



Michigan District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

People of Hope ... Vigorously Making Known the Love of Christ

September 25, 2020

Dear Pastor and Congregation Chairperson,

May the Lord bless your ministry and the proclamation of the name of Jesus in your congregation and community!

I am sure you have a lot to think about during this time of year and in these trying times. Although you are probably not thinking much about next summer, we anticipate the Michigan District Convention and the deliberation of important matters. One of those items is the realignment of electoral circuits.

According to the Synodical Bylaws, “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000.”

Because circuits change (gaining or losing communicant members and/or gaining or losing congregations), realignment is necessary from time to time to remain in compliance with the Synodical Bylaws. At the last District Convention, it was assigned to the Board of Directors to study circuit realignment and bring an overture to the next Convention. Attention was to be given to the first purpose of circuits stated in the Synodical Bylaws: *“A visitation circuit is a network of congregations that ‘walks together’ for mutual care, support, advice, study, ecclesiastical encouragement, service, coordination, resources, and counsel—all for the sake of greater congregational participation in God’s mission.”*

In addition, the recommendations were to be made based on input from congregations and pastors and communicated thoroughly to the District. The accompanying proposed overture is the result of this work. Care was taken by the committee to bring as little disruption and change to the District as possible, while achieving the necessary objective of compliance with the Synodical Bylaws.

Please review this proposed overture carefully. The committee is interested in your feedback, so do not hesitate to send your comments to Laurie Brown, laurie.brown@michigandistrict.org. We are hoping to have the final draft ready for the Board of Directors in January and the Convention Workbook in the spring.

Thank you for your attention to this proposed overture and the work of our District.

The Lord bless your kingdom work, in the name of our Savior Jesus.

Circuit Realignment Task Force of

The Board of Directors, Michigan District, LCMS