

1 COMMITTEE NAME: (For District Use Only)  
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: (For District Use Only)  
3 SUBJECT: To Adjust Michigan District Circuits  
4  
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the 2018 Michigan District Convention resolved that “existing circuit alignment is affirmed and  
7 retained in support of ongoing and future commitment to Living as God’s Saved and Sent Servants” and charged  
8 “the Board of Directors to develop a process to keep the circuit in compliance with the Synodical bylaws”  
9 (Resolution 2-11), and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, visitation circuits provide an important geographic connection for sister congregations and pastors to  
12 work collaboratively to more effectively carry out the Great Commission to make disciples of all people; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, long-standing relationships among congregations in existing visitation circuits are a  
15 blessing and should be encouraged, and any realignment of congregations in circuits should seek to cause as  
16 little disruption in such relationships as possible; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 3.1.2 a states: “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation  
19 circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following requirements:  
20 each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed  
21 membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000.”; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, it has been the custom of the Michigan District to establish visitations circuits that are large enough  
24 to also be electoral circuits without combining with an adjacent circuit; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, the following seven visitation circuits currently are either unable to be or nearly unable to be  
27 electoral circuits on their own:

- 28 Circuit 4—Gladwin
- 29 Circuit 20—Detroit East
- 30 Circuit 21—Detroit West
- 31 Circuit 25—Dearborn
- 32 Circuit 34—Big Rapids
- 33 Circuit 37—Tri River
- 34 Circuit 44—South Central; and

35  
36 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the Michigan District (BOD) laid out the following seven guiding principles  
37 for its convention-appointed work:

- 38 1) Relationships in circuits are good and pleasing, minimum disruption is a good thing.
  - 39 2) Shared geographic mission work is important.
  - 40 3) We are governed by Synodical rules on circuits; thus, we will need to make changes to our circuits at  
41 times (bylaw 3.1.2).
  - 42 4) We need to keep in mind that there is a difference between visitation and electoral circuits.
  - 43 5) Communication is vital to make these changes.
  - 44 6) We rely on the staff to share with us electoral circuits who are no longer in compliance, or close to  
45 not being in compliance with Synodical rules
  - 46 7) Communication with our Pastors and Congregations is vitally important; and
- 47

1 **WHEREAS**, the BOD has, through its committee formed for this study, sought input from congregations through  
2 a District-wide mailing to both congregation presidents and pastors in the fall of 2019, sought input from circuit  
3 visitors at both 2019 and 2020 circuit visitor conferences, received over 20 responses from pastors,  
4 congregations, and circuits, and considered these responses as it developed a plan for potential circuit  
5 realignment with minimal disruption of existing fruitful relationships among cooperating congregations; and  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, congregations and pastors, including those that will be in a new circuit following the passage of this  
8 resolution, are free to associate and collaborate in mission / ministry with any sister congregation or fellow  
9 pastor regardless of circuit alignment; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, such circuit changes need to be brought to the District Convention for approval; therefore be it  
12

13 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District give thanks and praise for the relationships and ministry in the Detroit East  
14 and Tri Rivers circuits as it consolidates these circuits into neighboring circuits; and be it further  
15

16 **Resolved**, that the following changes be made to Michigan District circuits:  
17

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Current Circuit</u>	<u>Moves to Circuit</u>
18 St. John Lutheran Church, Pinconning	6 – Bay City	4 – Gladwin
19		
20		
21 Bethany Lutheran Church, Detroit	20 – Detroit East	19 – Macomb South
22 East Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Detroit	20 – Detroit East	19 – Macomb South
23 Charity Lutheran Church, Detroit	20 – Detroit East	19 – Macomb South
24 Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Detroit	20 – Detroit East	19 – Macomb South
25 Peace Lutheran Church, Detroit	20 – Detroit East	19 – Macomb South
26 Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit	20 – Detroit East	21 – Detroit West
27		
28 Atonement Lutheran Church, Dearborn	21 – Detroit West	25 – Dearborn
29 Evergreen Lutheran Church, Detroit	21 – Detroit West	25 – Dearborn
30		
31 St. John Lutheran Church, New Boston	24 – Monroe	28 – Milan
32		
33 Bethel Lutheran Church, Howard City	37 – Tri River	34 – Big Rapids
34 Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sand Lake	37 – Tri River	34 – Big Rapids
35 Hope Lutheran Church, Stanton	37 – Tri River	34 – Big Rapids
36 Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Belding	37 – Tri River	40 – Grand Rapids N Central
37 Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Greenville	37 – Tri River	40 – Grand Rapids N Central
38 St. John Lutheran Church, Ionia	37 – Tri River	41 – Grand Rapids SW
39 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lowell	37 – Tri River	41 – Grand Rapids SW
40		
41 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Albion	42 – Battle Creek	44 – South Central
42 St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Three Rivers	42 – Battle Creek	44 – South Central;
43		

44 and be it finally  
45

46 **Resolved**, That the XXX circuit be renamed YYY (whatever is decided).  
47

48 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District, LCMS