

1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-09  
4 SUBJECT: To Adjust Michigan District Circuits  
5  
6

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

12 **WHEREAS**, Visitation circuits provide an important geographic connection for sister congregations and  
13 pastors to work collaboratively to more effectively carry out the Great Commission to make disciples of  
14 all people; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Long-standing relationships among congregations in existing visitation circuits are a  
17 blessing and should be encouraged, and any realignment of congregations in circuits should seek to  
18 cause as little disruption in such relationships as possible; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 3.1.2a states: “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent  
21 visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following  
22 requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an  
23 aggregate confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000”; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, It has been the custom of the Michigan District to establish visitation circuits that are large  
26 enough to also be electoral circuits without combining with an adjacent circuit; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, The following thirteen visitation circuits currently are either unable to be or (\*)nearly unable  
29 to be electoral circuits on their own:

- 30 Circuit 2 – Alpena \*
- 31 Circuit 3 – Timberline
- 32 Circuit 4 – Gladwin
- 33 Circuit 11 – Flint North \*
- 34 Circuit 13 – Lapeer \*
- 35 Circuit 20 – Detroit East
- 36 Circuit 21 – Detroit West
- 37 Circuit 25 – Dearborn
- 38 Circuit 28 – Milan
- 39 Circuit 31 – Petoskey
- 40 Circuit 34 – Big Rapids
- 41 Circuit 37 – Tri River
- 42 Circuit 44 – South Central; and  
43

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

- 46 1) Relationships in circuits are good and pleasing, minimum disruption is a good thing;
- 47 2) Shared geographic mission work is important;

- 3) We are governed by synodical rules on circuits; thus, we will need to make changes to our circuits at times (bylaw 3.1.2);
- 4) We need to keep in mind that there is a difference between visitation and electoral circuits;
- 5) Communication is vital to make these changes;
- 6) We rely on the staff to share with us electoral circuits that are no longer in compliance, or close to not being in compliance with synodical rules;
- 7) Communication with our pastors and congregations is vitally important; and

**WHEREAS,** The BOD has, through its committee formed for this study, sought input from congregations through a District-wide mailing to both congregation presidents and pastors in the fall of 2019 and 2020, sought input from circuit visitors at 2019, 2020, and 2021 circuit visitor conferences, received over 30 responses from pastors, congregations, and circuits, and considered these responses as it developed a plan for potential circuit realignment with minimal disruption of existing fruitful relationships among cooperating congregations; and

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

**WHEREAS,** All Nations, Clinton Township and Heart of the Shepherd, Howell would be better served with closer congregations geographically; and

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

**Resolved,** That the Michigan District give thanks and praise for the relationships and ministry in the Alpena, Dearborn, and Tri Rivers circuits as it consolidates these circuits into neighboring circuits; and be it further

**Resolved,** that the following circuits be renamed:

Circuit Number	Current Name	New Circuit Name
1	Mackinaw Straits	Mackinac Straits
21	Detroit West	Dearborn / Detroit;

And be it finally

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

Congregation	Current Circuit	Moves to Circuit
St. John Lutheran Church, Hillman	2 – Alpena	1 – Mackinac Straits
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Posen	2 – Alpena	1 – Mackinac Straits
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alpena	2 – Alpena	1 – Mackinac Straits
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ossineke	2 – Alpena	1 – Mackinac Straits
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hubbard Lake	2 – Alpena	3 – Timberline
Living Water Lutheran Church, Mio	2 – Alpena	3 – Timberline
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lewiston	2 – Alpena	31 – Petoskey *
St. John Lutheran Church, Pinconning	6 – Bay City	4 – Gladwin

1	St. Philip, Owosso	10 – Saginaw	11 – Flint North
2	Faith, Bridgeport	10 – Saginaw	11 – Flint North
3			
4	St. Andrew, Memphis	14 – Port Huron	13 – Lapeer
5			
6	All Nations, Clinton Township	16 – Macomb NW	19 – Macomb South
7			
8	St. Philip’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Detroit	21 – Detroit West	20 – Detroit East *
9	Nazareth Lutheran Church, Detroit	21 – Detroit West	20 – Detroit East *
10			
11	Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Dearborn	25 – Dearborn	21 – Dearborn / Detroit
12	Guardian Lutheran Church, Dearborn	25 – Dearborn	21 – Dearborn / Detroit
13	St. Michael Lutheran Church, Wayne	25 – Dearborn	21 – Dearborn / Detroit
14	St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Westland	25 – Dearborn	21 – Dearborn / Detroit
15			
16	Peace Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor	29 – Ann Arbor	28 – Milan
17			
18	Heart of the Shepherd, Howell	35 – Capitol	26 – Kensington
19			
20	Bethel Lutheran Church, Howard City	37 – Tri River	34 – Big Rapids
21	Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sand Lake	37 – Tri River	34 – Big Rapids
22	Hope Lutheran Church, Stanton	37 – Tri River	34 – Big Rapids
23	Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Belding	37 – Tri River	40 – Grand Rapids N Central
24	Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Greenville	37 – Tri River	40 – Grand Rapids N Central
25	St. John Lutheran Church, Ionia	37 – Tri River	41 – Grand Rapids SW
26	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lowell	37 – Tri River	41 – Grand Rapids SW
27			
28	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Albion	42 – Battle Creek	44 – South Central
29	St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Three Rivers	42 – Battle Creek	44 – South Central
30			
31	* Also changes region.		
32			
33	Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District		