jeanne - Guest
 Harmon, Stephen M. - St. Peter, Kinde
 Haupt, Ruth - St. John, Grand Haven
 Heins, Wilma - Guest
 Held, John E. - Board of Directors
 Henneman, Dorothy - Guest
 Hockley, Kyle - Grace, Leslie
 Hoesman, Barbara - Guest
 Iverson, Joel - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Kast, Emily - Guest
 Keat, Julianne - Guest
 Kidwell, Jack W. - 125th Anniversary Committee
 Kieschnick, Gerald B. - President, LCMS
 Kieschnick, Terry - Guest
 Klaus, Dale - Trinity, Minden City
 Kranzo, Geraldine - St. John, Hillman
 Krueger, David - Zion, Harbor Beach
 Krueger, Larry - Guest

Landers, Trina - Padgett Communications
 Lembke, Margery - Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship, Spring Lake
 Lemley, Keith H. - Crown Of Life, Rochester Hills
 Lessing, R. Reed - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
 Maier, Patricia - Guest
 Marone, Dawn - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Martin, Ruth E. - Board of Directors
 McCoy, Robin - Padgett Communications
 Measel, Martin P. - Christ, Stevensville
 Meyer, Ronald E. - LCMS World Mission
 Nester, Mary - Trinity, Oscoda
 Neuenfeldt, Jerry - Guest
 Nimer, Judith - Good Shepherd, Caseville
 Oechsner, Bryan P. - Lutheran High North, Macomb
 Pfister-Loomans, Joan - Guest
 Pickelmann, Janet M. - Guest
 Pool, Geraldine - Guest
 Raffel, John C. - Board of Directors
 Reed, Susan - Guest
 Renken, Duane A. - Board of Directors
 Renken, Kathryn - Guest
 Riley, Mary Jane - St. Thomas, Eastpointe
 Rohn, JoAnne - Good News Ministries, Whittemore
 Roth, Amy - Guest
 Rumberger, Jennifer A. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Rynearson, Velma - Guest
 Sattelmeier, Lorraine - Guest
 Schempf, Meta A. - Guest
 Schlecht, Ruth - Guest
 Schoepp, Mark L. - Our Savior, Gladwin
 Schroeder, Lenita M. - Guest
 Schumacher, Laraine - Guest
 Snider, Catherine - Guest
 Steinke, Ronald - Church Extension Fund
 Strobl, Julie A. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Strode, Thomas F. - St. Paul, Ann Arbor
 Szpara, Jenna M. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Thompson-Kolar, Mark D. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Topel, Mae - Guest
 Unger, Barbara R. - Guest
 Vasas, Michael - Emmanuel, Dearborn
 Von Fange, Esther - Guest
 Wagoner, Mary E. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Walther, Barbara - Concordia University, Ann Arbor
 Wenthe, Dean O. - CTS, Fort Wayne
 Wesenberg, Sandra - Guest
 Winterstein, Timothy - LSEM, Detroit
 Witt, Gary - Christ Our Savior, Livonia
 Wolf, Allison R. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Wolfram, Judith A. - Guest
 Woltemath, Chad R. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Woltemath, Heidi L. - Guest
 Young, William H. - Board of Directors
 Zabrocki, Phyllis - Guest
 Zavada, Cynthia - Guest
 Zavada, Raymond J. - Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Zehnder, Thomas R. - LCMS World Mission

OTHER GUESTS – MINISTRY TENT EXHIBITORS

Alter, Erin - LCMS World Mission
 Baird, Peter - Eagle Communication
 Bades, Jackie RN - District Parish Nurse Council
 Bennett, Donald - Guest
 Bennett, Esther J. - Guest
 Benson, William M. - Commission on Deacon Qualifications
 Bohde, Donn E. - Sauriol Bohde Wagner Architects
 Braaten, Jason - Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne
 Brown, Christine - Commission on Deacon Qualifications

Burmeister, Todd - Concordia Publishing House
 Castiglione, Sam - OCE Corporate Printing Division
 Chewning, Ronald - District Stewardship Committee
 Coffey, Kent - LifeTouch
 Collver, Albert B. - LCMS World Relief & Human Care
 Coyle, John - RAI Ministries
 Coyle, Rava - RAI Ministries
 DeBoer, Stephen P. - Lutheran Hour Ministries
 Doyle, Brian - LifeTouch
 Eckelbecker, Doug - LifeTouch
 Evanson, Brian D. - Lutheran Benefits Group
 Fish, Cheryl E. - Lutheran Women's Missionary League
 Gawura, Mark - Commission on Deacon Qualifications
 Golke, Paul - Camp Concordia
 Greenfield, David C. - Bekins Van Lines
 Grimm, Lillian - Project Compassion Ministries
 Guldalian, Ken - Concordia Seminary
 Haiser, Jill - Lutheran Child & Family Service
 Harrison, Matthew - LCMS World Relief & Human Care
 Horton, Cheryl - Concordia Publishing House
 Kaiser, Jim - Lutheran Bible Translators
 Kaiser, Susan - Lutheran Bible Translators
 Kayser, Doris - LCMS World Mission
 Kern, Richard - Lutheran Layman's League
 Kiessling, Mark - LCMS District and Congregational Services
 Lewis, John - LCMS World Relief & Human Care
 Lick, Catherine, RN - District Parish Nurse Council
 McCloud, Rudolph - Lutheran City Ministries
 McGee, Paige - Chime Master, Lancaster
 Melton, Marc - Lutheran Child & Family Service
 Miller, Edna - LifeTouch
 Miller, Everette - LifeTouch
 Moquin, Lance - MOST Ministries
 Mueller, Keith W. - Lutheran Trust / Lutheran Benefits Group
 Muench, David A. - LCMS Comm. On Ministerial Growth & Support
 Nielsen-Schmidt, Julie A. - UMHS Chaplain
 Noel, Dale T. - Commission on Deacon Qualifications
 O'Leary, Michael - Concordia Publishing House
 Payton, Greg - Eagle Communication
 Peterson, Roy - Concordia University Wisconsin
 Reiter, Nancy - Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
 Ritterling, Elaine - Michigan District Mental Illness Committee
 Ritterling, Orville - Michigan District Mental Illness Committee
 Rogalski, Tony - Eagle Communication
 Schilf, Ken - Worship for Shut-Ins
 Schlueter, Renee - Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society
 Schmidt, Ron - LifeTouch
 Schreiber, Andrea K. - LCMS Comm. On Ministerial Growth & Support
 Scott, John Raymond - Lutheran Child & Family Service
 Seppa, Craig - Commission on Deacon Qualifications
 Smith, Mary - Lutheran City Ministries
 Snyder, Paul - Concordia Plan Services
 Stachurski, Frank - LifeTouch
 Stevens, Carly - MOST Ministries
 Storm, Walter W. - Commission on Deacon Qualifications
 Suchyta, Debby - MOST Ministries
 Suchyta, Greg - MOST Ministries
 Suppes, Duane - LifeTouch
 Thrans, Michael - OCE Corporate Printing Division
 Tirsell, David - Lutheran City Ministries, Detroit
 VanVechten, Sharyl - Lutherans For Life
 Waters, Jennie J. - CU Deaconess Program, River Forest
 Whitaker, Ronald B. - POBLO Ministries
 Wrightson, Lynn - MOST Ministries
 Zagel, Bruce R. - Ambassadors of Reconciliation

CONGREGATIONS BY CIRCUIT AND REGION

NORTH & EAST REGION

Circuit #1 - Mackinaw Straits

Cheboygan, St. John	247
DeTour Village, Redeemer	8
Drummond Island, Drummond Island	101
Engadine, Bethlehem	136
Germfask, Grace	89
Hawks, Faith	141
Kincheloe, St. Paul	36
Newberry, Trinity	51
Onaway, Holy Cross	159
Paradise, Paradise	16
Rogers City, Immanuel	197
Rogers City, Peace	343
Rogers City, St. John	544
Rogers City, St. Michael	266
Sault Ste. Marie, Saint Barnabas	48
Trout Lake, Trout Lake	<u>8</u>
16 Member Congregations	2,390

Circuit #2 - Alpena

Alpena, Immanuel	1,326
Harrisville, Faith	27
Herron, St. Paul	298
Hillman, St. John	417
Lewiston, Bethlehem	285
Mio, Living Water	48
Ossineke, Good Shepherd	85
Posen, St. Paul	<u>29</u>
8 Member Congregations	2,515

Circuit #3 - Timberline

Au Gres, St. John	230
Glennie, Our Savior	26
Hale, St. Paul	343
Oscoda, Trinity	331
Prescott, Faith	326
Standish, Bethlehem	236
Tawas City, Zion	385
Whittemore, Good News Ministries	<u>119</u>
8 Member Congregations	1,996

Circuit #4 - Gladwin

Clare, Prince Of Peace	107
Gladwin, Our Savior	539
Harrison, St. Luke	218
Houghton Lake, St. John	443
St. Helen, Hope	153
West Branch, St. John	<u>216</u>
6 Member Congregations	1,676

Circuit #5 - Midland

Alma, Peace	135
Auburn, Grace	481
Auburn, Zion	1,000
Midland, Lord Of New Life	52
Midland, Messiah	982
Midland, Our Savior	129
Midland, St. John's	1,186
*Mount Pleasant, Christ The King	
Mount Pleasant, Zion	429
Sanford, St. Paul	331
Wheeler, Immanuel	<u>444</u>
10 Member Congregations	5,169

Circuit #6 - Bay City

Bay City, Faith	959
Bay City, Immanuel	1,791
Bay City, St. John	679
Bay City, St. Paul	822
Bay City, Trinity	661
Bay City, Zion	1,529
Essexville, Pilgrim	513
Pinconning, St. John	<u>393</u>
8 Member Congregations	7,347

Circuit #7 - Thumb East

Bad Axe, Our Savior	615
Harbor Beach, Zion	440
Kinde, St. Peter	138
Marlette, Our Savior	318
Minden City, Trinity	122
Palms, St. John	173
Port Hope, St. John	595
Port Sanilac, St. John	137
Sandusky, Peace	<u>264</u>
9 Member Congregations	2,802

Circuit #8 - Thumb West

Caseville, Good Shepherd	155
Cass City, Good Shepherd	384
Fairgrove, Grace	271
Pigeon, St. Paul	360
Sebewaing, Immanuel	925
Sebewaing, St. John	241
Sebewaing, St. Peter	95
Unionville, St. Paul	<u>419</u>
8 Member Congregations	2,850

Circuit #9 - Frankenmuth

Caro, St. Paul	616
Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz	3,751
Millington, St. Paul	1,461
Munger, Trinity-St. James	547
Reese, Trinity	804
Richville, St. Michael's	1,259
Saginaw, Immanuel	<u>554</u>
7 Member Congregations	8,992

Circuit #10 - Saginaw

Bridgeport, Faith	568
Hemlock, St. Peter	1,053
Hemlock, Zion	428
Owosso, St. Philip	112
Saginaw, Bethlehem	1,229
Saginaw, Good Shepherd	819
Saginaw, Holy Cross	536
Saginaw, Messiah	164
Saginaw, Peace	1,630
Saginaw, Redeemer	166
Saginaw, St. Mark	489
St. Charles, Nativity	<u>70</u>
12 Member Congregations	7,264

Circuit #11 - Flint North

Birch Run, Christ	373
Birch Run, St. Martin	564
Clio, Messiah	3,310
Flint, Christ The King	39
Flint, Our Savior	194
Flint, St. Paul	904
Flint, United in Christ	184
Flushing, Holy Cross	<u>444</u>
8 Member Congregations	4,012

Circuit #12 - Flint South

Burton, Pilgrim	183
Fenton, Trinity	715
Flint, Peace	184
Flint, Redeemer	155
Goodrich, Christ	225

Circuit #12 - Flint South (continued)

Grand Blanc, Faith	1,575
Linden, Hope	410
Swartz Creek, Newlife Community	<u>242</u>
8 Member Congregations	3,689

Circuit #13 - Lapeer

Davison, Trinity	834
Dryden, Holy Redeemer	352
Flint, Calvary	101
Flint, St. Mark	730
Lapeer, St. Paul	1,163
North Branch, New Life In Christ	80
Otisville, St. Timothy	<u>294</u>
7 Member Congregations	3,554

115 Member Congregations 54,256**METRO EAST REGION****Circuit #14 - Port Huron**

Algonac, First Evangelical	152
Armada, Our Saviour	293
Chesterfield Twp., Living Hope of the Bay	107
Fair Haven, St. Peter	144
Goodells, Hope	21
Lexington, St. Matthew	539
Marine City, Living Faith	27
Memphis, St. Andrew	157
Port Huron, Faith	540
Port Huron, Trinity	962
Richmond, St. Peter's	1,112
St. Clair, Immanuel	<u>970</u>
12 Member Congregations	5,024

Circuit #15 - Macomb North

Clinton Township, St. Luke	1,019
Clinton Township, Trinity	1,760
Macomb, Immanuel	2,559
Macomb, St. Peter	2,547
New Baltimore, Christ	127
New Baltimore, Good Shepherd	108
Ray Township, St. John	<u>205</u>
7 Member Congregations	8,325

Circuit #16 - Macomb NW

Imlay City, Family of Christ	122
Romeo, Grace Lutheran Fellowship	488
Shelby Township, Peace	611
Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate	981
Sterling Heights, Redemption	275
Sterling Heights, St. Paul	201
Troy, All Nations	100
Troy, Faith	2,877
Troy, Tamil	45
Utica, Trinity	3,206
Washington, Our Redeemer	<u>439</u>
11 Member Congregations	9,345

Circuit #17 - Oakland North

Clarkston, St. Trinity	577
Lake Orion, Good Shepherd	605
Ortonville, Prince Of Peace	84
Oxford, Holy Cross	212
*Pontiac, St. Paul Community	

Circuit #17 - Oakland North (continued)

Rochester, Living Word	344
Rochester, St. John	1,898
Rochester Hills, Crown Of Life	135
Rochester Hills, Gethsemane	143
Rochester Hills, Incarnate Word	26
Waterford, St. Stephen	<u>696</u>
10 Member Congregations	4,720

Circuit #18 - Birmingham

Berkeley, Trinity	65
Birmingham, Redeemer	1,079
Birmingham, Our Savior Deaf	44
Birmingham, Our Shepherd	1,306
Bloomfield Hills, Cross Of Christ	559
Hazel Park, Hazel Park	136
Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods	331
Royal Oak, St. Paul	975
Troy, St. Augustine	144
Warren, Holy Cross	<u>461</u>
10 Member Congregations	5,100

Circuit #19 - Macomb South

Eastpointe, St. Peter's	985
Eastpointe, St. Thomas	938
Fraser, St. John	1,064
Roseville, Bethlehem	268
Warren, Hope	760
Warren, Peace	261
Warren, Trinity	<u>320</u>
7 Member Congregations	4,596

Circuit #20 - Detroit East

Detroit, Bethany	254
Detroit, Charity	71
Detroit, East Bethlehem	62
Detroit, Epiphany	67
Detroit, Mount Calvary	110
Detroit, Peace	171
Detroit, Redemption	46
Detroit, Resurrection	<u>122</u>
8 Member Congregations	903

65 Member Congregations 38,013

METRO WEST REGION

Circuit #21 - Detroit Central

Detroit, Berea	172
Detroit, Bethlehem	32
*Detroit, Family of God	
Detroit, Historic Trinity	939
Detroit, Nazareth	50
Detroit, St. John	97
Detroit, St. Philip	130
Detroit, St. Stephen	<u>107</u>
7 Member Congregations	1,527

Circuit #22 - Detroit West

Detroit, Evergreen	147
Detroit, Greenfield Peace	205
Detroit, Holy Cross	212
Detroit, Outer Drive Faith	247
Detroit, Redford	<u>187</u>
5 Member Congregations	998

Circuit #23 - Down River

Allen Park, Mount Hope	218
Flat Rock, Community	401
Lincoln Park, Calvary	293
River Rouge, Christ	50
*Southgate, Christ the King	
Southgate, Christ The King	1,332
Taylor, Our Redeemer	129
Taylor, St. John's	372
Trenton, St. Paul	1,239
Wyandotte, Trinity	<u>432</u>
9 Member Congregations	4,466

Circuit #24 - Monroe

Lambertville, Christ The King	150
Monroe, Grace	338
Monroe, Holy Ghost	524
Monroe, Immanuel	372
Monroe, Trinity	1,615
New Boston, St. John	831
Newport, Christ Our Shepherd	46
Petersburg, St. Peter	<u>203</u>
8 Member Congregations	4,079

Circuit #25 - Dearborn

Canton, Christ The Good Shepherd	107
Dearborn, Atonement	183
Dearborn, Emmanuel	840
Dearborn, Guardian	903
Dearborn, Our Redeemer	166
*Dearborn Heights, First Arabic	
Inkster, Our Master	81
Plymouth, Living Word	257
Wayne, St. Michael	440
Westland, Our Saviour	35
Westland, St. Matthew	<u>802</u>
10 Member Congregations	3,814

Circuit #26 - Kensington

Brighton, Shepherd Of The Lakes	1,066
Highland, Faith	439
Milford, Christ	393
South Lyon, Cross Of Christ	283
Walled Lake, St. Matthew	1,673
Waterford, Peace	446
West Bloomfield, St. Mark's	215
White Lake, Cedar Crest	102
*Wixom, St. Matthew	
8 Member Congregations	4,617

Circuit #27 - Livonia

Canton, Grace	97
Dearborn Heights, Immanuel	252
Farmington Hills, Prince Of Peace	317
Farmington Hills, St. Paul's	430
Livonia, Christ Our Savior	1,194
Northville, St. Paul	469
Redford, Hosanna-Tabor	334
Westland, Salem National	<u>100</u>
8 Member Congregations	3,193

Circuit #28 - Milan

Ann Arbor, St. Thomas	90
Belleville, Open Arms	170
Britton, Emmanuel	373
Milan, St. Paul	231
New Boston, St. Paul's	385
*Romulus, Tabernacle of Praise	
Saline, Christ Our King	496
Ypsilanti, Faith	<u>150</u>
7 Member Congregations	1,895

Circuit #29 - Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor, Divine Shepherd	117
Ann Arbor, Peace	198
Ann Arbor, St. Luke	1,438
*Ann Arbor, St. Paul	
Ann Arbor, St. Paul	797
*Ann Arbor, University Lutheran Chapel	
Chelsea, Our Savior	232
Hamburg, St. Paul	517
Pinckney, Trinity	108
*Whitmore Lake, Living Water	
Ypsilanti, Cross & Resurrection	<u>63</u>
8 Member Congregations	3,470

Circuit #30 - Jackson

Addison, Lutheran Church Of The Lakes	278
Adrian, Hope	215
Adrian, St. John	517
Brooklyn, St. Mark	300
Hudson, Our Saviour	151
Jackson, Redeemer	505
Jackson, Trinity	<u>1,191</u>
7 Member Congregations	3,157

77 Member Congregations

31,216

WEST REGION

Circuit #31 - Petoskey

Bellaire, Hope	102
Boyne City, Christ	408
Charlevoix, Bethany	152
Gaylord, Trinity	247
Grayling, Mount Hope	253
Kalkaska, St. Paul	245
Mancelona, St. Matthew's	67
Petoskey, Zion	<u>385</u>
8 Member Congregations	1,859

Circuit #32 - Traverse City

Benzonia, Our Savior	120
Cedar, St. Pauls	99
Elk Rapids, Grace	101
Glen Arbor, Bethlehem	65
Interlochen, Redeemer	344
Leland, Immanuel	219
Traverse City, St. Michael's & All Angels	213
Traverse City, Trinity	<u>1,183</u>
8 Member Congregations	2,344

Circuit #33 - Manistee

Arcadia, Trinity	185
Cadillac, Emmanuel	400
Ludington, Peace	26
Ludington, St. John's	271
Manistee, Trinity	557
Mesick, Faith	45
Onekama, Norwalk	95
Onekama, Trinity	355
Pentwater, Lighthouse	43
Scottville, Our Savior	648
Wellston, Beautiful Savior	<u>32</u>
11 Member Congregations	2,657

Circuit #34 - Big Rapids

Baldwin, Grace	98
Big Rapids, St. Peter	714
Fremont, Redeemer	156
Mecosta, Chapel Of The Lakes	6
Reed City, Trinity	473
White Cloud, Christ	<u>137</u>
6 Member Congregations	1,584

Circuit #35 - Capitol

Charlotte, First	362
East Lansing, Ascension	235
*Eaton Rapids, Open Arms	
Haslett, St. Luke	514
Holt, Messiah	358
Holt, St. Matthew	279
Howell, Heart of the Shepherd	341
Lansing, Living Word	70
Lansing, Our Savior	958
*Lansing, Rehoboth	
Lansing, Trinity	146
*Lansing, Trinity Sudanese	
Leslie, Grace	<u>87</u>
10 Member Congregations	3,350

Circuit #36 - St. Johns

Carson City, Calvary	84
DeWitt, Hope	227
Fowler, St. Paul	128
Lansing, Good Shepherd	271
Portland, St. Andrew	194
St. Johns, St. John	337
St. Johns, St. Peter	<u>519</u>
7 Member Congregations	1,760

Circuit #37 - Tri River

Belding, Holy Cross	111
Greenville, Mount Calvary	200
Howard City, Bethel	220
Ionia, St. John	127
Lowell, Good Shepherd	148
Sand Lake, Resurrection	66
Stanton, Hope	<u>120</u>
7 Member Congregations	992

Circuit #38 - Muskegon

Conklin, Trinity	500
Montague, St. James	571
Muskegon, Our Redeemer	398
Muskegon, St. Mark	660
Muskegon, Trinity	540
Nunica, St. Luke	223
Shelby, St. Stephen's	118
Whitehall, Faith	<u>264</u>
8 Member Congregations	3,274

Circuit #39 - Holland

Coopersville, Grace	290
Grand Haven, St. John	798
Holland, Christ Our Savior	210
Holland, Zion	378
Spring Lake, Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship	311
Spring Lake, St. Matthew	180
West Olive, United	<u>170</u>
7 Member Congregations	2,337

Circuit #40 - Grand Rapids N Central

Alpine Township, Family of Christ	78
*Grand Rapids, International	
Grand Rapids, Immanuel	532
Grand Rapids, Messiah	296
Grand Rapids, Mount Olive	222
Grand Rapids, Our Savior	379
Grand Rapids, Redeemer	198
Grand Rapids, St. James	381
Grand Rapids, St. Matthew	320
Rockford, St. Peter	<u>314</u>
9 Member Congregations	2,720

Circuit #41 - Grand Rapids SW

Byron Center, Journey of Faith	57
Caledonia, St. Paul	614
Grandville, Bethel	186
Hudsonville, New Hope	222
Jenison, Holy Cross	1,245
Jenison, St. John	188
Kentwood, St. Mark	620
Middleville, Good Shepherd	<u>80</u>
8 Member Congregations	3,212

Circuit #42 - Battle Creek

Albion, St. Paul	333
*Battle Creek, Higher Ground	
Battle Creek, Redemption	187
Battle Creek, St. Mark	587
Battle Creek, St. Paul	571
Kalamazoo, Immanuel	196
*Kalamazoo, Solid Grounds	
Kalamazoo, Zion	800
Marshall, Christ	234
Marshall, Zion	439
Paw Paw, Trinity	1,215
Portage, St. Michael	593
Three Rivers, St. Peter	<u>235</u>
11 Member Congregations	5,390

Circuit #43 - St. Joseph

Berrien Springs, Trinity	429
Bridgman, Immanuel	592
Buchanan, St. Paul	140
Buchanan, Trinity	392
Cassopolis, St. Paul	104
Coloma, Salem	301
Niles, St. Paul	385
Sawyer, Trinity	438
St. Joseph, Trinity	1,507
Stevensville, Christ	<u>1,157</u>
10 Member Congregations	5,445

Circuit #44 - South Central

Burr Oak, St. John	137
Centreville, St. Paul's	185
Coldwater, St. Paul	177
Colon, St. Paul's	126
Hillsdale, St. Paul's	342
Quincy, Prince Of Peace	46
Sturgis, Salem	16
Sturgis, Trinity	494
Union City, Our Savior	<u>143</u>
9 Member Congregations	1,666
119 Member Congregations	38,590
376 Member Congregations	162,075

* Indicates new mission or satellite site of the Michigan District, LCMS.

**CONGREGATIONS/MINISTERS – ORDAINED/MINISTERS – COMMISSIONED
OFFICIALLY BECOMING MEMBERS OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD BY
THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION**

CONGREGATIONS

Byron Center, Journey of Faith - 3/25/08
Chesterfield, Living Hope of the Bay - 11/16/08
Comstock Park, Family of Christ - 5/23/06
Imlay City, Family of Christ - 12/3/06
Lansing, Living Word - 4/25/07
Rochester Hills, Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word - 2/17/08
Trout Lake, Trout Lake - 1/11/09
Troy, Faith Tamil - 3/25/07

MINISTERS OF RELIGION–ORDAINED

Abatelli, Kurt W.
Bakker, Jonathon J.
Beiderwieden, Theodore W.
Bomberger, Kenneth J.
Boyer, Michael D.
Creeden, Anthony M.
Daniel, David E.
Davies, Brian K.
DeVries, Phillip M.
Eichinger, Kurt W.
Fenske, Shawn D.
Ferry, Charles D.
Flynn, Daniel J.
Frechette, Jeffrey D.
Fuller, Nicholas M.
Goers, Michael M.

Grunklee, Corey J.
Hutter, Erwin M.
Iqbal, Vincent
James, Asaph A.
Koschmann, Nicholas W.
Krupsky, Justin A.
McCloskey, David A.
Menz, Andrew P.
Morris, George W.
Morrison, Rodney L.
Neigh, Dennis J.
Neujahr, Troy R.
Newton, Steven M.
Reese, Ryan D.
Richert, Aaron M.

Ritter, Donald A.
Roberts, Scott P.
Roemke, James A.
Schultz, Matthew C.
Schultz, Roderick D.
Sting, Raymond P.
Travis, Howard S.
Undlin, Paul J.
Urvan, John R.
Wangelin, William R.
Wehrspann, Noah J.
Witte, Mark K.
Worcester, Glenn H.
Wright, Larry D.
Yang, Lang

MINISTERS OF RELIGION–COMMISSIONED

Anderson, Emily J. Rausch
Bauer, Todd D.
Bean, Christina L. Silvey
Bielby, Sara M.
Bierce, Anna R.
Blackwell, Judith J. Radthke
Bower, Greta L. Cutter
Brennan, Max P.
Brenner, Mark D.
Bublitz, Kimberly A. Doyen
Doellinger, Melissa L. Riling
Drzyzga, Pamela J. Klemm
Forster, Jonathan D.
Frieling, Kimberly S.L.
Garcia, Adan C.
Garcia, Justin N.
Gleim, Laura M.
Gray, Caroline C.
Grim, Katie L. Walter
Gruber, Mary M. Janssens

Haglund, Jennifer S.
Hauser, Briana L. McCray
Hermann, Katie A.
Hooper, Julie L.
Hyslop, Scott M.
Johnson, Gregory K.
Jorg, R. Blaine
Kaschel, Angela M.
Keller, Katherine J.
Kelly, Kimberly A.
Keup, Aaron W.
Kittleman, Joshua B.
Klamer, Melissa J. Gunlock
Kratz, Joshua R.
Kwapis, Nicholas A.
Leinhos, Lynn M. Harris
Liss, Joseph T.
Longden, Daniel R.
McCabe, Llisa L. Anderson-Vie
Meyer, Lindsay E.

Moss, Abigail C.
Norman, Emily M.
Piasecki, Allison J. Leach
Rohde, Molly J. Helmreich
Rolf, Michelle P.
Schaidt, Lauren A.
Scheske, Melissa M.
Schilling, Rebecca A. Massel
Smith, Jennifer M. Schaedig
Sonntag, Connie L. Kindinger
Steele, Mindy L. Behny
Sturm, Raymond T.
Unger, Allison M. Meineke
Unger, Daniel E.
Vincent, Rebecca C. Timm
Weiss, Stephanie D.
Werschky, Sharon L. Schnitker
Wesenberg, Deborah L. Galford
Wisnieski, Rebecca R. Rosso

ADVISORY DELEGATES TO THE 2010 SYNODICAL CONVENTION

Ministers of Religion – Ordained

Delegates

Rev. Gerald E. Grimm
Rev. Dr. Dale M. Kleimola

Alternate

Rev. Dr. Roy P. Schroeder

Ministers of Religion – Commissioned

Delegates

Mr. Bruce N. Braun
Mr. Timothy L. Ernst
Mr. Robert M. Hoch
Mr. George M. Locke
Mrs. Deborah M. McDonald
Mr. Ian K. McDonald
Mr. Henry M. Pickelmann
Mr. Warren W. Priehs
Mr. Leslie D. Roth
Mr. Mark D. Schallhorn
Mrs. Vicki L. Schallhorn
Mr. Mark T. Schiefer
Mr. James L. Schumacher
Mr. David A. Sheldon
Mr. Steven E. Zill

Alternates

Mr. Thomas J. Farrand
Mrs. Amanda R. Jones
Mrs. Sally L. Matzke
Mrs. Ann M. Pfeiffer
Mr. Jonathon H. Pickelmann
Mr. Robert D. Schafer
Mrs. Amy J. Weston

Michigan District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Statement of Financial Position
January 31, 2009
(With Comparative Totals for 2008)

	Michigan District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod			Detroit Urban Lutheran Schools	Total
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted		
Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 334,586	\$ 70,386	\$ -	\$ 30,524	\$ 435,496
Investments	3,919,093	1,292,726	1,078,836	-	6,290,655
Accounts receivable	34,566	-	-	19,036	53,602
Contributions and Grants receivable	-	3,037,681	-	246,950	3,284,631
Prepaid expenses	72,315	-	-	-	72,315
Notes and loans receivable	1,728,569	-	-	314,161	2,042,730
Deferred gifts	-	6,194	1,700	-	7,894
Funds held in custody by others	-	-	143,554	-	143,554
Property and equipment	4,314,634	-	-	293,416	4,608,050
Total assets	\$ 10,403,763	\$ 4,406,987	\$ 1,224,090	\$ 904,087	\$ 16,938,927
Liabilities and Net Assets					
Liabilities					
Accounts payable	\$ 401,904	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 145,530	\$ 547,434
Deferred revenue	81,701	-	-	23,975	105,676
Synodical pledge	2,752,250	-	-	-	2,752,250
Grants payable	124,642	-	-	-	124,642
Notes payable	2,203,908	-	-	1,024,727	3,228,635
Total liabilities	5,564,405	-	-	1,194,232	6,758,637
Net assets (liabilities)					
Unrestricted	1,149,803	-	-	(838,322)	311,481
Undesignated	3,383,042	-	-	293,416	3,676,458
Property and equipment	3,058,763	-	-	-	3,058,763
Board designated	(2,752,250)	-	-	-	(2,752,250)
Synodical budget	-	4,406,987	-	254,761	4,661,748
Temporarily restricted	-	-	1,224,090	-	1,224,090
Permanently restricted	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets (liabilities)	4,839,358	4,406,987	1,224,090	(290,145)	10,180,290
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 10,403,763	\$ 4,406,987	\$ 1,224,090	\$ 904,087	\$ 16,938,927

These statements are taken from the audited financial statements of the Michigan District. The statement of cash flows and the notes are an integral part of the financial statements, but are not presented here. A complete copy of the financial statements is available from the District office 888.225.2111.

Michigan District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended January 31, 2009
(With Comparative Totals for 2008)

	Michigan District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod			Detroit Urban Lutheran Schools		Total	
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	January 31, 2009	January 31, 2008	
Support, Revenues and Gains							
Support							
District congregation - District and Synod	\$ 916,157	\$ 3,564,697	\$ -	\$ 4,480,854	\$ -	\$ 4,480,854	\$ 5,579,963
District congregation - District only	99,207	99,665	-	198,872	-	198,872	246,788
Other gifts and grants	388,252	903,431	-	1,291,683	-	1,291,683	1,791,960
Revenues and gains							
Publications	114,108	-	-	114,108	-	114,108	113,960
Program fees	686,136	-	-	686,136	-	686,136	504,393
Convention registration and assessment	6,348	-	-	6,348	-	6,348	284,428
Investment income	227,470	(118,242)	(22,851)	86,377	-	86,377	326,210
Detroit Urban Lutheran Schools	-	-	-	-	1,588,368	1,588,368	1,458,286
Gain (loss) on sale of assets	6,844	-	-	6,844	-	6,844	-
Other	55,300	-	-	55,300	-	55,300	61,450
Net assets released from restrictions	5,194,284	(5,194,284)	-	-	-	-	-
Total support, revenues and gains	7,694,106	(744,733)	(22,851)	6,926,522	1,588,368	8,514,890	10,367,438
Expenses							
Synodical budget	2,684,964	-	-	2,684,964	-	2,684,964	2,933,645
Program services							
Missions	1,641,554	-	-	1,641,554	-	1,641,554	1,693,098
Congregation Ministry Facilitators	291,900	-	-	291,900	-	291,900	341,484
Christian Care	144,129	-	-	144,129	-	144,129	164,582
Lutheran Schools	329,463	-	-	329,463	-	329,463	332,523
Youth Ministry	380,969	-	-	380,969	-	380,969	74,001
Other Congregation Program Services	138,524	-	-	138,524	-	138,524	207,896
Communications	302,292	-	-	302,292	-	302,292	274,714
Student Aid	273,679	-	-	273,679	-	273,679	143,957
Development	228,268	-	-	228,268	-	228,268	190,171
Worker Care	325,816	-	-	325,816	-	325,816	417,657
Detroit Urban Lutheran Schools	-	-	-	-	1,502,686	1,502,686	1,527,017
Ecclesiastical and program administration							
Administration	662,883	-	-	662,883	-	662,883	663,438
Convention	(18,136)	-	-	(18,136)	-	(18,136)	281,585
District properties and depreciation	251,753	-	-	251,753	-	251,753	270,455
Total expenses	7,638,058	-	-	7,638,058	1,502,686	9,140,744	9,516,223
Change in net assets	56,048	(744,733)	(22,851)	(711,536)	85,682	(625,854)	851,215
Net assets - beginning of year	4,783,310	5,151,720	1,246,941	11,181,971	(375,827)	10,806,144	9,954,929
Net assets - end of year	\$ 4,839,358	\$ 4,406,987	\$ 1,224,090	\$ 10,470,435	\$ (290,145)	\$ 10,180,290	\$ 10,806,144

These statements are taken from the audited financial statements of the Michigan District. The statement of cash flows and the notes are an integral part of the financial statements, but are not presented here. A complete copy of the financial statements is available from the District office 888.225.2111.



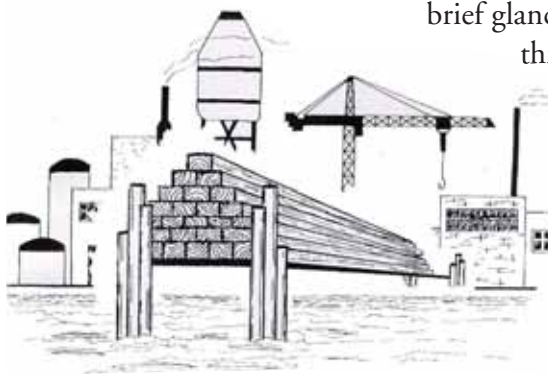
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS 2009 MICHIGAN DISTRICT CONVENTION

Dear Members of the family of our Lord Jesus Christ of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

It is with joy and thanksgiving that we stand before our good and gracious God gathered in the 99th Convention of the Michigan District under the theme *Celebrate Jesus*. At this juncture in our history as the Michigan District, we find ourselves in new and uncharted waters. We take heart as we continue our 125th Anniversary celebration of the blessed, Spirit-produced heritage that we share. It is a God-given heritage of salvation. May we be encouraged as we are determined to focus on that which is basic to our faith - the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Often when the challenges and difficulties are great, we are reminded to “return to the basics.” Therefore, we *Celebrate Jesus* in a world that is often sadly unaware of who Jesus is and a world that is becoming increasingly antagonistic to hearing the name of Jesus. Therefore, may we truly *Celebrate Jesus* in such ways that we grow in faith and in witness that others too may celebrate Him with us.

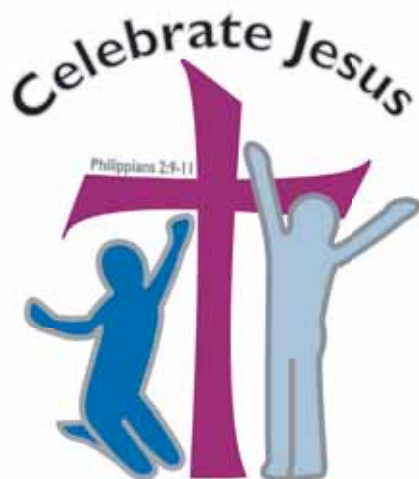
In seeking to accomplish that witness to the world through the congregations of the Michigan District, over 380 congregations and ministries among us are organized at the Michigan District. This center for our mission and ministry support is just across the street and up the hill from where we are gathered now. The staff of the Michigan District and the Michigan District Church Extension Fund seeks to serve always in a way that celebrates Jesus. To that end, the District is structured to support ministry. A

brief glance back brings this picture to mind when in 1997, the convention opted for a new structure for District Ministry.



The Convention provided the raw materials and the prayerful direction to begin anew. It was a daunting task, but the Lord is good and it eventuated in a vessel for accomplishing District ministry. While building on the fly, by the end of the 2000 triennium, the ship in Convention Harbor looked like this. As a matter of fact, during that triennium we were fortunate to unfold 3 sails. In the following triennium ending in 2003, 3 more sails of District ministry were put into service. The progression continued with 9 sails unfurled by 2006 and at this moment, 12 sails billow representing 12 years of District ministry. Please note, there yet remains sails to be unfurled. This represents the future and that work which is yet to be done.

With this brief glance at the past in mind, one day yours truly was doing some research for a message considering words like fellowship, partnership, and churchmanship and became curious as to the meaning of the suffix “ship.” Upon consulting an extremely large unabridged dictionary to determine the etymology of “ship” as a suffix, this picture was right above the explanation regarding the suffix “ship.” It was surprising because a sailing ship was not what was being sought, but here was this picture. The slides that we have just seen of a 3-masted schooner with potentially 15 sails, popped into mind alongside this dictionary illustration of a ship. Perhaps you can see that they have even been so kind as to number the sails, which happen to be 31! My immediate reaction was “Wow, there are sails here never thought or dreamed of! Thirty-one of them with names like fore sail, main sail, topsail, topgallant, royal, skysail,

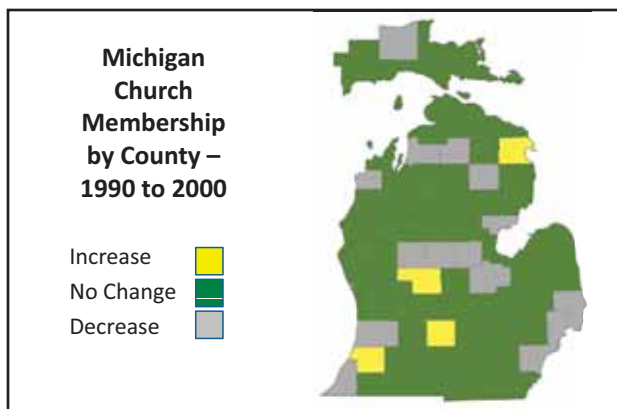


spanker, staysail, jib, and mizzen.” With both pictures of the previous vessel and this one in mind, one is moved to realize that there are models of ships in District ministry yet to be discovered, constructed and yet to go forward with sails unfurled toward ever-increasingly effective District ministry. This enables us to praise God for the voyage we have shared to this point and it also fills us with great hope and eager anticipation for that which is yet to come.

While structures may change, the mission remains. It’s about Christ’s mission, the mission He has given to us in Matthew 28 and in Luke 19, He reminds us that “the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” It is a mission that all might know and *Celebrate Jesus*. This includes people near and far as we see the outline of Michigan against the background of the world globe. The mission of the Michigan District continues to be to bolster congregations and ministries and their leadership by encouraging and equipping them to disciple and evangelize through Word and Sacrament ministry.

In seeking to accomplish that Mission Statement, the first major outcome is entitled “Outreach Mindset” that we would be sensitive to those without Christ, actively share Christ’s love with them and bring them into the body of Christ. You may recall from our last convention a glance at the percentage of unchurched people in the state of Michigan. Additional information shows Michigan church membership by county. This references Christian churches throughout the state. In the decade presented on this slide, happily there was an

- increase of church membership in 4 counties throughout the state.
- Several of the counties showed no significant change in the churched population. However,
- sadly 11 counties actually decreased in the percent of county residents who claim membership in a Christian congregation.

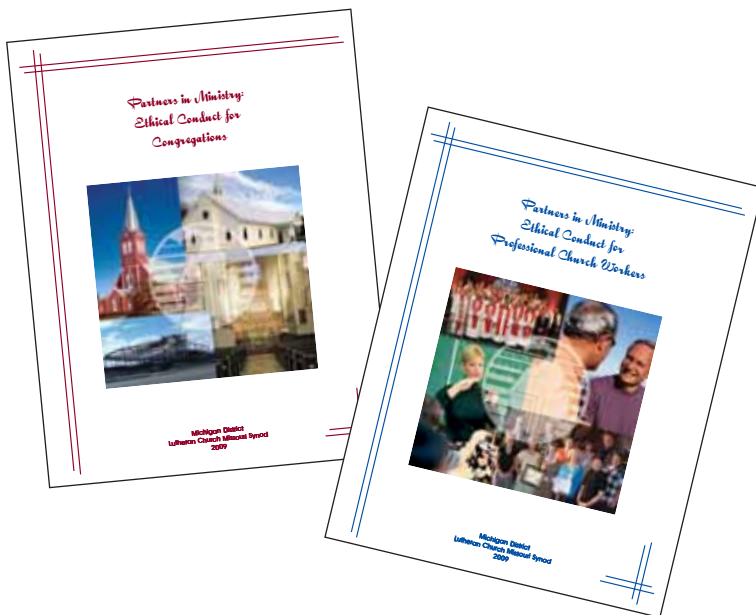


The need is great and what a joy it is to work together in supporting new missions, ministries, and satellite starts. While there is not time to focus on each individually, these 23 represent efforts to change the previous map into counties which would show an increase in church membership. It was our privilege already this morning to welcome 8 new congregations this past triennium that progressed from a new church start to congregation status. In addition to these missions and ministries, we praise God for this reality seeking to touch souls with Jesus Christ and change the percent of unchurched in the urban and cross-cultural contexts. These 20 Urban and Ethnic missions and ministries are witnessing and celebrating Jesus. Additional evidence of an outreach mindset is that of 12 Witness Workshops and note the number of children from our District preschools and day schools who were baptized. We celebrate that this past year, 282 children were touched by the Word and the waters of baptism. Additionally, there were the three *Ablaze!* Torch Runs completed in this past triennium. The first was entitled “Hell to Paradise,” the second “Coast to Coast,” and just completed yesterday was “For the Heart of Michigan.” We praise God for all involved from the runners, the congregations, and the rallies along the way as they heightened an outreach mindset.

The second major outcome of District ministry lifts up Professional Church Workers. The desire is that we have a sufficient number of Ministers of Religion-Ordained and Commissioned. We acknowledge them as gifts to the church, desiring that they are blessed in their relationship with Christ and serve with integrity and joy being respected and supported. Regarding our pastors, we have noted a gradual decline in the number of vacancies as shown here in March of each year. This may cause some to wonder about the need for pastors in the future. This slide masks the reality of the large group of pastors who will be reaching retirement age in the next several years. We thank God for the church workers in our District. Here are our Ordained and Commissioned Church Workers who are active and those who have retired. 22% of the Commissioned Workers in the District and 28% of the Pastors in the District are retired. The numbers retiring will be dramatically increasing, leaving fewer active workers. Both Seminary first-year classes are smaller than in the past. However, we thank God for graduates of our Seminaries and rejoice as we welcome 13 graduating pastors and 9 vicars.

There is also a new development in providing pastors for the church entitled the Specific Ministry Pastor. This allows for men serving in a lay ministry context to pursue seminary education and continue serving. The Specific Ministry Pastor presents to the church a new category of a Pastor. For this program and for traditional routes into ministry, we thank God for the ability to offer increased Student Aid to our Church Work students. Through *The Future is Now*, the amount of student aid has significantly increased.

While not only providing church workers for congregations, the commitment is also to appropriately compensate them. The District Compensation Guide is used ever increasingly by our congregations to provide support of workers in a God-pleasing manner.



A third major outcome, Relationship Building, bears upon the need of congregations and professional church workers to work together and to show respect, trust, and support for each other. To that end, this Convention will receive the “Principles of Conduct” documents that focus on relationship building between and among church workers and congregations of the District. The 2006 Convention Resolution to refine these documents has been accomplished. Thank you to the church workers and congregations throughout our District.

Recognizing that relationships can at times be stretched and degenerate into conflict, this past triennium a Ministry of Mediation entitled “Unity” was begun in our District. This ministry provides a means by which disagreements can be addressed

and resolved. This new ministry is named “Unity” because the reuniting of workers and congregations in their Kingdom work is the goal. The process involves those in disagreement rebuilding relationships.

To continue and build upon strong relationships, many conferences and gatherings occur throughout our District. In the past triennium, an All Professional Church Worker Conference occurred in Grand Rapids. At this conference, all Professional Church Workers came together ready to fellowship, to learn, and to grow in effectiveness for ministry. While all the categories of our Professional Church Workers hold conferences throughout the year, it is important that all Professional Church Workers have a sense of unity and fellowship in our common task. That drives the need for effective and quality conferences and it also emerged from the 2006 Convention which established a task force to make a recommendation for future District Conventions! At this Convention, we will consider the Task Force report that seeks to bring together, at future District Conventions, all of our Professional Church Workers, Ordained and Commissioned, as well as Lay Leaders to grow in strong relationships toward effective ministry.

With an awareness of relationships beyond Michigan in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod a cooperative partnership was developed in *The Future is Now* with the Synodical *Ablaze!* outreach effort and *Fan into Flame*. Much has been done and there is more yet to be heard in this Convention regarding this partnership with Synod to accomplish the mission of celebrating Jesus in mission planting and in providing laborers for the harvest.

The fourth and final outcome supports the first three. It is to resource congregations in accomplishing Christ’s mission. Communication among congregations and ministries is furthered through our District magazine, *Michigan In Touch*.

This recent cover shows schools from Bay City, Saginaw Valley, the Lower Thumb area, and Flint gathered for a wonderful worship service. This encourages the church at large. Congregations and ministries are resourced by Family Friendly Partners Network as we work together with Concordia University Ann Arbor in providing family and youth ministry resources to our congregations. In the area of stewardship, an excellent stewardship program entitled *Faith Aflame* is available that is bringing positive results. While these and other programmatic resources are critical, we also praise God for people

resources. Among the 44 circuits in our Michigan District, you see here the Circuit Counselors, who serve so well in providing for congregations. The 44 circuits are organized into the 4 regions and here you see listed our District Vice-Presidents. The Vice-Presidents, Circuit Counselors and countless other people resources in this District cause praise and thanksgiving to our gracious God for His gifts to the church. Included among others, are our Congregation Ministry Facilitators who work among the congregations bringing to bear a rich presentation of resources, and pastors and leaders who bring resources for revitalizing congregations. We also recognize with thanksgiving, a partnership with Concordia University Ann Arbor. Concordia provides resources for the church inclusive of the provision of church workers and church leaders. Seeking to do so ever more effectively, Concordia is currently exploring a cooperative relationship with Concordia University Mequon, WI.

Our Mission Statement and Outcomes have been the chart and compass for sailing this ship of District ministry. But we have sailed into new and uncharted waters in view of the demographics, the economy, a “new normal” and other current issues. We, in Michigan, face some rather pointed challenges in life and in the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ. Recently, a comment was heard referencing our current context in Michigan, “When Michigan was known for lumber, not automobiles ” and the speaker went on, but my mind stuck was at “when Michigan was known for lumber.” Having grown up in Lansing and knowing an Oldsmobile from hood ornament to tail light, the realization dawned that many of us do not know Michigan without an automobile. But there was a time when this wasn’t the picture that came to mind when one thought of Michigan, it was this! This thought was in a strange way comforting and hopeful. For who, when Michigan was known for lumber, would have envisioned what would develop around the automobile? Who among us today can envision what the Lord has in store among us in His church in Michigan in the future? But we know that He is with us and He goes before us, inviting us to follow. This is His promise. For as long as there are people among us and beyond us who do not yet know and *Celebrate Jesus*, the Lord has a continuing mission that we are privileged to be invited to participate in its accomplishment. The needs, challenges, and opportunities change but the

need for the Good News of Jesus to be brought into the lives of people shall remain until that great and wonderful day when He will return.

As we thank God, trust and follow Him, we reflect:

- What will the Michigan District and The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod look like in 20 years and in 40 years?
- Will congregations mirror their community? What will the demographics of our congregation look like?
- How can congregations be missional to serve the next generations in the midst of growing diverse ethnic groups?



To accomplish such, we pray to seek God’s wisdom, His plan and His Spirit to organize and prioritize ministry. The future is exciting because there is ministry to be done. The Lord enables us to sail forth in new ways to accomplish His mission. Empowered through Word and Sacrament ministry, we seek greater reach and effectiveness in accomplishing His mission. May He bless the future unfolding of 31 sails to deliver the Gospel to people that they may *Celebrate Jesus* and be wonderfully nurtured and blessed for Kingdom extension.

The final thought is captured in a wonderful hymn stanza that many of you know by now to be one of my favorites. Note that the first and the last lines of this stanza are the same.

*Eyes upon our home above,
thank and praise our God of love;
Test the challenge and the vision
of a world yet to be won,
And with boldness and decision
build on what was here begun.
Eyes upon our home above,
thank and praise our God of love.*

From the hymn text, Where the Swallow Makes Her Nest (st. 5)
by Jaroslav J. Vajda © 1983 Concordia Publishing House.
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God grant it as together we *Celebrate Jesus!*

Philippians
Developing the Attitude of Joyful Fellowship in Christ
Michigan District Convention
June 28 - July 1, 2009
Concordia University Ann Arbor

Rev. Dr. R. Reed Lessing
Associate Professor
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

The Lord be with you. . . . I want to take this opportunity to thank Bill Hoesman for inviting me to lead you in your Bible Study time. I also want to express my delight in seeing so many of my former students, some of whom still are actually talking to me.

I am on the faculty at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and teach in the area of Hebrew and OT.

Thanks to CPH, I have published commentaries on the books of Amos and Jonah, and I'm currently working on Isaiah 40-55.

But on to Philippians!

I can summarize this letter in two words:

Upside down.

That was also my position as I went over a cliff on a mountain bike three summers ago in Devil's Den State Park in northwest Arkansas.

Whoa!

It reminded me of the time I was *upside down* on a zip line at Camp Lutheroma in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. And these experiences remind me of the day I was grammatically, linguistically, and morphologically *upside down* when I first discovered something called the Hebrew language.

Upside down. You know the feeling, on a roller coaster or connected to a bungee cord! St. Paul certainly knew the feeling.

PAUL'S 'UPSIDE DOWN' MOMENT

"As he (Saul) neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from Heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," He replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The

men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone." (Acts 9:2-7)

Whoa!

Saul the Pharisee becomes Paul the Jesus-possessed. The chief of sinners becomes the ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. What he considered gain now was all lost. Paul's life was turned inside out and *upside down*. And this is his goal in writing Philippians. It all gets started in the OT.

In 1 Samuel, Hannah sings about our God who delights in turning people upside down. "The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. Those who were full hire themselves

out for food, but those who were hungry hunger no more." Mother Mary picks up the cadence in Luke 1: "He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty." And why should this shock us? The matriarchs Sarah, Rebekah, and Rachel were at one time all barren. Then there were some slaves in Egypt who saw Pharaoh do the dead man's float. Still unconvinced? Then listen to Paul in 1 Corinthians 1: "God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are. . . ."

Meet Mr. Inversion again, for the first time. He chooses fishermen instead of Pharisees, sinners instead of Sadducees, and whores instead of Herodians.

Climactically, Jesus chooses thorns for His crown instead of silver and gold, and spit and blood instead



sweetness and light. His choices lead to torment and torture and darkness and death.

And it led to the greatest inversion of all. “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!”

Jesus blew the rock open from the inside. He rolled away the stone. He surged out of the tomb and is still surging into the world today, to Jerusalem, to Galilee, Ann Arbor, and right to you — just here, just now, to speak words straight from His heart to yours, “*No matter what,*” Jesus promises, “*I love you!*”

Jesus is Life overriding death and making all things new. “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; Yahweh has done this, and it is still marvelous, amazing, overwhelming ... in our eyes!”

Paul’s experience – indeed, the testimony of sacred Scripture – is that our God longs to turn us inside out and upside down.

My life, my church, my world – different, changed, centered in Jesus ... or employing our two words, upside down: This is the heart and center, the aim and goal of Philippians.

Monday, June 29 – Overview of Philippians, Philippians 1:1-11

Tuesday, June 30 – Philippians 2:5-11, Philippians 2:12-18

Wednesday, July 1 – Philippians 3:1-11, Philippians 4:1-9

The ancient resort town of Philippi was located about eight miles from the Aegean Sea. It was in a very fertile region that was enriched with an abundance of springs and mined gold. In 31 B.C., when he defeated Anthony, Octavian rebuilt Philippi, established a military outpost, and filled it with Roman soldiers who were veterans of war. Hence, the congregation in Philippi was made up mostly of retired soldiers. The recipients were made up mostly of Roman army veterans who had exchanged the lordship of Nero, the Caesar, Divus and Soter, for Jesus, the Christ, their Lord and Savior.

Philippi was different from other places where Paul evangelized because of its “Roman-ness” and lack of Jewish community. And so the letter echoes, but never quotes from, the Old Testament. It was a Roman colony (Acts 16:12) and as such it was a “little Rome.” It had about 10,000 inhabitants. The imperial religion and Emperor cult had roughly 50 million adherents in the Roman Empire. As such, the letter is a subversion of Imperial public propaganda.

Known members include Lydia (Acts 16:14), the Roman jailer (16:25-34), and possibly the slave girl (16:18). Other names of members of this Philippian community that are mentioned – Epaphroditus, Euodia, Syntyche, and Clement (Phil 2:25; 4:2-3) – indicate that this first church on European soil was made up largely of Gentiles.

Paul did not write Philippians from the French Riviera! He was betrayed by his countrymen under false pretenses (Acts 24:13), mistaken as an Egyptian renegade (Acts 21:26), almost murdered by 40 men who had taken vows not to eat or drink until he was dead (Acts 23:21), caught up in Roman political machinery for two years (Acts 24:27), shipwrecked on the Island of Malta for a winter (Acts 28:11), and then finally placed under house arrest (Acts 26:16). It is in this context of being “in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles, in danger in the city, in danger the country, in danger at sea, and in danger from false brothers (2 Cor. 11:26) that Paul writes Philippians.

Where did Paul write the letter? Some say Caesarea by the Sea, others Ephesus, but perhaps the best guess is Rome. To paraphrase Origen, “Only God knows where Philippians was really written.” Whatever position we take, Paul is in prison and writes it in about AD 59-61.

Let’s define “upside down” a bit more exactly.

Developing the Attitude (phroneo) of Joyful (chara) Fellowship (koinonia) in Christ (en Christo).

DEVELOPING

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward en Christo.” (Phil 3:12-14)

ATTITUDE – PHRONEO

It was in 1929 that the German scientist Hans Berger proved what many scientists had suspected for years, that there is electrical activity in the brain. His discovery led to the development of the electroencephalograph.

What this device enabled medical personnel to do was measure and record the electrical activity of the brain. For the first time in history, people were able to take a look at what was going on inside the brain.

We now have many modern devices which allow even a closer look at the brain, things such as CAT scans and brain scans, all of which are very helpful to doctors. While we can see the function of the brain, we cannot know the attitudes that are inside. But let's suppose that it were possible for the experts to open up your mind and check its attitude – kind of like a checkup from the neck up, because, you see, it in all begins in the mind. Thinking leads to feeling, which leads to doing.

Luke 10:27, "So he answered and said, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all of your mind.'" Romans 15:5-6, "Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Colossians 3:2, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Paul's wasn't some long-faced, foot-sliding, shoulder-drooping, and slow-talking, depressed Christian. Why would a crowd be attracted to that? Paul was an enthusiastic, dynamic man full of joy and charisma. You might say he had an attitude. ...

THE ATTITUDE

Phroneo – 22 times in Paul's letters, 10 times in Philippians 1:7; 2:2; 3:15 (two times); 3:16, 19; 4:2; 4:10 (two times). It involves the heart, mind, attitude, and will. "Thoughtful conduct and a life with discernment."

Nous = "mind" in 4:7

Logizomai = "consider" in 3:13; 4:8

How to have a bad attitude:

- Allow your attitude to be based on circumstances.
- Adapt "when and then" thinking. When I get a new car, get married, pay off bills, children in school, get over this physical ailment, I will be happy.
- Wallow in the pit of worry. What if this happens, what if that happens?
- Get stuck in "worst-case-scenario-itis."
- Spend all your time wrapped up in yourself, paralyzed by fear.
- Don't even think about a verse like Matthew 6:27. Matthew 6:27: "And which of you by

being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?"

- Consistently put your needs above the needs of others. Adapt an "it's all about me" attitude.
- Put your needs above your spouse, your children, your co-workers, and your friends.
- Be sure, when you don't get your way, to throw a fit.

How we look at our problems is more important than the problems. Let me repeat that. How we look at our problems is more important than the problems.

Joy

- Joy used 16 times in Philippians
- More than all of Paul's 12 other letters combined
- Joy = chara
- Grace = charis
- Joy is relational
- Happiness is situational
- Joy is what is going on inside of me
- Happiness is what is going on around me
- Joy is a defiant, NEVERTHELESS!

Happiness is connected to happenstance, which is luck. Happiness is connected with what is going on around me. Joy, on the other hand, is inner delight derived from an intimate relationship with Christ. To put it another way, happiness is circumstantial; joy is relational.

FELLOWSHIP

Koinonia – 13 times in Paul, 19 times in NT = "fellowship, partnership, unity, sharing." It appears in 1:5, 7; 2:1; 3:10; 4:15

1:7 – Synkoinovous = fellowship with

1:27 – Synathloubtes = striving with

2:2 – Sympsycoi = same life

2:17 – Sygchairo = rejoice with

2:18 – Sygchairete = rejoice with

2:25 – Synergon and systratioten = fellow worker and fellow soldier

3:17 – Symminmetai = mimic together

4:3 – Synethlesan and synergon = striving together and fellow worker

4:14 – Sygkoivonesantes = fellowship with

"To dwell above with those we love, that will be the glory; to dwell below with those we know, well, that's another story."

DEVELOPING THE ATTITUDE OF JOYFUL FELLOWSHIP ...

IN CHRIST

Philippians has “en Christo” or “in the Lord” 14 times; these phrases appear 165 times in Paul’s writings. Jesus is the believer’s habitat, dwelling place, sphere, atmosphere; He is the air we breathe. Putting together Paul’s other letters, we are *crucified, buried, raised* (Rom 6:4-5), *seated* (Eph 2:6), *sanctified* (1 Cor 1:2), and *heirs* (Rom 8:17) en Christo.

En Christo is interchangeable with Paul’s term “in the Spirit” (e.g., Rom 8:2-11). En Christo is in contrast to en sarki (Phil 3:4 – two times).

The following disrupt the developing of the Attitude of Joyful Fellowship in Christ:

- Prideful People (1:1-11)
- Circumstances (1:12-26)
- Battles (1:27-30)
- Lack of Unity (2:1-4)
- Selfish Attitude (2:5-11)
- Complaining (2:12-19)
- Lack of Purpose (2:20-30)
- False Teaching (3:1-11)
- Lack of Motivation (3:12-21)
- Worry (4:1-10)
- Lack of Satisfaction (4:11-19)

PUTTING THE THEMES TOGETHER

“Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ... But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I have chara. Yes, and I will continue to have chara.” (Phil 1:12-13, 18)

Paul always wanted to go to Rome, but he wanted to rent the Coliseum and hold a crusade ... instead, the Lord put him in prison and had him write half the New Testament. Phil 1:12, “Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.”

For two years, Paul was chained to the palace guard. Now the palace guards were the crack, elite troops of Nero. They had the highest paid salary in the empire. In fact, Praetorians made Claudius emperor in AD 41 and often thereafter were kingmakers. After they served as Nero’s own

bodyguard they were elevated to the highest positions in the empire. There is not a more strategic group of people Paul could witness to. God puts Paul in Rome, lets Nero foot the bill, and lets Paul witness to a future Roman leader every four hours? If Paul was chained for two years and he received a new guard every four hours that’s 4,380 different people he witnessed to. You tell me who was the real prisoner? In fact, history tells us that Nero’s wife, mother, and children all became Christians in large part due to a man named Paul.

Let’s ask the Holy Spirit to give us this attitude ... the mind of Christ.

Holy Spirit, ever living, As the church’s very life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving,
Through us in a ceaseless strife;
Holy Spirit ever forming,
In the Church the mind of Christ;
You we praise with endless worship,
For your gifts and fruits unpriced!

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

“Paul and Timothy, douloi of Christ Jesus, to all the saints en Christo Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers who serve: Charis and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Phil 1:1-2)

People! At times we can’t live with them, but then again, at times we can’t live without them! People! Our attitude toward people is a major thread that runs throughout Philippians.

Verse 1: The unique feature here is not that Paul links Timothy’s name with his own; Paul names other co-senders (1 Cor. 1:1; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:1). Rather, the uniqueness lies in the fact that Paul permits the noun “servants” to stand in opposition both to his own name *and* to Timothy’s, a unique feature in the literary legacy left by Paul. By such an expression, Paul was setting the tone for the rest of the letter, i.e., Christian relationships are not based on authority, superiority, or inferiority, but on humble equality. This attitude is given classic expression in Philippians 2:7 which portrays our Lord with a humble attitude toward his Father and where only here in the NT is Jesus called a doulos.

If one must chose between the Hellenistic-Roman environment idea of “slaves” and that of the Old Testament, the better choice seems to be that of the former, since Paul is writing to Roman citizens. In this case “slave” is a person possessing no rights or freedom. He or she lives totally at the service of others.

Ownership of people existed throughout the Roman Empire. For example one-third of the people in Corinth were slaves; another third were ex-slaves.

And so, baptized into the Slave we are slaves. The paradox of Christian slavery is expressed in the ancient prayer for peace, addressed to God “whose service is perfect freedom” or, as it is stated in the hymn couplet: “*Make me a captive, Lord, and then, I shall be free.*”

The startling frequency of the expression “all of you” (1:4, 7 [two times], 8, 25; 2:17, 26; 4:21, 23) indicates a major theme of Philippians: fellowship. This is to curb division in the church.

One further relational note is struck with the inclusion of “overseers who serve” *after* the phrase “all the saints.” Get it? Who is first in the potluck line?

Aware of the dissention and self-serving attitudes of the church, Paul places the leaders *after* the members in a subtle attempt to foster humility. I take the more common “overseers and deacons” to be a hendiadys, or “*one through two*” – one idea imparted by two words. “Overseers who serve” this is so different ... inside out and upside down.

So how does Paul attack selfishness and disunity? By subtly showing from the very beginning that in the church seniority and high calling do not put one Christian leader above another (Paul and Timothy together are one – they are “slaves” of Christ Jesus) and that “church leaders” are not above serving, but are, by virtue of their office, called to serve, ministering to the needs of people in Philippi.

1:2 – Grace – charis – 155 times in the NT; 66 times in Paul. “The act of rendering a favor to the one who needs it, not for something in return, nor for the sake of the one who renders it, but for the sake of the other.”

Peace (*shalom*) is what guards hearts and minds (4:7).

Verses 1:1-2 have 32 Greek words – 14 describe the Philippians, and six describe the senders. Who is more important?

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with chara.” (Phil 1:3-4)

What is the point? REMEMBER THE BEST – FORGET THE REST.

Paul in Philippi

“The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped

and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.” (Acts 16:22-23)

“Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose.” (Acts 16:26)

“The jailer told Paul, ‘The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.’ But Paul said to the officers: ‘They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.’” (Acts 16:36-37)

“They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city.” (Acts 16:39)

As Paul sits down to compose this letter he could’ve begun with these words — *I get nauseous, sick to my stomach, full of pain, and have a Maalox moment every time I remember you, because I remember the beatings, the earthquake, the imprisonment and the total perversion of injustice that I experienced ten years ago in Philippi.* But is that what Paul writes? No way! Why? Paul chose to REMEMBER THE BEST AND FORGET THE REST!

What? This is an odd way to live!

Exactly!

And if you and I are going to have JOY in our lives, we need to do the same with the people in our past. Be it a former teacher or pastor, a spouse or ex-spouse, a friend, next-door neighbor, relative, child, or parent. All of us have people in our past, perhaps as recent as yesterday, who have hurt us, accused us, misled us, deceived us, or verbally assaulted us. People let us down. Some of us have had alcoholic parents, others among us have been sexually assaulted, and still others have had emotionally distant parents.

And it’s our human nature to focus on the negative. Have you ever been in a fight – no, call it an intense discussion – with your spouse, and you bring up what they did on February 16, 1984? Oh, we’re experts at this!

Now, I’m not saying we need to deny painful past experiences or we need to excuse those who have hurt us. What you and I need to do is forgive these people and release them. Some of us are letting people from long ago still haunt us. Holding a grudge is like taking a loaded shotgun, pointing it at our head, pulling the trigger and hoping our enemy is hurt in the recoil. How smart is that?

The fact is, pleasant memories are a choice. So remember the best and forget the rest.

“Because of your koinonia in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil 1:5-6)

1:5: *Koinonia ... in the gospel ... Euangellion* – 48 times in Paul; 76 times in the NT. It contrasts with political claims that the good news is that the emperor is lord.

Verse 6: Paul’s attitude toward the Philippians is highlighted here by his firm confidence in what the Lord will do in and for them. What God creates He brings to completion (cf. Is. 44:6; 48:12 – Yahweh is the First and the Last – meaning He begins *and* He finishes). So if God calls the community to faith, he stands also at the end of the call to bring each member to the desired goal: complete salvation.

“It is right for me to phoneo this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you have synkoinonia in God’s charis with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the splanchnois of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.” (Phil 1:7-11)

Remember the best; forget the rest ... relate with your head and also your heart.

Verse 7: *PHRONEO ... Synkoinonia* in Philippians In so doing, the apostle again underscores the importance of people working *with*, not against, each other.

If Paul suffers, so do they; if he defends and vindicates the gospel, so do they. Paul sees himself as an extension of the Philippian Christians and them as joint participants with him in his troubles and triumphs, co-sharers with him in the Body of Christ.

Verse 8: Affection – *splanchnois* – the center of personal feelings; the seat of the feelings – cf. Matt 18:27; Luke 15:20; 10:33; Mark 6:34; 8:2; 1:41; 9:22, etc. KJV – “the bowels of Jesus Christ.” Christ’s gut is the basis for our gut.

Relationships have more power than any nuclear bomb and more potential than any promising seed. What matters most in life are not the ladders we climb or great our church is. What matters most are relationships.

What steps are we taking to protect our possessions?

How many insurance policies do I own? For my cars, my home, my health, my life? What measures am I using to ensure that my relationships are strong and healthy? What am I doing to solidify the bridges between me and those in my world? Thrivent sells life insurance ... Philippians imparts people insurance. Not very catchy ... but you get the point.

Verses 9 to 11: *Agape* 116 times in NT, and 75 in Paul. Unmerited love from God revealed in Christ. Paul does not encourage “sloppy agape” or “sentimental, undisciplined love” but to love with perception and insight and knowledge. Put another way, nothing is more harmful than the easy good nature which is willing to tolerate everything, and this is often mistaken for the Christian frame of mind. Love must fasten itself on the things which are worth loving, and it cannot do so unless it is wisely directed.

Paul prays that the Philippians will overflow in (1) intelligent and perceptive love, (2) the ability to make godly decisions, (3) the means to be a pure and kind community, and (4) righteous fruit, all to the honor and praise of God.

Relate with your heart, not with your head!

“Fruit of righteousness” – 3:6, 9. The Philippians share the gospel (v. 5), have Paul in their heart (v. 7), remember him (v. 3), and take part in a good work (v. 6) because they are filled with the result of justification through Jesus Christ (v. 11). The root is justification; these are its fruits.

A few years ago, I heard about a guy who was raised in the U.P. – is it safe to tell a story about the UP? Isn’t that in the North Wisconsin District?

“Pa” had never quite made it to “Motown.” So one day, when his son, Junior, turned 16, Pa took his wife and Junior to see Detroit. As they approached the outskirts of the big city, Pa began to get a little jumpy. “Ma,” he said, “when we pull up at the hotel, you stay in the truck while Junior and I go in and look around. We’ll come back and git ya, okay?” Ma agreed. So, as Ma stayed put, Pa and Junior walked wide-eyed toward the hotel. Soon they heard a clicking sound behind them. Paul turned around and saw this amazing little room with doors that slid open from the center. Some people would walk out of the little room and others would walk inside and turn around, as “click,” the doors slid shut. At that moment a wrinkled old lady shuffled up to the doors. She pushed the button and waited only a few seconds. “Click,” the doors opened with a swish and she bobbed into the little room. Not more than 20

seconds later the doors opened again and there stood this fabulously attractive blonde. As she stepped out, Pa had a grand idea. So he nudged his son and said, “Hey Junior, go git Ma, quick!”

It seems like everybody is looking for a room like what Pa thought he had found. Just push the right button, wait momentarily for the door of opportunity to slide open, the CLICK, instant JOY!

But thanks to our time in Philippians today, we are all the more convinced as to where true joy is found. ... Let’s sing it out!

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

One word describes the Journey To Joy for the 21st century. One word encapsulates what we’re all about – what makes our hearts beat – what really turns us on – what ultimately stirs our soup – what path we need to get on for joy. The word?

UP ... that’s right ... UP! UP in our high-voltage society is a word that has come to be cherished, almost worshiped. It’s a word reserved for the winners and heroes. It’s a word to be admired and pursued. We hear it in a million different ways: upscale, up and coming, upper class, upwardly mobile. We’re called to RISE against the odds, the crowd, or whatever gets in the way. We’re challenged to ascend to fame, money, spotlights, power, comfort, pleasure. Our Journey To Joy Is Up!

A quick glance at the best-selling books in America in the last 20 years clearly reveals our infatuation with up. Passport to prosperity, winning move, true greed, winning through intimidation, cashing in on the American dream (how to retire at 35), the art of selfishness, techniques that take you to the top, how to get what you really want, secrets to quick success, leadership secrets of Attila the Hun.

And in 2002, Shania Twain released her quadruple-platinum selling album titled “Up!”

Our passion for UP is demonstrated in a recent Funky Winkerbean comic: The dean of the college, attired in mortar board and gown, is speaking to the graduating class. “I know we face a world in a

massive recession,” he explained. “even so, I still think this class could come up with a better motto than, ‘get yours while there’s still some left!’ ”

Down. We hate to even hear this four-letter word. In our vocabulary, down is the language of the losers, the lazy, and the low-achievers. Down is a word that colors whatever it touches. Down and out, downfall, downscale, downsize, down in the mouth, downhill, downhearted. Down. It’s a word that’s only found on the lips of the weak, the poor, and the dead! Even the best Manhattan advertising agencies would be hard pressed for a catchy jingle: LOSE IT ALL, IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES!

“*Your phroneo should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.*” (Phil 2:5)

“*Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a doulos, being made in human likeness.*” (Phil 2:6-7)

v. 6a He had it all. Col. 2:9, “*For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.*” Hebrews 1:3: “*The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being.*” Mary exclaims, “*I have seen the Lord.*” Peter gasps, “*We were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*” Climactically, Thomas cries out, “*My Lord and my God!*” Jesus isn’t an assistant to the Father; he isn’t the vice-president of the cosmos, a sort-of Joe Biden of the universe. Jesus isn’t a junior partner to the Father. No. He is a full-fledged member of the godhead, equal with the Father in every way, from eternity past. “*Homoousias ... Being of one substance with the Father.*” He had it all.

v. 7 “*But made himself nothing.*” This Servant gave it all. Jesus didn’t appear on the landscape of the planet as an emperor, a king, a statesman, a general, or an investment banker, but as a fetus, born in a stable to a blue-collar carpenter. The all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present second person of the Trinity now feels the confining feeling of skin. And he’s got to use doors and ride animals and eat and sleep. Think of the God of the cosmos saying, “*Okay mom, okay dad.*” Think of what He must have felt like when mere men didn’t cry out in adoration or worship. Wherever He had traveled in eternity past, multitudes of angels were there saying, “*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God, the whole earth is full of your glory! Now this same person rubs shoulders with those He created, and they say, ‘Get out of my way, Jew boy ... move it buddy!’*” Jesus never stopped going down. The owner of all things, he owned nothing. “*Taking the very nature of a slave ...*”

When Jesus gathered his disciples for the Last Supper, they were having trouble over who was the greatest. This was no new issue for them. “And an argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest” (Luke 9:46). Gathered at the Passover feast the disciples were keenly aware that someone needed to wash the others’ feet. The problem was that the only people who washed feet were the least. So there they sat, feet caked with dirt. It was such a sore point that they weren’t even going to talk about it. No one wanted to be considered the last. Then Jesus took a towel and a basin and so redefined greatness; He took the form of a slave.

This next verse must be read with holy reverence – with trembling voices – please join me in reading it.

“*And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!*” (Phil 2:8)

v. 8 *tapeinoo* = lose prestige or status, humiliate, abase, lower, reduce, reversal of status.

FROM THE CRADLE ... TO THE CROSS and this meant rock bottom. Omnipotent. He cries. The Creator, He’s spit on by the creatures. The source of truth; He’s found guilty of a lie. The source of light, for three hours He hangs in the darkness. The source of Life, Jesus is crucified, dead and buried; from the pinnacle of praise in the universe to the ultimate absolute nothing. “*He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him; nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.*”

He had it, He gave it, He delivers it all. The absolution declares it. The font seals it. The table celebrates it. Romans 8:32, “*He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us ALL things?*” Philippians 4:19, “*And my God will meet ALL your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*” All. Total, complete, everything, the whole enchilada, the whole ball of wax. He had it. He gave it. He delivers it, because it’s part of the plan.

Calvary isn’t just a moving tragedy. Not a stopgap measure. Nor was it the Father’s unexpected knee-jerk response to a world plummeting towards destruction. The cross was drawn into the original blueprint, written into the first script. Golgotha is the decisive plan of the Father before the creation of the world.

What does it mean? It means Jesus intentionally planted the tree from which his cross would be carved. It means he voluntarily placed Judas into the womb of a woman. It means he was the one who set

in motion the political machinery that sent Pilate to Judea. And it means He didn’t have to do it ... but He did it all ... FOR YOU ... FOR ME!

The ripping of the skin; the bursting of the arteries; the severing of the nerves would bring unimaginable pain. The Roman reaction was *mors turpissima crucis* = “the most vile death of the cross.”

Is it any wonder then, that Paul stated, “*But God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world!*” And then for the ages, “*Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified ...*”

“*Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is kyrios (=Yahweh), to the glory of God the Father.*” (Phil 2:9-11)

v. 9 from the cradle, to the cross, to the crown – *hyperupsoo* – Found only here in NT, *hyperupsoo* may be interpreted to mean “to super-exalt,” “to raise someone to the loftiest height.” On this reading, the principal idea conveyed by this verb is not comparative, i.e., that Christ is now someone greater than He was before the incarnation or possesses a status superior to that which He had in his preexistent state, but superlative, i.e., that Christ, who made himself so very lowly, was made by the Father very high, so high, in fact, that he is placed over *hyper* all things. The verb *hyperupsoo* is used in the LXX to describe Yahweh as the one who is “exalted far above all gods” (Ps 96:9 [1MT 97:9]; cf. Dan 3:52, 54, 57–88).

“Heaven and earth and under the earth” (v. 10), refer to the totality of all creation. In antiquity, people believed in a three-storied universe, and its all-comprehensive space was thus often expressed by phrases that embraced all three parts (cf. Homer, *Odyssey* 5.184-86). When Paul wished to proclaim the universality of worship due from creation to Jesus, he used the phraseology of his day.

v. 11 It is stunning that strictly monotheistic Jews who made up both the teachers and the rank and file of the Christian churches insisted on offering to the man Jesus full-blown worship in such a way that did not violate the conviction that there was only one true God, the God of Israel,

who should be worshipped (Deut 6:4). Jews offered worship to God alone and not to any other various figures, angels, or mediators. The most direct Roman claim comes in “the Lord Jesus Christ,” which is a frontal attack against the Roman claim Caesar is *dominus*.

Jesus is Yahweh! Jesus Christ alone has the right to reign.

Jesus was a human son and also the divine Son of the Father; He was wounded by Satan and, at the same time He crushed Satan; He was appointed the Savior of all people yet was crucified by these same people; He is Judge of all people yet was led as a felon from one judge to another. There never was another who died and was buried and yet lived, who saved others and when He chose not to save himself, who had no sin in Him yet all sin *on* Him. Who is the King of Glory yet wore no crown but a crown of thorns. There never was another who was the Prince of life yet died on Calvary, who was the victim of a Roman cross and victor at a Jewish grave. There never was another who poured all seas, all lakes, all rivers out of the crystal chalices of eternity yet on a cross said with a mouth hot like a parched desert that cries for rain, *dipsō* in greek, in English, “I thirst.”

ALL:

Jesus Had It
Jesus Gave It
Jesus Delivers It
My Response?

See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich and crown!

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

Ivan the Great was the Tsar of Russia during the 15th century. One day he decided to marry the daughter of the King of Greece. But there had to be one condition, said the King of Greece, “You can’t marry my daughter unless you become a member of the Greek Orthodox Church.” And since Ivan was head over heels in love, he said, “Sure, I’ll do anything. I’ll even join your church if that’s what it takes to marry your daughter!” So a priest was dispatched to Moscow to instruct Ivan. Soon Ivan made his way to Athens, Greece with 500 of his crack troops. He was to be baptized into the Orthodox Church by immersion. His soldiers also asked to be baptized. So the Patriarch of the church assigned 500 priests to give the soldiers a one-on-one catechism crash course. All 500 soldiers were then ready to be baptized. But suddenly there was a problem. The church didn’t allow soldiers to become members. So after a hasty round of diplomacy, the problem was solved. As the words were spoken and the priests began to baptize them, each soldier reached to his side and withdrew his sword. Lifting it high overhead every soldier was totally immersed ... everything but his fighting arm and sword.

That’s a true historical fact. Want another true historical fact? You and I are much like those soldiers of Ivan the Great. We will submit everything to the Lord except, except what? What are we still holding on to? What is just as destructive as a soldier’s sword? What maims, mauls, cuts, and kills? Any guesses? As I look at all of you and as I consider my own life, I believe that to a person all of us who have been baptized still reserve the right to COMPLAIN!

Complaining is:

Costly
Contagious
Catastrophic
Comfortable

Remember that Philippians contains no direct quotes from the OT, in all likelihood because the church consisted of all Gentiles. But as Paul addresses complaining in chapter two, he alludes to Israel’s wilderness wanderings. Listen to these lyrics from Keith Green. They will prepare us for what comes next in Philippians 2.

SO YOU WANNA GO BACK TO EGYPT?

So you wanna go back to Egypt,
where it's warm and secure.
Are you sorry you bought the one-way ticket
when you thought you were sure?
You wanted to live in the Land of Promise,
but now it's getting so hard.
Are you sorry you're out here in the desert,
'sted of your own backyard?
Eating leeks and onions by the Nile.
Ooh what breath! But dining out in style.
Ooh! My life's on the skids.
Give me the pyramids!
Well there's nothing to do but travel.
And we sure travel a lot.
Cause it's hard to keep your feet from moving when
the sand gets so hot.
And in the morning it's manna hotcakes.
We snack on manna all day.
And they sure had a winner last night for dinner –
flaming manna soufflé.
Well, we once complained
for something new to munch.
The ground opened up
and had some of us for lunch.
Ooh! Such fire and smoke.
Can't God even take a joke?
Huh? No!
So you wanna go back to Egypt,
where your friends wait for you.
You can throw a big party
and tell the whole gang
that what they said was all true.
And this Moses acts like a big shot.
Who does he think he is?
It's true that God works lots of miracles,
but Moses thinks they're all his.
Well! I'm having so much trouble even now.
Why'd he get so mad about that cow?
That golden cow!
Moses seems rather idle.
He just sits around and writes the Bible!

Kieth Green, Melody Green-Sievrigh
190 Birdwing Music BMG Songs Inc.
CCLI # 995516

“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your (plural) *soteria* with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his

good purpose.” (Phil 2:12-13)

v. 12 – *baste* – “therefore” a strong connection with what precedes – our Lord’s humiliation and exaltation. That’s the basis for Paul’s exhortation. Having the mind of Christ, we will continue to work out our salvation. “Salvation” here denotes the well-being or health of the Christian community at Philippi that excludes complaining, griping, grumbling, and whining. Paul is not, repeat not, discussing personal salvation; he uses *soteria* to mean that in 1:28; but here, as well as in 1:19, the apostle employs *soteria* to denote unity, like-mindedness, and concord. Adding to this interpretation is the fact that YOUR is plural; this is not individual salvation but corporate community *shalom*.

Adding to this interpretation is the fact that Paul is the only NT writer to employ the phrase “fear and trembling” and he never uses it to describe the attitude people are to have toward God – only the attitude Christians are to have toward one another or toward their leaders (1 Cor 2:3; 2 Cor 7:15; cf. Eph 6:5; LXX, Exod 15:16). We may render the phrase then, “*All of you faithfully work at achieving [spiritual] fitness within your community.*”

But the Philippian Christians are not left to themselves to achieve such high spiritual goals. There is “within them,” an energizing person that is no less than God himself. In fact, the Greek conjunction *gar* makes it clear that God does not work and has not worked because we have worked. The contrary is true: because God works and has worked, therefore we can work at minimizing our moaning and groaning. And so Paul continues ...

“Do everything without *goggusmon* or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.” (Phil 2:14-15)

v. 14 *Gogizomai* comes only here in Paul and it connects to the OT ... and here we are, front and center, with Keith Green’s lyrics, “So Ya Wanna go Back to Egypt.”

The Four Common Types of Complainers
The Whiner – “It’s Not Fair”

“It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!” (Exodus 14:12)

The Martyr – “No One Appreciates Me!”

“Moses said to the Lord, ‘Why pick on me, to give me the burden of a people like this? I can’t carry this nation by myself! ... If you’re going to treat me like

this, please kill me right now – it will be a kindness! Let me out of this impossible situation!” (Numbers 11:11-15)

The Egyptians had enslaved the entire population, murdered their sons, denied them straw for the making of bricks ... and it is better than being in the desert with the Lord?

The Cynic – “Nothing Will Ever Change!”

“But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!” (Numbers 11:6)

The Perfectionist – “Is That Your Best?”

“But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, ‘Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst.’” (Exodus 17:3)

How to Conquer Complaining:

Focus:

Not on Where We’ve Been

“The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, ‘If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost – also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic.’” (Numbers 11:4-5)

Not on Where We Are

“They said, ‘The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.’” (Numbers 13:32-33)

On Where We’re Going

“If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us.” (Numbers 14:8)

Discuss how your church can, realistically, conquer complaining.

“... as you hold out the word of life – in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and have chara with all of you. So you too should have chara and chara with me.” (Phil 2:16-18)

The word of life is the opposite of conceit, grumbling, and argumentativeness.

Paul exhorts the Philippians and us to do all these things in order that no one, either inside the church or on the outside, will be able to find any fault or insincerity in us. He wants us to be a cause for good in the corrupt society in which we find ourselves,

dispelling evil and ignorance, as the lights in the sky, i.e., the stars, dispel darkness. But to be this kind of people we must hold firmly to the gospel, which counters the attitude of complaining with contagious, outrageous ... joy! Let’s celebrate this gift.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav’n reflect Thy rays.

Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea.

Chanting bird, and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice with Thee!

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

“Finally, my brothers, have chara in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh.” (Phil 3:1-2)

Paul sees his repeated appeals to joy (“this same [command]”) as a means of guaranteeing their safety (“safe course to follow”), a safeguard for their church. That is to say, Paul believes that if only the Philippian Christians will believe the gospel that brings joy, they will discover that this positive Christian attitude will save them from the ills that plague their church: murmurings, dissensions, empty conceit, and so on. Joy is a safeguard against the attitude which judges people and things wholly by the use that can be made of them. Christian joy, the exaltation of spirit that flows from acceptance of the free gifts of God’s grace, is the best protection against such a negative and divisive outlook on life.

v. 2 the phrase “Beware of The Dogs” is Biblical! Dogs in antiquity were generally held in contempt and were not “*man’s best friend*” or house pets or lapdogs. Unable to be controlled and potentially dangerous, dogs posed a menacing threat to anyone who got in their way. They were unclean (cf. Rev 22:15) – constantly barking, scavenging, urinating, and mating in public. (I just described for you my beagle dog Howard.) Paul says in v. 2 that these enemies mutilate people. With that word picture in mind, Paul says “Beware of The Dogs.”

“For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in sarki – though

I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence en sarki, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people or Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.” (Phil 3:3-6)

In v. 3 Paul claims the term “circumcision” for Christians; cf. Gal 6:16; 3:29; 3:7. Christians are “the circumcision” because we are the seed of Abraham” (Gal 3:29), the “sons of Abraham” (Gal 3:7), through faith in Christ Jesus. Paul takes God’s terms for Israel and applies them to the church. These are just some of 96 images of the church in the NT.

Note the Spirit/flesh contrast.

Sarx can be good – John 1:14 – but in Paul it denotes the base of operations by sin, the bastion for human pride and improper boasting. It denotes the whole person, human life destined for demise and destruction before God, not something on which real life and future hopes can be built.

Paul further describes these people in Philippians 3:18-19: “For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.” Paul’s use of “the mind” gets us back to the truth “Garbage in, garbage out.” The battle is for the mind ... 2 Cor 4, “the god of this age blinds the minds ...” Romans 12, “Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.” Ephesians 6, “Put on the helmet of salvation.”

vv. 4-6 – Paul lists five areas that he had once made up his mind on, that he thought were “gains”:

Rituals “... circumcised on the eighth day ...” (3:5a)

Race “... of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin ...” (3:5b)

Religion “... a Hebrew of Hebrews ...” (3:5c)

Rules “... in regard to the law, a Pharisee ...” (3:5d)

Reputation “... as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.” (3:6)

Jubilees 15:11-14 states that a male child not circumcised on the eighth day “*has broken my covenant.*”

2 Cor 11:22 – “Are they Hebrews? So am I.” This suggests that “Hebrew” was a term of eminence that Hellenistic-Jewish missionaries employed. It also denotes that Paul spoke Aramaic (Acts 21:40; 22:2; 26:14). Born in Tarsus to Roman citizens and

schooled under Gamaliel in Jerusalem.

Pharisees – The fundamental and most influential religious movement within Palestinian Judaism between 150 BC and AD 70. Pharisees were obligated to the 613 oral laws = “*tradition of the elders*” in Matt 15 and Mk 7. About 6,000 of them at any given time; they were laymen who had various occupations. A Pharisee didn’t even eat an egg that was laid on the Sabbath, because the hen had worked. If he got bit by a mosquito on the Sabbath he wouldn’t scratch the mosquito bite because that was considered work. He wouldn’t allow a woman to look in the mirror of the Sabbath because she might pull a gray hair and that would be work.

“Zeal for the law” – “The strictest guardians of ancestral institutions, without pity toward those who undermine them in any way.” So writes Philo of Alexandria, an influential Jew who lived about the same time as Paul. In every way, Paul considered himself to be a model Jew, quite satisfied with himself until he met the living Christ.

Discuss how your church might address these chara-killers.

This profit-and-loss chart reminds me of the guy who tried to deduct his wife’s beauty treatment on his income tax. When he was audited by the IRS, he was told that he couldn’t do that. To which he replied, “Why not? It was a total loss!”

Let’s look at Paul’s profit-and-loss statement.

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them *skubala*, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith en Christo – the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the koinonia of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.” (Phil 3:7-11)

v. 7 Paul also talks about a TOTAL LOSS! “Loss” is vividly illustrated in Acts 27:10 and 21 of cargo, ship and lives by shipwreck. “Gain” cf. 1:21. Paul’s losses were not just for a moment on the road to Damascus; the bill kept coming in for years to come.

v. 8 *Skubala* – useless or undesirable material that is subject to disposal, refuse, unspeakable filth, garbage,

dung, manure, offal, rubbish, excrement, what is given forth through the entrails. *Skubala* falls in the same category as these other ideas in chapter three; *sarx*, dogs, having our minds on earthly things. *Skubala* is what Paul thinks of Ritual, Race, Religion, Rules, and Reputation because he's got something going now in his life that is infinitely better.

He continues: "More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (v. 8). Paul uses the present tense verb "count" here, indicating that this is occurring in his life at the time of his writing. This shows us that even after the moment of his salvation, Paul continues to put the things of the world far below his priority of knowing Jesus Christ. We might say he is developing, growing, becoming! This is an example of sanctification: What started at the cross with salvation continues to influence the way we live (state 1:6).

The goal is for Jesus to become my greatest passion; knowing Him is my Number One priority. My ambition is to place the whole world, with its wealth, power, and advantages, its prestige, accolades, and rewards, in one scale pan of the balance and Christ in the other, and choose Jesus because he overwhelmingly outweighs everything else in terms of real worth.

v. 9 "To be found in him." In Him!!

An old "*Alfred Hitchcock Presents*" TV show was about a woman in prison who became good friends with the prison caretaker. When a prisoner died he would ring the bell, get the body, put it in a casket ... and nail it shut. Then, placing the casket on a wagon, he would take it to the graveyard outside the prison walls and bury the corpse.

Knowing this routine, the woman devised an escape plan and shared it with this caretaker. "*The next time the bell rings,*" she said, "*I'll leave my cell and sneak into the coffin with the dead body.*"

Nail the lid shut and take the coffin outside the prison with me in it. Bury the coffin," she continued, "and because there will be enough air for me to breathe for some time, you can come back to the graveyard that night, dig up the coffin, and set me free."

The caretaker agreed to the plan.

One day this woman heard the ringing of the death bell. She arose, walked down the hallway, found the coffin containing the dead body and climbed in. Soon she heard the pounding of hammer and

nails. The coffin was lifted onto the wagon and taken outside to the graveyard. After the dirt was poured on the coffin she began to giggle out loud, "*I'm free, free!*"

Feeling curious she lit a match to identify the prisoner beside her ... and in the glimmer of light she discovered that she was laying next to ... the dead caretaker! In classic Alfred Hitchcock fashion this final scene fades as we hear the woman screaming ... screaming ... screaming ... then silence.

Ever been buried like that before? Sure you have, and so have I.

We've been buried in questions – "If God is so good, why do I hurt so bad?" "If Jesus is the light, why am I in the dark?"

We've been buried in disappointment – "You're just not like your older brother!" "You're just not like our last pastor!"

We've been buried in responsibilities – "Here's a 30-page case study – be ready to discuss it tomorrow. Honey, the kids have softball and baseball games ... tomorrow."

We've been buried in the past – the minute we lost our temper, the hour we lost our purity, the day we lost control ... the years we lost our priorities.

And on top of it all – literally – we're buried in our daily self-assertion, self-righteousness, self-satisfaction, self-sufficiency, and self-will.

Buried, boxed in, six feet under, again, right here, just now – it's dark, tight, claustrophobic, and the enemy has nailed the lid shut. And if there isn't screaming, there are heavy sighs and lifeless looks and empty hearts.

Buried, boxed in, six feet under – so also Paul as a Pharisee – he was buried in *skubala* ... Ritual, Race, Religion, Rules, and Reputation.

But one day it was high noon at the OK Corral and the Man in the white hat put down his gun! "Go ahead," He said, "Take your best shot – shoot me!" And the enemy marshaled every weapon of mass destruction. Judas, Pilate, Herod ... thorns, nails, spear ... darkness, sweat, and screaming ... screaming ... screaming ... until there was total ... silence.

It all ended "*crucified, dead and buried.*" Nothing is as bottomless as a pit, as lifeless as a grave, as hopeless as a tomb. Smell the mildew, the odor of blood, the of stench death. See the confines, the darkness, the sealed stone ...

Witness the charred marks of a divine explosion to life! "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" – "I Know that

My Redeemer Lives! – “Ye Sons and Daughters of the King” – “Jesus Lives, the Victory’s Won” – “This Joyful Eastertide” – “The Strife is O’er, the Battle Won” – “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds!” There is nothing dead about our Jesus!

Cramped by the chaos, suffocating in the stillness, trapped in transgressions and sins, screaming in the silence, let’s light a match and see who we’re buried with.

Get this – Romans 6:4: “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life!” Again ... Colossians 2:12: “Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.”

And so we come to life and walk in the newness of this life!

Being baptized into Jesus means, according to Philippians 3:9, we are in Christ ... “not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.”

Philippians 3:10 “That I may know him ...” What is the greatest desire of a Christian? Throughout Scripture, the great men and women of God say that their passion is to truly know Him. Moses says to God: “I pray You show me Your glory” (Exodus 33:18). David prays: “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God” (Psalm 42:1). And Paul says that his heart longs to “know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings.”

Ritual
Race
Religion
Rules
Reputation
Relationship

Let’s express our thanksgiving for this relationship, confident of this, that he who began our life in Christ through holy baptism, will bring it to completion on the day of Christ Jesus (Phil 1:6).

God’s own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth’s treasures many?
I have one worth more than any.

That brought me salvation free,
Lasting to eternity!

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

“Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my chara and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have *synethlesan* in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my synergon, whose names are in the book of life.”

4:2 – *parakaleo* – translated as “plead” ... [check time ... Chicago O’Hare international airport ... people mover]

That’s Paul! Cf. 2:1. Note the use of *syn* in 4:3.

In light of the grumbling in 2:15, the nub of the problem was status on the part of Euodia and Syntyche; they were seeking their own interests in contrast to those of others. Rivalry among the upwardly mobile was common in ancient Rome; apparently they were consumed with the word UP.

But there is something that bothers me here. This is a letter to the church at Philippi, and in it Paul has dealt with some very important matters. So why on earth, in the midst of such an important letter, does Paul stick in something so personal about two of the ladies in the congregation? Shouldn’t he have tried to solve this problem much more discreetly and privately? Hadn’t he read Matthew 18? Why so publicly write about it in a letter that millions have read now for nearly 2,000 years?

So that from the moment the ink began to dry on the papyrus, every reader of Philippians would view Euodia and Syntyche like this.

Maybe it is because it is important that the church communicate to the world that we don’t hide the fact that we are POH ... plain ol’ human. Maybe Paul is encouraging openness, authenticity, transparency, and vulnerability. After all, in 2 Corinthians 1:8, he writes, “We were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.” No games, no gimmicks, no pose, no pretense, no concealment, no cover up ... just humble, down-to-earth honesty.

And notice what Paul does and what he doesn’t do. First of all, he doesn’t take sides. He doesn’t say, “*Syntyche is right and Euodia is wrong. So you get out of here, Euodia.*” He doesn’t do that. Secondly, he doesn’t pull rank. He doesn’t say, “*I’m the apostle here and therefore I say if you two don’t agree, you’re both out of here.*” Instead,

he encourages them to find common ground where they can agree. He says, “I plead with (you) to agree with each other in the Lord.” Do you remember what Paul wrote in Romans 12:18? There he says, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

Another helpful insight into Paul’s strategy of dealing with Euodia and Syntyche comes from verse 1, which shows the apostle’s careful approach to dealing with conflict, where he first praises the Philippians before attempting to correct their behavior; before the apostle begins his commands, he first commends. A spoon full of sugar makes the medicine go down ... in the most delightful way!

There is something else that Paul does. He appoints a third party to intervene. In v. 3 he’s called “loyal yokefellow.” We don’t know who he was, but whoever he was, he was a peacemaker. And Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Sons of God.” Most scholars believe the “yoke-fellow” may have been Epaphroditus because the recommended person in Greco-Roman letters is often the carrier of the letter. Philippians 2:25-27a, “I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need. For he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. Indeed he was ill, near to death.”

Paul is probably in prison in Rome, and the Philippians take up an offering to help him. Now it was 800 miles and six weeks’ travel over rough terrain to get from Philippi to Rome, and Epaphroditus said, “I’ll do it!” And on the way he got sick and almost died! Have you ever gotten sick when you’re on a trip? I did once ... in Macon, Georgia. It’s miserable! But Epaphroditus puts the cause of Christ before comfort. He says, “I’ve got a job to do and I’m going to get it done!”

To describe Epaphroditus in 2:30, Paul uses the word in 2:30 *parabolani*, which is often translated risk but literally means to gamble. To stake everything you’ve got on the roll of the dice. In the early church there were societies of men and women who called themselves The *Parabolani* – that is, The Gamblers. They ministered to the sick and imprisoned, they went to leper colonies, and they saw to it that martyrs were buried. They were probably on building committees, never missed voters’ meetings, and attended District Conventions. They were radical, never-say-die,

whatever-it-takes believers! And it was all started by Epaphroditus, God’s Gambler!

Describe a time when an Epaphroditus figure gambled to develop the attitude of joyful fellowship in Christ.

“Have chara in the Lord always. I will say it again: have chara! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your *voemata* in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:4-7)

Verse 4: The operative words in this well-known command are “in the Lord.” Throughout the letter, Paul has made it clear that the referent of is Jesus (cf. 1:2; 2:11, 19; 3:8; and 4:23). He has also spelled out what the Lord Jesus has done, is doing, and will do for all believers (cf., e.g., 1:6; 21; 2:5-11; 3:20-21). He is the reason to rejoice!

Verse 5: *epieikos* translated GENTLENESS. It denotes a non-anxious presence – gratefully serene – patient steadfastness – yielding – gentle – kind – courteous – tolerant. A humble, patient steadfastness able to submit to injustice, disgrace, and maltreatment without hatred and malice, trusting God in spite of all of it.

Aristotle contrasted *epieikes* with “strict justice.” For Aristotle it meant a generous treatment of others that does not insist on the letter of the law. It is preeminently the character of Jesus. 2 Corinthians 10:1, “I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness – *epieikos* – of Christ.”

The next phrase, “The Lord is near,” is deliberately ambiguous, thus conveying the meaning that Jesus is near spatially (i.e., sacramentally) as well as temporally (i.e., His Second Coming). This is why we are empowered to rejoice in the Lord ... always ... because He is always near, and we are always awaiting “a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself” Philippians 3:20-21.

Some equations in life are difficult, if not impossible. For example: Parents + teenager = ? Dog + cat = ? Baseball fan + All-Star Wrestling fan = ? The square root of 5.793019 = ? Because he knows that either we overcome worry or worry will overcome us. In Philippians 4:4-9 Paul offers a workable equation that overcomes our besetting sin of worry.

Verse 6: The verb translated as “worry” is the same verb that was used in 2:20, where it had the positive sense of being seriously concerned for the welfare of others. Now, however, it has the negative connotation of anxious harassing care, of attempting to carry the burden of the future oneself, or unreasonable anxiety, especially about things over which one has no control. There are two fundamental truths to human enlightenment ...

Although anxiety, apprehension, and angst are some of its formal terms, its country cousins include: on pins and needles – fretting – frazzled – in a stew – or from Elvis, “all shook up.”

The German *würgen* is the closest “foreign” relative, and its meaning gets to the heart of what it does, i.e., “strangle, choke, slay, take by the throat.” The enemy thus described is ... worry! Just how does one gain and keep an equilibrium in a world filled with worry-creating situations?

1. Pray about everything “...but in everything, by prayer and petition” (4:6b)

2. Give thanks in all things “... with thanksgiving ...” (4:6c)

The first part of the equation is “Pray about everything. It has often been said that general prayers are answered in a general way! “Oh God, be with them ...” “Oh Father, really bless them ...” In short, the way to be anxious about nothing is to pray specifically about everything!

Second, “Give thanks in all things.” Important here is that we don’t give thanks *for* all things because all things are not good. Rather, we give thanks *in* all things. Imagine that, thanking God *in* all things, even *before* the prayer is answered! My favorite example of such bold prayer is in 2 Chronicles 20:1-30. King Jehoshaphat directs the army to go into battle against Edomites, Moabites, Ammonites, flea bites, and mosquito bites ... thanking Yahweh *before* the military engagement (v. 21). Verse 22 states, “As they began to sing and praise, Yahweh set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab” with the result that “no one escaped” (v. 24). Such is the power of thanksgiving! (Ps. 149:6). [CHECK TIME ... MATTHEW 26:30 ...] Thanksgiving means giving God the glory in everything, making room for him, casting our care on him, letting it be his care. The troubles that exercise us then cease to be hidden and bottled up. They are laid open to God, spread out before him.

3. Think about the right things. “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right,

whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.” (4:8)

4. This equals God’s peace that surpasses anything “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (4:7)

Third, “Think about the right things.” Verses 8 and 9: *logizomia* is a favorite of Paul’s, used by him thirty-four of the forty times it appears in the New Testament. It means “to reckon, calculate, take into account.” It includes the ideas of “to ponder or let one’s mind dwell on” something. But it was not Paul’s idea that the Philippians think only about such high moral qualities as listed in verse 8, but also to put them into action (note the second imperative in v. 9, PRACTICE THESE THINGS). The apostle goes on to hold himself up as an example of one who is not overwhelmed by worry; cf. Phil. 3:17, “Brothers, join in imitating me ...” When faced by the stranglehold of *würgen*, one priceless example of Paul’s attitude is this triumphant statement (Phil. 1:21).

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – *logizesthe* about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” (Phil. 4:8-9)

Paul says, take account of the best in the pagan world; this is a huge idea. These are eight virtues from the Greco-Roman world. Sure, “our citizenship is in heaven ...” but the Philippians are also citizens of Rome. So they have dual citizenship in the kingdom of the right and the kingdom of the left. Paul is not completely against Roman culture. He embraces first-article theology. This is how we carry out our citizenship in the gospel. Perhaps persecution had blinded them to what was good in the pagan life by which they were surrounded. These traits are available to all, apart from the gospel (Rom. 1:18, 25).

Paul says that all countless concerns of life can be kept at bay, if believers will reckon up, think over, estimate aright, and fill their minds with all things good and true, and then rise up and put into practice what they see and hear about him.

Finally, “This equals God’s peace that surpasses anything.”

Philippi, as we learned Monday, was filled with many retired Roman soldiers, so the metaphor

explained in verse 7 would have been easily understood: God's peace, like a garrison of soldiers, will keep guard over our minds so that they will be as safe against the assaults of worry as any fortress. This peace will guard us just as a military detachment of soldiers guards a city.

The same verb, *phroreo*, also comes in 2 Corinthians 11:32-33, "At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands." Roman guarding was imperfect; God's guarding PEACE is always and forevermore ... perfect.

The betrayed sought His betrayers. And what did He say to them? Not, 'What a bunch of flops you are.' Not, 'I told you so.' And there was no 'Where were you when I really needed you,' speech. No, his first words were just one simple phrase, 'Peace be with you.' The very thing that they didn't have was the very thing that He offered; peace. And He still offers it to us today. Peace *with* God through the death and

resurrection of Jesus brings the peace *of* God.

Baptized into all of the promises and power of Jesus so clearly articulated in Philippians ... my life is now inside out and completely *upside down*. You see, once I was lost, but now I am found. Once I was blind, but now I see. And once I was dead, but now I am alive!

I'm developing the attitude of joyful fellowship in Christ!

Whoa!

And because we are Pentecosted people, we will take Paul's subversive letter to the homeless, the orphans, the unemployed, the underemployed, the widows, the divorced ... *and we will shout it out to the world!*

Then what the Thessalonians said about Paul and his companions will also be said of us. "These men who have turned the world upside down ... have also come ... here!"

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Every blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Fountainhead of love divine.
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

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MINUTES

Sunday, June 28, 2009

The Chapel of the Holy Trinity on the campus of Concordia University Ann Arbor, was the setting for the Opening Divine Service for the 99th Convention of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. At the hour of 7:00 p.m., the Name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit was invoked by the Rev. Daniel Meckes upon the gathered delegates and guests. The Rev. Dr. C. William Hoesman, President of the Michigan District, offered the Sermon based upon the Word of the Lord from Philippians 2:9-11, theme text for the Convention, linking the apostolic church in its celebration of Jesus to the joy and praises of the saints of the Michigan District.

Monday, June 29, 2009

Morning devotions were held in the chapel. Rev. Dr. Scott Sommerfeld of Holy Cross, Jenison, was preacher for the service. His message based upon Colossians 3:12-17, “Celebrating Jesus – Whatever You Do” emphasized Christ’s calling and clothing of the church for community with Him.

Morning Session

President C. William Hoesman called the Convention to order in the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A report was received from Rev. Paul Theiss, chairman of the Registration Committee, indicating the following attendance:

Voting Pastoral Delegates	216
Voting Lay Delegates	226
Total Voting Delegates	442

Additional attendees:

Advisory Ordained Ministers	31
Advisory Commissioned Ministers	65
Advisory Emeriti	51
Emeriti Spouses	24
Vicars	1
Convention Guests	49
Alternate Delegates	3

Noting the voting delegates having constituted a quorum, the President declared the 99th Convention

of the Michigan District in session. The Convention was led in prayer.

Judge Gene Schnelz, who has served the church as a member of both the Synod’s Commission on Constitutional Matters and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations was introduced to the delegates as the designated parliamentarian, a post he has served for 13 Conventions of the District.

Motion was made, supported, and adopted to approved The Convention Agenda and 2009 Special Standing Rules as printed.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Ahlersmeyer, President of Concordia University Ann Arbor, was introduced. As host to the Convention, he brought cordial greetings from the university faculty, staff, and students.

The Convention received general orientation from Rev. Peter Nickel, chairman of the Convention Committee. It was announced that \$4,030.01 was received as offering at the Opening Service, funds being designated for the LCMS Armed Forces Project Barnabas to assist military chaplains and veterans returning from combat zones. Rev. Dr. Richard Wolfram, Agenda Coordinator, gave instruction to delegates regarding the use of voting keypads.

The Chair recognized the presence of special guests, former District President, Rev. John Heins and his wife, Wilma. Upon their later arrival, former District President, Rev. Richard Schlecht and his wife, Ruth, were also cordially acknowledged.

The chairman of the standing Committee on New and Revised Constitutions, Rev. Luther Werth, reported to the Convention with regard to nine congregations which, in keeping with Synodical Bylaw 2.2.1, have had new constitutions and bylaws reviewed by the committee and accepted by the Michigan District Board of Directors during the previous triennium (ref. Convention Workbook II, p. 32). Representatives of these congregations were acknowledged from the rostrum. Also noted were 37 congregations (ref. printed report to the Convention) for which revised constitutions and bylaws have been approved and duly accepted.

Requested to stand and be acknowledged by name were 43 Ministers of Religion Ordained and 59 Ministers of Religion Commissioned (ref. Convention Workbook II, pgs. 32-33) who have become members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by signing the LCMS Constitution during the previous triennium. In recognition of the blessings of God provided through these servants of the church, the Convention united in singing the Common Doxology.

President C. William Hoesman delivered the President's Address. His report under the theme "Celebrate Jesus," employed a metaphor of ship sails to focus upon the District's Major Outcomes in outreach, servant leadership, ministry relationships, and resources for ministry. While celebrating the Lord's particular accomplishments in the district, he also pointedly noted the overall mission according to Matthew 28 and Luke 19 that the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

The president, while noting twenty-three significant mission, ministry, and satellite starts during his tenure with their attendant baptisms and growth, also stressed that the need remains great as further "sails" are "unfurled." Noted were dramatic trends in clergy retirement in counterpoint to the new category of Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP). He remarked favorably regarding the "Partners in Ministry" documents outlining ethical conduct for congregations and professional church workers, the "Unity" ministry of mediation, and cooperative effort of the District's "The Future is Now" goals in cooperation with "Fan into Flame." Other commended highlights included the Family Friendly Partners Network and the stewardship resources of "Faith Aflame." He expressed particular gratitude for the Circuit Counselors, District Vice-Presidents, Congregation Ministry Facilitators, and Concordia University as blessings of the church.

While pointing to the Mission Statement as "chart and compass" for an increasingly diverse future, the president set the Gospel of Christ foremost against the challenges, needs, and exciting opportunities ahead. Recalling a beloved hymn stanza, President Hoesman concluded his report:

Eyes upon our home above, thank and praise our God of love;

*Test the challenge and the vision of a world yet to be won,
And with boldness and decision build on what was here begun.
Eyes upon our home above, thank and praise our God of love.*

The Convention expressed its approbation with a standing round of applause.

Rev. Robert Appold, chairman of the Nominations Committee, introduced the members of the committee. It was moved, supported, and adopted to receive the committee's printed list of candidates as the Convention slate. Thereafter, all election proceedings were overseen by Rev. William Winter, chairman of the Elections Committee.

The ballot for the office of District President was presented. With a first ballot majority (51.9%) the Rev. David P. E. Maier was elected. Following the election, the Convention was introduced to President-Elect Maier's wife, Patricia, who stepped forward with Barbara Hoesman. Congratulations and brief remarks from the new president were welcomed gestures.

With the subsequent removal of Pastor Maier's name from the ballot for Regional Vice-President for the West Region, President Hoesman invited the Convention's will regarding the vice-presidential slate for West Region. A motion was made and supported to keep a single name ballot. The motion was defeated.

A motion was made and supported to include the name of the candidate receiving the next highest percentage of ballots from the West Region pre-convention assembly. The motion was adopted, and the name of the Rev. David C. Fleming of Grand Rapids was slated. His biographical information was made available.

Voting for the offices of District Regional Vice-President resulted in the following elections:

Metro East Region	Rev. John Duerr (50.6%)
Metro West Region	Rev. K. Frank Graves (51.4%)
North and East Region	Rev. Mark Brandt (53.0%)
West Region	Rev. David Davis (56.6%)

Greetings were brought to the Convention from the seminaries. Rev. Dr. R. Reed Lessing, Professor, represented Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis. He was followed by Rev. Dr. Dean Wenthe, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Enrollments in the Master of Divinity programs, the deaconess program, and the lately inaugurated Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program were given attention. Following these remarks, the Convention paused for a fifteen minute recess.

Upon reassembling at 11:00 a.m., the Convention was introduced to the Convention Essayist, the Rev. Dr. R. Reed Lessing, Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology and Director of Graduate School, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. As a Biblical scholar and author of two volumes in the Concordia Commentary series, “Jonah” and “Amos,” Pastor Lessing drew richly from his thorough understanding and proficiency with Holy Scripture to present the first portion of his essay, “Philippians: Developing the Attitude of Joyful Fellowship in Christ.” (The text of his essay is included with these “Proceedings”)

The morning session was concluded with prayer. The assembly recessed for lunch.

During time allotted for caucuses, the following actions were finalized:

Advisory delegates (Minister of Religion—Ordained) selected Rev. Gerald E. Grimm, Rev. Dr. Dale Kleimola, and Rev. Dr. Roy P. Schroeder to be Advisory Delegates (Minister of Religion—Ordained) to the 2010 Synodical Convention.

The following Circuit Counselor nominations were also selected by the respective Caucuses:

Flint North Circuit #11	Rev. Randall P. Schultz Our Savior, Flint
Birmingham Circuit #18	Rev. Alan P. Eisinger Holy Cross, Warren
Milan Circuit #28	Rev. Douglas M. Adams Emmanuel, Britton
Capitol Circuit #35	Rev. Timothy W. Olsen First, Charlotte

The Livonia Circuit #27 was unsuccessful in designating a nominee.

Afternoon Session

Devotions based upon Psalm 98 were led by Mr. David Kusch, Principal, St. Paul’s, Farmington Hills.

President Hoesman introduced to the Convention the Rev. Jon Braunersreuther, Senior Assistant to the President (LCMS) representing the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synodical Structure and Governance (BRTFSSG). Rev. Braunersreuther was present to explain features regarding the preliminary BRTFSSG proposals and to receive feedback. The presentation began with a 12-minute video featuring Synodical President, Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, entitled “Walking Together: The LCMS Future.” In the video presentation (accessible on the Synod website) Dr. Kieschnick outlined synodical objectives, varied statistics regarding vitality and growth in our church body, and rationale for the existence of the BRTFSSG. He expressed his view that structural and governance changes should be 1) flexible and forward looking, 2) receptive to new opportunities, and 3) maximize limited resources. He emphasized that organizing and governing principles must be in harmony with the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions. The BRTFSSG has been addressing the philosophy and form of structure which it is hoped would be appropriately representative, provide sufficient checks and balances, not be cumbersome or excessively complex, and promote maximum operating efficiency. President Kieschnick enumerated the phases of the BRTFSSG work which, to date, is “preliminary, conceptual, and incomplete.”

Following the video presentation, “Michigan District Convention Feedback” forms were distributed to all delegates and guests. Rev. Braunersreuther stressed the preliminary nature of the BRTFSSG report (“Walking Together”) which includes only working concepts. Proposals will gain greater specificity as the Synod approaches the 2010 Synodical Convention. Presently, the BRTFSSG seeks to build consensus. The proposals are not currently finalized.

For the remainder of the hour allotted for the BRTFSSG presentation, Rev. Braunersreuther articulated, under five proposal headings, seventeen of the twenty concepts/proposals being set forth by the BRTFSSG. Each proposal included a statement of the desired goal, the current problem or deficiency, the recommended solution, and the

rationale. [Estimated fiscal ramifications are yet developed.] Using the “Feedback” form, all delegates and interested respondents were given opportunity to express their personal sentiments to each proposal. Orders of the day postponed further considerations.

Election chairman, Rev. Bill Winter returned for further balloting for District offices. An initial attempt at balloting to establish the ranking of vice-presidents resulted in confusion with the keypads. Some delegates were unsure their votes were received. A second attempt failed necessitating clarification from one of the technicians monitoring the keypad software. The confusion was resolved with a test ballot, and the election was able to proceed.

On the first ballot, none of the recently elected vice-presidents received a majority to be named First Vice-President. The name of the Rev. John Duerr, receiving the lowest percentage of votes, was removed. On the subsequent ballot, once again no candidate received a majority, and the name of Rev. Frank Graves was removed. On a third ballot, Rev. Mark Brandt with a majority of 53.8% was elected First Vice-President.

With a 51% majority, Rev. David Davis was subsequently elected Second Vice-President.

A point of order from the floor challenged whether a total vote count had been electronically received.

Motion was made, supported and adopted to ask all delegates to press #1 on their keypads to indicate whether all keypads were working properly. The test was successful which confirmed the validity of previous ballots. In a final ballot regarding the ranking of vice-presidents, Rev. Frank Graves, by a 50.7% majority, was elected Third Vice-President. In consequence, Rev. John Duerr was named Fourth Vice-President.

With a 70.8% majority, Rev. David Reed was elected District Secretary. Mr. William Young, unopposed, was returned as District Treasurer with a 95.7% majority.

The following were subsequently elected to the District Board of Directors.

Metro West Region

Rev. Paul M. Moldenhauer (62.5%)
Harvey M. Schmidt (72.9%)
Stephen R. Boergert (68.9%)
Chris Chauvin (75.2%)

North and East Region

Rev. Paul D. Theiss (65.0%)
James C. Anderson (74.0%)
Larry A. Bauermeister (66.2%)
Dale D. Gust (52.0%)

Following these elections the Convention paused for a fifteen minute recess.

Upon reassembling, a series of District Ministry Survey questions invited responses from delegates regarding such matters as District Resource Library usage, Lutheran Schools, a potential Office Service Bureau, awareness of district resources, usage of the Lutheran Service Book (63%), and usage of the District’s Sowers Fund, etc.

President Hoesman called to the dais Floor Committee #1. Chairman, Rev. David Maier, reported that the floor committee was assigned 16 overtures from which the committee crafted nine floor resolutions (ref. Convention Workbook II, Resolutions pages 1-10). Subsequently, two re-writes were prepared for the Convention as Resolutions 1-05A and 1-08A. Floor committee members were introduced.

Resolution 1-01: “To Commend the Use of “Partners in Ministry: Ethical Conduct for Congregations and Professional Church Workers” was moved and supported. An amendment was moved and supported to strike from the “Partners in Ministry: Ethical Conduct for Professional Church Workers” document (p. 7; D.3) the words, “He/she does not counsel members of other congregations or perform pastoral functions for them without their pastor’s permission.” Point of information from the floor inquired whether the documents, and not merely the Resolution, were eligible for amendment. The Chair ruled that the documents may be considered *in toto*. Amendment is defeated. Resolution 1-01 was adopted.

Resolution 1-02: “To Encourage Accountable Internet Usage in Michigan District Churches” was moved, supported, and adopted.

Resolution 1-03: “To Promote Healthy Marriages” was moved, supported, and adopted.

Resolution 1-04: “To Promote the Biblical Understanding of Marriage” was moved and supported. During debate the special standing rule limiting a speaker to a three minute limitation was affirmed. Orders of the day suspended debate on this resolution.

Greetings were brought to the Convention through brief video presentations by the LATINO Mission Society and Project Compassion Ministries. Rev. Gregory M. Lorenz, Executive Director for LATINO Ministries as well as Rev. Gerald E. Grimm, Executive Director of Project Compassion and Rev. Edward Einam, Founder of Project Compassion, were acknowledged.

President Hoesman called forward Floor Committee #2 with its chairman, Rev. Wayne Wentzel.

Resolution 2-01: “To Transfer Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Ortonville from Circuit #12 – Flint South Circuit to Circuit #17 – Oakland North Circuit” was moved, supported, and adopted.

Prior to bringing to the floor Resolution 2-02, the Rev. David Jung was invited to make a presentation on behalf of the District Convention Task Force of which he is chairman. The task force was mandated by 2006 Michigan District Convention Resolution 2-06 to review the length, timing, and logistics of future Michigan District conventions and report findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors for possible convention action in 2009. Pastor Jung outlined a unique and reasoned model drafted by the Task Force. He submitted the rationale for such a new model along with thoughtful consideration of advantages and disadvantages.

At the conclusion of the Task Force’s preparatory presentation, a motion was moved and supported to dispense with the reading of Resolution 2-02. Motion was passed.

Resolution 2-02: “To Implement Changes to Future Michigan District Conventions” was moved and supported.

An amendment was offered to change the language of the sixth Resolve (Resolutions p. 13, lines 1-3),

deleting the following on lines 1-2, p. 13, “since ConcordiaAnn Arbor’s facilities would be inadequate to accommodate the new model”; and substituting the words “convention center” for “location.” The amendment would also add a penultimate Resolve at line 4, “Resolved, that if a convention cannot be located at Concordia University Ann Arbor, that the District be encouraged to use the campus of Concordia University Ann Arbor, for other kinds of District gatherings.” The amendment was supported. Debate on the amendment was suspended per orders of the day.

Convention attention was given over to District Ministry Presentations – Staff Reports which included a Power Point presentation featuring general information attached to the Office of the President (e.g. District Outcomes), Mission Services Department (e.g. New mission processes, specialized and subsidized ministries, evangelism), Member Services Department (e.g. Resourcing congregations, professional church worker conferences and care, and notice of Rev. Gary Bender enlisted as part-time CMF), and the General Services Department.

President Hoesman directed convention attention to the Omnibus Resolutions (Resolutions p. 31)

Resolution A was read. Resolution A was moved, supported, and adopted as presented.

Resolution B was read. Resolution B was moved, supported, and adopted as presented.

Resolution D was read. Resolution D was moved, supported, and adopted as presented.

Rev. Bill Winter oversaw further elections.

Church Extension Board of Trustees

Ordained: Rev. Robert B. Appold was elected on a second ballot. (58.7%)

Commissioned: Julian H. Petzold was elected on a first ballot. (63.9%)

Laypersons: James R. Saalfeld (58.5%) and David C. Vallie (59.6%) were elected on the first ballot.

Joseph R. Carabell was elected on a fourth ballot. (58.5%)

Nominating Committee

Metro East Region

Ordained: Thomas F. Fischer was elected (55.5%)
Commissioned: Terry M. Davis was elected (53.9%)
Layperson: Phillip J. Fluegge was elected (66.8%)

Metro West Region

Ordained: Daryl Andrzejewski was elected (63.3%)

Motion was made, supported, and passed to extend the orders of the day to allow time to complete balloting.

(Continued ballot results—Metro West Region)

Commissioned: Daniel W. Ramthun was elected (64.9%)
Layperson: Philip M. Krauss II was elected (65.7%)

North and East Region

Ordained: Paul R. Hinz was elected (53.4%)
Commissioned: Kevin J. Hendrikson, running unopposed, received a majority endorsement.
Layperson: John Nutzmann was elected (52.3%)

West Region

Ordained: Scott G. Sommerfeld was elected (51.0 %)
Commissioned: Susan L. Truog, running unopposed, received a majority endorsement.
Layperson: Karla M. Woell was elected (51.9 %)

Concordia University Ann Arbor – Board of Regents

Ordained: Paul R. Naumann was elected on a first ballot (60.6%)
Commissioned: John E. Brandt was elected (52.6%)
Laypersons: Tina Wilks-Putz was elected on a first ballot (53.1%)
Ian W. Schonsheck was elected on a fourth ballot (52.9%)

The Election Committee having completed its duties was dismissed with thanks.

Motion was made, supported, and adopted to ratify the slate of circuit counselors presented to the Convention by the District Secretary constituting election. [n.b. the slate included a vacancy for the Livonia Circuit #27] (Ref: Officers listed elsewhere in these Proceedings)

Rev. Mark Hetzner, chairman of the Michigan District

Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support addressed the Convention sharing highlights of the commission's activities (e.g. Grace Place retreats).

District Treasurer, Mr. William Young, presented his report. Mr. Chad Woltemath, Vice President of Finance noted the inventory of District real estate holdings.

The District Vice-Presidents were given special consideration to express our gratitude to President Hoesman for his service to the Michigan District during the past 12 years. Barbara Hoesman, wife of the District President, was also invited to join President Hoesman at the podium to offer particular gratitude to her for the roll she has performed so graciously during the last twelve years.

Closing prayer to complete the day's sessions was offered by Mr. David Kusch at 6:10 p.m. Evening events were sponsored in part by Church Extension Fund.

Tuesday, June 30, 2009

A Memorial Service was observed in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity as convention delegates and guests gave thanks for the consecrated lives and service of pastors and teachers of the District whom the Lord of the church has brought home to paradise in the previous triennium. Rev. John Merrill of St. John, Fraser, offered the Sermon based upon Philippians 1:18b-26, "Celebrate Jesus – To Die is Gain."

Morning Session

As delegates gathered in the hall, opportunity was given to respond to further District Ministry Survey questions regarding *Michigan in Touch*, the District E-Bulletin and website as well as view a "The Future is Now" video vignette.

President Hoesman called the Convention to order at 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Dr. R. Reed Lessing delivered the second installment of his essay with special attention to Philippians 2:5-18.

Rev. Matthew Harrison, Executive Director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care, was identified to the Convention as present. Also welcomed was

David Muench, Executive Director of the LCMS Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support. Video greetings were shared from Lutheran Blind Mission (Rev. David Andrus, Executive Director). Mr. Marc Melton, Director of Development for Lutheran Child & Family Service of Michigan was introduced as the video greetings, "Picture the Possibilities." were shared with the assembly.

Following these greetings, the Convention paused for a ten minute recess at 10:40 am.

Mr. Ray Zavada, Vice-President of Development, was introduced for his report on the activity of "The Future is Now" campaign. He reviewed the campaign phases, the partnership now created with "Fan Into Flame," (advancing the overall goal to \$13 million) and detailed the goals of mission planting, professional church work scholarships, and international ministries. The current status of the district campaign having reached 3.3 million dollars from 1,045 donors (individuals/congregations/organizations) will continue as congregations are encouraged to submit commitments by Advent 2009 and complete 5-year pledges by the end of 2014. The Rev. Ronald E. Meyer, Senior Development Officer for the "Fan Into Flame" Campaign spoke briefly for the Synod's wider initiatives, both national opportunities and international mission goals.

President and Mrs. Gerald Kieschnick were acknowledged as having just arrived as guests of the Convention.

Mr. Ronald Steinke, President and CEO of Church Extension Fund gave his report detailing the positive growth and financial strength of the organization which is the largest district extension fund in Synod. With a very strong capitol ratio, stability of cash reserves, and sound business principles, CEF will, under God's blessings, continue to be a valued ministry partner.

Consent was obtained to amend the orders of the day to return at 1:15 p.m. Following prayer the assembly recessed for lunch.

Afternoon Session

Devotions based upon John 5 and Act 1:8-9 were led by Mr. Julian Petzold, Principal, Trinity, St. Joseph. Floor Committee #1 was returned to the dais for its

work. Vice-chairman of the committee, Rev. Michael Roth, continued discussion of **Resolution 1-04**.

Motion was made to insert the words "giving the appearance of" at line 22 so that the "Whereas" would read, "... thereby giving the appearance of providing blessing..." An attempted motion to delete lines 18-22 as an amendment to the amendment was ruled out of order. The question on the amendment was called and debate ended by a sufficient 2/3 majority. The amendment was defeated. Resolution 1-04 was thereafter adopted as originally presented.

Resolution 1-05A was brought forward by the committee (replacing 1-05): "To Oppose Embryonic Stem Cell Research." Only the resolves were read orally. The resolution was moved and supported.

An amendment was moved and supported to delete lines 28-29. The amendment was adopted. Motion was made and supported to delete lines 6-7 and lines 16-17. The amendment was defeated. Discussion on Resolution 1-05A was suspended per orders of the day.

Carly Stevens, Executive Director of MOST Ministries was recognized and a video, "Empowering the Found in Reaching the Lost," was shared.

Floor Committee #2 was returned to the dais for its work and continued discussion of **Resolution 2-02**. The Chair made two points of clarification: a) lines 44-45, p. 13, refer to the election of district president, and b) the implication of line 17, p. 13, is not that meetings will be immediately before a convention but rather that the May Saturday requirement is eliminated.

Motion was made, supported, and adopted to consider the resolves of Resolution 2-02 seriatim. By consent lines 27-29, p. 12, were considered first. Point of information: The Task Force report simply presents a model. The Convention is to address the text of the resolution, not the substance of the report. With guidance from the parliamentarian, the Chair also clarified that defeat of one resolve would not invalidate further resolves.

30 minutes of debate having concluded, the question was automatically called for the first resolve. Lines 27-29 were adopted with a 50.2% majority. Debate thereafter focused on the second resolve, lines 31-33.

The question was put to the body regarding the second resolve. Lacking a majority vote, the second resolve, lines 31-33 are deleted from the Resolution.

The third Resolve was read and debated. Point of clarification: the resolve does not specify October but “by the end of October.” A motion was made and supported to strike the words “by the end of October and” from line 35, p. 12. A friendly amendment understood the text would therefore read, “... that future conventions begin with workshops...” The Chair called for a vote to close debate on the amendment. The Convention voted in the affirmative. A vote on the amendment was put to the Convention. The amendment was adopted.

At this point it became evident to the Chair that confusion existed among the delegates regarding the vote to call the question on the amendment and the vote on the amendment itself. The matter was further complicated by the inadvertent interchange of the words “amendment,” “resolution,” and “resolve.” The quagmire was ultimately settled by further discussion of the previously stated amendment (line 35). The question on the amendment was called and upheld by a voice vote. A further vote on the amendment was defeated leaving the text of the Resolve (lines 35-37) as presented in the original Resolution. The question was called and upheld by voice vote to speak to the entire Resolve (lines 35-37). The Resolve was adopted as written.

Orders of the day called for suspension of debate, and the Convention took a fifteen minute recess.

Rev. Jon Braunersreuther was returned to complete his presentation of the final three proposals from the BRTFSSG. A period for questions and answers followed.

Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer, President of Concordia University, Ann Arbor, gave a report of the University noting both blessings and challenges. Two core paths entail the Continuous Improvement Plan and discussions with Concordia University Wisconsin on possible consolidation of the institutions. He stressed that preliminary discussion of a consolidation in no way suggests departure from Ann Arbor but rather to ensure and enhance the university’s presence by uniting complementary strengths of the two

institutions. Study team recommendations will be forthcoming in the fall. Dr. Ahlersmeyer invited delegates to “join the conversation” by encouraging students to consider Concordia, offering support, and being advocates for the superior university education at CUAA.

Cheri Fish, President of the Michigan District Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, addressed the Convention. Representing 5,800 women of the District, she spoke of the League’s support of seminary students, scholarships for female students pursuing studies in professional church work, partnership with MOST Ministries, and the total Biennial Mission Grant Goal of \$230,000. On behalf of the LWML, she presented a departing gift to President Hoesman.

Phil Kraus, Governor of Region 5 of the International Lutheran Laymen’s League, spoke to the Convention of the League’s ministry. Since 1917 the founding premise of the League has been to assist the Synod. Through Lutheran Hour Ministries, the recently developed and highly successful “Men’s Network,” and vigorous, refocused attention on a variety of international ministries, the Int’l LLL is pleased to serve.

Afternoon sessions were concluded with devotion and prayer led by Mr. Julian Petzold.

Tuesday Evening

A Service of Installation was held at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. Synodical President, Rev. Gerald Kieschnick delivered the sermon. President-elect Rev. David P.E. Maier was installed. Also installed were District Vice-presidents, officers, and newly elected officials of the District. A social following the service was sponsored by the Eastern Great Lakes Region of Thrivent Financial.

Wednesday, July 1, 2009

Morning Session

Opening devotions based upon Psalm 96 were led by Dr. John Brandt, Executive Director and Principal of Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw.

Rev. Dr. R. Reed Lessing delivered the third installment of his exceptional essay with particular attention

to Philippians 3:1-11 and 4:1-9. The convention expressed hearty appreciation at the essay conclusion.

Although President Hoesman held the privilege under Standing Rule 11, he invited a motion to advance essential Resolutions 2-02, 2-04, 2-05, and 2-06 for immediate consideration. Motion moved, supported, and approved.

Resolution 2-02A: “To Table Resolution 2-02.” was offered by Floor Committee #2: The Resolution was moved, supported, and adopted.

Resolution 2-04: “To Revise the Church Extension Fund Bylaws allowing the participation or purchase of loans or investments outside of the Michigan District” was brought forward with a reading of the resolves. Resolution 2-04 was moved, supported, and adopted.

Resolution 2-05: “To Revise the Church Extension Fund Bylaws changing the mix of Board members, adding qualifications for Board members, and limit only one Board member from a congregation” was brought forward with a reading of the resolves and proposed adjustments to the bylaw language. Resolution 2-05 was moved, supported, and adopted by voice vote.

Resolution 2-06: “To Amend the District Bylaw: Article X – The Church Extension Fund” was presented with a reading of the resolves. Resolution 2-06 was moved, supported, and adopted by voice vote.

Committee #2 was dismissed with thanks.

Committee #1 was called to the dais. Discussion was resumed regarding **Resolution 1-05A**

An amendment was moved to add a first Resolve at line 24, “Resolved, that the Michigan District in Convention commend for study the Commission on Theology and Church Relations documents “Human Sexuality: A Theological Perspective” (1981) and “Christian Faith and Human Beginnings” (2005), and express concern over the fertilization of eggs (especially human) that would be used for research and/or terminated in any manner apart from the natural procreative process, and be it further.” The amendment was supported and adopted.

A motion to remove lines 16-17 was ruled out of order having been defeated in the previous day’s business. Motion to call the question was approved. Resolution 1-05A was adopted as amended.

Resolution 1-08A: “To Address Clergy Mental Health” was presented to the Convention. The Resolution was moved and supported. The committee accepted without objection a suggestion that “Professional Church Worker” be substituted for the word “clergy” in the Resolution title.

Motion was made and supported to amend the fourth “Whereas” (line 14), to substitute in the place of “Whereas, clergy ‘burnout’” the words “Whereas, professional church worker burnout is manifested by major depression which may be life-long, strains marital and family relationships, may cause marital separation and/or divorce, an increase in self-medication through compulsive behaviors (i.e. abuse of alcohol, eating disorders, excessive shopping, sexual acting out, and violence toward self and/or others); and.” The amendment was adopted.

Resolution 1-08A was thereafter adopted as amended. Committee #1 was dismissed with thanks.

President Hoesman introduced Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick who offered his report on the Synod. Introductory remarks prefaced a video presentation. He asserted the LCMS is “exceptionally united” in what we believe, teach, and confess of the major doctrines of the faith (e.g. sin, grace, holy scripture, and especially justification) for which we are “undeniably blessed.” He acknowledged however, that such matters as open/closed Communion, the role of women in the church, worship forms and diversity, and inter-Christian relationships conflict the Synod. He stressed that it is untrue nothing can be done and warned against a loss of urgency. He expressed a conviction that the LCMS is at a defining moment of history in which the church must engage the culture (a modern day Babylon) with the Gospel (as illustrated in Jeremiah 29:4-7) living out Christian lives where we are, especially among those of ethnic or social contexts different than ours. He referenced the goals of the Ablaze Movement and expressed a desire for the church to work more effectively and with greater efficiency and harmony. Although we live in a world filled with trouble, we also live in hope.

Rev. Dr. Paul Naumann moderated a question and answer period with Dr. Kieschnick.

President Hoesman acknowledged with thanks all Convention participants and especially the many outgoing officers, board members, etc., whom he named personally. Particular thanks was directed to the District Staff gathered at the rear of the hall for recognition.

The Convention received a final registration report from Rev. Paul Theiss, indicating the following:

Voting Pastoral Delegates	265
Voting Lay Delegates	250
Total Voting Delegates	515

Additional attendees:

Advisory Ordained Ministers	46
Advisory Commissioned Ministers	107
Advisory Emeriti	74
Emeriti Spouses	28
Vicars	4
Convention Guests	73
Alternate Delegates	4
Ministry Tent Exhibitors	73

The 99th Convention of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was declared adjourned in the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A Service of Sending was immediately held in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, the Rev. C. William Weis of Peace, Saginaw, offering the Sermon, “Celebrate Jesus – Unhindered Hallelujahs!”

Rev. David H. Reed
District Secretary

RESOLUTIONS

Committee Name: THEOLOGY, MISSION AND RELATIONS
Resolution Number: 1-01
Subject: To Commend the Use of “Partners in Ministry: Ethical Conduct for Congregations and Professional Church Workers”
Reference: Overture 1-01, CW Overtures Page 1

WHEREAS one of the major outcome goals of our Michigan District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod is that “Michigan District congregations and professional church workers demonstrate respect, trust, and support for each other as they engage in interdependent ministries;” and

WHEREAS the way congregations and professional church workers conduct themselves in their contacts and transactions with one another greatly affects relationships between them; and

WHEREAS the 2006 Convention of The Michigan District of the LCMS received with gratitude two documents titled *Partners in Ministry: Ethical Conduct for Congregations* and *Partners in Ministry: Ethical Conduct for Professional Church Workers* which had been developed to provide ethical guidelines for professional church workers and congregations, and directed the Board of Directors to present amended versions of these documents to the 2009 convention; and

WHEREAS the 2006 documents have been studied by circuits and congregations which then offered suggestions for improving those documents; and

WHEREAS many of those suggestions have been incorporated into the amended documents being presented to the 2009 convention; and

WHEREAS most professions have a code of ethics that are subscribed to by the members of that profession; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod receive with gratitude the ethical guidelines as they have been studied, reviewed, and edited; and be it further

RESOLVED that the congregations, professional church workers, and circuits of the Michigan District continue to devote sufficient time to study and reflect upon these guidelines; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the congregations and professional church workers of the Michigan District commit themselves to implementing these guidelines in their lives and ministry together.

ACTION: Adopted

Committee Name: THEOLOGY, MISSION AND RELATIONS
Resolution Number: 1-02
Subject: To Encourage Accountable Internet Usage in Michigan District Churches
Reference: Overture 1-03, CW Page 3

WHEREAS we believe, teach, and confess that we are redeemed by the grace of Jesus Christ and are called to newness of life in Christ; and

WHEREAS statistics on internet pornography and other ungodly usage indicate that such abuse is rampant in our culture (*2008 Ambassadors of Reconciliation Bible Study entitled Responding to Sexual Temptation in a High Tech Society, Billings, MT*); and

WHEREAS Christians and Church workers are susceptible to temptations (i.e., pornography, gambling, etc.) accessible via the internet and technological media; and

WHEREAS God commands in Eph. 5:3-4, “*But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.*”; and

WHEREAS our Michigan District *Partners in Ministry: Ethical Conduct for Professional Church Workers* (page 7, part E) encourages upright behavior stating:

“The professional church worker is committed to appropriate social behavior.

The professional church worker honors the sixth commandment and its meaning as he/she recognizes his/her own sexuality, remembering that the ultimate gift of sexual expression is found only in marriage.

The professional church worker avoids pornography and impure speech and refrains from inappropriate physical contact.”; and

WHEREAS research on social behavior indicates accountability to another person is the most effective means of ensuring appropriate social conduct; therefore be it

RESOLVED that all of the delegates assembled in the 2009 Convention be encouraged to lead their respective congregations to recognize the above dangers; and be it further

RESOLVED that each of the congregations of the Michigan District be encourage to warn and instruct their members about such abuses and how they can be avoided; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Michigan District research internet accountability software, negotiate discount prices for her member congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED that member congregations be encouraged to employ such accountability software on congregation owned computers and other types of electronic devices; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Michigan District encourage church workers to do the same on their personal computers and internet devices.

ACTION: Adopted

Committee Name: THEOLOGY, MISSION AND RELATIONS

Resolution Number: 1-03

Subject: To Promote Healthy Marriages

Reference: Overture 1-13, CW Overtures Page 17

WHEREAS God instituted marriage as the lifelong exclusive union of one man and one woman as husband and wife (Genesis 2); and

WHEREAS God instituted marriage for the procreation of children (Genesis 1:28), the avoidance of sin (1 Corinthians 7:2), and so that man and woman may find delight in one another (Genesis 2: 18); and

WHEREAS the institution of marriage is foundational for family and community; and

WHEREAS marriage is a picture of the communion of Christ and His bride the Church (Ephesians 5:22 ff); therefore be it

RESOLVED that the CTCR (Commission on Theology and Church Relations) document “Marriage and Re-Marriage” be commended for congregational study; and be it

RESOLVED that the District provide resources to assist in such preaching and teaching promoting strong and healthy marriages; and be it

RESOLVED that men and women in struggling marriages seek reconciliation and support from their Christian brothers and sisters within the community of Christ’s Church; and be it

RESOLVED that those who have experienced the dissolution of their marriage seek forgiveness and healing from Christ and His Church; and be it finally

RESOLVED that all people “lead a sexually pure and decent life in what they say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (Small Catechism, Luther’s Explanation of the Sixth Commandment) according to God’s Word.

ACTION: Adopted

Committee Name: THEOLOGY, MISSION AND RELATIONS
Resolution: 1-04
Subject: To Promote the Biblical Understanding of Marriage
Reference: Overture 1-12, CW Overtures Page 15

WHEREAS God instituted marriage as the lifelong exclusive union of one man and one woman as husband and wife (Genesis 2); and

WHEREAS God instituted marriage for the procreation of children (Genesis 1:28), the avoidance of sin (1 Corinthians 7:2), and so that man and woman may find delight in one another (Genesis 2: 18); and

WHEREAS the institution of marriage is foundational for family and community; and

WHEREAS marriage is a picture of the communion of Christ and His bride the Church (Ephesians 5:22 ff); and

WHEREAS the biblical understanding of marriage has been under attack from groups attempting to change the definition of marriage; and

WHEREAS several states have begun to recognize homosexual unions as marriage thereby providing blessing from the state; and

WHEREAS homosexual “civil unions” have an adverse impact upon family and community; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Michigan District in convention confess the biblical understanding of marriage as the lifelong union of one man and one woman; and be it

RESOLVED that the District urge its members to clearly preach and teach this biblical truth; and be it

RESOLVED that the body of Christ express compassion and care, and provide ministry to those involved in the ongoing sin of the homosexual lifestyle; and be it finally

RESOLVED that all people “lead a sexually pure and decent life in what they say and do” (Small Catechism, Luther’s Explanation of the Sixth Commandment) according to God’s Word.

ACTION: Adopted

Committee Name: THEOLOGY, MISSION AND RELATIONS
Resolution: 1-05A
Subject: To Oppose Embryonic Stem Cell Research
Reference: Overture 1-09, CW Overtures Page 12

WHEREAS Holy Scripture teaches that God alone has created all human life and all human life begins at conception (Psalm 51, Jeremiah 1, etc.); and

WHEREAS Our Lord sanctified all stages of life (from conception to death and resurrection) with His conception by the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary (Luke 1); and

WHEREAS all humanity has been dignified with the image of God at creation; and

WHEREAS God encourages His people to love and care for all people; and

WHEREAS many scientists have given evidence that supports the biblical teaching that life begins at conception; and

WHEREAS the harvesting of stem cells from human embryos (living human beings) destroys the embryos; and

WHEREAS human stem cells can be obtained from adults apart from the destruction of human life; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Michigan District in Convention commend for study the Commission on Theology and Church Relations documents “Human Sexuality: A Theological Perspective” (1981) and “Christian Faith and Human Beginnings” (2005), and express concern over the fertilization of eggs (especially human) that would be used for research and/or terminated in any manner apart from the natural procreative process, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Michigan District in Convention reject all forms of embryonic stem cell research; and be it finally

RESOLVED that our preaching and teaching emphasize God’s will and creative activity in the preservation of all human life until He alone chooses to end it.

ACTION: Adopted as amended

Committee Name: THEOLOGY, MISSION AND RELATIONS
Resolution: 1-08A
Subject: To Address Professional Church Worker Mental Health
Reference: Overture 1-16, CW Overtures Page 21

WHEREAS “burnout” (i.e. depression, anxiety, etc.) is found most often among those in helping or people-related professions, among those who bear heavy responsibilities; and

WHEREAS “burnout” is often found among *pastors*; and

WHEREAS the causes cited for *clergy* “burnout” are: expectations, overload, numerous responsibilities, inability to take time off, etc.; and

WHEREAS **professional church worker** “burnout” is manifested by major depression which may be life-long, strains marital and family relationships, may cause marital separation and/or divorce, an increase in self-medication through compulsive behaviors (i.e. abuse of alcohol, eating disorders, excessive shopping, sexual acting out, and violence toward self and/or others); and can result in fatigue, tension, exhaustion, anxiety, worry, insecurity, and guilt for pastors and their families; and

WHEREAS Christian psychologists, pastors and therapists suggest that “burnout” can be averted or overcome by prayer, Scripture reading, psychological counseling, physical therapy and exercise, spiritual development, free time and having a support system; and

WHEREAS congregations may unduly limit the amount of time their *pastor* has for vacations, conferences, and spiritual development through sabbaticals, thereby contributing to *clergy* “burnout”; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Michigan District in convention acknowledge *clergy* “burnout” as a serious issue within the church; and be it further

RESOLVED that the congregations of the Michigan District be encouraged to provide sufficient time and/or monies for psychological counseling, vacation, conferences, and spiritual development for their *pastor(s)*; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Michigan District evaluate and promote its guidelines regarding vacations, conferences and spiritual development of the *congregation’s pastors*; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Michigan District provide resources for *pastors* and congregations which support the *pastor* through *clergy* renewal programs (such as the Lilly Endowment clergy renewal program, Grace Place Retreats, etc.); and be it finally

RESOLVED that *pastors* be encouraged to set aside time for vacation with family, study and prayer in the Word, and further spiritual development through attendance at conferences, retreats, and classes.

ACTION: Adopted as amended

Committee Name: ADMINISTRATION/CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Resolution Number: 2-01

Subject: To Transfer Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Ortonville from Circuit #12 – Flint South Circuit to Circuit #17 – Oakland North Circuit

Reference: Overture 2-22, Overtures Page 47

WHEREAS the membership of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Ortonville believes that membership in the Oakland North Circuit would better support their efforts to grow in membership since many who move to Ortonville are from the southern suburbs of metro Detroit; and

WHEREAS the needs and concerns of the congregation are more closely aligned with sister congregations in the Oakland North Circuit; and

WHEREAS the Voters Assembly of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church has RESOLVED to unanimously request such a transfer; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Prince of Peace Lutheran Church be transferred to #17 Oakland North Circuit.

ACTION: Adopted

Committee Name: ADMINISTRATION/CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
Resolution: 2-02A
Subject: To Table Resolution 2-02
Reference: Overture 2-01, CW Overtures Page 22-23, Resolution 2-02, CWII Resolutions Page 12-14

WHEREAS the first RESOLVED of Resolution 2-02 passed by a slim margin and considerable division remains; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Resolution 2-02 – To Implement Changes to Future Michigan District Conventions, be tabled and returned to the District Convention Task Force for additional clarification and consideration at the next District Convention.

ACTION: Adopted as amended

Committee Name: ADMINISTRATION/CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
Resolution: 2-04
Subject: To Revise the Church Extension Fund Bylaws allowing the participation or purchase of loans or investments outside of the Michigan District
Reference: Overture 2-13, CW Overtures Page 37

WHEREAS the Church Extension Fund (CEF) of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod has been blessed by God with financial resources and reserves for the extension of the Kingdom; and

WHEREAS those resources could be used for the extension of the Kingdom outside of the Michigan District boundaries, while also supporting the overall financial health of the Michigan CEF; and

WHEREAS the Church Extension Fund may want, from time-to-time, to assist in the mission of other sister District CEFs or the national CEF program by purchasing or participating in loans or investments; therefore be it

RESOLVED while recognizing the primary purpose of the CEF is to contribute to the ministry and purposes of the Michigan District and its member congregations, the CEF Bylaws shall be amended to allow for the participation or purchase of loans or investments outside of the Michigan District; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Purpose Statement of the CEF Bylaws be revised in the following manner [deleted words stricken and new language highlighted for reference]:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Church Extension Fund is to administer a fund and acquire assets to assist by loans, grants, or otherwise, primarily to the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, congregations of the Michigan District, individuals serving as professional church workers within the Michigan District, LCMS schools and colleges, entities and associations qualifying as

Michigan District recognized service organizations, entities and associations qualifying as The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod recognized service organizations, and entities owned and/or operated by member congregations. The Church Extension Fund may also assist other LCMS Districts, through their respective Church Extension Funds, by purchasing or participating, in whole or in part, in loans or investments of other LCMS Districts or the Lutheran Church Extension Fund of the LCMS. The purpose for which funds and assistance may be provided shall include, but not limited to, acquiring property, erecting buildings, purchasing equipment, acquiring housing and supporting projects and the operations of the above. The primary purposes, however, of the Church Extension Fund shall be to contribute to the ministry and purposes of the Michigan District and its member congregations.

ACTION: Adopted

Committee Name: ADMINISTRATION/CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Resolution: 2-05

Subject: To Revise the Church Extension Fund Bylaws changing the mix of Board members, adding qualifications for Board members, and limit only one Board member from a congregation.

Reference: Overture 2-14, CW Overtures Page 38-39

WHEREAS the Church Extension Fund (CEF) of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a Board of Trustees of nine members elected by the Michigan District in convention; and

WHEREAS said CEF Trustees presently are comprised of three (3) ordained ministers, two (2) commissioned ministers, and four (4) laypersons; and

WHEREAS it is desirous to change the mix of Board members allowing for more persons with experience or expertise in fields related to the operation and governance of CEF; and

WHEREAS it is also prudent to allow not more than one Trustee from a congregation, as is consistent with the Michigan District Bylaws for Board of Director membership; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the mix of the CEF Board of Trustees be changed to three (3) rostered and six (6) laypersons; and be it further

RESOLVED that the qualifications for CEF Board membership be expanded to include certain areas of expertise; and be it further

RESOLVED that a congregation shall have not more than one person as a voting member of the CEF Board; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Membership Statement of the CEF Bylaws be revised in the following manner [deleted words stricken and new language highlighted for reference]:

II. MEMBERSHIP

The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall consist of nine (9) elected trustees.

1. The elected trustees shall consist of three (3) ~~ordained ministers~~ persons duly rostered in the LCMS through the Michigan District, and, ~~four~~ six (4 6) laypersons, and two (2) commissioned ministers. They Trustees shall be elected by the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at its regular Convention

in the following manner:

- a. The District Nominating Committee shall draw up a list of candidates and alternates for the Church Extension Board of Trustees. The Nominating Committee shall obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate and prepare biographical data, including occupation or profession, residency, and specific experience and qualifications for the proposed office, for each candidate. Board of Trustee candidates shall have an understanding of the Church Extension program and/or demonstrate expertise in fields or areas closely related to Church Extension activities, such as knowledge of banking, investments, accounting, law, real estate, business management, and financial planning.
- b. Trustees must be members in good standing of congregations in the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. No congregation of the District shall have more than one (1) member [including ordained, commissioned, or layperson] from its congregation as a voting member of the Board of Trustees.

ACTION: Adopted

Committee Name: ADMINISTRATION/CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
Resolution: 2-06
Subject: To Amend The District Bylaws: Article X – The Church Extension Fund
Reference:

WHEREAS the Bylaws of The Church Extension Fund of The Michigan District of the The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are from time to time amended by The Michigan District in convention; and

WHEREAS the Bylaws of The Church Extension Fund are attached to the Bylaws of The Michigan District (See ARTICLE X – THE CHURCH EXTENTION FUND in the Bylaws of The Michigan District-LCMS); and

WHEREAS the Michigan District wants to avoid conflicting and redundant bylaws; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Bylaws of the Michigan District be amended as follows:

ARTICLE X – THE CHURCH EXTENTION FUND

10.1 The Church Extension Fund shall adopt rules to govern its proceedings not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

~~10.2 The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall:~~

- ~~a. Consist of nine (9) elected members: (3) ordained ministers, four (4) lay persons, and two (2) commissioned ministers.~~
- ~~b. Conduct regular meetings and keep accurate records of its proceedings.~~
- ~~c. Have as its purpose to establish a fund and acquire assts to assist, by means of loans, the Michigan District and congregations of the Michigan District to acquire property, to erect buildings and to purchase equipment.~~

(See Bylaws of Church Extension Fund attached to Bylaws of the Michigan District.)

ACTION: Adopted

OMNIBUS RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION A

WHEREAS many overtures request action that is the responsibility of various boards, commissions, or individuals to study and to implement; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the following overtures be referred to the designated board, commission, task force, or individual:

<i>Number</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Board, Commission, Task Force, Individual</i>
1-15	Forum which addresses topics characterizing Synod and Congregational Unity	District President
2-07	Memorialize Synod to Re-establish the Board For Stewardship for the LCMS	Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synodical Structure & Governance
2-17	Strengthen <i>Michigan In Touch</i>	District President
2-19	Retain the Name "Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod"	Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synodical Structure & Governance
2-21	Raise Awareness of Resources	District Staff

ACTION: Adopted

RESOLUTION B

WHEREAS a number of issues have been presented through overtures to which the Synod in convention has previously spoken; and

WHEREAS after careful consideration of these matters, there appears to be no valid reason to change or alter the stated position of the Synod; therefore be it

RESOLVED that petitioners offering the following overtures be referred to previous convention action as indicated.

<i>Number</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Previous Action</i>
1-02	Encourage Congregations to be involved in the Ablaze Movement	2006 MI District Res. 1-03
1-04	Encourage Spiritual Leadership by Convention Delegates	2006 MI District Res. 1-05
1-14	Encourage reading and study of C.F.W. Walther's Church and Ministry	2001 LCMS Res. 7-17A

ACTION: Adopted

RESOLUTION D

WHEREAS some of the following overtures suggest to the convention acceptable approaches in dealing with matters mentioned; and

WHEREAS others among the following overtures thank and commend laudable individuals and efforts; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the following overtures be received as expressions of encouragement or gratitude:

<i>Number</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Encouragement/Thanks</i>
2-06	Support the Board of Black Ministry Services	Encouragement
2-08	Thanks for the work of LCMS World Relief and Human Care	Encouragement/Thanks

ACTION: Adopted

BYLAWS
THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT
OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
(As Amended by the 2009 Convention, June 28 – July 1, 2009)

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

- 1.1** Membership in the District shall consist of those congregations, Ministers of Religion, Ordained and Commissioned, who have been admitted to membership in the Synod and received by the District or the Synod.
- 1.2** The District shall establish an organizational structure for the effective operation of its program and conduct of its affairs, which structure shall embrace the Convention, Regional Assemblies, the Board of Directors, and such other Boards, Commissions, Committees, officers and functionaries as may from time to time be established.
- 1.3** The governance and control of the District's affairs shall be conducted on the basis of four (4) levels of organization.
- a.** The Convention which shall consist of the District at large through its delegates in Convention assembled and shall be the governing body of the District subject to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Resolutions of Synod, and to these Bylaws.
 - b.** The Regional Assemblies (4) shall meet prior to the District Convention, at which time delegates shall consist of the regularly elected and delegated representatives, cf 2.3, of said regions. The purpose of the Regional Assemblies shall be to evaluate their Regional as well as District needs, and to nominate for District elections.
 - c.** The Board of Directors shall be construed as District in constant session to establish policy and direct the affairs of the District subject to the Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions of Synod, and to these Bylaws and the Resolutions of the District in Convention.

ARTICLE II - CONVENTIONS

- 2.1** District Conventions shall be held and conducted as prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod.

- 2.2** The Convention shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws or the Bylaws of Synod.
- 2.3** Representation - The District Convention shall be composed of regularly elected and delegated representatives and of certain individual persons, as follows:
- a.** Representatives of congregations entitled to vote. Every congregation or parish is entitled to two (2) votes, one (1) of which is to be cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate.
 - b.** The advisory members of the Synod (Synodical Handbook, V.B.).
 - c.** Advisory representatives of the Board of Directors, other boards, commissions, and educational institutions and such as by virtue of their office are required to attend District Conventions.
- 2.4** QUORUM. For a legal Convention, a constitutional convocation of the meeting and the presence of at least one-fourth of the constitutionally-elected voting representatives are necessary.

ARTICLE III - REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES

- 3.1** Regional Assemblies shall meet on the first Saturday in May prior to the Convention of the Michigan District. The Regional Vice-President shall call at a place of his choosing an assembly of his region.
- 3.2** The Regional Assembly shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, except as otherwise provided by these Bylaws or the Bylaws of Synod.
- 3.3** Representation: Each congregation shall be represented at this assembly as it is at District Conventions; namely, by two voting delegates (one pastor and one layperson) and by the advisory members of Synod (cf 2.3).
- 3.4** The Regional Vice-President shall chair the assembly and shall appoint a secretary to record the proceedings.

- 3.5 QUORUM.** For a legal assembly of the Region, the presence of at least one-fourth of the voting representatives shall be present.
- 3.6** The purpose of the Regional Assembly shall be:
- a. To study the needs of the Region in mission and ministry;
 - b. To hear and discuss the total needs of the District;
 - c. To be informed about major issues to come before the District Convention;
 - d. To nominate from its Region two (2) pastors for election by the District Convention to the office of Regional Vice-President in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 5.12 and the Schedule of Elections.
 - e. To nominate from its Region two (2) ordained ministers, two (2) commissioned ministers, from the roster of the district and four (4) lay persons from a slate prepared by the Regional Nominating Committee for election by the District Convention to the Board of Directors of the District.
 - f. To nominate as specified in 5.8 c. and d.

ARTICLE IV - QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

- 4.1** Officers and board members shall meet all qualifications established from time to time by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and such other qualifications as may be established from time to time by these Bylaws.
- 4.2** Officers and members of the Board of Directors must be members in good standing of congregations which are members of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, except as noted in Bylaw 5.11a. No congregation of the District shall have more than one (1) member from its congregation as a voting member of the Board of Directors to the district.

ARTICLE V - ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

- 5.1** Elective Officers. The Elective Officers of the District shall be the President, four Vice-Presidents (one from each Region), a Secretary, a Treasurer and the Circuit Counselors.

- 5.2** The Elective Board of the District shall be the Board of Directors.
- 5.3** Term of Officers and Board Members.

- a. The term of office of each elected officer shall be three (3) years. All officers other than Circuit Counselors may be elected or appointed to the same office for four (4) consecutive terms after which a period of three (3) years shall elapse before such person is again eligible for election or appointment to the same office, unless otherwise provided by these Bylaws. An officer, elected or appointed to fill an unexpired term, who serves two (2) or more years, shall be considered to have completed one (1) term. Circuit Counselors may serve an unlimited number of terms.
- b. The term of office of each board member shall be six (6) years. All board members may be elected or appointed to the same office for two (2) consecutive terms after which a period of six (6) years shall elapse before such person is again eligible for election to the same board, unless otherwise provided by these Bylaws. A board member, elected or appointed to fill an unexpired term, who served four (4) or more years, shall be considered to have completed one (1) term.
- c. The President may be elected to succeed himself in office no more than three (3) times.
- d. The Board of Directors shall be composed of four (4) ordained ministers, four (4) commissioned ministers, and eight (8) laypersons with equal representation from each Region of the District.

The size of the Church Extension Board of Trustees shall be determined by its bylaws.

- e. District board members who move inter-Regionally may complete their term of office.
- 5.4** Salaried Executives Without Vote.

Executive Level staff of the District and the Chief Executive Officer for the Church Extension Board of Trustees are not eligible for voting membership on any board of the District. They shall not at the same time hold an executive position to which they

have been called and the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer of the District. If such staff is elected by the Convention to one of these positions, he must resign his executive office to accept such an election.

5.5 If President is Unable to Serve.

The duties and responsibilities of the Office of President shall be assumed by the First Vice-President whenever the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve in that capacity because of his prolonged illness or disability, and the First Vice-President shall remain as the Acting President until the Board of Directors determines such illness or disability has been removed.

5.6 Vacancies.

- a. A vacancy in the office of Vice-President shall be filled by advancing the lower ranking Vice-Presidents. An acting Vice President for the resulting vacancy may be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, until the elections at the next District Convention.
- b. A vacancy in the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws or the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The appointee shall serve the unexpired term.
- c. A vacancy in any other elective office (Secretary, Treasurer, etc.) shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors. The appointee shall serve the unexpired term to which he is appointed.
- d. The Church Extension Board of Trustees will fill vacancies in accordance with its own Bylaws.

5.7 Time of Elections.

- a. The election of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the District elected members of the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Ann Arbor, approximately one-half of the Board of Directors members and the ratification of the Circuit Counselors shall take place at each District Convention.
- b. Regional Assemblies shall nominate for all positions with the exception of District President,

District Secretary, District Treasurer, Church Extension Board of Trustees, and the Board of Regents of Concordia University Ann Arbor.

- c. At their Regional Assemblies prior to the Convention held in even-years, the Metro-East Region and the West Region shall nominate for the Board of Directors.
- d. At their Regional Assemblies prior to the Convention held in odd-years, the Metro-West Region and the North and East Region shall nominate for the Board of Directors.

5.8 Committee on Nominations.

- a. The District Convention shall elect a 12-member nominating committee consisting of one (1) ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister, and one (1) layperson from each Region of the District and the President shall designate the chairman thereof. The three committee members from each Region shall serve as the Regional Nominating Committee.
- b. The Committee on Nominations shall meet at the call of the President of the District.
- c. The Regional Nominating Committee shall draw up from its Region a list of candidates and alternates for the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 5.8 and 5.9 and the Schedule of Elections. The Regional Nominating Committee shall obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, as well as biographical data, and supply the Regional Assembly with this information. Following the Regional Nominations, the biographical data of persons nominated shall be transferred to the District Nominating Committee so that the District Ballot may be drawn up.
- d. The District Nominating Committee shall draw up a list of candidates and alternates for all other District offices, namely, the District Secretary, Treasurer, Church Extension Board of Trustees, and the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Ann Arbor. The Nominating Committee shall obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, and transmit its final report to the Secretary of the District in ample time to provide for

its publication in a pre-convention issue of the District's official publication and also in the official Convention Book of Reports and Overtures. This report shall contain the occupation or profession, residency, and specific experience and qualifications for the proposed office.

- e. The Chairman or his designate shall submit the Committee's Report to the District Convention.
- f. If between the Regional Assembly and the District Convention a nominee becomes ineligible for election, the Nominating Committee will fill the slate with a qualified candidate.
- g. The Convention shall have the right to alter the ballot by amendment. The amendment procedure shall include a motion, a second, and a majority vote on the amendment. Any delegate making a nomination for the floor shall have secured prior written consent and biographical data from the candidate whom he wishes to nominate as detailed in 5.8 c., d. This material shall then be submitted to the District Secretary.
- h. The Chairman shall have on hand at the Convention a reserve list of nominees, approved by his Committee, for use if required if a new board is to be elected. Whenever possible, however, the Committee on Nominations should be informed in advance if any new board is likely to be elected at a District Convention, so that it may have a slate of candidates in readiness.

5.9 Floor Committee on Elections.

- a. Elections, other than those held in Regional Caucus, shall be conducted by a Floor Committee on Elections, appointed by the President before the Convention. The Secretary of the District shall furnish the Committee a copy of suggested election procedures.
- b. The Committee shall consist of one (1) ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister and two (2) laypersons.
- c. The Committee may appoint tellers, who need not be voting delegates, to assist in conducting the elections. The Chairman shall give the list

of tellers to the Secretary of the District, who shall announce them to the Convention.

- d. A Regional Floor Committee on Elections shall be appointed by the Vice-President of that Region to conduct the nominating elections at the Regional Assemblies and whose duties shall be consistent with the District Floor Committee on Elections.

5.10 Majority and Plurality of Votes.

A majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect.

5.11 Election of the President.

- a. The Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod shall elect a President from among the clergy of the Synod.
- b. Every voting member congregation of the Michigan District may nominate one pastor as a candidate for the Office of District President.
- c. The nomination of each member congregation shall be submitted to the District Secretary by a time determined by the District Secretary to meet deadlines for publication to the District before the convention.
- d. Candidates for the Office of President shall be the five (5) persons receiving the largest number of nominations in this congregational action.
- e. The District Secretary shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval in writing for inclusion of his name on the Convention ballot.
- f. The District Secretary shall prepare biographical information on the five candidates, which is to be published in District periodicals no later than May 1, and in the Convention Book of Reports and Memorials.
- g. The District Secretary shall submit the names of the five candidates for election of District President to the District Convention.
- h. The Convention shall have the right to alter the slate at the proper time by majority amendment as outlined in Synodical Bylaw 3.961 f.
- i. If no candidate receives a majority vote on the

first ballot, the name of the candidate who receives the smallest number of votes shall be dropped from the list and a new ballot taken. The procedure shall be continued until one (1) candidate has received a majority of the votes cast.

5.12 Nominations and Elections of Vice Presidents.

- a.** The Michigan District shall elect four (4) Regional Vice-Presidents from among the clergy of the District.
- b.** Every voting congregation of a Region may nominate one pastor from its Region as a Regional Candidate for the Office of Vice-President for its Region.
- c.** The nomination shall be submitted to the District Secretary no later than four (4) months prior to the opening of the District Convention.
- d.** The District Secretary shall notify each nominee, secure his approval in writing, and secure biographical information for the inclusion of the five (5) names receiving the most nominations on the Regional nominating ballot.
- e.** At the Regional Assemblies each Region shall choose by ballot two (2) pastors as nominees for election by the District Convention to the office of regional Vice-President.
- f.** Each voting delegate in the Region may vote for two (2) nominees for Vice-President, indicating his first and second choice. The tellers, appointed by the Chairman, shall score two (2) points for each first choice and one (1) point for each second choice. The two (2) nominees receiving the largest number of points shall be candidates. The tellers shall report the results of the meeting to the Chairman.
- g.** The Chairman of the Regional Assemblies shall report to the Secretary of the District the names of the persons nominated for the office of Vice-President along with the biographical data. The District Secretary shall transmit such names to the Floor Committee on Elections.
- h.** The Committee on Elections shall recap the information provided on qualifications and experience for each candidate and shall submit such information together with the ballot on which such election is to take place.

- i.** The Convention shall have the right to alter the slate at the proper time by majority amendment as outlined in Bylaw 5.8g.
- j.** The Convention shall elect one Vice-President from each Region.

5.13 Ranking of Vice-Presidents. After the regional Vice-Presidents have been elected, balloting will continue to determine their rank. The names of all four (4) vice-presidents will constitute the ballot for the First Vice-President, and voting continues until one is elected by majority vote. (If one is not elected on the first ballot, the name of the candidate who receives the smallest number of votes shall be dropped, and the balloting continues in this fashion until one is elected by majority vote.) The remaining three names constitute the ballot for Second Vice-President and the balloting continues as above. The two remaining names constitute the ballot for Third Vice-President, and the one not elected becomes Fourth Vice-President.

5.14 Election of Circuit Counselors. The Convention shall elect the Circuit Counselors as provided by the Bylaws of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

5.15 The Convention shall elect one (1) ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister, and one (1) layperson to the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Ann Arbor, as provided by the Bylaws of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

5.16 Election of Other Officers.

- a.** Election of all officers other than the President and Vice-Presidents will be held at a special period of the Convention session determined and announced by the President in advance.
- b.** The Committee on Elections shall submit one (1) ballot containing the nominees furnished by the Committee on Nominations for all elective offices.
- c.** The list of nominees for each respective office, together with their experience and qualifications, shall be distributed.

5.17 Order of Names on the Ballot. The names of all candidates in all elections shall be placed on the ballot regionally and in alphabetical order but without any distinctive mark, unless otherwise stipulated by these Bylaws.

5.18 Notifications of Election to Office. At the close of the Convention, the Secretary of the District shall notify every officer and board member in writing of election.

5.19 Exception of Church Extension Board of Trustees. Notwithstanding any of the other provisions of these Bylaws, the Church Extension Fund being a separate corporation created by the District, members of the Church Extension Board of Trustees shall be elected as provided by the Bylaws of the said Church Extension Fund and not by the provisions of these Bylaws.

5.20 Induction and Beginning of Term of Office.

- a. All officers elected at the Convention shall be inducted into their respective offices in an installation ceremony (service) at the Convention.
- b. All officers shall begin their terms of office on October 1.

ARTICLE VI - SUCCESSION IN OFFICE

6.1 In the event that the office of President of the District becomes vacant, the First Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President and shall serve until the District Convention.

6.2 The successor need not terminate his position as pastor of the congregation while completing the unexpired term unless and until he is elected President by a Convention.

6.3 Any Vice-President, who by the terms of this Article succeeds to the office of President, may decline such office; in which event:

- a. The next ranking Vice-President shall become President of the District.
- b. All other Vice-Presidents shall move up one rank.
- c. The declining Vice-President shall fill the last ranking vacant Vice-Presidency.

ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7.1 The Board of Directors shall carry into execution the policies adopted by the District in Convention with full authority to carry them out and shall create and monitor compliance to policies which govern the District and the performance of the District President who shall be in charge of all District operations and staff. The Board of Directors shall

carry out its functions as described by Synodical Bylaw 4.91.

7.2 The Board of Directors is authorized to elect from its membership a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary and to appoint such committees as needed to carry out its work.

7.3 The Board of Directors is authorized to extend calls on behalf of the District.

7.4 The membership of the Board of Directors shall be divided into two classes, the voting members and advisory members:

- a. The voting members of the Board of Directors shall consist of one (1) ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister and two (2) laypersons elected from each of the Regions within the District.
- b. The Advisory members shall consist of all the other officers of the District elected by the Convention and the Chairman of the Circuit Counselors.

7.5 The Board of Directors shall meet at least five (5) times per year.

7.6 Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President of the District, the chairman of the Board or any three (3) voting members of the Board upon written notice to all voting and advisory members.

7.7 A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members and the majority of those present and voting shall be sufficient to carry a motion or resolution.

7.8 All commissions and committees of the District shall report regularly to the Board of Directors. Such report may be made in writing or by a representative in person, provided, however, that the Board of Directors may require the report to be made by a representative in person.

ARTICLE VIII - OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATION

8.1 President. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the District, and between conventions and in the recess of the Board of Directors, shall have the general control and management of its business and affairs, subject to these Bylaws. He shall preside at

all District conventions. The President shall carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned to his office by the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod. He shall be an ex-officio member of all commissions or committees in the District with the right to speak but not to vote. He shall have the right to designate any one of the Vice-Presidents to sit in his place at meetings of the Board of Directors or any of the District's commissions or committees. As the chief executive officer, he shall manage and supervise the District staff. The office of District President shall be full-time. He shall not be in charge of a congregation, nor hold a chair at any educational institution or fill any other full-time executive office of the District. This prohibition does not apply when a Vice President assumes the office of District President to complete an unexpired term.

8.2 Vice Presidents. In the event that the office of President shall become vacant or in the event of the absence of the President or his disability to discharge the duties of his office, such duties shall for the time being devolve upon the Vice-Presidents in order according to their ranking as further provided in these Bylaws. The Vice-Presidents shall do and perform such other acts as the Convention or Board of Directors may from time to time authorize them to do.

8.3 Secretary. The Secretary of the District shall keep the minutes of the Conventions of the District in books provided for that purpose; he shall attend to the giving and receiving of all notices of the District; he shall sign, with the President or a Vice-President, in the name of the District, all contracts authorized by the Board of Directors, and when necessary shall fix the corporate seal of the District thereto; and his minutes and records shall be opened to examination to any member of the District at all reasonable times; and he shall have such additional duties as may be delegated to him by the Convention or the Board of Directors.

8.4 Assistant Secretaries. The Board of Directors may appoint Assistant Secretaries who shall have the authority of the Secretary when delegated by the Secretary or the Board of Directors, or when the Secretary is unavailable due to disability or absence from the District.

8.5 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have oversight of all funds and securities of the District and shall report to the Board of Directors and the District convention the financial status of the District. The Treasurer, the President of the District and/or the President's

designated staff persons shall have authority to sign on behalf of the District all checks, notes, or other official documents. The Treasurer shall also require on behalf of the board of Directors the annual audit of all District funds. He shall be bonded for the discharge of all his duties as Treasurer, the bond being of such character, form and in such amount as the Board of Directors may require.

8.6 Circuit Counselors. Circuit Counselors shall have the primary responsibility of establishing and maintaining Circuit Forums, as provided by the By-laws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. During the year when there is no Synodical or District Convention, Circuit Convocations will be held, under the leadership of the Circuit Counselors and members of the Circuit Forum.

ARTICLE IX - FISCAL AND AUDITING

9.1 District Budget. The District Budget shall be determined by the Board of Directors through its policies, but no budget shall be approved which allows for expenditures greater than receipts and other funds projected to be available in any given year.

9.2 Auditing. All the District's financial accounts shall be audited at least once every year by a firm of Certified Public Accountants designated by the Board of Directors.

9.3 No commission or committee of the District except the Church Extension Fund which is a subsidiary corporation of the District, shall maintain a separate bank account without the consent of the Board of Directors. In the event such consent is given by the Board of Directors, such account or accounts shall be audited at the same time and in the same manner as heretofore provided.

9.4 The Board of Directors shall develop its own Board Policy Manual for proper governance of the District.

9.5 Those directors duly elected or appointed to the Board of Directors who do not receive anything of value from this corporation for serving as a director other than reasonable per diem compensation and/or reimbursement for actual, reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by such director in service of the capacity as a director shall be deemed a "volunteer director" for all purposes hereunder.

9.6 A volunteer director shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its membership and/or members

for monetary damages for any breach of the director's fiduciary duty except for liability arising from or relating to:

- a. A breach of director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its members;
- b. Actual omissions not in good faith or the involvement of intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- c. An act in violation of the provisions of Michigan law, specifically MCLA 450.2551 (1);
- d. Any transaction from which a director derives an improper personal benefit.
- e. Any act or omission resulting in liability occurring before January 1, 1988;
- f. Any act or omission that is grossly negligent.

9.7 The corporation shall assume all liability to any person or entity other than the corporation or its members for all acts or omissions of a volunteer director occurring on or after January 1, 1988.

9.8 The corporation, by adoption of a resolution in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 170 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1986, shall have the power to indemnify those persons serving in the position of, or at the request of the corporation as director, officer, trustee, employee or agent against expenses, including attorney fees, judgments, penalties, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by a person in connection with any actions, suits or proceedings, formal or informal, relating to the service of said individual on behalf of the corporation if such person acted in good faith and in a manner that the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the corporation or its members, or with respect to any criminal action or proceeding if the person had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct engaged in was unlawful. The corporation, through its Board of Directors, shall have such further or other authority to indemnify directors, officers, employees or agents consistent with the provisions of Public Acts 170, Michigan Public Acts of 1987.

ARTICLE X - THE CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

10.1 The Church Extension Fund shall adopt rules to govern its proceedings not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

(See Bylaws of the Church Extension Fund attached to Bylaws of the Michigan District.)

ARTICLE XI - RECONCILIATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

11.1 The District shall follow the principles, structures, procedures, and membership described in the Synod Handbook, Bylaw VIII, with regards to Reconciliation and Dispute Resolution.

ARTICLE XII - COMMITTEES

12.1 The District Convention and Board of Directors may create standing committees to carry out its responsibilities, as well as temporary committees or task forces for special purposes.

12.2 Standing Committees are sub-units of and are appointed by their governing board; the three-year appointments are limited to three consecutive terms.

ARTICLE XIII - COMMISSIONS

13.1 The Convention by resolution may from time to time create commissions for special purposes.

13.2 The commissions existing at the time of the adoption of these Bylaws shall continue their powers, duties and jurisdiction until further resolution of the Convention.

13.3 The Convention resolution creating a commission shall define its powers, duties and jurisdiction and establish its budget.

13.4 A commission shall make a report of their activities to the Convention and between Conventions to the Board of Directors upon request.

13.5 Members of commissions shall be members in good standing of congregations which are members of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

ARTICLE XIV - REGIONS

14.1 The Convention by resolution shall establish no less than four (4) Regions within the Michigan District.

14.2 Regions shall consist of circuits designated by the enabling resolution.

contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod.

14.3 Regions existing at the time of the adoption of these Bylaws shall continue until further resolution of the Convention.

17.2 Proposed amendments shall be presented in writing to a Convention of the District.

14.4 Circuits are created, aligned, and/or realigned by convention resolution.

17.3 Proposed amendments shall be specified as Bylaws amendments.

ARTICLE XV - HANDBOOK

15.1 The Board of Directors shall cause to be prepared, within three (3) months after the adjournment of each District Convention, a District Handbook.

17.4 Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the District Committee on New and Revised Constitutions and they shall report to a Convention Floor Committee.

15.2 The Handbook shall include:

- a. The current Bylaws of the District as they may be amended.
- b. The names of all officers and board members.
- c. Such other information as the Convention and/or the Board of Directors may direct.

17.5 Proposed amendments to the Bylaws may be adopted by an affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting.

15.3 A copy of the Handbook shall be furnished to:

- a. Each member congregation of the District.
- b. Each officer and board member.
- c. Such other persons as the Convention and/or the Board of Directors may direct.

17.6 All proposed amendments to these Bylaws, before they are given effect, shall first be submitted to the Synodical Commission on Constitutional Matters for review and the approval of that Commission obtained as provided in the Bylaws of Synod.

ARTICLE XVI - REPEAL AND SAVING CLAUSE

16.1 Any and all Bylaws previously adopted by the Convention of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are hereby repealed.

16.2 If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of these Bylaws or any amendments thereto, shall be held invalid under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, or under the laws of the State of Michigan, the invalidity of such paragraph, section, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of these Bylaws or Amendments thereto.

16.3 All acts, resolutions or orders or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of these Bylaws, and any amendments thereto, to the extent of such conflict, are hereby repealed and all other acts, resolutions or orders or parts thereof not in conflict with the provisions of these Bylaws, or amendments thereto, shall continue in full force and effect.

ARTICLE XVII - AMENDMENTS

17.1 Amendments may be made to the Bylaws by the District in Convention providing they are not

BYLAWS
CHURCH EXTENSION FUND OF THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Church Extension Fund is to administer a fund and acquire assets to assist by loans, grants, or otherwise, primarily to the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, congregations of the Michigan District, individuals serving as professional church workers within the Michigan District, LCMS schools and colleges, entities and associations qualifying as Michigan District recognized service organizations, entities and associations qualifying as The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod recognized service organizations, and entities owned and/or operated by member congregations. The Church Extension Fund may also assist other LCMS Districts, through their respective Church Extension Funds, by purchasing or participating, in whole or in part, in loans or investments of other LCMS Districts or the Lutheran Church Extension Fund of the LCMS. The purpose for which funds and assistance may be provided shall include, but not limited to, acquiring property, erecting buildings, purchasing equipment, acquiring housing and supporting projects and the operations of the above. The primary purpose, however, of the Church Extension Fund shall be to contribute to the ministry and purposes of the Michigan District and its member congregations.

II. MEMBERSHIP

The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall consist of nine (9) elected trustees.

1. The elected trustees shall consist of three (3) persons duly rostered in the LCMS through the Michigan District, and six (6) laypersons. Trustees shall be elected by the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at its regular Convention in the following manner:
 - a. The District Nominating Committee shall draw up a list of candidates and alternates for the Church Extension Board of Trustees. The Nominating Committee shall obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate and prepare biographical data, including occupation or profession, residency, and specific experience and qualifications for the proposed office, for

each candidate. Board of Trustee candidates shall have an understanding of the Church Extension program and/or demonstrate expertise in fields or areas closely related to Church Extension activities, such as knowledge of banking, investments, accounting, law, real estate, business management and financial planning.

- b. Trustees must be members in good standing of congregations in the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. No congregation of the District shall have more than one (1) member [including ordained, commissioned or layperson] from its congregation as a voting member of the Board of Trustees.
2. Elections of trustees to fill the places of those whose terms of office expire shall take place at the last regular convention of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, occurring prior to the expiration of the terms of their predecessors. Approximately one-half of the trustees will be elected at each convention of the Michigan District.
 3. The trustees shall be elected for a term of six (6) years. They may be elected for two (2) consecutive terms, after which a period of three (3) years shall elapse before they are again eligible for election as trustees.
 4. Vacancies caused by death, resignation, removal, declination to serve or otherwise, may be filled by the remaining trustees, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.
 5. All trustees elected at the Convention shall be inducted into office in an installation ceremony at the Convention and shall begin their terms of office on the first of October following induction.

III. ORGANIZATION

1. The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers and subcommittees as it considers necessary for the

efficient conduct of its business.

2. The Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer, elected by the Church Extension Board of Trustees at the October meeting following the Convention of the Michigan District shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Church Extension Fund.
3. Legal documents executed in the name of the Church Extension Fund shall bear the signatures of any two members of the Executive Committee or such officer or officers as the trustees shall authorize by resolution duly adopted in accordance with these Bylaws.
4. The trustees may appoint task-oriented committees to assist the Board in carrying out its responsibilities.

IV. MEETINGS

1. The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall schedule regular meetings as the business of the Board shall require, but not less than six times per year.
2. Special meetings may be called by the chairman of the Board or by any four (4) trustees.
3. A majority of the trustees of the Church Extension Board of Trustees shall constitute a legal quorum at all regular and special meetings of the Board.
4. The Executive Committee of the Church Extension Board of Trustees shall meet at the call of the Chairman to conduct and act on matters of business requiring attention between regular meetings of the Church Extension Board of Trustees. A majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee shall be required to take any action. All such actions of the Executive Committee shall be subject to the approval of the Church Extension Board of Trustees.

V. ADMINISTRATION

1. The Church Extension Fund may, in its corporate name, take, hold and manage all property, real and personal, notes, bonds, mortgages, land contracts, leases, evidences of indebtedness, loans and property and assets devised, bequeathed, transferred, leased, or

conveyed to them absolutely or in trust for the use and benefit of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod by whose representative body they are elected.

2. The Church Extension Fund may, in its corporate name, invest and reinvest the personal property and assets in its hands and under its control as trustees; and sell, convey by deed, land contract or lease, mortgage or hold in trust and manage any real estate held by them as such trustees; all in accordance with the manner and as specified in the Statutes of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided.
3. The Church Extension Fund may accept gifts or bequests in trust or otherwise, and employ, manage or retain such property, real or personal, devised or bequeathed, on such terms, conditions, or policies approved by the Board of Trustees.
4. The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall adopt rules and regulations in the interest of the orderly administration of its objectives.
5. The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall employ and appoint a Chief Executive Officer, employ and appoint any other such officers or employees deemed necessary to conduct its business affairs in an orderly manner, at a rate of compensation as deemed proper and fair by the Church Extension Board of Trustees.
6. Those trustees duly-elected or appointed to the Board of Trustees who do not receive anything of value from this corporation for serving as a trustee other than reasonable per diem compensation and/or reimbursement for actual reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by such trustee in service of the capacity as a trustee shall be deemed a "volunteer trustee" for all purposes hereunder (being deemed and defined as a "volunteer director" for all purposes under Michigan law and statutes).
7. A volunteer trustee shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its membership and/or members for monetary damages for any breach of the trustee's fiduciary duty except for liability arising from or relating to:
 - a. A breach of trustee's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its members;

- b. Actual omissions not in good faith or the involvement of intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
 - c. An act in violation of the provisions of Michigan law, specifically MCLA 450.2551(1);
 - d. Any transaction from which a trustee derives an improper personal benefit;
 - e. Any act or omission resulting in liability occurring before January 1, 1988;
 - f. Any act or omission that is grossly negligent.
8. The corporation shall assume all liability to any person or entity other than the corporation or its members for all acts or omissions of a volunteer trustee occurring on or after January 1, 1988.
9. The corporation, by adoption of a resolution in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 170 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1987, shall have the power to indemnify those persons serving in the position of, or at the request of the corporation, as director, officer, trustee, employee, or agent against expenses, including attorney fees, judgments, penalties, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by a person in connection with any actions, suits, or proceedings, formal or informal, relating to the service of said individual on behalf of the corporation if such person acted in good faith and in a manner that the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the corporation or its members, or with respect to any criminal action or proceeding if the person had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct engaged in was unlawful. The corporation, through its Board of Trustees, shall have such further or other authority to indemnify trustees, officers, employees, or agents consistent with the provisions of Michigan law and specifically consistent with the provisions of Public Act 170, Michigan Public Acts of 1987.

District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod insofar as said Constitution and Bylaws do not conflict with the laws of the State of Michigan.

2. In the event of the dissolution of the Church Extension Fund as a Michigan Church Trustee Corporation, all property and assets to which it holds title, or over which it has control, shall be transferred forthwith to the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or to its nominee.

VII. AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws of the Church Extension Fund may be amended by a majority vote of those entitled to vote at the Convention of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

VI. RELATIONSHIP TO THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

1. The Church Extension Fund shall be subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Michigan